

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Annual Meeting -- January 25-27, 2012
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Trophy Room & Other Locations as Stated
600 South Walnut
Boise, Idaho**

Note: Times on the agenda are approximate and subject to change.

January 25

- 1:30 pm Commissioners to meet with House Resources and Conservation Committee
Statehouse
1:30 -3:30 pm
- 5:00 pm Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council Legislative Reception
Grove Hotel
Individual Commissioners may attend
- 7:00 pm Public Hearing

January 26

- 8:00 am Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance
--Idaho Department of Fish and Game Honor Guard
Nathan Stohosky, Brian Flatter, Dan Kelsey
- 8:05 am 1. Opening Comments
-- Tony McDermott, Commission Chairman
- 8:10 am 2. Agenda Changes
-- Chairman McDermott
- 8:15 am 3. Review of Public Comment
-- Chairman McDermott
- 8:30 am 4. Consent Calendar (**Action Requested by Department**)
a. Minutes
b. Financial Report
c. Appointments Winter Feeding Advisory Committee
- 8:40 am 5. Shikar-Safari Award Presentation
--Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief
- 8:50 am 6. Update on Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon Forecast and Potential for
Sport Fisheries in 2012
--Ed Schriever, Fisheries Chief
- 9:00 am 7. Wolf Harvest Update **and Review of Hunting/Trapping Seasons (Tentative Action Item)**
--Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager

- 9:30 am 8. Deer and Elk Status Update
--Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager
- 10:15 am BREAK
- 10:40 am 9. Director's Annual Report to the Commission
--Director Moore
- 10:55 am 10. JFAC Budget Preview
-- Director Moore
- 11:25 am 11. Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) Update
--Ann Dehner, Executive Director
- 11:35 am 12. Selection of Fish and Game Commission Liaison to IFWF
(Action Requested by Department)
--Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director
- 11:45 am 13. Motorized Hunting Rule Scoping Update
--Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director
- 12:00 LUNCH Catered
- 1:00 pm 14. Season Setting: Upland Game and Furbearers
(Action Requested by Department)
-- Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Waterfowl Staff Biologist
- 1:30 pm 15. Legislative Update
-- Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director
- 2:00 pm 16. Land Acquisitions **(Action Requested by Department)**
-- Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator
- 2:20 pm 17. Summary of Land Acquisition Policy Implementation
--Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator
- 3:00 pm 18. WAFWA Mid Winter Meeting Report
--Chairman McDermott, Director Moore
- 3:15 pm BREAK
- 3:30 pm 19. Director's Report
--Director Moore
- 3:45pm 20. Commission Reports
--Commissioners
- 4:30 pm 21. Executive Session I.C. 67-2345(1) (c) (f)

January 27

9:30 am 22. Workshop on Fish and Wildlife Management Planning
Director's Office

11:30 am LUNCH Catered

1:30 pm 23. Commissioners to meet with Senate Resources & Environment Committee
Statehouse
1:30 -3:30 pm

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 4b

Agenda Item: Financial Report

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration

Background:

Update the Commission on the Financial Status of the Department

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None

Public Involvement Process:

None

Staff Recommendation:

None

Justification:

None

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 4c

Agenda Item: Consent Calendar--Winter Feeding
Advisory Committee Appointments (**Action**)

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jon Rachael

Background:

Regional Winter Feeding Advisory Committees (WFAC) were established following passage of Senate Bill 1406 in 1994. Committees are charged with assisting the Department in implementing the Commission's Emergency Big Game Feeding Policy (enclosed). Committees exist in every region where emergency winter feeding is a normal occurrence (Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions). Committee members are appointed by unanimous vote of the Commission with appointments lasting 2 years.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-123. WINTER FEEDING ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(1) A winter feeding advisory committee shall be established for each district where winter feeding of antelope, elk, and deer normally occurs. Each committee shall consist of five (5) members. The members shall be appointed and removed for cause by unanimous vote of the Idaho fish and game commission. It is intended that the committees reflect the cross section of the major interest groups associated with each district. Each committee shall meet at such times as appropriate, but not less frequently than annually, on or before December 1, before the winter feeding season arrives, whichever is earlier.

(2) The term of office of a member shall be two (2) years, except a portion of the initial appointments may be for a term of one (1) year to provide staggered terms. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. The committees shall serve without compensation.

(3) Each winter feeding advisory committee established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall appoint a chairman. The chairmen of the committees shall meet at least annually to coordinate activities and promote consensus on issues of common interest among the winter feeding advisory committees. The chairmen may elect a leader from among the chairmen to call meetings and conduct and coordinate activities of the group.

(4) The department of fish and game shall provide staff assistance and support for the committees.

(5) The committees shall have the authority to:

(a) Act as an independent resource in each district to give advice and recommendations on the administration of winter feeding programs;

(b) Act as a liaison between the commission, the department, interest groups, and the public on winter feeding issues.

Public Involvement Process:

Nominees are selected by Regional Supervisors with input from various stakeholders, including Department staff, sportsmen organizations, and local publics.

Staff Recommendation:

Reappoint expiring WFAC members. Current committee members and list of recommended reappointments is provided.

Justification:

Commission action required to appoint Winter Feeding Advisory Committee members.

REVISED: April 30, 1996

APPROVED:

TITLE: BIG GAME FEEDING POLICY (Deer, Elk, Antelope, Moose)

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recognizes that the big game population should be maintained under natural conditions and by naturally available forage. Winter forage is the major limiting factor that determines the basic size of the big game populations and it must be maintained if these animals are to prosper and propagate. The Department will work with the appropriate land management agencies in an effort to maintain winter ranges in a condition suitable to meet big game management objectives, including the restoration of ranges damaged from such long-term impacts as disease, weed infestation, and/or overgrazing. These restorations could include temporary solutions for short-term impacts caused by fire and/or drought. In order to maintain these winter ranges, big game numbers must be controlled through adequate harvest. We, therefore, do not sanction any wide-spread supplemental winter feeding programs.

Big game animals, especially elk, when concentrated by supplemental feeding, are very susceptible to infectious disease, which can be transmitted to livestock and to other big game animals. Every effort should be made to lessen this threat.

We are aware that big game harvests and weather will vary from year to year throughout the state. In most years, snow depths, temperatures, and animal body condition do not create adverse conditions for wintering animals. However, there are times when unusual weather patterns may create critical periods of stress when winter forage becomes limited, unavailable, or animals are forced into areas involving public safety. We recognize that we cannot manage game populations for these extreme weather conditions--nor should we.

The Department is authorized to feed big game only if the following conditions exist:

1. To prevent damage to private property or for public safety when other methods of preventing damage and providing safety measures are determined to be impractical, inappropriate, or ineffective and the amount of damage or cost of protection is expected to exceed the cost of feeding.
2. To prevent the excessive mortality of big game populations in drainages that would affect the recovery of the herd. Some mortality should be expected, especially from the young and old segments of the population.

It is the responsibility of all field personnel to advise the regional supervisor of weather, animal conditions and numbers, and public input on situations that meet the feeding criteria outlined above. If the regional supervisor, in consultation with the regional winter feeding advisory committee, determines that the criteria has been met and that an emergency exists, he will inform the Bureau of Wildlife of his decision and the Bureau of Wildlife will notify the Director's Office, Bureau of Enforcement, and the Bureau of Information and Education. The regional big game operational plan will then be implemented.

It is the responsibility of all field personnel to advise the regional supervisor of weather, animal conditions and numbers, and public input on situations that meet the feeding criteria outlined above. If the regional supervisor, in consultation with the regional winter feeding advisory committee, determines that the criteria has been met and that an emergency exists, he will inform the Bureau of Wildlife of his decision and the Bureau of Wildlife will notify the Director's Office, Bureau of Enforcement, and the Bureau of Information and Education. The regional big game operational plan will then be implemented.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 5

Agenda Item: Presentation of Shikar-Safari Officer of the Year
Bureau Chief Approval: JKH

Prepared by: Jon Heggen

Background:

The Shikar-Safari Club International annually honors an outstanding “Wildlife Officer of the Year” in each state and province. The nominee is recognized for their “outstanding job in the enforcement of game laws, the protection of wildlife, and the implementation of conservation programs.” In addition to the recognition through a plaque and commemorative plate, the officer also receives a \$20,000 insurance policy in the event of death in the line of duty.

The Shikar-Safari Club International and its Foundation are partners in conservation through funding big horn sheep research and transplants in Idaho, funding a DNA sequencer for the Wildlife and Forensics lab, and most recently providing a grant for the IDFG K-9 program.

Other information as well as national and international projects includes:

Wildlife Officer of the Year Presentation Information

The Shikar-Safari Club International was founded in 1952, as a group of international hunters who joined together to exchange experiences and ideas about hunting. It started as a social hunting organization, but soon recognized its potential to do meaningful things in the area of conservation. About 1973, the Shikar-Safari International Foundation was formed. Moneys raised from Shikar-Safari Club International members by the Shikar-Safari International Foundation are used to carry on various conservation projects throughout the world.

Domestic projects funded by the foundation are:

1. Funding the transplantation of moose from Wyoming to their former natural habitat in Colorado.
2. Funding aerial telemetry studies of mountain lion and mule deer in the Kaibab area of Arizona by purchasing a Super Club Aircraft for the use of the Arizona Fish and Game Department.
3. Contribute to the black rhino trans-location program of animals from southern Africa to Texas.
4. Funding the Bighorn Institute in California for research into pneumonic disease in big horn sheep.
5. Utah Book Cliff Project – Land rehabilitation and develop feeding for elk in the winter.
6. Missouri Department of Conservation – Furnished 40 scoped rifles for the training of young underprivileged children to hunt wildlife.
7. Maryland Department of Conservation – Furnished trained Labradors to assist in locating illegally taken deer and bear.
8. Tennessee Conservation League – Provide film and printed material used in the training of young children; teaching them the proper techniques for hunting and fishing.
9. Support the Wildlife Conservation Fund in their work to protect both wildlife and the hunter.
10. Kentucky – Fund a study into the possibility of re-establishing black bears into new areas.
11. Kentucky – Help fund a relocation program for elk. Herd populations have now grown to huntable levels.
12. Idaho - Funding for the purchase of DNA equipment.

International projects funded by the foundation are:

1. Paying the salaries of game wardens in the Nullas of Pakistan to protect the endangered markhor from extinction by poachers.
2. Funding the education of Zambian Wildlife Officers in anti-poaching techniques.
3. Purchasing a Super Cub, equipped with two-way radios, for the Mexican Game Department to halt the rampant poaching of desert sheep.
4. Providing aircraft for radio telemetry studies of large mammals in the Kalahari Desert.
5. Contribute financially to the Rhino-Elephant Foundation on whose advisory board we have a sitting member.

6. Help fund the Kalahari Conservation Society's purchase of vehicles to be used in the Botswana game department's efforts to curb poaching.
7. Funding in coordination with the Indian Wildlife Department's anti-poaching efforts of endangered species in the Kashmir region.
8. British Columbia Wildlife Conservation – Furnish money to develop and operate anti-poaching in British Columbia.
9. Namibia – Support the Eagle Rock School with the purchase of guns and supplies to train game department personnel.
10. South Africa – Establish a scholarship program for students in game management.

This gives an idea of the scope of our conservation projects. Our membership, limited to 200 people internationally, is a dedicated group of hunters and conservationists who believe in putting back more than we take out through hunting.

Congratulations on joining a very elite group of outstanding wildlife conservation officers who have won the Shikar-Safari International Officer of the Year Award. All of the 50 States, Canadian Provinces and Territories participate in our program.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

NA

Public Involvement Process:

NA

Staff Recommendation:

applause

Justification:

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 06

Agenda Item: Update on Salmon Forecasts and Potential Seasons in 2012

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Pete Hassemer, Anadromous Fish Manager

Background:

This is an explanation, to inform the Commission, of the forecasts for spring and summer Chinook salmon returning to the Snake River this spring and potential salmon seasons. These salmon will begin leaving the ocean and entering the Columbia River in late February and early March. Fisheries staff proposes to return to the Commission in March with recommendations for 2012 Chinook salmon sport fisheries to be conducted in the Clearwater River, Salmon River and Snake River drainages. During January and February Fisheries staff will be involved in Columbia River basin processes that set spring Chinook fishing seasons on the Columbia River. Those season setting processes and the potential impacts of Columbia River fisheries on Idaho-bound salmon will be described.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

None

Public Involvement Process:

None

Staff Recommendation:

None

Justification:

Keeps Commission informed prior to setting Chinook salmon fishing seasons in March.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 7

Agenda Item: Wolf Harvest Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jon Rachael

Background:

Wolves were delisted from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in Idaho and Montana in May 2009. Idaho held a successful hunting season for wolves in fall and winter 2009-2010, but following a Federal District Court decision, wolves were relisted under the ESA. On August 5, 2010, Judge Molloy vacated the rule that delisted wolves in Montana and Idaho and returned them to protections of the ESA, effectively restricting state management and eliminating the possibility of a state-regulated wolf hunt for 2010-2011.

On April 15, 2011, President Obama signed the 2011 federal Budget Bill that included a rider that effectively reinstated the 2009 federal rule that delisted wolves in Montana and Idaho and returned wolf management responsibility to the state.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted wolf hunting and trapping seasons and regulations on July 28.

The Department's second wolf harvest season opened statewide on August 30, 2011. Wolf hunting seasons opened on August 30 throughout the state. Harvest limits have been established for 5 of the 13 wolf management zones. Seasons closed December 31, 2011 in the Island Park and Beaverhead wolf management zones, and are scheduled to close in the other 9 zones on March 31, 2012 unless harvest limits are met first. Seasons in the Lolo and Selway zones will close June 30, 2012.

The Department's first wolf trapping season opened November 15, 2011. All individuals interested in trapping wolves are required to complete a wolf trapper education class held by the Department prior to trapping for wolves. Capitalizing on experienced wolf trappers and biologists, the Department developed a course similar to what has been provided to trappers in Alaska. The course focuses on trapping rules and regulations, ethics, wolf management, and effective wolf trapping.

From September 30 through December, the Department conducted 25 classes around the state and certified 577 individuals to trap wolves. Interest has been high and additional classes will be held to meet demand.

The Department sold 32,273 hunting tags (28,635 resident, 3,638 nonresident) for the 2011 hunting season, and as of December 31, 2011 had sold 2,326 tags (2,198 resident, 128 nonresident) for the 2012 hunting season. As of December 31, 2011, the Department had sold 334 (317 resident, 17 nonresident) wolf trapping tags for the 2011-2012 trapping season.

As of December 31, 2011, 199 wolves had been legally harvested by sportsmen, 173 by hunters and 26 by trappers (preliminary data). (2 additional illegally taken wolves and one nontarget wolf killed in a snare in southern Idaho were also charged against harvest limits.)

Wolf Harvest Information					
As of December 31, 2011 (preliminary data)					
Wolf Zone	2011 Harvest Limit	Number Harvested		Hunting Season Dates	
		2011 ²	(2009 ¹)	2011	(2009)
Panhandle		33	(13)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Mar 31)
Palouse-Hells Canyon		3	(5)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Dec 18)
Lolo		12	(6)	Aug 30 - Jun 30	(Sep 1 – Mar 31)
Dworshak-Elk City		35	(18)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Nov 17)
Selway		10	(6)	Aug 30 - Jun 30	(Sep 15 – Mar 31)
Middle Fork		27	(14)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Sep 15 – Mar 31)
Salmon	40	19	(10)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Mar 15)
McCall-Weiser		17	(14)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Nov 9)
Sawtooth	60	14	(33)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Sep 1 – Mar 31)
Southern Mountains	25	18	(10)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Dec 31)
Beaverhead	10	1	(na)	Aug 30 - Dec 31	(Oct 1 – Dec 31)
Island Park	30	10	(5)	Aug 30 - Dec 31	(Oct 1 – Nov 2)
Southern Idaho		0	(1)	Aug 30 - Mar 31	(Oct 1 – Mar 31)
HARVEST TOTAL		199	(135)		

1 – harvest data through December 31, 2009 for comparison purposes.

2 – 2011 harvest figures include the following legal wolf trapping harvest: Panhandle (6), Lolo (6), Elk City units (4), Selway (6), Middle Fork (4). 2009 harvest figures do not include 5 wolves that were killed illegally or killed as nontarget catches in snares.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy. Species management plans provide Commission direction for population and harvest management.

Public Involvement Process:

None at this time.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda item is for provided informational purposes.

Justification:

Provide the Commission an update on the Wolf Harvest Season.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Deer and Elk Status Overview

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jon Rachael, State Game Manager

Background:

Staff will present a statewide overview of the status of deer and elk populations in relation to deer Population Management Unit objectives and elk zone objectives. The Commission will also be briefed on upcoming aerial surveys that will aid in the development of deer and elk hunt recommendations for the Commission meeting in March 2012.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None. This agenda item is for informational purposes.

Public Involvement Process:

Status of all big game species except for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats is made available to the public during regional open houses in February and March 2012. The Department will collect public input on big game season proposals at that time.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is for informational purposes.

Justification:

Information will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, clarifications, or recommendations from the public.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: IDFG Director's Annual Report to the
Commission

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by:

Background: Director Moore will present the third edition of the Director's Report to the Commission showing Department financial summaries for FY11 and outlining challenges for FY12. The report also contains an overview of major Department programs.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues: N/A

Public Involvement Process: N/A

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Justification: N/A

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: JFAC Budget Preview

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jim Lau

Background:

On Tuesday, January 31 the department will present the Governor's Fiscal Year 2013 budget for IDFG to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). The Director will provide the Commission with a preview of his planned presentation to JFAC for their information and input. The presentation will focus upon the role of the Commission in setting key policy direction and the actions of the department to carry our Commission policy.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Annual formal budget request to the Legislature

Public Involvement Process:

N/A

Staff Recommendation:

The financial aspect of our budget request has previously been approved by the Commission and the Director will present this overview to brief Commissioners on key aspects of our presentation to JFAC.

Justification:

For information and input only

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 11

Agenda Item: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Ann Dehner

Background:

Commission has requested updates about the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation activities.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

None

Public Involvement Process:

None

Staff Recommendation:

Present update as follows.

Justification:

Requested by Commission.

1. The Foundation has begun a new fiscal year this month. Its operating budget was approved at the Board's meeting on December 3, 2011.
2. The Foundation is working with the Department on the transfer of the Spirit Lake property and anticipates completing the transfer within the next few weeks.
3. At its December board meeting, the Foundation granted project funding for six projects from the Department and other nonprofit organizations totaling \$30,000. The projects include: Enhancement of the MK Nature Center Streamwalk Window; Watchable Wildlife's Idaho Nature Backpack Project; The Idaho Wildlife Federation's signage for the Kirkwood Historic Ranch Bighorn Sheep Display; Trout Unlimited's Pebble Creek Restoration Project; the Teton Regional Land Trust's Teton River Riparian Restoration; and an implementation project for the WaterLife Discovery Center.
4. The Foundation is nearing completion of a redesign of its Website. Plans are to launch the new Website by the end of January.
5. The Foundation continues to work internally to clarify its service capabilities and relationship with the Department. This review includes looking at the 2006 MOU between the Foundation, Department and the Commission and the Foundation's capacities for greater self-sufficiency, fundraising, and other avenues that further define its partnership with IDFG and the Commission.
6. As part of its marketing of the Wildlife license plates, the Foundation is the title sponsor of the upcoming "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" that will be held at the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise State University in April. There are special ticket prices on a limited basis for employees of the Department of Fish and Game.

7. It is expected that the Foundation will announce its 2012 grant opportunities in February, 2012, with the next round of applications due by June 1.

Meeting Date: January 26

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: Selection of Commission Liaison to
IFWF

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background:

Staff will request Commission decision regarding a liaison to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) for 2012. The 2011 liaison was Commissioner Wayne Wright. The 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commission, Department, and the Foundation calls for the Commission to designate a Commissioner to attend all Foundation meetings as a liaison between the Foundation and the Commission.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Commission has authority to appoint their liaison to the Foundation to fulfill the MOU.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Select a Commission liaison to the Foundation.

Justification:

A Commission liaison to the Foundation is a mutual agreement in the MOU.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Motorized Hunting Rule Scoping
Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background: At the November meeting, the Commission directed staff to scope a revision of the Motorized Hunting Rule, incorporated changes directed by the Commission after consideration of staff recommendations.

Staff will update the Commission about progress with plans for scoping, including development of a survey including a random sample of both hunting license holders from the Fish and Game database and registered OHV users from the Department of Parks and Recreation database. This was a commitment to motorized user groups to get input from a broader group of motorized users.

Staff will brief the Commission about timeline and cost of scoping.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: Commission has authority to scope potential rules with the public.

Public Involvement Process: In progress.

Staff Recommendation: Proceed with scoping revisions to the Motorized Hunting Rule.

Justification: Informational update about action requested by the Commission.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item: Upland Game and Furbearer Season
Setting Biennial 2012-2013 **(Action)**

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jeffrey M. Knetter

Background:

Upland game bird, upland game animal, furbearer, and migratory bird (crow, dove, and crane) season dates, bag, and possession limits are set on even-numbered years and cover a two-year period. The purpose of this agenda item is to adopt changes to the Rules governing the taking of Game Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 09), the taking of Game Animals (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 07), the taking of Furbearing Animals (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 16), the taking of Migratory Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 13), and Falconry (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 14).

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

“Increase hunting opportunity” and “Provide hunting opportunities specific to youth” are strategies of the Department’s Compass.

Public Involvement Process:

A statewide press release was issued on these proposed seasons. Regions provided the public with opportunities to comment on Department-proposed changes, and the Department website had a questionnaire asking for public input on the proposed changes to upland game rules.

Justification:

Seasons are designed to manage Idaho’s upland game and furbearer resources for maximum hunting and trapping opportunity while considering biological and sociological implications.

Action Requested:

Commission adoption of the Department’s recommendations.

Staff Recommendation:

Final recommendations, after considering public input, will be presented at the Commission meeting.

Meeting Date: January 26

Agenda Item No. 15

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background:

Staff will update the Commission about legislative activity since initiation of the 2012 Legislature.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Informational. Commission has authority to provide legislative policy guidance.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Continue implementation of the legislative process already discussed by the Commission.

Justification:

Legislative process requested by the Commission.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 16

Agenda Item: Region 1 – Spirit Lake Access
Acquisition

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Katherine Cousins and Gregg Servheen

Background:

Department would acquire a 1.82-acre parcel adjacent to Department ownership on Spirit Lake, Idaho, for the purpose of improving a public access boating site. The Department owns and administers the only developed boat launch on Spirit Lake. The existing facility is not large enough to accommodate current public use levels.

In 2006, the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation purchased this property and the Commission approved the Department to lease the property from the Foundation over a five-year period. Based on the terms of the lease, the Department has compensated the Foundation the agreed amount of \$ 224,417.64 and is now prepared to exercise the option to purchase the property.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 6, 2006.

No buildings are part of the acquisition.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission and Department land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

County commissioners have been notified and support the acquisition. The public will be informed and contacted for their input regarding management of the property.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 16

Agenda Item: Region 1 – Stimson Lumber Company
Land Donation

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Katherine Cousins and Gregg Servheen

Background:

This donation of 12.24 acres from the Stimson Lumber Company would be easily incorporated into the Coeur d’Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA is currently about 5,750 acres in size and composed of parcels extending approximately 20 miles along the Lower Coeur d’Alene River Valley from the town of Harrison to Cataldo. The Department has spent the last 40+ years expanding and consolidating this ownership.

The parcel at issue is composed primarily of wetlands and scrub/shrub habitat with a small upland component. While small, the parcel provides both valuable waterfowl breeding habitat and a desirable migration rest point. In addition to waterfowl, the property is frequented by ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, and white-tailed deer. Moose and elk are less common inhabitants. Nongame species are abundant and diverse given the mix of wetland, scrub/shrub, and upland habitat.

No buildings are part of the acquisition. The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties. The FILT for properties acquired in Kootenai County is estimated at approximately \$2.24 per acre, for a total of approximately \$27.42 for the subject property.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on January 27, 2010.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission and Department land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

County commissioners have been notified and support the acquisition. The public will be informed and contacted for their input regarding management of the property.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition.

Meeting Date: January 26, 2012

Agenda Item No. 17

Agenda Item: Summary of Land Acquisition Policy
Implementation

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Background:

As requested by the Commission, staff will present a summary of implementation of the land acquisition policy over the last 10 years. The summary will provide information on the number of projects, times to implement projects, and a breakdown summary of projects by region, acres, and value.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None. This agenda item is for informational purposes.

Public Involvement Process:

Each individual acquisition project is implemented via the Commission's and Department's acquisition policy and accordingly collects public input on property acquisition, habitat protection, and economic and county concerns. All projects require final approval by the Commission in open session.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is for informational purposes.

Justification:

Information will aid Commissioners as they decide about funding and implementing land acquisition projects and how they might better form and implement acquisition and habitat conservation policy.