

Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

Agenda Item No. 5C

Agenda Item: Commission Direction of Animal
Damage Control Board Funds
(Action)

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Prepared by: Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Wildlife Bureau Chief

Background:

Idaho law directs the annual transfer of \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for prevention and control of damage caused by predatory animals and other vertebrate pests to agriculture production in Idaho. Idaho law authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

Typically, the Commission has directed \$50,000 to support USDA Wildlife Services activities identified in the 2006 MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board for general control of predatory animals.

The Commission has typically directed the remaining \$50,000 for specific wildlife management activities, such as intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative, feral hog control in the Bruneau Valley, or activities under Idaho's American White Pelican Management Plan.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-112 directs the annual transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the fish and game fund to the animal damage control fund. To maintain eligibility for Idaho's receipt of federal excise tax funds for wildlife conservation, fish management and restoration, and public shooting ranges (such as the Pittman-Robertson Act excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment), the Commission must maintain control of its license funds. Idaho Code 36-112 maintains this control by requiring the Animal Damage Control Board to follow Commission direction for funding depredation control activities using these funds.

Public Involvement Process:

The public may comment on this topic at the Commission meeting.

Justification:

Commission direction on the expenditure of Department funds is required.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU. Staff further recommends the remaining \$50,000 be divided, with \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation control of black bears and mountain lions, and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities implementing Idaho's American White Pelican Management Plan.

Staff will prepare a letter for the Chair's signature reflecting the Commission's direction to the Animal Damage Control Board.

Suggested Motion: I move the Commission adopt staff recommendation to direct \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU; \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation control of black bears and mountain lions; and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities implementing Idaho's American White Pelican Management Plan.