

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 16, 2012
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Moore, Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer, Dallas Burkhalter; Deputy Attorney General; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Brad Compton, Mike Demmick, Paul Kline and Crystal Christensen.

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

RULES

2012 Spring Season Steelhead Fishery Proposal For Increasing Daily, Possession and Season Limits

Pete Hassemer presented the proposal (Appendix 45, Exhibit 24) to the Commission.

12-19 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to accept the staff recommendations to increase the daily, possession and season limits for the spring-season steelhead fishery in the defined section of the upper Salmon River from Long Tom Creek upstream to the posted boundary 100 yards downstream of Sawtooth Hatchery.** The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

LEGISLATION

Deputy Director Kiefer provided a legislative update on the following items (Appendix 45, Exhibit 25).

Status of Fish and Game Sponsored Bill Analysis/Discussion

Sharon Kiefer reported that the Department sponsored bills have a hearing scheduled for February 21st.

HB 456 will be replaced by HB 543 sponsored by Representative Gibbs. Both bills accomplish the same matter. If there is no opposition the Department will pull HB 456 and partner with Representative Gibbs on HB 543. There was no opposition.

House Bill 456, Allow children to possess a firearm for hunting.

House Bill 457, Allow designation of control hunt tag to minor child or grandchild.

House Bill 458, Add wolf tag to Sportsman's Pak.

House Bill 459, Integrate 3 day fishing license into nonresident hunting license.

Previously Reviewed Bill Analysis/Discussion

Status Update

SB 1239 no hearing scheduled at this time.

SB1282 Senator Brackett's bill on LAP tags has not had a hearing yet.

SB1283 is in the third reading today. An email was sent from the Commission to the Senators asking them to vote nay on this bill. The Commission does not support this bill.

Policy Consideration

SB1256 regarding new big game auction tags had a delayed hearing. Currently the Commission has a policy position to monitor SB1256.

12-20 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion **to support SB 1256**. The motion failed with a 4-3 vote. Ayes: McDermott, Wright and Budge. Nays: Barowsky, Anderson, Trevey and Power.

SJR 105 is a new resolution that came out yesterday and is similar to SJR 104 the Constitutional right to Hunt, Fish, Trap. SJR 105 will replace SJR 104.

12-21 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a **motion to monitor SJR104/SJR 105**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HB461 – Expands “qualified organization” definition for disabled veteran programs.

12- 22 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion **to monitor HB 461**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HB 445 – revise employment definitions for PERSI. The Department is working on additional information and contacting other state agencies.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

HB 496 – Exempt military personnel from Hunter Education certification for license purchase. HB 496 has a hearing scheduled for February 23rd.

12-23 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to oppose HB 496**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

House Bill 525 – Create rules to allow exception from tag possession for a disabled hunter companion to assist a disabled hunter with taking wildlife.

12-24 Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **to monitor HB 525**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

House Bill 542 – Restrict Commission authority for imposing motor vehicle restrictions for hunters.

The Commission authority to regulate hunting by the use of any motorized vehicle and Commission’s Motorized Vehicle Rule (soon to be the Motorized Hunting Rule) has been an issue discussed by the Commission, the Senate Resources and Environment committee, the House Resource and Conservation Committee, the legislative ATV Task Force, and the legislative Interim Natural Resources Committee over the past two years. In 2011 there were 3 legislative proposals that would have detracted from current Commission authority to regulate this activity and would have terminated the existing rule.

Section 3 of HB 542 precludes the commission or the department to impose via rule, policy, or otherwise any restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles on trails or roads on federally managed lands that are otherwise open to motorized vehicle use.

12-25 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion **to strongly oppose HB 542**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

House Bill 543 – Revise youth age to carry a firearm for hunting.
Replaces Department sponsored bill HB 456.

Senate Bill 1321 – Restrict use of Winter Feeding Account funds and create new report requirement.

Senate Bill 1321 has 3 primary effects: 1) restricts use of winter feeding funds, including eliminating use of funds for winter range rehabilitation, 2) reduces budget for depredation prevention, and 3) creates an annual legislative reporting process.

Current statute allows for expenditure of winter feeding account funds for all costs associated with winter feeding. Proposed legislation would severely restrict expenditure of the winter feeding account fund to only “blocks, pellets and hay.”

12-26 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion **to oppose SB 1321**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Senate Bill 1305 – Amend wolf depredation provisions and create a new provision for Department of Agriculture aerial control permits.

No hearing has been scheduled at this time for SB 1305.

12-27 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to monitor SB 1305**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Budge left the call.

House Bill 544 – Reallocate wolf tag funds into control and compensation programs.

House Bill 545 – Raise wolf tag fees to fund control and compensation programs.

A more detailed analysis will be addressed for discussion at the February 23 conference call. The Department has provided technical analysis to the sponsor of the bill Representative Judy Boyle.

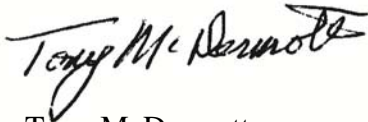
12-28 Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **to oppose HB 544 and HB 545**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

RS 21255 was heard in the Senate Resources Committee yesterday no bill number yet; and will create a SCR to reject the rule docket that creates a landowner incentive tag.

Director Moore attended a Sage Grouse Joint Hearing – Senate Resources and Environment Committee and House Resources and Conservation Committee last week.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 117 – Reject Department of Agriculture rule regarding domestic cervidae import. The Department provided technical testimony.

Adjournment 10:00 a.m.



Tony McDermott
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary