

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 3, 2011
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Moore; Deputy Director Unsworth; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Lance Hebdon, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement; and Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications.

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

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy, updated the Commission on the following legislative matters (Appendix 44, Exhibit 27)

Fish and Game Sponsored Bill/Analysis/Discussion

HB 85 authorizing the commission to implement a mentored hunt program is up for a bill hearing with the Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

JFAC held their motion setting for the Department Budget on February 28th. It passed with a single motion and will be assigned a bill number. Representative Hagedorn made the motion.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

The following bills are informational bills and do not require a policy decision at this time.

HCR 20 requests the governor and Department of Administration to create a high-deductible insurance policy coupled with a health savings account for state employees. The Department will follow closely.

SJM 101 a memorial requesting congress to continue funding the secure rural schools and self determination act.

Ms. Kiefer reported that there is a new RS proposal by Representative Moyle up for bill introduction today that deals with airplane hunting of big game. The Department has not seen the language for this proposal and it may replace HB 186. The Department will follow.

Ms. Kiefer reviewed the bill tracking tables please see exhibit for status of bills.

Previously the Commission had questions regarding a news release regarding energy guidelines. The Department of Interior had directed BLM and FWS to create some new guidelines regarding energy development. Out for review is the BLM renewable energy guidelines for BLM lands and from FWS draft voluntary land-based wind energy guidelines and a draft eagle conservation plan guidance. The Department provided technical information early on in the projects but they were not part of these working groups.

Commissioner Trevey has concerns with SB 1092. The Department does not administer, but would definitely affect the sportsmen. SB 1092 has not received a hearing yet in the Transportation Committee. The Department will monitor.

SB1092 would amend Chapter 70, Title 67, Idaho Code to include that any person sixteen years and younger must complete a state approved education course on boating safety before operating any water vessel. In lieu of a course, an approved equal exam must be completed. Any exam must be proctored. Upon completion, the individual would receive a certificate of completion.

Other Legislative Activity

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General provided a briefing on the Federal Continuing Resolution regarding wolves.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m..

Wayne Wright
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary