

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 12, 2009
Boise, Idaho

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Moore; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Bonnie Butler, Governor's Office; Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief, and Deputy Director Jim Unsworth.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Gary Power with Commissioners McDermott, Trevey, Barowsky, Budge, and Power participating. Commissioner Wheeler was excused.

Chairman Wright joined the call at 8:05 a.m.

LEGISLATION

Vice Chairman Power reported that new bill analysis would be deferred to the March 19th conference call.

Sharon Kiefer reported there would be 2 new bills to discuss next week:

- Open meeting notices
- Invasive Species Sticker Act

Update on SB 1141

Sharon Kiefer stated that Director Groen would provide a report on SB 1141 and how the hearing went on Wednesday, March 11th and how the Department is proceeding with SB 1141.

Director Groen provided an overview on the hearing. Director Groen stated that SB 1141 the fee increase bill was heard in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. Director Groen reported that Sharon Kiefer provided information to the committee on the bill and what the bill does. Chairman Wright gave an overall view of the bill with the focus that the Commission has been very involved, and lots of public involvement. Director Groen provided testimony (Appendix 42, Exhibit 19) stating that the department vision is guided by a citizen Commission, The Department of Fish and Game shall work with Idaho residents in providing abundant, diverse fish and wildlife and ensuring a rich outdoor heritage for all generations.

Director Groen reported that SB 1141 will have another hearing on Friday, March 13th. Commissioner Wheeler and other sportsmen will testify at Friday's hearing. The focus will be what makes Idaho Department of Fish and Game different; Commission

authority, the Department is guided by the Commission; and why the Department needs a fee increase.

MISCELLANEOUS

Update on 10(j) Lolo Zone Proposal

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth stated that the 10(j) proposal would have been ready to roll out for public comment on Friday. Staff will continue to work on the proposal as a predation management plan for the Lolo Zone. Mr. Unsworth stated that he will meet with the Commission subcommittee working on wolves for direction at the March 23-24 meeting. They will determine if what the Department has proposed is adequate or if the Commission would like to take another direction.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Wayne Wright
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary