

Meeting Date: May 16,2024

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item: Celebrating 125-years of Conserving Idaho's Wildlife Together

Bureau Chief Approval: AW

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Background:

Idaho has a long and storied history of conserving and managing wildlife. Idaho's first game laws, among the earliest in the country, were adopted by the Territorial Legislature on January 16, 1864. In 1899, Governor Frank Steunenberg signed into law the establishment of the Fish and Game Department and created the office of state game warden.

Over the last 125 years the Department has strived to conserve and manage Idaho's wildlife resources for the benefit of all Idahoan's. In that time, many changes and adaptations have occurred, including the 1938 citizen initiative which created the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. The Department has experienced many successes and some failures over its long history. The Department continues to strive to be a smart, nimble, powerful, and a creative force for wildlife conservation and management. However, since the inception of IDFG, passionate Idahoan's and conservation partners have played an irreplaceable role in supporting wildlife management and have helped ensure a rich wildlife heritage for all generations in perpetuity.

To maximize the impact of this milestone the Department has kicked off a campaign with several events across the state with several more to come. These events are a chance to celebrate our past with those who have gotten us here including hunters, anglers, trappers, and other conservation partners, while looking to the future. The communication campaign will share why and how we exist, the conservation and management that we do, who we are, and thank the outdoor conservation community for their support.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

None

Public Involvement Process:

Events will be open to the public to participate.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff encourages all Commissioners to attend events in their regions and use the 125 celebration as an opportunity to discuss the future of wildlife management in Idaho.

Justification:

This presentation is informational for the Commission and has been 125-years in the making.