

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting - February 29, 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, Deputy Attorney General, Shane Roberts, and Roger Phillips. 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: Kyle Mackie, Michael Gibson, and Brian Brooks.

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

### **LEGISLATION**

Jim Fredericks, Director, provided updates on Commissioner Harshbarger's confirmation, legislative presentations, and the budget.

#### **Update about Commissioner Confirmation**

Commissioner Brody Harshbarger's confirmation hearing was held February 29th. The vote will take place at the next Committee meeting. Commissioner Harshbarger and Director Fredericks felt the hearing went well.

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

The muzzleloader rule was heard in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. Rules will be heard in the House Committee on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Concurrent resolution is needed by both Chambers for approval and is on track for passage.

The Governor has signed the maintenance portion of the Department's budget. The line-item enhancement portion of the budget has yet to be heard.

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

Ellary Tucker Williams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator, presented legislative updates. There is a routing slip in the House Resources and Environment Committee scheduled for a print hearing today, February 29<sup>th</sup>. The routing slip is regarding grizzly bears.

The Department does not have any information yet on what the bill will contain and will update the Commission at the next Legislative Call.

Kathleen Trever updated the Commission on HB 643 regarding state agencies' relations with corporations. This could affect Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the way the Department conducts business with them. There will be an update on the call next week.

HB 404 has passed the House and Senate Committees and is on the Senate Floor. Once it passes, the bill will go to the Governor.

SB 1231a is with the House Resources and Conservation Committee and has not been scheduled.

HB 468 has passed the House and is in the Senate Resources and Conservation Committee and has not been scheduled.

HB 469 died in Committee.

HB 484 with the House Resources and Environment Committee and has not been scheduled.

HB 592, formerly HB 485, has passed the House and is in the Senate Resources and Conservation Committee.

HB 591, formerly HB 536, has passed the House and is in the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee.

SB 1345 is in the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee.

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

HB 612 has passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee.

HB 586 has passed the House and was assigned to the Senate Resources and Conservation Committee.

HB 587, Director Fredericks is in active discussions with Speaker Moyle. The Director is relatively confident the bill will not move forward in its current form and will be replaced with a revised bill. When the new bill has a print hearing, it will be presented to the Commission for action on a position.

### **Litigation Position**

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General, updated the Commission on two items. The first item was regarding the lawsuit against the Department over grizzly bear action and the delisting petition. Currently, the Department is waiting for approval from the judge.

The second is the State of Idaho on behalf of the Commission and Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) seeking intervention regarding Big Creek 4. The State will seek a cross and counter claim. This has been discussed previously in open and executive sessions. Deputy Attorney General Trever asked if there are any objections to this cross and counter claim. There were no objections from the Commission.

**Other Discussion**

Joe Dupont, Clearwater Regional Fisheries Manager, gave a CWD control action update. There are a few kill permits wrapping up this week. Then the control action will be complete for this year. There have been 157 deer removed 53% were white-tailed deer and 47% were mule deer. There were also 2 elk removed this year. Of the deer removed, 107 were removed on public land and 50 on private land. The Department is still awaiting results. Test results should be available the following week. There will be an update at the next call and staff is hoping to report on the results at that time.

Adjournment



Don Ebert  
Chairman



Jim Fredericks  
Secretary