

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Headquarters
January 24-25, 2024
Boise, Idaho**

January 24

MISCELLANEOUS

AGENDA CHANGES

Chairman Ebert called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

24-01 Commissioner Davies moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to amend the agenda as posted (before beginning of the meeting) to include an agenda item for travel to the Idaho Capital to attend Chairman Don Ebert's senate confirmation hearing before the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. This agenda item was inadvertently left off the agenda until recently due to ongoing staff coordination with the Senate committee. Motion carries.

The commission had some orientation on topics including:

- Expense reporting & per diem
- Legislative Confirmation Process
- Open Meeting Law
- Ethics, Season Setting and Rune Making

Public Meeting

Chairman Don Ebert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. MST and reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing and reported that all public comments would be reviewed by the Commission at the Thursday business meeting. Commissioner Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies were present.

The following individuals provided in-person testimony: Ella Driever, Steve Capra, Suzanne Stone, Dallas Gudgell, Garrick Dutcher, Matt Borg, Ken Cole, Nathan Wright, Ken Helfrich, Marc Cooke, Rusty Kramer, and Travis Bullock.

January 25

MISCELLANEOUS

Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by Idaho Department of Fish and Game Honor Guard Chris Rowley and Megan Roos.

Chairman Ebert called the meeting to order at 8:00 am MST. Commissioners Bobbitt, Murphy, Cameron, Cheirrett, Harshbarger, and Davies was present.

Review of Public Comment

Director Fredericks provided a summary of the public comments. There were 50 members of the public in attendance, which included the Advanced Fish and Wildlife class from the University of Idaho accompanied by Dr. Mike Quist. There were twelve people who provided public testimony.

- Four comments regarding upland game, furbearer, turkey, and falconry season setting.
- One comment in opposition to extending beaver trapping season.
- Idaho Trappers Association commented in support of the trapping seasons would also like to see season for beaver and muskrat aligned to an April 15 closure.
- One person provided testimony on chukar season and wished the season opening date was set indefinitely rather than on a two-year cycle.
- One requested additional beaver trapping opportunity in areas of the Middle Fork Salmon River where beaver activity is flooding back country trails.
- Eastern Idaho Houndsmen expressed appreciation for the Department's revising the black bear public opinion survey based on hunter feedback on the original survey.
- One advocated for additional youth hunting opportunities with the example of options for kids to use crossbows during an archery only season. They also suggested the Department allow for more modern muzzleloader equipment for the muzzleloader hunt such as inline muzzleloaders, pelletized powder, and 209 primers.
- Seven people commented on wolf management, including comments on behalf of Bold Vision Conservation, International Wildlife Co-Existence Network, Living with Wolves, and Wolves of the Rockies. Comments included: the Department should use non-lethal methods to manage conflict; wolves serve an important role in the ecosystem; Idaho is not managing wolves as we do other large predators, IDFG did not include the Nez Perce tribe in development of the wolf management plan; and that the Department needs communication and common ground on wolf management.
- One person provided testimony regarding the decreased moose populations in the Middle Fork drainage associated with wolves and asked the Department to acknowledge the impacts of wolves in the next revision of the Moose Management Plan.
- One comment on Foundation for Wildlife Management seeking a method of take exemption for wolves throughout the State.

There was written comment submitted by The Greater Yellowstone Coalition related to agenda item 5F Revision of the Tri-State MOA and Proclamation Regarding Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bear, and a written comment regarding the December 1st tag sale (recommendation on non-resident tag sales and moving to a controlled hunt structure for all non-resident tags).

Consent Calendar

Minutes September 29, 2023, and October 17, 2023.
Financial Report

The consent calendar was adopted with no objections.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Upland Game, Furbearer, Turkey & Falconry Season Setting for 2024 and 2025

Jeff Knetter, Wildlife Program Coordinator and Cory Mosby, Wildlife Staff Biologist presented the recommended Seasons for 2024 and 2025 Upland Game, Furbearer, Turkey, and Falconry. (Appendix 57, Exhibit 01).

24-02 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Upland Game, Turkey, Furbearer and Falconry seasons. Motion carries.

Turkey Tag Discount Order

Jeff Knetter, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented the Turkey Tag Discount Order for commission consideration (Appendix 57, Exhibit 02).

24-03 Commissioner Bobbitt moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded the Commission adopt the turkey tag discount order as presented by staff. Motion carries.

LANDS

Jensen Acquisition

Casey Pozzanghera, Lands/Mitigation Program Coordinator presented information on the Jensen property acquisition (Appendix 57, Exhibit 03).

24-04 Commissioner Harshbarger moved, and Commissioner Davies seconded to acquire the 328-acre Jensen property in Bonneville County. Motion carries.

Peterson Acquisition

Casey Pozzanghera, Lands/Mitigation Program Coordinator presented information on the Peterson property acquisition (Appendix 57, Exhibit 04).

