

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
April 2, 2015
Boise, Idaho

Present in the Director's Office: Virgil Moore, Sharon Kiefer, Dallas Burkhalter, Jon Rachael, Gregg Servheen, Brad Compton, Mary Boyer and Craig Potcher.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Trevey with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Blake Fischer, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson, and Will Naillon, participating. Commissioner Doerr was excused.

RULES

Modify 2015 Spring Bear and Lion seasons and Bag Limits in Portions of Units 21 and 28.

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Game Manager, presented the recommendation.

In March 2014, the Fish and Game Commission set big game seasons for 2014/2015. The 2014/15 seasons included mountain lion seasons that began in fall 2014 and continue into spring 2015, and also included spring black bear seasons that open in April 2015. Portions of Game Management Units (Units) 21 and 28 are within the boundaries of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FCRNRW), but those Units have mountain lion and black bear seasons that differ from the seasons in Unit 27 which is wholly within the FCRNRW. At their March 24, 2015 meeting, the Commission adopted 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 mountain lion and black bear season dates for Units 21 and 28 that are consistent with the season dates for those species in Unit 27 (Mountain lion: Aug 30 – Jun 30; Black bear: Aug 30 – Nov 30 and Apr 1 – Jun 30). Further, the Commission adopted seasons that allow the use of electronic calls and the use of a second black bear tag and second mountain lion tag in that portion of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness, to make harvest opportunity consistent throughout the FCRNRW. Commission action is required to align the current 2014-2015 hunting seasons for mountain lions and black bears in Units 21 and 28 with Unit 27, and to align harvest opportunities in the wilderness portions of Units 21 and 28 with Unit 27.

Staff recommends adjusting the current 2014-2015 mountain lion and black bear hunting seasons to match the mountain lion and spring black bear seasons in Unit 27 (mountain lion: Aug 30, 2014 – Jun 30, 2015; Black bear: Apr 1 – Jun 30, 2015), and to allow the use of electronic calls and second mountain lion and second black bear tags in those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness.

15-20 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendation to change the current 2014-2015 mountain lion and black bear hunting seasons to match the mountain lion and spring black bear seasons in Unit 27 (Mountain lion: August 30, 2014 – June 30, 2015; Black bear: April 1 – June 30, 2015), and to allow the use of electronic calls and second mountain lion and second black bear tags in those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Nonresident Tag Fee Discounts for Mountain lion, Black bear and Gray wolf.

Idaho Code Section 36-415 grants discretionary authority to the Commission to discount fees for licenses, including tags and permits, upon finding a biological need or public need or unsold licenses. Fees may be discounted for several purposes, including for specific species, units, areas, zones, or gender as necessary to encourage increased license sales or to encourage hunting, fishing, or trapping. Any discounted fee is effective only for the time period set by a Commission Order. Holders of licenses purchased before the discount are not entitled to a refund except as provided by rule.

On November 13, 2014, the Commission authorized Order 14-60 (attached) to extend discounted nonresident tag fees for mountain lion and black bear, in certain units and statewide for gray wolf. At their March 24, 2015 meeting, the Commission established big game hunting seasons for 2015 and 2016 that include allowance for use of a second bear or second lion tag in Game Management Units 4 and 4A and those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness. The Department desires to discount these bear and mountain lion tags to match the discounts provided for the adjacent units through Order 14-60.

The Commission discount for these units would match discounted nonresident mountain lion, black bear, and wolf tag fees of \$41.75, inclusive of the vendor issuance fee. This discount represents a fee that is 22% of the full fee of \$186.

Order 14-60 is in effect through December 31, 2016. A new order is necessary to extend tag fee discounts to additional units.

Staff recommends discounting nonresident tag fees for black bear and mountain lion tags for use in Units 4 and 4A and those portions of Units 21 and 28 within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Staff also recommends a new Commission Order remain in effect through December 31, 2016.

15-21 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to adopt the proposed Commission Order to discount nonresident tag fees for mountain lion, and black bear in Units 4, 4A, and those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness to \$41.75, inclusive of vendor issuance fee. All Commissioners voted in favor of.

LANDS

Deyo Reservoir Boundary Adjustment

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, stated that a neighboring property owner adjacent to Deyo Reservoir in Clearwater County and IDFG desire to adjust their mutual property boundary. Howard Bird, the neighbor and part owner of Deyo Reservoir, is trying to sell this property and it is desired by IDFG and Mr. Bird to adjust the boundary before a new property owner purchases the Bird property. Mr. Bird has agreed to a new property line identified by survey with agreement that IDFG pay \$1,500 for the 0.4 acres that IDFG will net from this adjustment. IDFG has described the new property line by survey.

Adjustment of the property line will provide for better management of Deyo pond and pond water levels. Not proceeding with the adjustment could jeopardize public access and use along the reservoir.

Staff and legal recommend proceeding with the adjustment as described via correction deed and payment to Mr. Bird.

15-22 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to proceed with the Deyo Reservoir, property boundary adjustment. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update Final Bill Discussion

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, provided an update and referenced the bill status tables. SCR 116 was held in committee and did not pass and the Department will discuss a path forward.

HB 320 appropriating an additional \$1,600,000 to the Department of Fish and Game for fiscal year 2015 for one time projects received a positive reading from JFAC. The projects are the Clark Fork Delta in Bonner County and habitat restoration on tributaries of the Potlatch River.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 9:33 a.m.



Mark Doerr
Chairman



Virgil Moore
Secretary