

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Annual Meeting – January 21, 22, and 23, 2015  
Trophy Room  
600 South Walnut  
Boise, Idaho**

**January 21**

**Morrison Knudsen Nature Center (MKNC) Tour**

Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon participated in a tour of the MKNC.

**Public Meeting**

Chairman Fred Trevey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Brad Corkill, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon were present. Chairman Trevey reviewed the rules for conduct of the hearing and the hearing was opened up for public comment.

The following individuals provided public comment:

Lindsay Diggs, Lynne Schnupp, Tony Fallow, Justin Hayes, Jay Stark, Tom Demorest, Lynn Barnes, Ron Marquaert, Larry Thorngren, R. McKinnies, Arnie Spriggel, Gary D. Butcher, Monte Mason, Mike Ressler, Grant Simonds, Lynn Barnes, Michael Gibson, Christine H. Schilling, Mike Gann, Bob Minter, Herb Meyr, Pam Conley, Danny Kelly, Josh Polfer, Mike Rust, Ray Strolberg, Doug Palmer, Ron McLaren, Jack Oyler, Kayla Griffin and Scott Allan.

Written comment was received from Amy Berasi, Jim Hagedorn representing Idaho for Wildlife Foundation, Michael Gibson representing Idaho Wildlife Federation (IWF) and Ed Lindahl (Appendix 48, Exhibit 1).

**January 22**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game Honor Guard presented the colors. Members presenting: Dan Kelsey, Nathan Stohosky, Roger Westfall and Brian Flatter.

**Opening Comments**

Chairman Trevey called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon present.

Director Moore introduced Senator Lee Heider, Chairman, Resources & Environment Committee.

### **Review of Public Comment**

There were 31 individuals who spoke at the public hearing. Deputy Director James Unsworth led the discussion and review of the public comments. Topics included:

- Need for better communication.
- Predator Management.
- Support for moose tag in Unit 54.
- Opposed watchable wildlife.
- Reduction of turkey tags in Region 3.
- Positive comments on the Fee Increase in favor of.
- Comments against the proposed Fee Increase.
- Suggestion for premium pricing for big game tags.
- Against discounting for the second nonresident tags
- Would like to see more restrictive trapping such as increasing the set back and closure of high recreational use and urban areas.
- Wolf trapping in the wilderness and general wolf comments.
- Support of the bighorn sheep management.
- More opportunities for youth hunting in Unit 54.
- Do not allow conibear trapping on land.
- Allow more muzzleloader hunts to expand opportunity instead of depredation hunts in Unit 39.
- Opposition to Predator killing contests.
- Winter Feeding.
- Lemhi River Access.
- Complimentary Comments to the Commissioners.

### **Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar included the following items:

- Minutes, November 12-13, 2014
- Financial Report

Chairman Trevey noted that the November minutes would be approved at the January 29, 2015 Commission conference call.

**15- 02** Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to accept the financial report listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## **RULES**

### **Season Setting: Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats**

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented the proposals (Appendix 48, Exhibit2). Dates and tag numbers for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat harvest seasons are established for a two-year period and are presented to the Commission for approval in January of each odd-numbered year.

Proposals were generated by in-house data analyses and discussions among biologists and law enforcement personnel. Proposed changes were scoped with the public statewide. Public outreach efforts and input opportunities included open houses held in each Region and advertised through news releases in all media outlets, and public response to the regional proposals posted on the Department's website. Proposals were posted on our Department website on December 9, 2014 for public review. The public comment ran from December 11, 2014 thru January 5, 2015. There were 127 comments received online.

Preliminary recommendations were reviewed with the Commission in November and final proposals were scoped with the public in December and early January.

**15-03** Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendations for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons with the exception in the Magic Valley Region to change the moose tag from 2 tags to 1 tag for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. The motion passed with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson, and Will Naillon voting aye; and Commissioner Blake Fischer voting nay.

Commissioner Brad Corkill left the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Adopt Rain Check Policy**

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director presented the proposal.

Each year individuals request refunds, rain checks and other customer service accommodations regarding various licenses, tags, and permits issued under authority of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission). Because of the frequency and fact-specific nature of these requests and the limited meeting time available to the Commission, the Commission has determined, in the interests of efficiency and customer service, to delegate authority for responding to these requests to staff of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department). Any decision of the Director and Deputy Director(s) regarding an individual's request for a rain check, refund, or other customer service accommodation regarding licenses, tags, and permits is a final agency action for purposes of the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act.

The Commission has requested review and revision of the August, 2013 Delegation of Authority and has appointed a subcommittee to work with staff on revision options (Appendix 48, Exhibit 3).

**15-04** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to adopt the proposed Delegation of Authority to the Director for refunds and rain checks, which replaces the August 19, 2013 delegation. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## LEGISLATION

### Legislative Update

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, provided a legislative update.

- The Legislature commenced January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Legislative conference calls will convene on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. MDT.
- Both Committees have reviewed the Commission rules. House Resources & Conservation approved all the rules. Senate Resources & Environment Committee had a question on the rule regarding the unlimited controlled hunts as a 1<sup>st</sup> choice. The Department will provide information to the Committee in response to their question.
- JFAC budget setting for FY15 supplemental proposals (2).
  - Legislative intent to bring the revenue forecast and appropriations closer together has been approved.
  - Questions regarding the purchase of Rock Creek Ranch using Pittman Robertson funds. A presentation will be provided to the Senate Resources & Conservation Committee on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to address those questions.
- Two RS's received print hearings yesterday.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> print hearing for Fee Proposal that will enable the "Price Lock" concept.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> print hearing that amends existing law to revise provisions relating to the illegal killing, possession or waste of certain fish and game animals. Representative Fred Wood is the sponsor for this bill.
- The Department is continuing its efforts to inform legislators and sportsmen about the "Price Lock" Order.

## LANDS

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the following land items.

### ASARCO/CDA Trust

This project accepts the transfer of title on 139.5 acres of previously ASARCO mining company properties within the lower Coeur d'Alene River (CDAR) Basin from the Coeur d'Alene Trust to the Department. Most of the properties are in-holdings adjacent to or near to the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area (CDARWMA). The parcels are contaminated with heavy

metals from past mining activities in the Silver Valley; however, no parcels will present the Department with liability for these contaminations and all the parcels have potential to be remediated and restored to healthy habitats through the HECLA Settlement CDAR Basin Restoration Project.

Four parcels, all located in Kootenai County, are proposed to be transferred as follows:

- Black Rock Trail Parcel (15.1 acres) - Provides wetland habitat and CDA River access. This parcel is contiguous with the Black Rock Ranch property;
- Bull Run Parcel (1.0 acre) – Provides public access to Bull Run Lake;
- Porter Lake (0.3 acres) - Borders and extends existing CDARWMA ownership; and,
- Lane March Parcel (123.1 acres) - Lane Marsh is important swan and other waterfowl habitat and a high priority for restoration work.

Although all of the parcels are among the most highly contaminated wetlands in the CDAR Basin, they still provide good wetland habitats and are currently used by the public for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-associated recreation.

The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties over 10 acres in size.

The FILT for the proposed acquisitions is estimated at \$309.60.

This project was presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 12, 2014.

### **Campbells Pond Purchase**

This project will acquire in fee title a 50-acre parcel containing the approximately 10-acre Campbell's Pond from Potlatch Forest Holdings, Inc. for \$249,000 to be paid in two payments spread over two fiscal years. Funding will be split between DJ-license monies (75:25) and license monies set aside for fishing waters development.

Campbell's Pond is located approximately 22 miles westerly of Orofino, Idaho (lying in Sections 18 and 19 of Township 37 North, Range 5 East, Boise Meridian, Clearwater County). The Department has leased Campbell's Pond from the forestry company since 1985. In 2012, Potlatch informed the Department that they no longer wanted to lease the property and offered it for sale to the Department.

Campbell's Pond is a unique forested property that provides excellent fishing opportunities for anglers to fish for rainbow trout, pumpkin seed, brown bullhead, and largemouth bass. The Department stocks Campbell's Pond with approximately 5,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout each year in the spring and early summer. The shoreline is easily accessible around the entire lake; it has year-round access, a rest room, and convenient handicap access. This lake currently offers the only free camping site in the area. A dam is located at the southern portion of the pond and the Department has made several improvements to the property including the construction of a boat launch, restrooms, and a picnic area. Volunteers have completed projects at the lake during the past 30 years. Hunters use the site for camping during the big game season.

The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties over 10 acres in size. The FILT for this parcel is estimated at \$172.54.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on January 18, 2013.

**Idaho Transportation Department Donation**

This project will accept fee title to an 11.86-acre parcel from the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) for purposes of providing public access located along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) River approximately three (3) miles upstream from Kingston in Shoshone County. The site provides a location to develop public access to the river and a new float boat launch. In addition, there is a small pond on the property that could be stocked as a small family fishing water. The property has several black cottonwood trees and a flood plain community that could be recovered with some protection. Black cottonwood floodplain habitat areas are being converted to RV parking and recreational areas along the river and are increasingly rare.

Over the last decade, the North Fork of the CDA River has turned into a Blue Ribbon cutthroat fishery and a Northwest fly fishing destination. However, the river is lacking good float boat and public access sites. As identified within the Region's fishing priority list for the next five-year State Fishing Access Plan, the highest priority is to develop fishing and float boat access along the CDA River. If the donation is accepted, the property will be managed through the Regional Fishing Access program, with some assistance from Regional Habitat management.

The property is undeveloped and has no infrastructure. However, adjacent landowners have occupied a southern portion of the property and while they no longer occupy the property, it will be necessary that the Department file a quiet title action once we have closed to clear the title. ITD has contacted the landowners about this concern and has posted and gated the property as of now.

The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties over 10 acres in size. The FILT for this parcel is estimated at \$51.37.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on January 15, 2014.

**Tall Pines Access Purchase**

This project is a purchase of the remaining property rights on a 3.54-acre parcel adjacent to the 203-acre Tall Pines habitat segment located to the northeast of Hayden Lake in Kootenai County. In 2013, the Commission purchased an access easement on this 3.54-acre parcel for \$71,250.00 using Access Yes funds. Language within the easement provided the Commission the right-of-first refusal to purchase the easement area in fee-title if the landowners decided to sell their property. This purchase is an exercise of that right.

The Tall Pines habitat segment was purchased under the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Project in 2011. On June 4, 2014, the landowners informed the Department that they intended to sell title to their property. The value of the remaining title has been appraised at \$6,803.00 and this value is acceptable to the landowners to purchase the title. Securing fee-title will avoid potential future conflicts with landowners who might want to purchase title to the property with a Department easement on it.

The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties and the FILT for the proposed acquisition is estimated at \$7.93.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on July 14, 2014.

**Thorman Donation**

This project will accept a donation of 1.810 acres located in Boundary County that is adjacent to Department ownership on the Boundary-Smith Creek Wildlife Management Area (Township 65 North, Range 2 West, and Section 25 of the Boise Meridian). There are no improvements on the property. The property is composed primarily of grassland habitats.

Acquisition of this property will add to the land base of the Boundary-Smith Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and is easily incorporated into WMA operations. Currently, a fence exists between the landowner and our ownership and is on the section line.

The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties and the addition of this property to Department ownership would result in a FILT increase of about \$5.80.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 12, 2014.

**Zamzow Purchase**

This acquisition will settle litigation over state versus private ownership of 19.92 acres on two island parcels in the Payette River on the Emmett Segment of the Payette River WMA for \$88,000 (paid by the Department). The property is located in Gem County. This acquisition will resolve title to the islands in favor of the State of Idaho, and the Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Department of Fish and Game agree that the Department will manage the lands as part of the Payette River WMA. This settlement is subject to the approval of the Board of Land Commissioners (proposed for February 2015) and the Fish and Game Commission.

This proposal was presented to the Commission in executive session in July 2013.

FILT is estimated at \$10.

**15-05** Commissioner Fischer moved and Commissioner seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendations for the acquisitions of ASARCO property transfer, Campbell's Pond, Tall Pines access, and Zamzow acquisition. And donations for Idaho Transportation Department and Thorman properties. All Commissioners voted in favor.

**FISCAL**

**Review Discount "Price Lock" Order**

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, presented a review of the Department's "Price Lock" Order.

During 2013, staff evaluated several years of the license database and determined that only a relatively small proportion of individuals who hunt, fish, or trap at some point purchase an

annual (e.g. season) license every year, thus there is substantial “churn” in the license database because most individuals purchase a license intermittently. The evaluation demonstrated that reducing churn by encouraging more consistent license purchase could be a substantial source of revenue if more license buyers could be motivated to purchase a license each year. This would help keep prices low.

In 2014, the Commission received enhanced authority (Idaho Code 36-415) to approve discounts for licenses, tags, and permits to encourage the purchase of licenses in consecutive years. A Commission Order is the mechanism for authorizing any discount. This legislation was proposed by the Department and endorsed by the Commission as part of “Price Lock”, a concept to exempt individuals who purchase an annual license each year from potential fee increase(s) while the Commission Order is in effect. The Department also proposed a modest resident fee increase in 2014 to provide the incentive for license buyers to take advantage of Price Lock, however, this proposal did not progress in 2014.

The Department is again proposing a fee increase in 2015 for primarily resident fees. A draft Commission Order (Appendix 48, Exhibit 4) is provided for review to illustrate to the Commission, sportsmen, the public, and the Legislature, how Price Lock could be implemented if a fee increase is legislatively approved.

## REPORT

### Review of Commission Authority for Auction and Lottery Tags

Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer reviewed the Commission Authority for Auction and Lottery Tags.

Background: There is a suite of special tags each year that are not included in either over-the-counter sales or the regular control hunt process including outfitters set-aside and LAP tags. These special tags are created through both statutory mandate and Commission discretionary authority. There are 4 primary components of special tags: 1) auction tags, 2) lottery tags, 3) mandatory hunter report tags, and 4) free disabled veteran/special needs children tags.

### Auction Tags

Auction Bighorn Sheep Tag: Idaho Code 36-408 (5)(a) authorizes the Commission to issue 1 special bighorn sheep tag that shall be actioned off by an incorporated nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, selected by the Commission. This tag is alternatively offered for Unit 11 with the lottery bighorn sheep tag (noted below). The use of revenue is restricted according to statute. The Commission authorizes issuance of this tag and selects the auction organization each year. A qualification and selection process was implemented in 2010 to assure that these special tags are awarded in a credible and independent fashion. The qualification process also helps wildlife conservation groups submit competitive bids in a timely manner.

**Special Wolf Tags:** Idaho Code 36-408 (8) authorizes the Commission to issue up to 10 special auction tags for hunting wolves that shall be actioned off by an incorporated nonprofit organization(s) dedicated to wildlife conservation, selected by the Director. The use of revenue is unrestricted. Note: these tags can also be offered as lottery tags or a mix of lottery and auction tags. The Commission authorized issuance of these tags only in 2009.

**Governor's Wildlife Partnership Tags:** Idaho Code 36-408(9) authorizes the Commission to issue special big game auction tags called "Governor's wildlife partnership tags". Up to 3 tags per species per year may be issued for deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope, and 1 tag per year may be issued for moose, and 1 tag per species per year may be issued for mountain goat and bighorn sheep. There are additional statutory provisions such as the tags shall be taken from the nonresident control hunt allocation. These tags shall be actioned off by an incorporated nonprofit organization(s) dedicated to wildlife conservation, selected by the Director. The use of revenue is restricted according to statute. The Commission has adopted the "business rules" for these tags but has not authorized issuance of any of them to date.

### **Lottery Tags**

**Lottery Bighorn Sheep Tag:** Idaho Code 36-408(5)(b) authorizes the Commission to issue 1 bighorn sheep lottery tag. The lottery tag can be marketed by the Department or a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation selected by the Commission. This tag is alternatively offered for Unit 11 with the bighorn sheep auction tag (noted above). The use of revenue is restricted according to statute. The Commission authorizes issuance of this tag and selects the auction organization each year. The qualification and selection process is identical to that used for the bighorn sheep auction tag.

**Superhunt Tags:** The Special Control Hunt Program, called Superhunt Program, is established by Commission rule (IDAPA 13.01.08) and offers 40 big game tags through two random lottery draw processes each year administered by the Department. Lottery applications are sold for individual species (Super Hunt tags = 10 deer, 10 elk, 10 pronghorn, 2 moose tags) and for combined species (Super Hunt Combo = there are 2 tag packages that bundle 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 pronghorn, and 1 moose tag per package). These tags are good for any general or controlled hunt for the designated species. The Commission intent for this special controlled hunt program is to provide some of the funding for a statewide sportsman access program (Rule adopted in 2006). The Rule states that application fees will be set by Commission Order under Section 36-415, Idaho Code, or will be the same as the controlled hunt fee set in Section 36-416, Idaho Code. Revenue was approximately \$245,000 in 2013. The majority of applications are from resident hunters.

This program was reviewed by the Commission in July, 2014 relative to a proposal for revision of application fees. Pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code Section 36-415, upon a finding of public need to optimize revenue from application fees for the Special Controlled Hunt Program, the Commission voted at its July 10, 2014 to adopt a uniform, discounted fee for each Special Controlled Hunt application, incorporating the vendor issuance fee.

- The fee for each 2015 “Superhunt” Special Controlled Hunt application was set at \$6.00, including the vendor issuance fee; and
- The fee for each 2015 “Superhunt Combo” Special Controlled Hunt application was set at \$20.00, including vendor issuance fees.

The Commission Order is effective from August 11, 2014 through August 10, 2015 for each application for the 2015 Superhunt and Superhunt Combo Special Controlled Hunt Program.

### **Mandatory Hunter Report Tags**

Mandatory Hunter Report (MHR) Tags were implemented in 1998 via Commission rule pursuant to legislative intent to improve information about deer and elk harvest. The MHR tags were advanced to address sportsmen concerns about lack of accuracy and precision in the telephone survey. Long-term reductions in sampling effort brought about as cost-saving measures created the issue of unreliable data so the MHR Tags were introduced to incentivize hunters to fill out their reports in a timely manner.

#### **IDAPA 13.01.08.421.MANDATORY DEER AND ELK REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**

**04. Drawing for “Super” Tag.** All successful and unsuccessful pronghorn, deer and elk hunters that comply with all Mandatory Report requirements will be eligible to be randomly drawn for one (1) of ten (10) “Super” controlled pronghorn/deer/elk tags. The random draw is administered through the Department. Each hunter drawn for a “Super” controlled pronghorn/deer/elk hunt must notify the Department by May 1 of which species they have selected to hunt. The “Super” controlled hunt tag is valid for the selected species and allows the hunter to hunt in any open general and/or controlled hunt for the selected species in the following season.

There are additional rules, IDAPA 13.01.421.02 and 03 that require submission of a completed MHR within 10 days of kill for harvested animals and within 10 days of the close of season for unsuccessful hunters and also require that failure to submit the required pronghorn, deer and/or elk MHR by January 31 of the following year will render the hunter ineligible to obtain any subsequent year’s license. These two rules are not enforced because of challenges with Department capacity to prove lack of compliance and to lock hunters out of license purchase. Staff is working on additional survey techniques to combine with MHR that would uphold data reliability and discontinue the need for hunter incentive to fill out the MHR.

### **Free Special Needs Children Tags/Disabled Veterans Tags**

Idaho Code 36-408 (6) and (7) directs that the Commission may issue free big game tags to minor children who have life-threatening medical conditions that have been certified eligible by a qualified organization or to disabled military veterans who have been certified eligible by a qualified organization. Applicants and organizations may be resident or non-resident. Eligible individuals are exempt from licensing. Criteria of qualified organizations are statutorily defined. The Commission was given authority to prescribe by rule the manner and condition of issuance and using the tags. Rules for these tags are found in IDAPA 13.01.04.900 and 901. Essentially, the Commission created 5 tags issued annually for each program that could be used in any general or control hunt open for the selected species, which may be deer, elk, pronghorn, moose,

black bear or mountain lion. An eligible individual can only receive one tag in a lifetime. Qualified organizations apply for the tag on behalf of the eligible individual and tags are issued on a first come-first serve basis. Many of these tags are utilized on private land. Commission discussion followed/Commission is opposed to the selling of tags. Super Hunt tags ongoing discussion for March meeting.

## **REPORT**

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director presented the report.

The Foundation is pleased to have facilitated the purchase of the Little Salmon River property in Riggins, approving a purchase proposal from the Department at its December Board meeting. The Foundation and the Department will work together regarding public outreach about the site.

As an original sponsor of the Wildlife specialty license plates, the Foundation provides marketing activities to promote the purchase and renewal of plates. Keeping in mind that plate purchases and renewals can swing dramatically from month to month, data for the period ending in November over the previous year saw sales of new bluebird, elk and trout plates up a combined 4%. Renewals for the three plates were also up about a quarter of percent. The Foundation continues to work with the Department and other partners on new marketing strategies.

The Foundation is seeking requests for proposals for its 2015 competitive grants cycle. Projects available for funding include those that promote habitat preservation and restoration, wildlife-based recreation and conservation education. The deadline for applications is May 1.

In preparation of the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Foundation's Board has approved an updated organization logo to increase public awareness and support of the Foundation's work through new philanthropic giving.

The next meeting of the Foundation's Board of Directors will be held on February 7 in Boise.

## **RULES**

### **Deer and Elk Status Update**

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager, presented a statewide overview (Appendix 48, Exhibit 5) of the status of deer and elk populations in relation to deer Population management Unit objectives and elk zone objectives. The presentation included information on mule deer survival monitoring, the new elk survival monitoring program, and upcoming aerial surveys that will aid in the development of deer and elk hunting season recommendations for the Commission meeting in March 2015.

### **Trapper Education Update**

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, provided a Trapper Education update.

At the November 2014 Commission meeting, the Fish and Game Commission asked the Department to seek input from key stakeholders and develop a proposal for implementation of a mandatory trapper education program for future consideration. Staff from Wildlife, Enforcement, Legal, and Communications bureaus met with the presidents of the Idaho Trappers Association and the Upper Snake River Trappers of Idaho on Nov. 25, 2014. The trappers association presidents expressed support for a trapper education requirement and provided recommendations for rules and implementation (Appendix 48, Exhibit 6).

After review of input from the trappers association presidents and further discussion among wildlife, enforcement, communications bureau, and legal staff, staff suggests development of a short-format class (likely several hours/half day) focused on ethics, responsibilities, and methods to avoid capture of domestic dogs and other nontarget animals that would be required of all trappers. Additional training, including a field component, would be offered in a workshop format on a voluntary basis for newer trappers or other individuals interested in additional instruction.

This approach would provide training on ethics and nontarget avoidance to all trappers but minimize the time commitment of experienced individuals that do not require more extensive training on equipment, set-building, lure selection, etc.

Class content would be refined following staff participation in the 2-3 day “train the trainer” trapper education class scheduled for May. Implementation of a new trapper education requirement would require Commission rule following completion of the negotiated rule-making process. Rule format could be similar to the rule requiring completion of the wolf trapper education course prior to buying wolf trapping tags.

Staff could have the trapper education program ready for implementation in January 2016. The rule would go into effect July 1, 2016 with the requirement that all trappers complete the class prior to purchasing a trapping license valid for the 2016-2017 trapping season (or following season).

The Commission directed staff to develop a rule under the negotiated rule making process and bring back to the Commission for review.

### **Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon 2015 Return Forecast**

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, provided a forecast for spring and summer Chinook salmon returning to the Snake River this spring and potential salmon season (Appendix 48, Exhibit 7). These salmon will begin leaving the ocean and entering the Columbia River in late February and early March. Fisheries staff proposes to return to the Commission in March with

recommendations for 2015 Chinook salmon sport fisheries to be conducted in the Clearwater River, Salmon River and Snake River drainages.

A summary of 2014 Chinook salmon fisheries was given by Mr. Schriever.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Shikar-Safari Award**

Each year Shikar-Safari Club International asks to honor the outstanding "Wildlife Officer of the Year" for Idaho. The nominee must demonstrate exemplary conduct and initiative in the performance of their duties. Shikar-Safari Club strives to recognize the officer who has done an outstanding job in the enforcement of wildlife laws, the protection of wildlife and the implementation of conservation programs.

The Shikar-Safari Club nomination for "Wildlife Officer of the Year" is Malcolm Clemenhagen. Malcolm has been an exemplary Senior Conservation Officer in the State of Idaho for over six years and is stationed in the Challis/East Fork patrol.

Greg Wooten and Jon Mellen, Shikar-Safari Club International Member, presented the award to Conservation Officer Clemenhagen.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Information Legislative Sportsman's Caucus**

Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer provided information to the Commission regarding the structure of the Idaho's Legislative Caucus (Appendix 48, Exhibit 8).

## **FISCAL**

### **JFAC Presentation**

On Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 the Department will present the Governor's recommended budget for IDFG to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). Director Moore provided the Commission with a preview of his planned presentation to JFAC for their information and input. The presentation covered the current Department revenue situation, proposed fee increase and "price lock" program, Legislative Intent, Marketing, and Department successes.

## **REPORTS**

### **Overview and Wolf Status Update**

Jim Hayden, Staff Biologist, presented the update

Wolves were de-listed from the Endangered Species Act in Idaho during 2009, re-listed in 2010 after a judge ruled the USFWS acted capriciously, then de-listed again in 2011 through legislation directing the 2009 rule be re-instated. As such, management is directed by the state's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, and includes a 5-year post-delisting monitoring period overseen by the USFWS (period ends May 4, 2016).

There are three key messages (Appendix 48, Exhibit 9).

- Wolf monitoring was expanded and intensified this year.
- Idaho's wolf population is well above all standards for a recovered population.
- Needs and expectations for predation management vary widely across the state.

George Pauley, Regional Wildlife Manager, provided a progress report on the Lolo Predation Management Plan (Appendix 48, Exhibit 10). Mr. Pauley reported that wolf management requires a long-term commitment. Results from the North Fork study area suggest we can improve calf elk survival on a small scale. Larger, population-level effects will require additional resources. A 10-year management direction is to stabilize the elk population, then begin the long-term process to grow the herd.

### **Mule Deer Initiative Update**

Matt Pieron, Staff Biologist, provided an update on the Department's Mule Deer Initiative (MDI). Mr. Pieron discussed current priorities, ongoing projects and partnerships, and recent accomplishments (Appendix 48, Exhibit 11).

MDI has been actively engaged with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff to facilitate and support habitat restoration efforts on federal lands critical to mule deer during fawning and wintering. Of note, MDI staff are taking the lead on a cooperative effort with the BLM Pocatello District to restore over 200 acres of critical wintering habitat in the Soda Hills, and we're providing capacity and funding to complete multiple aspen regeneration projects in the Salmon Challis and Caribou Targhee National Forests. MDI continues to collaborate with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to develop strategies to minimize deer vehicle collisions in priority locations and has provided funding for the ongoing Highway 21 wildlife exclusion fencing project at Boise River WMA.

MDI staff continue to collaborate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement private land conservation across southern Idaho. In FY14, MDI staff provided technical assistance to over 200 landowners, and developed Conservation Reserve Program contracts on over 10,000 acres. MDI also supported a recent collaborative effort in Region 4 between IDFG, BLM, NRCS, and Pheasants Forever to restore over 32,000 acres of sagebrush habitat on BLM lands through the Sage-Grouse Initiative.

### **Director's Report**

Director Moore referenced several items listed in Director's report in the Commission agenda book. Relative to the Website, the redesign looks great and a great job by staff. So far this year the Citizens Against Poaching (CAP) received 939 calls resulting in 111 cases, 188 citations and 6 warnings. CAP has paid out \$24,500 in rewards. IDFG fishery research staff are wrapping up their final year of research on America White Pelican predation on hatchery trout stocked in Idaho waters. And 2014 marks the fourth year of a statewide trout evaluation to determine what factors influence angler catch and harvest rates on stocked trout and how to improve fishing success. The Director's report stands as written.

Work continues on sage-grouse, the Fish and Wildlife Service will make a decision at the end of September regarding listing of under ESA.

A grizzly bear meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Denver.

### **Director's Annual Report to the Commission**

Director Moore presented the sixth edition of the Director's Annual Report to the Commission (Appendix 48, Exhibit 12) showing Department financial summaries for FY14 and outlining challenges for FY15. The report also contains an overview of major Department programs.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Magic Valley Region, Mark Doerr

- The Riley Pond excavation was completed in mid-December.

Southeast Region, Lane Clezie

- The mule deer hunter participation increased by 30% in 2014, with similar success (20%), more 4 point bucks and fewer yearlings in the harvest.
- The second "Wild-A-Vore" hunting clinic for adults who want to learn to hunt, but have no background or experience in the hunting tradition is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pocatello regional office.
- There have been two recent, troubling developments with one of domestic cervid operations (high fence elk hunting business) in the region, near Blackfoot.

Southwest Region, Blake Fischer

- Participated in a deer collaring project.
- Met with several bow hunter organizations from the Treasure Valley for a roundtable discussion.

Upper Snake Region, Kenny Anderson

- Ongoing collaring efforts for both deer and elk in the region.

Salmon Region, Will Naillon

- Participated in a sheep capture in the region.
- Elk depredation hunts on private ground will be discussed at the March meeting.

Clearwater Region, Fred Trevey

- The Clearwater Region Facebook Page now has 558 total followers, with 32 new followers just last week. In the last week our posts have had a total reach of 1718 Facebook users.

Commissioner Reports stand as written (Appendix 48, Exhibit 13).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Planning for Next Meeting

The Commissioners discussed scheduled items for the upcoming meetings.

### Executive Session

**15-06** Commissioner Mark Doerr moved and Commissioner Blake Fischer seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant of subsections (b)(c)(f) of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss legal, lands and personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Blake Fischer, Kenny Anderson, Will Naillon and Fred Trevey.

The executive session ended at 5:42 with no action taken.

**15-07** Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to come out of executive session. All Commissioners voted in favor.

### January 23

## LEGISLATION

### Breakfast with Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon met with the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

### Discuss items for presentation to the Senate Resources and Environment Committee

The Commissioners discussed and prepared for the presentation.

**Meeting with Senate Resources and Environment Committee**

Confirmation hearings were held for Commissioners Blake Fischer and Lane Clezie.



Fred Trevey  
Chairman



Virgil Moore  
Secretary

