

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting - February 15, 2024
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Legislative Conference Call
Boise, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Amber Worthington, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Ellary Tucker Williams, Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General, Shane Roberts, Tricia Hebdon, Lance Hebdon, Greg Wooten, Rick Ward, Sal Palazzolo, Tara Reichert, Jon Oswald, Frank Edelman, Adam Park, Valerie Taro, and Elizabeth Heist. IDFG staff participating via phone: Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Josh Royce, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, Greg Schoby, TJ Ross, Kenzie Baratti, and Terry Thompson.

Members of the public in attendance: Brian Brooks, Garrett Visser, and Eric Barker.

Chairman Ebert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MST.

LEGISLATION

Update about Commissioner Confirmation

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director reported she is working with the Secretary of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee to schedule Commissioner Harshbarger's confirmation hearing.

Update on Fish and Game Legislative Presentations (JFAC, Bills, other) and Budget

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director provided a rule making update. The muzzleloader rule is being held in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. The other rules will be heard in the House Resources and Conservation Committee on February 27, 2024.

JFAC will hear the Department budget setting on February 20.

New Bill Analysis for Discussion/Update on Pending Legislation / Action for Policy Position

Ellary Tucker Williams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator provided updates on legislation.

HB 404 has passed the Senate Resources and Environment Committee unanimously and has been sent to the Senate floor.

SB 1231 as amended is on the 3rd reading on the Senate floor.

HB 468 is being heard in House Resources and Conservation Committee today, February 15.

HB 485 is being heard in House Resources and Conservation Committee today, February 15. Director Fredericks told the Commission that the committee will likely hold this bill or send it to the amending order for technical adjustments.

HB 536 reduces the quarantine requirements designed to keep captive cervid and Idaho's wild cervids safe from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). It also removes the double fencing requirement for quarantined facilities that is currently required in rule.

24-16 Commissioner Cameron made a motion that the commission not support HB 536. Commissioner Davies seconded. Motion carries.

SB 1340 would require the Commission to issue a bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose tag in every instance of a wolf harvest by an outfitter in units having moose, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat tags. Due to the extremely limited nature of these tags, if this bill was enacted, there would be minimal tags left for non-outfitted hunters and the odds of drawing one of the few remaining tags would decrease further.

24-17 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the commission not support and testify on SB 1340, Commissioner Bobbitt seconded. Motion carries.

SB 1345 would make it difficult for conservation officers to preserve and protect Idaho's wildlife by significantly limiting their ability to enforce critical regulations on private land which makes up 40% of the state. Routine checks for appropriate licenses, tags, equipment, permissions, etc. would all be eliminated unless individual landowners provided permission for such activity or conservation officers had probable cause or a warrant to do so.

24-18 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the commission not support and testify on SB 1345, Commissioner Cameron seconded. Motion carries. Commissioner Harshbarger voted nay.

HB 469 and HB 484 hearings have not been scheduled at this time.

Other Discussion

JJ Teare, Clearwater Region Supervisor, gave a CWD control action update. There have been 117 animals removed. There were 58 Whitetail deer, 57 mule deer, and 2 elk. 27% have been taken on private land and 73% on public land. There have been 9 removed from across the river from the Slate Creek zone.

The control action will continue next week and conclude the following week.

Adjournment



Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary