

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 23, 2012
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Moore, Deputy Director Unsworth, Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; .Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief; Jerome Hanson, Regional Supervisor participated via phone from the Magic Valley.

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.

LEGISLATION

Deputy Director Kiefer provided a legislative update on the following items (Appendix 45, Exhibit 26).

Status of Fish and Game Sponsored Bill Analysis/Discussion

HB 457 allowing designation of control hunt tag to a minor child or grandchild has passed the House and is in the 2nd reading. Representative J. Wood is the floor sponsor.

HB 459 that integrates a 3 day fishing license into nonresident hunting license has passed Committee and is in the 2nd reading. Representative Harwood is the floor sponsor.

As noted in the call last week HB 543 to revise youth age to carry a firearm for hunting replaces HB 456. The bill has passed in committee and is in the 2nd reading. Representative Gibbs is the floor sponsor. The Department will track the process of the bill.

Previously Reviewed Bill Analysis/Discussion

Status Update

SB 1283 – Sell LAP tags (Siddoway) had its 3rd reading yesterday in the Senate. The bill failed with a tie vote.

SB1256 - the new big game auction tags passed in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee yesterday. It is scheduled for a 3rd reading on the Senate floor.

HB 461 to expand “qualified organization” definition for disabled veteran programs passed in the House Resources and Environment Committee and is on the 2nd reading in the House. The Commission position is to monitor.

HJR 1 The constitutional amendment requiring 2/3 vote of both houses for revenue/fee bills has not yet had a bill hearing.

HB496 – Exempting military personnel from Hunter Education certification for license purchase has not had a hearing yet and the Department continues to track.

HB525 – that creates rules to allow exception from tag possession for a disabled hunter companion to assist a disabled hunter with taking wildlife passed in the House Resource and Environment Committee. Currently the commission policy position is to monitor.

HB542 – Restricting the Commission authority for imposing motor vehicle restrictions for hunters has not had a hearing yet. The Commission position is to oppose. The Department sees unintended consequence with the way the bill is written.

HB544 – Reallocate wolf tag funds into control and compensation programs.

HB545 – Raise wolf tag fees to fund control and compensation programs.

HB544 and HB 545 are companion bills and have not had a hearing yet.

SB1305 – to amend the wolf depredation provisions and create a new provision for Department of Agriculture aerial control permits. A hearing was heard on Monday and was passed out of Committee to the Senate.

SB1321 – Restrict use of Winter Feeding Account funds and create new report requirement. As discussed on 2-16-12 the way the bill is written the Department would only be allowed to use the winter feeding money for the actual food product. Implementation of the program and getting the food product out on the ground would have to come from another funding source. The bill has a hearing scheduled for tomorrow in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. The Commission position does support SB 1321. The Department will be providing testimony both technical concerns and the Commission position to not support the bill.

SCR 117 – Reject Department of Agriculture rule regarding domestic cervidae import. SCR117 has passed out of Senate Affairs Committee.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

Senate Joint Resolution 106 – Constitutional right to hunt, fish, trap.

12-29 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to support SJR 106**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Information Only

HB 511 – Standards for guyed towers. The Department provided testimony.

HB 561 – Wind farm moratorium.

SB 1291 – Create Rangeland Center at University of Idaho.

Other Discussion

March Commission Meeting Agenda

- Request for a report on the Depredation Program
- Sage Grouse Task Force Report

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth provided a brief report on the wolf control action in the Lolo Zone, reference February 22 IDFG news release.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment 9:00 a.m.