

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Quarterly Meeting July 7-9, 2010
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Silver Mountain Resort
Noah's Loft Conference Center
610 Bunker Avenue
Kellogg, Idaho**

July 7

WORKSHOP

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners Tony McDermott, Bob Barowsky, Randy Budge, Cameron Wheeler and Gary Power were present. Commissioner Fred Trevey was excused.

A Wildlife Workshop Discussion was conducted to address the following items:

- Auction Tags
- Landowner Appreciation Permits
- Bonus Points

Big Game Auction Tags

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, briefed the Commission on Big Game Auction Tags (Appendix 43, Exhibit 56). Mr. Gould provided a copy of the History of Big Game Auction Tags in Idaho by Burk Mantel (Appendix 43, Exhibit 57).

The Department Proposal:

Seek legislative approval to auction five (5) of the ten (10) tags currently available as "Super Hunt" tags for deer, elk, and antelope, two (2) of the four (4) tags currently available as "Super Hunt" tags for moose, two (2) mountain goat tags, and one (1) bighorn sheep tag. Moneys would go to support "Access Yes" and big game habitat/ management projects.

Landowner Appreciation Permits

Brad Compton, Assistant Chief, Wildlife, distributed an executive summary of the Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) proposed changes (Appendix 43, Exhibit 58). Mr. Compton stated that Greg Bourdon, Chairman Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Deb Lord, Acting Co Chair representing agricultural constituents are both present and available for questions. Mr. Compton distributed a letter (Appendix 43, Exhibit 59) from Carl Rey regarding proposed changes to Landowner Appreciation Program.

Jerome Hansen, Regional Supervisor, Magic Valley, reported on the Landowner Appreciation Permit (LAP) Program (Appendix 43, Exhibit 60). Mr. Hansen also covered the Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council comments regarding LAP issues and potential solutions (Appendix 43, Exhibit 61).

Mr. Compton reviewed the recommendations for LAP from the Fish and Game Advisory Committee (Appendix 43, Exhibit 62). The Fish and Game Advisory Committee reached a consensus on the following:

- Clarify existing Commission rule by adopting new language that prohibits the selling, trading, bartering, or marketing of LAP tags
- Conduct the drawing to ensure all enrolled landowners are eligible for 1 LAP tag before any landowner receives a 2nd tag
- Adopt rules that limit owner(s) of multiple Limited Liability Corporations from being eligible for no more than 2 LAP tags
- Allow landowners with 320-639 acres of important wildlife habitat to be eligible for leftover LAP tags
- Increase transparency and outreach about LAP

The committee did not reach consensus on the following:

- Requiring reasonable access as a condition of LAP eligibility
- Limiting who LAP tags could be transferred to
- Limiting landowners from participating in both LAP and Depredation programs

The Department posted an online survey and received 1,408 responses. The same survey was mailed to 981 landowners registered in LAP of which 426 responded.

Based on simple majority responses, respondents from both surveys agreed on the following proposals:

- Prohibiting the use of LAP tags for any commercial activities
- Ensuring all enrolled landowners are eligible for 1 LAP tag before any receives a 2nd tag
- Establishing a 1-year waiting period for antlered deer and elk hunts
- Limiting LLC's from receiving more than 2 tags
- Allowing landowners with 320- 639 acres of important habitat to be eligible for leftover tags

Mr. Compton reviewed the following 7 LAP proposals on the survey (Appendix 43, Exhibit 63):

- Prohibit the selling, trading, bartering or marketing of LAP tags. Noncompliance would result in a landowner being ineligible for the program for three years
- Prohibit the use of LAP tags for any commercial activities
- Restrict landowners who charge a trespass fee from being eligible in LAP
- Change the drawing rules so that all eligible landowners have a chance at one tag, before any landowner becomes eligible for a second tag
- Establish a one-year waiting period in those LAP hunts that are oversubscribed by more than 2 to 1
- Redefine eligibility requirements to exclude "affiliates, management companies, associated entities, wholly owned subsidiaries, and controlling interests" from being eligible for more than 2 LAP tags
- Allow landowners with 320-639 acres of valuable wildlife habitat to be eligible to apply for leftover LAP tags

A total of 310 written comments were submitted with the online survey (Appendix 43, Exhibit 64) and a total of 169 written comments were submitted with returned landowner mail surveys. The Department also received letters from the Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association and Simplot Land and Livestock.

Mr. Compton noted that the rule changes (Appendix 43, Exhibit 65) reflect the 7 Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) proposals scoped with the public and are not considered final recommendations. Final recommendations, with draft rules, will be developed following the Commission workshop.

Commission discussion followed regarding the proposals and selling trespass rights. The Commission will make a final decision at the Thursday meeting under agenda item # 17, Landowner Appreciation Permits.

Chairman Wright asked Deb Lord to share some comments on LAP.

Deb Lord, representing landowners stated that landowners feel that selling of a tag is illegal and are against this. However, the access fee is a different issue. Landowners who completed the survey are concerned about the restriction of private property rights. Overall the LAP has been a successful program.

Bonus Points

Chairman Wright suggested that due to the complexity and length of time needed to discuss Bonus Points that the Commission postpone making a decision on Bonus Points until a later date.

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, provided a short report on Bonus Points. Mr. Gould distributed a copy of the Idaho Bonus Point System Report prepared for the workshop (Appendix 43, Exhibit 66). The report included background information and fundamental concepts. Mr. Gould noted that the Department received 3,700 comments on bonus points.

Chairman Wright stated that it is important that people understand the bonus point system as there is a lot of misinformation out on the subject. Chairman Wright would like consensus among the sportsmen before a decision is made.

Jim Lau, Chief, Administration, commented on the financial issues associated with implementing a bonus point system. The questions people ask first are how much revenue will this bring in and how much will it cost. There is not much profit based on \$4.50 a head. There could be a financial benefit from bonus points if they kept hunters buying licenses when they otherwise would not. Mr. Lau reported that we have seen a significant drop in nonresident sales. A copy of non-resident tag sales through July 1 was presented (Appendix 43, Exhibit 67). A modification to our current licensing system would need to be implemented to allow for bonus points.

Mr. Gould distributed a report on 2010 Bonus Point Information / Opinion Report (Appendix 43, Exhibit 68) from constituents Robert McGarvin and Derrek Batson.

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Session

10-53 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to go in to executive session pursuant to subsection (f) of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss pending litigation regarding wolf management. Roll Call Vote: Barowsky: aye; Power: aye; Wright: aye; McDermott: aye; Wheeler: aye Budge: aye. Vote Tally: 6 ayes.

10- 54 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to come out of executive session. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

The executive session ended at 6:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Public Meeting

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced Commissioners Tony McDermott, Robert Barowsky, Randy Budge, Cameron Wheeler, Gary Power and Commission Secretary Cal Groen. Commissioner Fred Trevey was excused. Staff introductions followed.

Chairman Wright stated that the Commission takes the public comment seriously and the Commission will review the comments at the general meeting on July 8th. Commissioners and staff are available after the meeting to answer questions.

The following individuals testified at the public meeting: John Walters, Greg Bourdon, Deb Lord, Nancy Taylor, Scott Rockholm, Milt Turley, Fred Bardelli, Ann Sydow, Richard Good, Joe Curry, Rick Huddleston, Nate Helm, Patrick B. Carney Logan Sorensen, Chandie Barttel, Larry Yergera, Heidi Rockholm, Bob Finney, Barry Coe, Jerry Andres, Lynnell Smith and Shawn Kelley.

The following individuals submitted written comment but did not testify: Derek Nader, Merlyn & Jean Nelson, Wes Hanson, Douglas Sayer, John Watts, Samuel Rohrbacher and Arthur Burt.

Topics commented on were Farragut Range, wolf management, wolf impacts on big game, risks of disease from wolves, control of the wolf population, protection of the wolf population, impacts of wolf population on big game, and use of the 10(j) rule; LAP tags, Idaho Fish and Game Advisory (FGAC) Committee LAP recommendations, ICA support for the changes recommended by the FGAC, ungulate populations and elk survey; handicapped archery; Bighorn Sheep lottery and auction tags, wildlife-vehicle collisions; trapping placement; bonus points; upland game proposals, and surveys on the 09-10 wolf hunt.

Chairman Wright dilemmas addressed the dilemma that wolf management presents; the Commission believes strongly in the right of the state to manage its wildlife; however, the Commission must still abide by federal laws that limit the state's ability to manage wolves. Chairman Wright asked Commissioner Budge to make a few comments.

Commissioner Budge stated that the Commission is an ordinary group of Idahoans who love to hunt and fish and have a passion for wildlife. The Commission makes decisions based upon science, biology and public acceptance. The Fish and Game website provides an abundance of information and facts regarding the wolf issue. The wolf issue is a very difficult problem. We have a federal endangered species introduced in Idaho under federal law. The Commission adopted a management plan to manage wolves. That management plan survived muster of the Federal Court in Montana and we were able to have our first hunting season last year. The Commission hopes that we do not get restrained again which we may, and if we do the Commission will have to decide what action path they will take.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

July 8

MISCELLANEOUS

Opening Comments

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Commissioners Tony McDermott, Bob Barowsky, Randy Budge, Cameron Wheeler and Gary Power were present. Commissioner Fred Trevey was excused.

Agenda Changes

Move agenda items 17-18-19-20 to the start of the meeting.

RULES

Landowner Appreciation Permits

Brad Compton, Assistant Chief, Wildlife distributed a copy of the revised proposed rules for the Landowner Appreciation Program (Appendix 43, Exhibit 69). The revisions are based on discussions and input from the workshop. What the Department is recommending addresses some of the issues that landowners have and some of the issues that sportsmen have. The primary concern that sportsmen have is with marketing of tags directly or indirectly. Landowners believe there should be some compensation or economic incentive to maintaining wildlife habitat due to the economic cost.

The proposed rule changes reflect the Fish and Game Advisory Committee's five consensus recommendations and are designed to address commercialization and inequitable distribution of LAP tags among landowners, including the allowance of landowners with 320 to 639 acres of important wildlife habitat to apply for leftover LAP tags. The term landowner is clarified to include individuals/corporations maintaining control over several limited liability corporations. Other changes are designed to address previous legislative action (e.g. elimination of controlled

hunt permits) or commission action (e.g. depredation hunts, bag limits). Additionally, corrections to the language referring to pronghorn are incorporated.

Proposed changes to the Landowner Appreciation Program that were scoped and submitted in the Commission packet are as follows:

Proposal 1: Prohibit selling, trading, bartering or marketing LAP tags. Noncompliance would result in a landowner being ineligible for the program for three years.

Proposal 2: Prohibit the use of LAP tags for any commercial activities.

Proposal 3: Restrict landowners who charge a trespass fee from being eligible in LAP.

Proposal 4: Change the drawing rules so that all eligible landowners have a chance at one tag before any landowner becomes eligible for a second tag.

Proposal 5: Establish a one-year waiting period in those LAP hunts that are oversubscribed by more than 2 to 1.

Proposal 6: Redefine eligibility requirements to exclude "affiliates, management companies, associated entities, wholly-owned subsidiaries, and controlling interests" from being eligible for more than a maximum of two tags per species.

Proposal 7: Allow landowners with 320 to 639 acres of valuable wildlife habitat to be eligible to apply for leftover LAP tags.

10-55 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to adopt the proposed amendments to IDAPA Rule 13.01.04 Rules Governing Licensing, as they relate to the Landowner Appreciation Program. The proposed amendments are as follows: Proposal 1 should be modified to read that the Department prohibits the selling and marketing of LAP tags; proposals 2, 3 and 5 should be deleted; and proposals 4, 6 and 7 should be adopted as written. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Director Groen will follow up with the Idaho Department of Agriculture Director to develop a future charge for the Fish and Game Advisory Committee to discuss the value of LAP tags and how the value could become a mechanism to generate benefits for sportsmen. The Commission would like to review committee input prior to setting future program direction. Other direction is to look at all the traditional 10% and see if there is an option to bring all hunts in the traditional 10% LAP. Commissioner Wheeler stated that the Commission will need to look at the issue strategically and review what the objectives are for LAP, so that the Commission and Department can develop a unified approach.

Rules: Big Game, Small Game, and Rattlesnakes Including Rules to Implement HB 463 and SB1342.

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager, presented the Department recommendations (Appendix 43, Exhibit 70).

Department Recommendation: Allow use of Sabots and jacketed projectiles ≥ 325 grains in muzzleloader-only hunts.

10-56 Commissioner McDermott moved to accept the Department Recommendations and allow the use of sabots. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Department Recommendation: Eliminate motorized vehicle restriction in Units 48 and 57.

10-57 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion to eliminate the motorized vehicle restriction in Units 48 and 57 as recommended by staff. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Department Recommendation: Modify rules to enable Commission to allow use of electronic calls for mountain lions, black bears, and wolves and use of traps and snares for take of wolves during seasons set by proclamation.

Clarify Commission authority to set by proclamation the use of electronic calls, traps, and snares for take of wolves.

Clarify Commission authority to set by proclamation the use of electronic calls for take of black bears and mountain lions.

10-58 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation on the methods of take to clarify Commission authority to set by proclamation the use of electronic calls, traps, and snares for take of wolves; clarify Commission authority to set by proclamation the use of electronic calls for take of black bears and mountain lions; and to require a mandatory wolf trapper education class. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Department Recommendation: Allow depredation hunt applicants to apply for black bear and wolf depredation hunts

10-59 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to allow depredation hunt applicants to apply for black bear and wolf depredation hunts as briefed by staff. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Prohibit use of telemetry or other electronic equipment as an aide to take of big game.

The rule would have no effect on lawful use of radio-tracking equipment for hound hunting or upland game bird hunting.

10-60 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation to prohibit the use of telemetry or other electronic equipment as an aide to take of big game. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Mandatory Check and Report Requirements for Big Game

Department Recommendation: Amend rule to provide for 72-hour reporting and 10-day check-in requirement for harvested wolves.

10- 61 Commissioner Wheeler moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to amend the rule to provide for 72-hour reporting and 10-day check-in requirement for harvested wolves. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Use of Bait for Taking Big Game Animals – Amend rule to clarify definition of “game animal.”

This is a rule cleanup; “game animal” will be replaced with “big game,” “upland game.”

10-62 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation to amend the rule to clarify definition of game animal. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Clarify wolves may be taken incidental to hunting over a bear bait

Under current rule, black bears are the only big game animals that may be taken over bait. Wolves are classified as a big game animal and may be attracted to bait set out to attract bears.

10-63 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations to include wolves may be taken incidentally to bear baiting. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Method of Take for Upland Game -- Prohibit the take of upland game from motorized watercraft.

Department Recommendation: Modify rule to make it unlawful to take upland game birds from any watercraft.

10-64 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation to make it unlawful to take upland game birds from any watercraft. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Trapping

Department Recommendation: Modify Rule to implement restrictions on trap placement near public travel ways.

Mr. Rachael reported that the purpose of this agenda item is to establish standardized rules for placement of traps and snares to address public concern near public travel ways. Mr. Rachael distributed letters received regarding trap placements (Appendix 43, Exhibit 71).

Chairman Wright requests that the Commission defer action on the trapping rules until the August 16th meeting which was accepted by general consent of the Commission.

Amend rule to clarify definition of “game animal” in 13.01.16 The Trapping of Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife and the Taking of Furbearing Animals.

10-65 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion to replace references “game animal” with “big game” and “upland game.” The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Rattlesnakes and Implementation of SB1342

Clarify existing rules allowing recreational collection of Idaho native reptiles or amphibians from the wild to hold in captivity, and to kill and possess up to 4 rattlesnakes. Provide a new provision to allow possession and sale annually of up to 6 skins or other parts, excluding meat of legally taken rattlesnakes by holders of a valid license.

10-66 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations to amend IDAPA 13.01.06 . The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

10-67 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations to ammend13.01.10. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Rules Governing Licensing Chapter 4

Update administrative rule to reflect previous legislative and Commission actions, including elimination of controlled hunt permits, adjustments in elk zone tag quotas, and allowance for rain checks (Appendix 43, Exhibit 72).

Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals IDAPA 13.01.08

10-68 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation to Rules Governing Licensing Chapter 4 and chapter 8 as outlined by staff. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Wright requests the Commission defer agenda items 4 and 5 to the end of the agenda, which was accepted by general consent of the Commission.

Rules: Nonresident Deer and Elk Tag and Outfitter Set-Aside Quotas

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manger, stated that annually the Commission establishes quotas for total nonresident deer and elk tags and quotas on nonresident deer and elk tags for use by hunters using the services of a licensed Idaho outfitter. Outfitter set-aside quotas are a subset of total

nonresident deer and elk tag quotas, and are not in addition to them. Any outfitter set-aside tags not claimed by outfitted clients by July 1 revert back to the Department for sale to nonresident hunters. The staff recommends no change to existing (2010) nonresident deer and elk tag quotas, or outfitter set-aside quotas.

10-69 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Release of Bighorn Sheep Tags for Auction and Lottery

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, provided a report on the 2011 Bighorn Sheep Auction/Lottery Tags Ranking of Applications (Appendix 43, exhibit 73). He reported that applicants for the 2011 Sheep Auction Tag included the Wild Sheep Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Applicants for the 2011 Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag included Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and the Idaho Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. Mr. Gould stated that the Commission-approved process worked well.

10-70 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion authorizing the release of one 2011 Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation; and authorizing the release of one 2011 Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag to the Idaho Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Review of Public Comment

Commission discussion included comments from Gregg Bourdon and Deb Lord regarding LAP and the direction the Commission is going. The Commission discussed support for the Farragut Range. Based on trappers comments regarding placement of traps, the Commission will defer action on changes to the trapping rule until the August 16 meeting. The Commission noted comments on Auction and Lottery Tags. Staff will review the request of handicapped archers to be included in the youth A&B tags. The Commission noted that some of the comments on wolves (both in favor of and opposed to population control) were based on incorrect information. The Department will work on how to do a better job of getting correct information out. Regarding Unit 7 and elk numbers and cow/calf ratio, Commissioner McDermott noted his concerns on surveying and game populations in Region 1. Commissioners Power and Wright discussed Perception Management and getting the sportsmen involved in this.

Commissioner McDermott suggests that the Department look at providing some information on predator effects on big game. Commissioner Budge suggests that we provide more information on the meeting agenda items and fact sheets for the public meeting.

The Commission discussed ways to better improve the public meeting process and format and to provide good information for the constituents at the meetings.

Consent Calendar

The July Consent Calendar contained the minutes of the April 16, 2010 meeting. It also contained the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, and a Budget Adjustment for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Association.

10-71 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion to approve the consent calendar as published. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

REPORT

Development of Communication Strategies

Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications, stated that the Commission has had continuing interest and provided policy guidance to prioritize development of effective communication strategies to use and disseminate Department information and to address the outside use of Department technical and policy information without complete context. Such strategies are relevant to a wide range of existing and emerging issues. Mr. Keckler distributed copies (Appendix 43, Exhibit 74) of the draft first page of the Bureau of Communications Strategic Plan, a Strategic Communications Planning Template and the Air Force Web Posting Response Assessment used to respond to web postings. Mr. Keckler feels this is something that could be very helpful to the agency and will adapt this to be included in the Communications Strategic Plan. Mr. Keckler referenced an article from Newsweek magazine titled "Their Own Worst Enemies" regarding scientific-based organizations and public relations. The Bureau of Communications supports the Fish and Game mission to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage Idaho's wildlife resources by informing, educating and involving Idaho citizens and others in all Fish and Game decisions, goals and programs.

LEGISLATION

2011 Legislative Proposals

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, presented the Department's Legislative 2011 proposals (Appendix 43, Exhibit 75). The proposals include a clarification proposal to revise allowable sales of wildlife or parts thereof; create big game auction/lottery tags for existing and new big game species; restrict collection of wildlife from the wild without a permit; create Commission discretionary authority to create a mentored hunting program and clarify youth/junior licensing provisions as necessary; establish an Access Permit and fees for designated department lands; allow use of credit cards for license purchase; and discontinue use of social security number as a license identifier. The Department is seeking policy guidance regarding the Department package of legislation ideas for submission to the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS) for Governor Office approval. This is the first step of the executive agency legislative process. Agency ideas must be electronically submitted to EALS by August 2. Governor-approved ideas

must be drafted as legislative proposals and submitted to EALS by September 17. The Commission has already directed the Department to not seek legislation increasing resident license fees in 2011.

10-72 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion to accept the Department 2011 Legislative proposals. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Outfitted Waterfowl and Turkey Advisory Group Update

Virgil Moore, Deputy Director, stated that at the November 2009 joint meeting between the Commission, the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB), and staff from both agencies gave information relative to the temporary moratorium on outfitting for Waterfowl and Turkey Hunting (IOGLB Policy 2027). It was recognized that due to the increased interest in these activities and due to Idaho's administrative decision-making requirement in state law, a more comprehensive approach was needed so IOGLB can appropriately address these matters.

In March the Department and IOGLB established an advisory group with representatives from sportsman's groups, landowners and outfitters to evaluate the issue of how can Idaho allow, or not allow, additional guiding and outfitting for waterfowl and/or turkey on private and/or public lands, while protecting and maintaining private property rights.

Deputy Director Moore distributed a copy of the results from a state fish and wildlife agency response to turkey and waterfowl hunting survey (Appendix 43, Exhibit 76). Twenty-four states responded to the request for information. Twenty states allow outfitting on public land and 23 states allow outfitting on private land (Minnesota prohibits turkey outfitting by state law; North Carolina did not specify whether or not outfitting is allowed). Over half of the states indicated that turkey and waterfowl hunting had minimal impacts to turkey and waterfowl hunters. Four states (Arkansas, Colorado, Utah, and Washington) indicated outfitting negatively affected waterfowl hunters. Four states (California, Nebraska, Nevada, and Texas) indicated outfitting had positive and negative effects to access for turkey and waterfowl hunting.

The working group does not have any recommendations, and this is strictly information to let the Commission know where the working group is at. The Advisory Group has met 3 times and has a 4th meeting scheduled in August.

Farragut Range Report

Chip Corsi, Panhandle Regional Supervisor updated the Commission on the Farragut Range. Mr. Corsi reported that the Farragut Range 100-yard range build-out is complete as of spring 2010. The range designer has inspected and concluded the 100-yard range meets "no blue sky" criteria and EPA has determined no lead removal is necessary. Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Trever has filed with Judge Mitchell's court to allow for reopening of the range, using the

completed 100-yard range. The build-out of 200 yard range has begun. Thanks to Sharon Kiefer, Mike Keckler and the Communications staff, and Kathleen Trever for their work on Farragut Range. Mr. Corsi appreciates the support of the Director's office and the Commission.

Briefing for 2010 Wolf Season

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager (Appendix 43, Exhibit 77) provided an update on Idaho Wolf Management. The Department is in the process of preparing proposals for season dates, hunt rules, and harvest limits for the 2010 hunting season. The Commission will meet August 16 to set the season.

FISCAL

FY 12 Budget Direction

Jim Lau, Chief, Administration, updated the Commission on the closing out of FY10. He provided a copy of resident and non-resident sales (Appendix 43, Exhibit 78) for FY10 through June 30, 2010. Overall the resident and nonresident sales are down 3% for FY10. The budget is still balanced and cash remains stable. The Department is starting the FY11 year with \$4 million in the capital working account. Per director's office guidance the Department will keep vacancies open for six months and new temporary workers will be hired as non-benefited.

Mr. Lau reported that there are not a lot of numbers yet for the FY12 budget. The Department is waiting on budget guidelines from DFM and LSO. The Department continues to work on the budget with a package to the Director at the end of July. There will not be a fee increase proposal for FY12. The Department is anticipating some federal fund increases and is working hard on keeping the license spending flat until we have a positive sign that license revenues are going back up. The FY12 budget does not include any specific requests related to the new headquarters building. Director Groen reported that Department has more work plans to complete in regards to a new headquarters building.

REPORT

Spring/Summer Chinook Fisheries Update

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, provided an update on the spring and summer Chinook salmon recreational fisheries in Idaho this spring.

Mr. Schriever provided an update on the fall steelhead forecast. He reported that there were 322,000 steelhead over Lower Granite Dam with 246, 000 of those fish being hatchery fish. This spring we harvested 62,390 hatchery steelhead and fall 57,500 for a total of 119,962 just shy of 120,000 steelhead, which breaks the previous record harvested in 2001 season by 16,000 fish.

RULES

Season Setting: Fall Chinook

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, (Appendix 43, Exhibit 79) presented the proposal for a fishing season for fall Chinook salmon on the Snake River in September and October of 2010. A fishery for fall Chinook salmon was conducted on the Snake River in October 2008 and September and October of 2009. Staff is projecting that sufficient numbers of hatchery origin adipose fin-clipped fall Chinook salmon will return to the proposed fishing area to meet hatchery brood stock needs and permit a non-tribal sport fishery on the harvestable share available. Natural origin fall Chinook that return to the proposed fishing area are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and allowable encounter rates on these listed fish are stipulated in the fisheries management plan for steelhead in the current NOAA Fisheries permit (1481). Staff has consulted with NOAA and established that the incidental encounter rate on natural origin fall Chinook during the proposed fishery is consistent with rates observed during the traditional steelhead fishery in recent years.

10-73 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendations for the 2010 Chinook salmon fishery in the Snake River. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

REPORT

2011-2012 Fishing Rules Development

Ed Schriever, Fisheries, Chief reported that the Fisheries Bureau is preparing to update rules for Idaho fishing seasons in 2011 – 2012. Proposed changes include presenting information in a newspaper format (Appendix 43, Exhibit 80) versus the current tabular format and opening stream season's year-round across the state.

The Fish and Game Department has been developing biological rules through scoping meeting with the public at locations across the state since late February 2010. Staff review has narrowed the list of potential biological rule changes (Appendix 43, Exhibit 80). The proposed changes will be presented to the public in regional meetings and be posted on the Department website with an address to provide feedback to the Fisheries Bureau. In addition, we will do a random survey of fishing license buyers to assess their input into the proposed fishing rules.

Public input will be used to craft Department recommendations for fishing seasons and bag limits in 2011 – 2012. Final rules will be approved at the November 2010 Commission meeting.

Commission consensus is to allow the Department to formally scope with the public the proposed changes.

RULES

Rules: Bonus Points

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, referenced the handout Idaho Bonus Point System (see exhibit # 66)

distributed at the workshop on Wednesday. Mr. Gould stated that this document is his report to the Commission. The document is broken up in three parts, 1) Foundational information to include commission and legislative background, general concepts, overview of Nevada system, specific examples, drawing odds, and pros and cons of the system. 2) Scoping information of proposed options for public consideration and summary of public input. 3) Implementation schedule and an outreach plan should the rules be approved.

10-74 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to reject the proposed Idaho Bonus Point System. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Budge stated the reasoning to reject the proposal is due to the summary of comments opposing the bonus point system. The level of complexity added to the licensing system and the impact on the casual/youth hunter feeling that they do not have many chances in the system. And the perception from sportsmen that the Department is doing this is to raise revenue.

Director Groen stated that is the Department's job to present this to the Commission and give the Commission the decision space to deal with it. It is important that the Commission give it consideration and put a stake in the ground. The staff does recognize that this is a Commission policy question involving social, economic, and administrative issues; it is not a biological issue. The staff did a good job in preparing the information. A tremendous amount of work went into the discussion. Director Groen is comfortable with the Commission decision.

Season Setting: 2011 Upland Game Bird and 2010 Sandhill Cranes and Morning Doves

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Waterfowl Staff Biologist presented the department proposals (Appendix 43, Exhibit 81). Mr. Knetter reported that upland game bird, upland game animal, and migratory bird (crow, dove, and sandhill crane) season dates, bag, and possession limits are set on even-numbered years and cover a two-year period. Upland Game seasons for 2010-2011 were set in January; however, a season and bag limit for chukar and gray partridge was approved without complete public scoping by the Commission at the January meeting. The Commission reconsidered this action and asked the Department to gather public input on the chukar/gray partridge season and bag change for 2011-2012 and allow the public to consider additional changes that may dovetail with such a season change. Mr. Knetter stated that any changes to the chukar and gray partridge seasons adopted by the Commission were a result of social concerns, not biological concerns. The season opener and bag limit for chukar and gray partridge have been the same since 1986, and the populations and harvest have varied dramatically over that time.

Mourning dove and sandhill crane seasons are set in July to allow for seasons to open as early as September 1. Idaho's 2010 crane harvest allocation, as directed by the Pacific Flyway Council Rocky Mountain Population Crane Plan, is 458, similar to the 449 in 2009. Harvest in 2009 was 254.

Department Recommendations:

Begin the Forest Grouse season August 30; Statewide.

Extend the Forest Grouse season to January 31; Panhandle Region only.

Change shooting hours for upland game on WMA's in Southwest Region to 10 a.m. during the pheasant season.

No change to Mourning Dove and Sandhill Crane seasons.

Two Options for Chukar/Gray Partridge seasons:

Option 1: No change

September 17- January 31

Bag/Possession Limit =8/16

Option 2: Delayed Season Opener and Reduced Bag

October 1- January 31

Bag/Possession Limit = 6/12

Move quail and sage-grouse to October 1

10-75 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion to adopt Option 2 for chukar and gray partridge. The motion carried in an unanimous vote, with the Chairman excusing Commissioner Power due to a potential conflict of interest.

10-76 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion to move the opening date for quail and sage-grouse to October 1. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

10-77 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to approve the remaining upland game recommendations to be effective for the 2010 season as presented by staff. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

REPORT

Briefing for 2010/2011 Migratory Game Bird and 2010 Sage Grouse Seasons

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Waterfowl Staff Biologist gave an update on the 2010-2011 Migratory Game Bird and 2010 Sage-grouse Seasons (Appendix 43, Exhibit 82). Mr. Knetter stated that the Commission sets seasons for ducks, geese, and sage-grouse in August. This presentation reviewed the 2010 status of waterfowl and sage-grouse populations as well as preliminary Department proposals for 2010 seasons. The 2010 waterfowl season frameworks will be finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the first week in August and the Commission will take final action during their meeting on August 16.

MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Damage Control Board

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, reported that Idaho statute annually appropriates \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for control of predatory animals and birds. Additionally, the Department annually transfers surplus funds from the expendable depredation account to the State Animal Damage Control Board. Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used (Appendix 43, Exhibit 83).

Since 2005, the Commission has directed \$50,000 or more to be used for intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative in eastern Idaho. Additional funds, approximately \$50,000, have been directed by the Commission to support USDA Wildlife Services activities identified in the MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board.

Department recommendation for directing expenditure of funds allocated to the Animal Damage Control Board:

- 1) \$50,000.00 to support ADCB responsibilities outlined in the current MOU between the Department and ADCB and to control specific predatory animals or birds on Wildlife Management Areas;
- 2) \$50,000.00 to control coyotes in support of the Department's Mule Deer Initiative in eastern Idaho;
- 3) \$50,000.00 to control wolves in support of the Department Wolf management Plan and consistent with the current MOU; and
- 4) The remaining \$16,219 to control feral pigs in support of our cooperative effort with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, and private landowners for the protection of wildlife resources in the Bruneau area.

10-78 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendations as outlined for directing expenditures of funds allocated to the Animal Damage Control Board. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Director's Report

Topics in the Director's report to the Commission included:

- Comments on Sage-grouse habitat in Idaho
- The Direction FY 2011 is out and the focus is priorities and accomplishments for the Department
- Debate on Forest Service Travel plans and off- road vehicle use
- The budget is fairly stable when it comes to funding
- Working through the Diversion Issue
- Looking at a new business model for temporary workers
- MKNC celebrated their 20 year anniversary
 - "Face-to-Fish" event on July 8-10.
 - Lt. Governor Brad Little and Boise Mayor Dave Bieter attended the event
- Springfield Hatchery purchase
- FILT payments have been paid

Commission Reports

Each Commissioner provided their Regional report in written format (Appendix 43, Exhibit 84)

Commissioner Tony McDermott thanked regional staff for their work hosting the Commission meeting and to Mr. Richard Good for the delicious cheesecake. The commercial netters on Pend Oreille Lake finished the netting on May 20 and will return in August. A total of 11,381 fish were netted, mostly juvenile, lake trout. The number of lake trout heads turned into the angler incentive program this spring is 2,277. A total of 6.5 million hatchery kokanee fry were released into Pend Oreille Lake in June. The Region hosted several youth fishing activities in June. Free Fishing Day clinics resulted in participation by over 1,000 people at 13 Panhandle clinics. Regional Supervisor Chip Corsi toured the Pack River Delta restoration project with NW Power Council staff. The northern part of the region has been experiencing a number of bear complaints this spring so far, all black bears.

Regional Supervisor Chip Corsi presented a Golden Eagle mount to Commissioner McDermott to donate to the Bonner County Sportsmen to be displayed at the Wildlife Building Bonner County Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Cameron Wheeler reported that things are going well in the Upper Snake Region. There is good water supply in the lakes and streams. Reports a grizzly bear sighting in Dry Canyon near Swan Valley. There is strong public support for the staff in the Region.

Commissioner Randy Budge reports the fawn survival rate is up 58%. There are 3 Surrogator evaluation sites set up. Although the snow pack was significantly below normal, the cool spring with late snow and rain, resulted in excellent reservoir carry-over. Community fund raising efforts have generated over \$65,000 in the last month for the Edson Fichter Urban Fishing Pond. They expect to break ground this fall for this project.

Commissioner Bob Barowsky reported that wolf-related depredations are down in the Region. Fawn survival was 75% in Unit 39. The Weiser-McCall fawn survival was 47% and the doe survival rate in the McCall zone was 98%. Reports seeing fewer than normal broods of upland birds so far, and although they have recently started seeing quail, the broods are small. The August chukar flight will eventually show if this is a real cause for concern, but weather like this spring often results in poor production. Over 545 youth have participated in fishing and educational activities in the Region.

Commissioner Gary Power reported that at the end of the spring trapping effort at the weir on North Fork Salmon River intercepted over 100 steelhead. Regional fisheries staff have been surveying lowland lakes and to date have inventoried Alturas, Stanley, Jimmy Smith and Herd lakes. Lake trout approaching 40 inches were observed in Stanley Lake. Numerous bull trout up to 26 inches were encountered in Alturas Lake. The Salmon High School Robotics team developed a random clay pigeon thrower and will sponsor a shotgun shooting course to generate

funds to support their robotics program. Commissioner Power referenced a memo regarding the Wild Horse and Burro 2010 Program.

Commissioner Wayne Wright reported that a seizure of approximately 30 rattlesnakes from a Malta resident resulted in citations and warnings. Officers responded to a tip that the individual was collecting snakes in an attempt to sell antivenin, as well as getting into general mischief using the live snakes. Randy Smith received the prestigious Patterson Award during the Western States Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop held in Twin Falls. He was recognized for his contributions to both species, including his leadership in trapping and re-establishing over 1,000 sharp-tails in the last 20 years. Over 730 kids and parents attended the 12th annual Free Fishing Day event at Hagerman. About 17% were new anglers. Two separate bighorn sheep rams were found floating in Oakley Reservoir, a few days apart. The wildlife health lab determined that both rams died of blunt force trauma followed by drowning. It appeared both fell from the rocks above the reservoir.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Wayne Wright, MD
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary