

Introduction

THE IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT

The Idaho Wildlife Summit convened this summer and facilitated a conversation among Idaho hunters, anglers, trappers and other wildlife conservationists. Discussions and presentations covered the current status and direction of wildlife management in Idaho, the need to keep it relevant to the changing values, needs, and interests of Idahoans, and to hear and understand what they expect from their state wildlife management agency.

Participants heard and watched presentations by:

- Virgil Moore, Fish and Game Director.
- Jim Posewitz, Orion: The Hunters' Institute.
- Toni Hardesty, The Nature Conservancy – Idaho.
- Tara Teel, Colorado State University.
- Shane Mahoney, Conservation Visions.
- Various videos presented throughout the program.

In addition, informational “Trading Posts” allowed face-to-face conversations with Fish and Game staff members at the booths focused on Fish and Game’s programs that support the objectives in Fish and Game’s strategic plan, The Compass.

Participants were invited to provide input throughout the Summit by:

- Visiting the Trading Posts and completing comment forms.
- Participating in the Idaho Café conversations with other participants.
- Participating in polling sessions using keypad polling devices to respond to 70 questions posed throughout the Summit.
- Completing evaluation forms to provide feedback on the Summit.
- Participating in live “chat” discussions via the Internet throughout the event.

The report includes the executive summary from survey of 1,059 randomly selected Idaho residents conducted earlier this year for the Idaho Fish and Game. The survey, typically conducted every 10 years to determine their opinions on wildlife management and wildlife-related recreation opportunities in the state, and to assess attitudes toward Fish and Game. Many of the questions were worded identically and asked on the Fishing Poll and the survey. This report summarizes the input provided by the Idaho Wildlife Summit participants.