

Meeting Date: November 19, 2015

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Update and Liaison Request for Calendar Year 2016

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Ann Dehner

Background: Commission has requested updates about the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) activities. Further, the IFWF Board requests action by the Commission to establish the term of the Commission Liaison consistent with the IFWF fiscal year, which is a calendar year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: None

Public Involvement Process: None

Staff Recommendation: Present update as follows.

Justification: Requested by Commission.

1. In September, the Foundation awarded grants totaling \$25,000 through its 2015 competitive grants program. Grants to the Department included funding for a trapper education trailer in the southwest region; funds to develop the Redtop Pond Property in western Canyon County into community fishing access; and research support for evaluating trace minerals in Idaho moose to improve understanding of the decline in moose populations. Other grants included funding to Trout Unlimited for access improvements to the South Fork of the Salmon River; funding to the Ada County Soil and Water Conservation District for reintroduction of native plant species in Boise-area foothills; and to the Henry's Fork Foundation to support monitoring the water quality of the Henry's Fork in eastern Idaho over the long term.
2. In addition to this annual grant program, the Foundation also holds various restricted endowments and non-endowed funds that are also available for Department projects throughout the year.
3. The Foundation recently welcomed a new member to its Board of Directors. Jerry Gregson is a retired wildlife biologist from Salmon. He served on the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation from 2005-2008 when his career took him out of state.
4. The Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. We hope to increase public awareness and support of the Foundation's work through a greater emphasis on marketing to promote new avenues for philanthropic giving.
5. The next meeting of the Foundation's Board of Directors will be held in Boise on December 5.
6. **ACTION ITEM:** At this time, the Foundation is seeking the appointment or reappointment of a member of the Commission to serve as liaison to the Foundation's Board of Directors in an ex officio capacity for the IFWF fiscal year which begins January 2016. This action would provide a Commission liaison term consistent with the IFWF fiscal year.