

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting - February 22, 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 Jon Rachael, Ellary Tucker Williams, Kathleen Trever, and Owen Moroney Deputy Attorney Generals, Jon Oswald, Tricia Hebdon, Shane Roberts, Adam Park, Sal Palazzolo, Rick Ward, Valerie Taro, and Elizabeth Heist. IDFG staff participating via phone: TJ Ross, Joe Dupont, Veronica Gutierrez, Terry Thompson, Kenzie Baratti, Mike Peterson, Kimmarie Sawyer, James Brower, and Greg Schoby.

Members of the public in attendance: Garrett Visser and Jonathan Oppenheimer.

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

LEGISLATION

Jim Fredericks, Director, provided updates on confirmation hearings, legislative presentations, and budget.

Update about Commissioner Confirmation

Commissioner Brody Harshbarger's confirmation hearing is scheduled for February 28 at 1:30pm in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

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

The budget passed JFAC with a 16-3 vote. It has moved to the Senate floor. ZBR rules have passed the Senate Resources and Environment Committee, except for the muzzleloader rule which has been held in Committee. The rules will be heard in House Resources and Conservation Committee on March 5th.

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

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

HB 404 has passed the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and on the Senate Floor.

SB 1231a, has passed the Senate and is in the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

HB 468 is on the House Floor.

HB 469, was held indefinitely in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

HB 484 is in House Resources and Conservation Committee. It does not have a hearing date yet.

HB 592, formerly HB 485, this bill has the same intent of HB 485, just different method to achieve the same goal. In HB 592 the allocated funds will go to Department of Agriculture for disbursement. The Office of Species Conservation will still prepare and administer payment lists for Department of Agriculture. The Commission had previously taken a position of support on HB 485, but has not taken a position on HB 592 at this time. The Department will provide technical support when asked.

HB 591, formerly HB 536, is in the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

24-19 Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the Commission not support and testify on HB 591, Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SB 1345 is in the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee. A hearing date has not been scheduled.

SB 1340 has been pulled. The Department will continue to monitor.

HB 612 would allow the Wolf Depredation Control Board (WDCB) to compensate livestock producers for wolf depredation. The WDCB would use historical livestock loss prior to 1995 as a base for each wolf depredation. The bill would have no impact on the Department budget, however, it could impact available funds for collaring and wolf control activities.

The Commission would like to monitor and not take a position at this time.

HB 586 would require nonresidents to purchase a hunting license prior to being able to collect, possess, or transport antlers or horns from deer, elk, moose, or pronghorn.

The Commission would like to monitor and not take a position at this time.

HB 587 would require all nonresident tags and permits issued by the Department for deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope to be issued through a draw process, instead of over-the-counter with an effective date of January 1, 2025.

24-20 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the commission not support and testify on HB 587. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

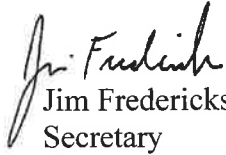
Other Discussion

JJ Teare, Clearwater Region Supervisor, gave an update on CWD. The control action will end February 18th. There have been 154 total animals removed. The goal is to end with 160 removals. Half of the removed deer have been white-tailed deer and the other half have been mule deer. There were 18 deer taken from across the river. The Department has not received any test results at this time. Once results are received, the meat from CWD negative animals will be disbursed to families in need.

Adjournment



Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary