



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 S Walnut / P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

December 6, 2012

Dear Pat,

I am excited to share with you the enclosed copy of the Idaho Wildlife Summit Report. Also included is a three-DVD set of all of the Summit presentations and videos. I hope you will share them with other wildlife enthusiasts in your community.

In reading the report, I was impressed to find the following:

- Eighty-two percent of you purchased a hunting, fishing or trapping license within the past two years.
- Ninety percent of you watched or photographed wildlife within the past two years.
- Ninety-one percent of you say that abundant wildlife is an important reason for living in Idaho.

Results from the Fishing Polls and Citizen Survey indicate to me that you are avidly involved in a variety of wildlife-related activities. And you generally agree on what important issues Fish and Game needs to address. Nearly all of you are interested in continuing the conversation that began at the Summit. And speaking of staying engaged, I am very pleased to let you know that Shane Mahoney is interested in helping us keep our conversation going. Many of you commented on how deeply Shane's remarks resonated with you.

I also wanted to share with you some of the recurring themes that stood out to me:

- You and your fellow participants all care deeply about wildlife.
- Hunting, fishing and wildlife-based recreation is overwhelmingly important to you.
- You are eager to help Fish and Game improve wildlife conservation through direct participation and volunteering.
- Conservation education is important to you as is connecting youth to the outdoors and wildlife-related activities.
- You recognize the costs of conserving and managing wildlife, and most of you are supportive of exploring more diverse funding sources.
- You believe that wildlife cannot be taken for granted and want conservation issues to be solved by working together with a diversity of perspectives.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Given Fish and Game's mission and the support you have shown for more robust wildlife conservation activities, I am ready to move forward with you. It is time to take action to meet the expectations of Idahoans to maintain and grow our efforts to manage all of Idaho's wildlife species, both game and nongame. To that end, I believe that one step is to seek ways to maintain and grow the Wildlife Diversity Program that is supported by Idaho's Non-game Trust Fund. Another step is to insure programs for our sport fish and wildlife species are properly funded – one that you will hear more from me on soon. Together these quality programs for Idaho's wildlife will create an abundant wildlife resource for all wildlife enthusiasts to meet Idahoans expectations.

I am anxious to begin working together to accomplish this initial step for the Wildlife Diversity Program. If you are willing to participate more directly, I will be working with Fish and Game Regional Supervisors to establish regional working groups to look at the needs and mechanisms to support the Wildlife Diversity Program. If you are interested in being part of one of these working groups, please let the regional supervisor (see list at the end of this letter) at your local Fish and Game office know of your interest by December 31, 2012. These working groups will represent diverse interests to generate ideas on funding mechanisms that will ultimately be presented to the Commission for their consideration in July 2013.

Thanks again for your continued interest in the future of Idaho's wildlife. You will have additional opportunities to provide input via upcoming internet chat and blog opportunities beginning in January 2013. This is an exciting time for all of Idaho's wildlife enthusiasts and I applaud your willingness to volunteer your valuable time and ideas. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Regards,



Virgil Moore
Director

Contact Info for Regional Supervisors:

Panhandle Region	Chip Corsi	208-769-1414
Clearwater Region	Dave Cadwallader	208-799-5010
Southwest Region	Scott Reinecker	208-465-8465
Magic Valley Region	Jerome Hansen	208-324-4359
Southeast Region	Mark Gamblin	208-232-4703
Upper Snake Region	Steve Schmidt	208-525-7290
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