

Meeting Date: May 11, 2023

Agenda Item No. 5D

Agenda Item: Adopt Pronghorn Management Plan
(ACTION)

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist and Jake Powell, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Background:

Staff presented an overview of the status and content of the draft *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028* at the Commission's March meeting.

The intent of the Pronghorn Management Plan is to provide guidance for the Department and our partners to implement management actions to aid in the conservation and management of pronghorn in Idaho. Major issues that could affect pronghorn are identified, as well as overall direction for pronghorn management during the next 6 years (2023-2028). This plan will guide the Department in annual action plan development and program prioritization and will provide guidance on the development of regulatory and harvest season recommendations.

Staff will provide the Commission a review and summary of public comments received on the draft plan at the meeting, as well as revisions made to the final proposed draft in response to input received.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department's strategic plan. The *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028* will function as the primary action plan for pronghorn management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department solicited input on the draft *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028* from the public, interested groups, and other agencies. The draft plan was posted on the Department's website on March 22, 2023. Due to an issue with the webpage, comments could not be entered April 4 - 8. As a result, the comment period was extended to April 16 for a total of 20 days of input. The planning team reviewed comments and will provide the Commission with a more in-depth summary of public input and how this input was used to revise the draft to create the proposed final plan.

The Department received 58 unique submissions with 78% (n=45) of respondents providing additional written comments. Ninety-five percent (n=55) of respondents identified as Idaho residents.

Justification:

The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. The *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028* will guide management actions and monitoring activities for pronghorn through 2028.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028* as presented.

Suggested Motion: That the Commission adopt the *Idaho Pronghorn Management Plan 2023-2028 as presented by staff.*