24-05 Commissioner Davies moved, and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded to acquire the 5-acre Peterson property. Motion carries.

Cherry Plant Acquisition

Casey Pozzanghera, Lands/Mitigation Program Coordinator presented information on the Cherry Plant property acquisition (Appendix 57, Exhibit 05).

24-06 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Murphy seconded to acquire the 3-acre Cherry Plant Access Site. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Revision of Tri-State MOA and Proclamation Regarding Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bear

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General and Toby Boudreau, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented (Appendix 57, Exhibit 06).

24-07 Commissioner Cameron moved, and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded that the Commission adopt the revised Tri-State MOA and adopt the revised Proclamation Relating to the Limit of the Take of Grizzly Bear in the GYE. Motion carries.

Deputy Attorney General Trever stated this decision would be shared with the Wyoming and Montana commissions.

REPORTS

December Tag Sale Report

Michael Pearson, Bureau Chief, Administration presented the December 1 tag sales report for the 2024 season (Appendix 57, Exhibit 07).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

2023 Nonresident and Outfitter Allocated Tag Use Report

Tara Reichert, Automated System Manager and Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager presented the 2023 Nonresident and Outfitter Allocation Tag use report (Appendix 57, Exhibit 08).

LEGISLATION

Update on Legislation and Rulemaking/Action for Policy Position

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, gave an update on Rulemaking (Appendix 57, Exhibit 09). The Department's pending rules adopted by the Commission in November for the 2024 Legislative session have been reviewed by the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. These Chapters included: Chapter 4: Rules Governing Licensing-Deer and Elk Tag Allocation in General Hunts Limited for Nonresident only; Chapter 6: Rules Governing Classification and Protection of Wildlife; Chapter 8: Rules Governing Taking of Big Game Animals: Special Weapons Season; Chapter 11: Rules Governing Fish; Chapter 12: Rules Governing Commercial Fishing; and Chapter 15: Rules Governing the Use of Dogs. The muzzleloader section in Chapter

8 was held in committee pending discussion in the House. The rest were passed out of committee and are scheduled in the House Resources and Conservation Committee on February 7th.

The 2024 Zero-Based Regulation (ZBR) Review will include: Chapter 8: Taking of Big Game; Chapter 16: Trapping of Wildlife and Taking of Furbearing Animals; and Chapter 17: Use of Bait for Hunting Big Game Animals. The Governor's Office has also approved the Department to start work on Chapter 4: Licenses. There were no objections from the Commission to move forward with these chapters for the ZBR process.

Ellary Tucker Williams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator, presented a Legislative update.

HB 404 is intended to prevent individuals from obtaining the precise location of wildlife through a public records request for purposes of unfair chase, hunter harassment, or other inappropriate uses.

24-08 Commissioner Davies made a motion to support HB 404 and provide technical information as requested. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SB 1231, Fish and Game, Licenses, would make any person with outstanding fines or violations of Title 36 ineligible for any hunting, fishing, or trapping license, tag, or permit. SB 1234 has been placed on the general orders for amendment in Senate Resources and Environment Committee. The Commission would like Staff to monitor the bill through language changes.

Legislative conference calls will begin February 8, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Implementation of Electronic Salmon and Steelhead Permits

Tara Reichert, Automated System Manager and John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fish Manager presented an overview of the electronic tagging for Salmon and steelhead anglers that will begin in the Spring 2024 (Appendix 57, Exhibit 10).

REPORTS

Updating Fish and Game's Policy on Online Customer Data

Ian Malepeai, Communications Program Manager presented on the Department's effort to update its privacy policy (Appendix 57, Exhibit 11).

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Shane Roberts, Bureau Chief, Wildlife presented an update on Chronic Wasting Disease (Appendix 57, Exhibit 12).

Winter Feeding of Deer & Elk

Miranda Reinson, Regional Wildlife Biologist presented an update on winter feeding of deer and elk (Appendix 57, Exhibit 13).

Kokanee Management in Idaho

Joe Kozfkay, State Fisheries Manager and Beau Gunter, Fish Production Manager presented information on kokanee management (Appendix 57, Exhibit 14).

Fishing and Boating Access Program Overview

Eric Stark, Natural Resources Program Coordinator presented information on the Department's fishing and boating access program (Appendix 57, Exhibit 15).

Director's Report

Director Fredericks highlighted items from each bureau in the Director's report.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 57, Exhibit 16).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next meeting is March 19-20, 2024, in Boise.

Executive Session I. C. 74-206 (1) (c) (f)

24-09 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission enter executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections (1) (c) and (f).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies.

The Commission discussed potential property acquisition and litigation matters.

24-10 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission come out of executive session with the record to reflect no final action was taken. Motion carries.

Open session

Litigation Position

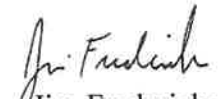
Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General presented.

24-11 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the Commission support sending a Notice of Intent to Sue regarding the ESA listing of wolverine in the Lower 48 States. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary