

Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Agenda Item No. 6.A.

Agenda Item: Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association **Bureau Chief Approval:** JF
Rulemaking Petition Regarding Trapping (Action)

Prepared by: Amber Worthington

Background:

Staff will bring forward a rulemaking petition (February 20, 2024) from Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association regarding trapping regulations in Idaho.

Petition requests modification to IDAPA 13.01.02 – Rules Governing Mandatory Education, Mentored Hunting, and Shooting Ranges and IDAPA 13.01.16 – Trapping of Wildlife and Taking of Furbearing Animals.

Amendments are intended to provide more opportunities for individuals to participate in trapping operations while under direct supervision of licensed outfitters and guides.

The petition requests rulemaking changes that would authorize outfitter or guide clients (under the outfitter/guide direct supervision) to participate in trapping without completing the Department’s trapper’s education course or purchasing a trapping license. Additionally, outfitters would be authorized to provide trapline excursions, allowing the client (holding the appropriate tag) an opportunity to dispatch and tag any legally trapped or snared animal caught by the licensed outfitter or guide.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

The Commission has authority to conduct rulemaking. The Idaho Administrative Procedure Act (Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code) governs rulemaking in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

Public involvement occurs through the negotiated rulemaking process and the Commission’s public input opportunities.

Staff Recommendation:

I move the Department conduct negotiated rulemaking regarding the waiving of trapper education and trapping license requirements for a person under direct supervision of a licensed outfitter or guide.



Feb 20, 2024

To: the Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Subject: Petition for Amendment to Trapping Regulations in Idaho

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association (IOGA) to respectfully petition the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to consider an amendment to the current rules governing trapping within the state. Specifically, we propose the following changes to allow for a more inclusive and educational trapping experience under the direct supervision of licensed outfitters and guides, and in so doing, also support related Departmental wildlife objectives.

Proposed Amendment:

1. **Participation of Hunters in Trap Checking:** Hunters possessing a current hunting license and appropriate tag(s) may be allowed to accompany a licensed outfitter or guide, as defined in Idaho Code §36-2102(b), (c), in their operating area while checking the outfitter's traplines.
2. **Client Participation under Supervision:** The client may participate in the checking of traps under the guide's or outfitter's trapping license without the necessity of completing the Department's trapping courses or possessing a trapping license, provided they are under the direct supervision of the licensed guide or outfitter.
3. **Authorization for Trapline Excursions:** Outfitters should be authorized to provide trapline excursions, which may allow the client an opportunity to dispatch and tag any legally trapped or snared animal caught in a trap or snare set by the licensed outfitter or guide.

Rationale:

This amendment seeks to enhance the outdoor recreational opportunities in Idaho by allowing those interested in the traditional skills of trapping to learn and more directly participate under the guidance of experienced professionals. It promotes conservation through education, ensuring that participants understand and respect wildlife management practices. Additionally, it supports rural economies by expanding the services outfitters and guides can offer, attracting a broader clientele interested in authentic outdoor experiences. Finally, and importantly, this rule change could also serve as an important tool for the Commission to utilize in their management of Idaho's wildlife.

Compliance with Idaho Administrative Procedures Act:

We believe this petition is in full compliance with the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act, providing a well-reasoned argument for the proposed changes that align with the state's goals of promoting wildlife conservation, education, and sustainable outdoor recreation.

Conclusion:

We respectfully request that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission consider this petition to amend the rules governing trapping in Idaho. We believe these changes will benefit not only the hunting and trapping community but also the wildlife and natural resources we all strive to protect and preserve.

We are prepared to provide further information, research, or testimonials to support this petition and welcome the opportunity to discuss these proposed changes in greater detail.

Thank you for considering our petition. We look forward to the possibility of working together to enhance Idaho's outdoor heritage and conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lieberman

Aaron Lieberman

Executive Director

Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association

aaron@ioga.org | 208-342-1438