

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting - February 8, 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, Shane Roberts, and Tricia Hebdon. IDFG staff participating via phone: Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General, Lance Hebdon, Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Josh Royce, Craig White, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, Ryan Hilton, Kenzie Baratti and Terry Thompson.

Members of the public in attendance: Eric Barker, Michael Gibson, and Brian Brooks.

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

### **LEGISLATION**

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

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director provided updates on confirmation hearings. Commissioner Don Ebert's re-appointment was adopted January 31, 2024, and sent to the Governor's office for signing. Commissioner Brody Harshbarger's paperwork is in process. Deputy Director Amber Worthington will work with the Secretary of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee to schedule the confirmation hearing.

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

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director provided updates on the Department's presentations and budget. The Department presented the Performance and Budget Annual Report on February 7, 2024.

Rules will be presented in the House Resources Committee on February 15, 2024. Chapter 8 rules pertaining to muzzleloaders have been held at this time.

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

Ellary Tucker Williams provided the updates on legislation.

HB 469 would not allow IDFG to adopt or enforce any agency rule that makes it unlawful to use 209 primers, pelletized powder, or sabots in a muzzleloader only season.

**24-12** Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion to not support HB 469. Commissioner Murphy seconded. Motion carries.

HB 468 aims to provide ISDA with the ability to fund rangeland improvement projects that do not occur on federal lands covered by the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The commission would like to monitor and not act at this time.

HB 484 would require IDFG to do annual season setting for all deer, including mule deer, elk, and moose, in addition to a mandatory 30-day comment period to occur after completion of the prior seasons harvest report. Additionally, the bill would not allow the sale of nonresident big game tags until the season setting process is complete.

**24-13** Commissioner Davies made a motion to not support HB 484. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carries.

HB 485 would establish a fund for conflict prevention and livestock depredation by grizzly bears and wolves. This fund will provide compensation to livestock owners and producers that have experienced livestock loss. The Office of Species Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, will manage the fund and will be the authorized agency for compensation to livestock owners and producers. The annual appropriation will be \$225,000 from the general fund, containing \$150,000 dedicated to livestock depredation and \$75,000 dedicated to conflict prevention and education.

**24-14** Commissioner Harshbarger made a motion to support HB 485. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SB 1231 amends Idaho Code 36-1402 to make any person with outstanding fines or judgments of reimbursement or restitution from violations of Title 36 ineligible to apply for any fishing, hunting, or trapping license, tag, or permit.

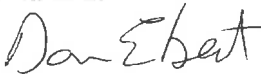
**24-15** Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion to support SB 1231. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **Other Discussion**

JJ Teare Clearwater Regional Supervisor gave a CWD management update. The control action in Unit 13 started February 5, 2024. There have been 38 white tail deer, 20 mule deer, and 1 elk removed.

The landowner participation this year is lower than last year. Last year there was 70% landowner participation and this year there is approximately 30% landowner participation.

### **Adjourn**

  
Don Ebert  
Chairman

  
Jim Fredericks  
Secretary