

**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2023

**Agenda Item No.** 12

**Agenda Item:** Elk Management Plan Update

**Bureau Chief Approval:** SR

**Prepared by:** Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager

**Background:**

Staff will present an overview of the draft *Idaho Elk Management Plan 2024-2029*. The elk management plan provides needed updates to current information and will provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of elk in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. This plan will function as the action plan for elk management in Idaho. Major issues affecting elk are identified, and the plan will set overall direction for elk during the next 6 years (2024-2029). This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization and will provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will provide an update and overview of the draft plan at the meeting.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents for management actions and are a direct reflection of the Department's strategic plan. The *Idaho Elk Management Plan 2024-2029* will function as the action plan for elk management in Idaho.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Department staff will seek further input on the draft plan from the public, interested groups, and affected agencies after the draft elk management plan is approved for release by the Commission, anticipated in January 2024.

**Justification:**

This agenda item is for Commission information on the current status of the revision of the Idaho elk management plan.

**Staff Recommendation:**

No formal action is requested at this time.