

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
May 16-17, 2016
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Panhandle Region
2885 W Kathleen Avenue**

May 16

MISCELLANEOUS

Commission Field Trip

Commissioners Corkill, Blanco, Fischer, Doerr, Clezie, Attebury and Will Naillon participated on a field tour of the Clagstone Property, Black Lake Ranch and St. Maries WMA parcels.

Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Doerr and Commissioners Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Blake Fischer, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Will Naillon were present.

Chairman Doerr welcomed the public and reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing. A Commission review of public comments is on the agenda for Thursday. Director Moore introduced staff, and stated that staff would be available after the meeting to answer questions.

The following individuals provided public comment: Juergen Nolthenius, Ashley, Lipscomb, Wayne Christofferson, John Walters, Brett Haverstick, Kevin Brown, Dr. Ken Fischman, Garrick Dutcher, Ann Sydow, Charles Sheroke, Turns to the East, Michael Capozzoli, Harvey Richman, Cicilia Nolthenius, Craig Amaral, Bob Humiston, Alicia Humiston, Richard Piazza, Tony Cosfello, Wayne Hammond, John Amooore, Brian Harper, Leland Olson, Tim Howell, Phil Lampert and Tony McDermott. Written comment was received from Lisa Kauffman regarding grizzly bear delisting (Appendix 49, Exhibit 35).

May 17

MISCELLANEOUS

Sportsman Breakfast

Commissioners Corkill, Blanco, Fischer, Doerr, Clezie, Attebury and Will Naillon attended the breakfast.

Opening Comments

Chairman Doerr called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Blake Fischer, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Will Naillon present.

Agenda Changes

Chairman Doerr noted that agenda item 15. Election of Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman would be moved on the agenda to after agenda item 3 Review of Public Comment. No other changes were made to the agenda.

Review of Public Comment

Director Moore led the review of the public comments.

There were 25 individuals who testified. Most of those comments were relative to the Wolf Depredation Control Board (WDCB) and legislative funding. Three of those comments were in support of the WDCB and twelve opposed. Most of the information that was given was incorrect regarding the WDCB. There were three general wolf comments not associated with the WDCB. Other comments, three opposed to the St. Maries/ Black Lake Ranch; there will still be public access. And three comments against the sale of the lots at Hayden Lake. One comment received regarding the timber management at Farragut.

Regarding the misconception regarding the WDCB, the Commissioners asked staff to prepare a one page information sheet for their use and to post for constituents.

A request was made for the Department to list what species are available on Access Yes! properties. Commissioner Naillon reported that the species are listed in the Access Yes! pamphlets. Staff will follow up with the individual.

Election of Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman

16-41 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Blanco seconded a motion to appoint Will Naillon as Chairman. All Commissioners voted in favor.

16-42 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to appoint Brad Corkill as Vice Chairman. All Commissioners voted in favor.

The gavel was passed to new Chairman Will Naillon to chair the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar

- Minutes March 9-10, March 17 and April 21, 2016
- Financial Report

16-43 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to approve the minutes as listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

16-44 Commissioner Fischer moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to accept the financial report listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

REPORT

Grizzly Bear Tri-State Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife presented. A copy of the draft MOA was provided (Appendix 49, Exhibit 36).

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), consisting of various federal and state wildlife and land management agencies, along with other experts, agrees that grizzly bears are recovered in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). GYE grizzly bears were delisted in 2007, but a federal judge ordered re-listing due to a procedural flaw.

In December 2015, Directors of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming fish and game agencies sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director to press forward with delisting. The state directors also drafted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to submit to their respective commissions for approval in support of delisting.

The draft MOA defines a process for coordinating management and allocation of discretionary mortality of GYE grizzly bears. States would maintain a grizzly bear population consistent with the long-term average and associated confidence intervals estimated during the period of 2002-2014, the time period when the population reached a biological carrying capacity.

The States identified adjustable mortality rates (see Paragraph IV. 2) to manage human-caused mortality within the Demographic Mortality Area (DMA), also known as the suitable habitat area, to levels that will sustain this population range, conservatively estimated to be between 600-747 (estimates based on the Chao2 model and bear observations). The draft MOA framework applies lower mortality limits at lower population levels and increases flexibility with higher grizzly populations.

After delisting, state agencies will be fully responsible for Yellowstone grizzly bear population management, including the potential for limited hunting. The draft agreement supports the delisting process and post-delisting tri-state coordination.

16-45 Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to approve the Tri-State Memorandum of Agreement regarding the management and allocation of discretionary mortality of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, with the allowance to make minor edits in conjunction with the approval process in Wyoming and Montana. All Commissioners voted in favor.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2016-2025 American White Pelican Plan

Rex Sallabanks and Jeff Dillon provided the report. At the January 2016 meeting, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission approved the Department to release the draft Pelican Management Plan for public review. Subsequently, the draft Plan was made available for public comment for a 30-day public comment period from March 4 through April 2, 2016. The Department received 87

comments on the draft Plan, 76 from individuals and 11 from agencies, organizations, or businesses. A summary of changes to the draft Plan as a result of public and agency comments was given (Appendix 49, Exhibit 37).

16-46 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to approve the 2016-2025 Management Plan for the Conservation of American White Pelicans in Idaho as prepared by staff. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LEGISLATION

House Bill 378 Implementation

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, presented the proposal. In response to several sportsmen and other public complaints about incidental catch of pet dogs in traps in concert with a substantial increase in new trappers, the Commission considered options to resolve complaints, ultimately giving guidance to staff to focus on developing rules for trapper education. Staff conducted negotiated rulemaking with stakeholders, developing rules for mandatory trapper education, discussed over the course of several Commission meetings in 2015: January 22, March 24, May 20, and July 30, when the staff rule proposal rules was adopted. Staff also developed a FY17 budget enhancement for program implementation, which the Commission approved.

The 2016 Legislature reviewed the proposed rules (Docket No. 13-0115-1501) and did not approve them; a key issue was that legislators were concerned about the lack of explicit Commission authority in Idaho statute to implement mandatory trapping education. Alternatively, legislators worked with the Commission and Department to introduce House Bill 378, which amended Idaho Code 36-412 to explicitly authorize the Commission to administer and prescribe a mandatory trapping education program; this bill passed and became effective on March 24, 2016 due to an emergency clause. However, due to uncertainty about passage of House Bill 378, the FY17 budget enhancement to implement mandatory trapping education was not addressed by JFAC.

Pursuant to House Bill 378, rulemaking is necessary to prescribe the mandatory trapping education program and establish a fee.

Staff Recommendation: Staff will discuss two options with the Commission: adoption of new rules or further public involvement regarding the staff rule proposal (Appendix 49, Exhibit 38). The staff rule proposal will be generally similar to the original rules adopted by the Commission in July, 2015.

There was no action taken by the Commission. The Commission asked to defer to the July meeting.

FISCAL

Commission Direction on Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds

Brad Compton, Asst. Chief, Wildlife.

In 2014, the Idaho Legislature passed HB470 creating the Wolf Depredation Control Board; responsible for administering the wolf control fund established by the same bill. Creation of the Board was largely in response to loss of federal funding for wolf depredation control. The Board has no management authority for wolves, which is held by the Fish and Game Commission.

Idaho statute annually transfers up to \$110,000 of Department funds to the Wolf Depredation Control Board for response to, and control of, wolf depredations. The actual amount of the transfer each year is based on matching the amount provided by the livestock industry, up to a maximum of \$110,000. The Department provided \$54,565 and \$105,330 in FY15 and FY16, respectively. It is anticipated the livestock industry will contribute a full \$110,000 in FY17. Additionally, the Board receives an appropriation from the general fund; \$400,000 in FY17.

Typically, Department funding has been directed by the Commission for management and control of wolves for the protection of ungulates in areas with department approved predation management plans.

Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$110,000 for management and control of wolves for the protection of ungulates in areas with department approved predation management plans.

Staff will have a letter prepared for Commission Chairman signature at conclusion of the agenda item (Appendix 49, Exhibit 39).

16-47 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion that the Commission adopts the staff recommendation to direct the expenditure of \$110,000 for the protection of ungulates in areas with department approved predation management plans. All Commissioners voted in favor.

RULES

Controlled Hunt Tag Adjustments for Deer, Elk and Pronghorn

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Game Manager, provided a report on the Statewide Fawn Survival Rates (Appendix 49, Exhibit 40). Overall the survival rate is above average.

At the March 24, 2015 meeting, the Commission adopted big game seasons for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons. The Department committed to evaluate controlled hunt tag numbers following the 2015-2016 season to respond to current population status, 2015-2016 harvest results, over-winter survival, or other circumstances.

Moisture content in the snowpack throughout most of the state was very near the long term average during winter 2015-2016 and over-winter survival of radio-marked mule deer is shaping up to be average to above-average. However, because of early snow accumulation at higher elevations, several regions experienced more significant depredation conflicts with deer, elk, and pronghorn in agricultural areas than they had seen in several years.

In response to increased depredation conflicts, staff are proposing increases in the number of tags offered for deer, elk, and pronghorn in several controlled hunts.

Applications for 2016-2017 season controlled hunts for deer, elk, and pronghorn will be accepted May 1 – June 5, 2016. The drawing will be conducted late June – early July. The Commission can adjust the number of tags to be issued prior to the drawing.

16-48 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for increase to the number of tags issued for the specified controlled hunts for the 2016-2017 hunting season. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Season Setting: Chinook Salmon Fishery

Peter Hassemer, Andaromous Fish Manager, provided a review of the 2016 Chinook Salmon season (Appendix 49, Exhibit 41).

Mr. Hassemer stated that the Fisheries Bureau is looking at a Clearwater River Summer Chinook Salmon Fishery. This would be a new opportunity for anglers in the Clearwater Region. More details to follow, a conference call will be scheduled in June for the Commission to take action on this agenda item.

Mr. Hassemer presented the proposal (Appendix 49, Exhibit 42).

The following areas open to fishing on June 18, 2016:

The Upper Salmon River from the Copper Mine boat ramp approximately 2.5 miles upstream from the mouth of the Middle Fork Salmon River upstream to the posted boundary approximately 100 yards downstream of the weir and trap at Sawtooth hatchery south of Stanley.

South Fork Salmon River from the bridge on Forest Service Road 48 (Lick Creek/East Fork South Road) where it crosses the mainstem South Fork Salmon River just upstream of the confluence with the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, upstream approximately 32 river miles to a posted boundary approximately 100 yards downstream from the Idaho Fish and Game South Fork Salmon River weir and trap.

Areas will be closed by Closure Order signed by the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

16-49 Commissioner Fischer moved and Commissioner Blanco seconded a motion to approve the proposed 2016 Chinook salmon fishing seasons for the South Fork Salmon River and Upper Salmon River. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LANDS

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the proposals.

Region 6- Antelope Creek Access

The Antelope Creek access donation involves accepting fee title of 8.2 acres on Antelope Creek in the Upper Snake Region for sportsman's access. This new site would provide the public a location to fish, camp, and hike along Antelope Creek. Access in this area is currently very limited due to private land ownership up and down from this site.

The landowner is also donating a non-motorized access easement 30 ft. wide and 0.64 miles long along their southern property border to provide access to BLM ground to the east. This easement will allow access across the privately owned Antelope Creek valley floor to hunting areas and public lands not easily accessible.

This agreement was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January of 2016. There are no acquisition costs for the easement and donation. FILT is \$0 as is less than 15 acres.

16-50 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to adopt staff recommendation and approves proceeding with the Antelope Creek access donation. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Region-1 Disposal of Hayden Lake Lots

The Commission currently owns 8 lots fronting Hayden Lake and totaling 2.57 acres. The lots are located in Kootenai County, approximately 9 miles north of Coeur d'Alene on the northern tip of Hayden Lake (T53N, R3W, S34), further described as lots 116-123 in Hayden Lake Sportsmen Park Boating and Fishing Access Area. The parcels were originally acquired via warranty deed through a 1950 land exchange (no federal funds involved).

A single lot (No. 123) is encumbered with an easement granted by the Department in 1998, to a neighbor allowing the installation of a drain field and access to their property; however, the remaining 7 lots are unencumbered and undeveloped. The isolated lots are not identified as publicly owned and as such, support little, if any public use and the lots are too small to provide significant wildlife habitat.

As a consequence of their isolation and limited ability to provide habitat or public access, the Department views the lots as nonessential to the mission of the agency. The Hayden Lake lots have a significant monetary value and sale of the property could generate funding that would benefit the Department in other areas. The appraised value of one of the Hayden Lake lots was estimated at \$140K as of October 2012. With the disposal of 8 contiguous lots, it can be estimated the property could sell for close to \$1 million.

The property proposed for disposal was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on March 10, 2016.

Commissioner Corkill requested that the Commission delay action on this agenda item and defer to the July meeting, due to comments heard at the public meeting. Commissioner Corkill expressed a desire to see the lots at Hayden. Consensus of the Commission is to delay to the July meeting.

Region -5 Office Agreement

The agreement involves the Department granting an access easement on 300 ft. of property on the Southern portion of the regional office compound parcel.

The recipient of the access easement will donate 5.29 acres of fee tile property to the Department to allow expansion of the regional property compound eastward.

This agreement was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in March of 2016. There are no acquisition costs for the easement and donation. FILT is \$0 as is less than 15 acres.

16-51 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to adopt staff recommendations and approves proceeding with the granting of easement and accepting donation of fee title property.

Region-1 Black Rock Slough, Coeur d'Alene River WMA – Stinger Acquisition

This is a proposal to add about 290 acres to the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The property is surrounded by Department ownership to the east and west, and has a diversity of intact habitats (i.e., 180 acres of emergent wetlands, 45 acres of riparian forest and 7,300 feet of river frontage) that supports a good diversity of species including elk, moose, white-tailed deer and bear. Waterfowl use of the property is moderate at present and could be greatly enhanced in the short-term with some water control management. Also present on the property are forest grouse and wild turkey. Fishing opportunities are possible along the Coeur d'Alene River bank and an interior large pond/wetland area that is located on the property.

With ownership of the property, the Department could immediately install water control structures and control water depths such that the water depth in the wetland complex could be increased during the late winter making the contaminated wetlands unavailable for swan foraging. Later, when funding becomes available through the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Restoration Plan and HECLA mitigation funding, the property's wetland areas can be remediated and restored and can be made safe for use by swans and the water depths could return to normal. Water control will also allow for water retention in the fall for migrating waterfowl loafing and improved waterfowl hunting.

Acquisition will ensure and improve the connectivity of the floodplain, wildlife habitats and public access through this section of the lower Coeur d'Alene River basin.

IDFG pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties. The FILT for properties acquired in Kootenai County is estimated at approximately \$2.24 per acre, for a total of approximately \$649.60 for the property.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on March 10, 2016.

16-52 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Clezie moved that the Commission adopt staff recommendation to proceed with the Stinger Acquisition. All Commissioners voted in favor.

FISCAL

FY18 Budget Forecast Update

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration provided a recap of the Department's budget form FY16 (current year) looking forward (Appendix 49, Exhibit 43). The Department has begun the planning process for preparation of the fiscal year 2018 budget request to be submitted to the Governor's Office by September 1. This presentation will update the Commission on the current financial status of the Department and discuss revenue and expense expectations for the upcoming budget year.

The annual budget request is developed starting with the "base" amount of ongoing appropriation, which is then adjusted for routine cost increases (employee medical insurance, statewide costs allocated to IDFG, etc.).

The Department then requests enhancements which can be ongoing or one-time for the upcoming year.

Current Timeline:

- May Commission meeting: Overview of Budget Development and initial estimates for revenue and general priorities
- May – July: Department staff compile and submit requests for additional appropriation to cover new projects with funding
- July Commission meeting: Preliminary Discussion of budget request, including items for supplemental appropriation and FY18 line item enhancements.
- July – August: Refinement of budget estimates and supporting documentation
- August Commission meeting: Final approval of FY18 Budget request
- September 1st, 2016: Deadline to submit request to Governor's office and Legislative Services Office.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Wrap Up

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director provided the report. The 2016 legislative session lasted 75 days, from January 11 through March 25, 2016. During the session, the Commission discussed legislative issues during 9 meetings, including 7 conference calls. During the legislative session, a total of 557 bills were introduced and 377 bills became law.

The Commission took a policy position on 19 bills that affected Title 36 or had other effects to Department operations and reviewed several more.

Of the 11 bills that the Commission either supported or monitored, only 2 did not pass: HCR 53 opposing exclusive use leases that bar hunters, anglers, and trappers from accessing state endowment trust land (passed the House) and S1226 increasing reimbursable penalties.

Of the 8 bills that the Commission did not support, 1 passed: S1344 directing IDFG to have an independent entity carry out drawings for controlled hunts.

Of the 8 pending rules dockets adopted by the Commission that were reviewed by the Legislature, 1 did not pass: Rules to implement mandatory trapping education.

With the exception of House Bill 378 previously discussed, all other laws affecting Title 36 or other aspects of the Department become effective July 1, 2016.

Deputy Director Kiefer reviewed important deadlines for submitting legislative ideas for the 2017 Legislative Session. The Department will bring legislative proposals to the Commission for approval at the July meeting.

REPORTS

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Sharon Kiefer presented the report for Ann Dehner, Executive Director.

- The Foundation is processing applications for its 2016 competitive grants cycle. Total awards for this year's program has been increased to \$50,000. Grants may be given to IDFG and nonprofits with similar missions for wildlife habitat restoration and for conservation education projects. The awards will be announced in August.
- At its April Board meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved the distribution of approximately \$48,000 for various projects, including funds for livestock water tanks, equipment and signage at the Andrus WMA; a wildlife viewing platform at Ft. Boise WMA; emergency repair of the IDFG-MK Nature Center's main water supply; and funds to construct a wildlife viewing platform and educational materials at the Draper Preserve in the Wood River area. These distributions come from the Foundation's endowed and non-endowed funds that are created through donations from the public and are awarded beyond the Foundation's annual grant cycle.
- The Foundation continues to work with the Department to enhance its marketing and fundraising activities, including the development of an online fundraising program (crowdfunding), its annual giving campaign, and a legacy giving program (planned giving).
- The next meeting of the Foundation's Board of Directors will be held in Salmon on Saturday, August 6, 2016.

Elk Depredation Action Plan

Jana Ashling, new Landowner Sportsman Coordinator for the Clearwater Region was introduced to the Commission.

Brad Compton, Asst. Chief, Wildlife, reported that the past few years, private landowners in parts of the state have expressed increased concern about private land conflicts with elk. Additionally, the winter of 2015/2016 resulted in numerous complaints about elk, either causing damage to private property or posing a safety risk to vehicular travel. Although the reasons for increased private land conflicts are largely unknown, changes in abundance and distribution of elk on private land combined with changing land use practices, both on private and public are likely potential causes.

At the March meeting, the Commission was provided an overview of the Wildlife Depredation Prevention and Compensation Program. The Commission directed staff to develop a strategy to proactively attack the issue of private land conflict caused by elk.

36-103. Wildlife property of state -- Preservation. (a) Wildlife Policy. All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.

36-1108. Control of damage by antelope, elk, deer or moose -- Compensation for damages. (a) Prevention of depredation shall be a priority management objective of the department, and it is the obligation of landowners to take all reasonable steps to prevent property loss from wildlife or to mitigate damages by wildlife

Mr. Compton reviewed the draft Strategic Action Plan – Elk Depredation (Appendix 49, Exhibit 44). In addition to the review; actions that have already been taken to address the issues and longer –term solutions were provided.

Not all, but general agreement of the Commission is to resolve some depredation issues using existing Commission authority (up to 25% allocation) to manage LAP antlerless tag levels to help reduce conflict.

Commissioner Fischer stated that the Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) and the Depredation Program are two separate programs. He does not feel the Department should use LAP for Depredation.

The Commission expressed their thanks to Brad and LCC's statewide for their work and efforts.

LEGISLATION

Discussion About Proposed Revisions to Fee Bill Structure

Sharon Kiefer provided background information regarding the 2016 legislative session relative to a fee bill. The Commission approved submission of a proposed fee bill for Governor Office review to advance during the 2016 Legislative session; however, in consultation with the Governor's office, the bill was not advanced. The proposed fee bill would have primarily increased resident licenses \approx 10 to 20% and provided legislative intent to implement Price Lock. The estimated fiscal impact of this proposal ranged from \$1.64 to \$2.74 million in new revenue.

Since development of the 2016 proposal, new fee concepts have emerged. These include: 1) Revise statutory license and tag set-asides (either all or only certain set-asides) from fixed to proportional amounts, 2) Add new or adjusted fees to accommodate access to accessible state endowment lands, 3) Add fee for a grizzly bear tag, and 4) Implement fee increase without Price Lock.

There may be additional concepts that sportsmen or the Commission wish to consider. The Commission provides the policy oversight and approval of Department legislative proposals.

Discussion of new fee bill concepts needed for development of a 2017 proposal for Commission consideration in July.

Ms. Kiefer distributed a handout titled Programmatic Expectations for License Revenue (Appendix 49, Exhibit 45) and discussed with the Commission.

Each Commissioner commented their thoughts on a fee increase proposal. The Commission favors simplicity for the proposal.

Direction to Deputy Director Kiefer is to develop a straight fee increase and a fee increase with Price Lock and bring back for consideration to the July Commission meeting.

REPORT

Wolf Population and Management Update

Jim Hayden, Wildlife Staff Biologist, provided an update on the status and management (Appendix 49, Exhibit 46).

Wolf Population Update

- The year-end population for documented packs, other documented groups not qualifying as packs, and lone wolves was estimated at 786 wolves at the end of 2015, similar to that of last year.
- Biologists documented 108 packs within the state at the end of 2015.
- Determination of breeding pair status was made for 53 packs at year's end. Of these, 33 packs (62%) met breeding pair criteria, and 20 packs did not. No determination of breeding pair status was made for the remaining 55 packs.

- The numbers of cattle and sheep killed by wolves have been stable to declining since wolf harvest began.

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

- The revision will become a 10-year plan (2017 – 2026).
- The wolf plan will present past population and harvest data, identify current issues, and future management intent.
- A wolf management team has been formed and is summarizing data and exploring management issues.
- The draft plan will be presented for Commission review in August.
- A revised draft plan will be available for public review in September.
- Final draft slated for Commission adoption during November.

RULES

Non Biological Rules – Proposed Big Game Rules

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, reported that annually or biennially, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission considers proposed changes for two types of big game hunting rules, season setting (biological) and IDAPA rules (nonbiological). The Commission has unique authority to establish hunting, fishing and trapping seasons via proclamation, rather than through IDAPA rulemaking. Big game season proclamations are now published biennially and include seasons, limits, size, sex, and harvestable species. IDAPA (nonbiological) rules include all other rules adopted by the Commission and are considered annually or as needed based on new or amended legislation. Examples of IDAPA rules include methods of take, tagging requirements, evidence-of-sex requirements, and controlled hunt eligibility requirements. IDAPA rules are officially published in the Idaho Administrative Code and included in hunting regulation brochures.

An ad-hoc Nonbiological Rules Review Committee reviewed a list of proposed rules with the Director’s Office and considered both the urgency and importance of each proposal. The following six proposals are recommended to move ahead for negotiated rulemaking to administer future regulated harvest opportunity for grizzly bears:

IDAPA 13.01.08.300. Establish that either sex Grizzly Bears may be taken, Except adults accompanied by young, and young accompanying adults, may not be taken.	Create take restrictions consistent with Tri-state MOA to protect grizzly bear population productivity.
IDAPA 13.01.08.320. Establish that immediately after harvest of a grizzly bear, the tag must be validated and securely attached to the hide.	Tagging requirement consistent with other big game animals (black bears, mountain lions, gray wolves).
IDAPA 13.01.08.350. Add grizzly bear to the list of species for which evidence of sex must be left naturally attached to the hide until mandatory check requirement has been fulfilled.	Evidence of sex requirement consistent with black bears, mountain lions, and wolves.

IDAPA 13.01.08.420. Establish requirement that any hunter who kills a grizzly bear must report harvest within 24 hours by calling a toll free Grizzly Reporting Number.	Rapid reporting of harvest by hunters is required-- regulatory mechanism to allow updating of quota or closure of season.
IDAPA 13.01.08.420. Establish mandatory check requirement for grizzly bears. Skull and hide must be presented to IDFG conservation officer or at IDFG regional office for checking within 5 days of harvest.	Require physical check of hide and skull for collection of biological data, including confirmation of sex, retention of premolar for age determination, tagging of pelt, and completion of Big Game Mortality Report form. Regulatory mechanism.
IDAPA 13.01.08.500. Add grizzly bear to the list of species that may not be hunted within 200 yards of any designated dump ground or landfill.	Consistent with rules for take of black bears and gray wolves.
IDAPA 13.01.08.260.03. Establish rule to limit harvest of a grizzly bear in Idaho to once per lifetime.	A rule limiting eligibility to individuals who have not previously harvested a grizzly bear is consistent with hunts for other big game species for which hunt opportunity is extremely limited and over-subscribed.

The Department will issue a Notice of Intent to initiate negotiated rulemaking for publication in the July 6 issue of the Administrative Bulletin and the proposed rules will be published and made available for public review on the Department’s website <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>. A 21-day comment period will run through July 27.

Staff will file a Notice of Intent to initiate rulemaking on June 3, 2016. Comments will be evaluated following the close of the comment period and staff will assess whether rule modifications and additional public involvement is appropriate.

This item is for information only, no action is required.

Youth Hunt Eligibility

Scott Reinecker, Regional Supervisor, Southwest Region provided the report.

The Department has and continues to propose steps to simplify youth licensing and hunting to make it easier for families and youth to understand youth hunting opportunities and eligibility requirements.

Commission-approved seasons include youth general and control hunts for several species that have evolved with age and mentoring eligibility requirements that are inconsistent with Jr. Hunting License provisions and are inconsistent across species.

There has been public involvement in annual season setting that includes youth seasons but there has not been public involvement to take a comprehensive look at standardizing eligibility for youth hunting seasons across species.

Mr. Reinecker provided a handout (Appendix 49, Exhibit 47) showing the current youth hunts and requirements associated with each hunt.

An Inter-Department workgroup was tasked with addressing inconsistencies in age restriction within various youth hunts that the department offers to improve both internal and external customer service. Youth Big Game, Pheasant, Waterfowl, and turkey hunts are inconsistent in their age and accompaniment requirements. A proposed structure for Youth Hunts was provided to the Commission (Appendix 49, Exhibit 48).

Commission guidance is necessary to develop new season and rule proposals to simplify youth hunting season eligibility. Commission direction is to proceed with the proposed structure for Youth Hunts and take out for public review.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Director Moore introduced Sam Eaton, Legal Counsel, Office of Species Conservation, and provided a few comments on grizzly bear delisting and the Grizzly Bear Tri State Memorandum of Understanding. Director Moore referenced written comment from Lisa Kaufman regarding opposition to the Tri State MOU. He will attend a retreat next week with AFWA directors and have an opportunity to visit with Dan Ashe, Fish and Wildlife Services. Thank you to the regional supervisors and Deputy Director Schriever for their efforts in meeting with the business and retail leaders of their communities last December, January and February to look at IDFG budget, priorities and their ideas as folks who benefit from the management the department does and likewise. Plans are to present this opportunity to the sportsmen and women of their regions. Hunter Education Registrations are up 62% and the new Fish Planner is on the Department Website. Thanks to the Bureaus, Regions and Michael Pearson in Administration for the work in prioritizing some yearend money to reassign and provided fencing for over 200 stack yards to address depredation problems.

Commissioner Reports

Each Commissioner provided a brief report and referenced the written Commissioner Reports for a full report of each region (Appendix 49, Exhibit 49).

Commissioner Corkill recognized Kathy Cousins for her work at the Clark Fork Delta. The US Army Corps of Engineers selected the Clark Fork Delta project as their number one partnership project for the NW region, and number two nationally. The award was recently presented to project lead Kathy Cousins by the Corps in Bonner County.

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The Commissioners discussed scheduled items for the upcoming July 6-7 meeting in the Magic Valley Region.

Executive Session IC. 74-206 (1) (b) (c) (f)

16-53 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c)(f) to discuss lands, litigation and personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Will Naillon

16-54 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to come out of executive session with no action taken.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Will Naillon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Will Naillon
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary