

# Fishing Polls

Idaho's Wildlife Belongs To You

## WHAT WERE THE RESULTS



smartphones + clickers = instant results

### Fishing Poll Results

The “Fishing Poll” clicker polling was a huge success. A total of 500 keypads were handed out at all seven sites, and 631 people participated. Results here are presented as statewide totals.

The facilitator asked a question, and participants punched in their answer on the keypad numbers, in about 20 seconds. A graph instantly came up on the screen summing the answers. In addition to the keypads, participants could also text in from a smart-phone or log their answers online. Some answered the questions on paper later.

The fishing poll questions were designed to generate interest and excitement among all of you participating in the Summit and to provide insights to Fish and Game and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on strategic issues, general approaches of engaging Idahoans in wildlife conservation, and on funding approaches and mechanisms. That is, they wanted to understand how Idahoans – who hold a variety of values about wildlife – feel about the future of wildlife, about who and how to engage, and willingness to expand funding for wildlife conservation in Idaho.

Earlier this year a survey of 1,059 randomly selected Idaho residents was conducted for the Idaho Fish and Game 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.

Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore was interested in whether Idahoans think Fish and Game’s current strategic goals, as articulated in The Compass, are still appropriate. Based on the results from the Summit Fishing Polls and the survey, Moore and the Commission will decide whether The Compass needs some revision and to what extent.

Insights also will help them decide whether to pursue new revenue sources as a means of achieving strategic goals.

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### INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

“Citizenship is a verb!”

#### Information About You:

This series of questions was designed to understand participants. We wanted to know general demographics, such as age, children at home and gender, as well as level of participation in wildlife-based recreation and your engagement in sportsmen and/or conservation organizations.

- 73 percent male, 27 percent female. The men tended to be older than the women.
- 98 percent were residents.
- 68 percent live in a large or small city or suburban area.
- 66 percent reported representing themselves, 34 percent represented an organization, business, or government agency.
- 61 percent reported hunting in the past two years.
- 75 percent reported fishing in the past two years.
- 7 percent reported trapping in the past two years.
- 90 percent reported watching or photographing wildlife around the home in the past two years.
- 82 percent have purchased a hunting, fishing, or trapping license in Idaho in the past two years.

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### YOUR PERSPECTIVES

#### Your Perspectives on Wildlife:

Participants were understandably very interested in fish and wildlife in Idaho – they cared enough to attend for three days on a nice weekend. But people contacted earlier on the public survey were similarly very interested. Clearly, Idahoans care deeply about wildlife.

- 99 percent said they were personally very or somewhat interested in fish and wildlife in Idaho.
- 99 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them to know that fish and wildlife exist in Idaho.
- 98 percent said Idaho’s abundant wildlife was very or somewhat important for them, as a reason to live in Idaho when compared to other reasons.
- 99 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that fish and wildlife populations are properly managed in Idaho.
- 97 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to view fish and wildlife in Idaho.
- 98 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to fish in Idaho.
- 92 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to hunt in Idaho.

#### Jim Posewitz’s presentation:

Jim Posewitz was interested in reactions to his ideas as well as getting a feel for how much Summit participants knew about the history of the conservation ethic in this country. Idaho Fish and Game and the Commission shared an interest in how many participants actively engage in doing things that benefit wildlife.

- In the past two years, have you participated in any activities that he would consider advocacy at the local level? – 81 percent said Yes.
- You personally can make a difference in conserving fish and wildlife. – 95 percent strongly or moderately agree.

“Conservation is not a dirty word.”

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### FEATURED SPEAKERS



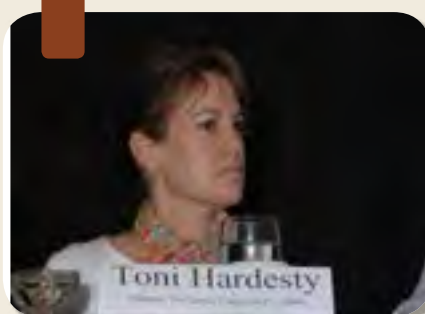
shane mahoney



jim posewitz



tara teel



toni hardesty

#### Toni Hardesty's presentation:

**W**e tried to get a sense of the scope of wildlife conservation – game, nongame, public and private lands – and a sense of willingness to collaborate in protecting wildlife habitat.

- How important do you think it is for all those interested in wildlife to work together to conserve habitat? – 98 percent said it was very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think it is to focus on both game and nongame species? – 93 percent said it very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think private lands are for maintaining habitat? – 99 percent said it was very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think private donations are in supporting Idaho's wildlife? – 93 percent said it was very important or somewhat.

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“Take someone new on your next outdoor adventure!”

### Tara Teel's presentation:

We wanted participants to identify their wildlife value orientations, and then assess how well those different perspectives are considered in making wildlife policy decisions.

Tara Teel talked about four different types of people based on their values about wildlife. Utilitarians believe wildlife should be managed for human use; Mutualists believe that humans and wildlife are meant to live in harmony; and Pluralists are a mix of both kinds. Summit participants were asked to identify with one of the four types, and were divided among three types; none were in the Distanced category – they were all interested enough to attend. Participants were asked if the perspectives of Utilitarians and Mutualists were adequately considered in wildlife management decisions.

- Participants agreed that Utilitarian perspectives were being considered – 79 percent agreed, 12 percent disagreed.
- Participants did not agree that Mutualist perspectives were being considered enough – 38 percent agreed, 40 percent disagreed.
- Both groups suggested that their needs could be considered more, but that the needs of the other groups were already being considered enough.

Summit participants who identified themselves in each wildlife value type.				
Utilitarian	Mutualist	Pluralist	Distanced	Not Sure
35 percent	13 percent	48 percent	0 percent	4 percent

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### Shane Mahoney's presentation:

**W**e wanted to get a sense of whether or not participants feel wildlife conservation is at risk, how urgent that risk feels, and the changing role of state and federal governments in wildlife conservation.

- Mahoney expressed his concern for the future of wildlife and has a great sense of urgency about that. – 90 percent shared his concern and his urgency, 8 percent shared his concern but not his urgency.
- Mahoney suggested that the broad coalition for conservation 120 years ago has fractured over time and that fracturing puts wildlife conservation in North America at great risk. – 91 percent agreed strongly or moderately.
- Mahoney suggested that wildlife will not exist in North America to the extent it has unless we adapt the conservation model of the last 120 years. – 94 percent agreed strongly or moderately.
- Do you believe that the role of state government in conserving Idaho's wildlife should increase or decrease? – 55 percent said it should increase, 32 percent said it should stay the same and 7 percent said it should decrease.
- Do you believe that the role of federal government in conserving Idaho's wildlife should increase or decrease? – 31 percent said it should increase, 31 percent said it should stay the same and 35 percent said it should decrease.

### What Issues are Important to Address?

Participants were asked 17 questions about Idaho Fish and Game's 2005 Strategic Plan (The Compass). Participants strongly indicated that all issues were quite important – 85 percent to 99 percent said very important or moderately important, except:

- Provide diverse trapping experiences – 42 percent important, 40 percent unimportant
- Provide opportunities to observe and photograph wildlife? – 78 percent important, 8 percent unimportant.

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We would like to know your opinions about the Fish and Game's funding – based on the statement that Fish and Game does not receive money from state taxes.

- Knowing this, do you support or oppose Fish and Game spending money from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, tags and permits to fund conservation or management of species that are not hunted, fished, or trapped? – 68 percent support, 23 percent oppose.

Below is a list of various ways to contribute money to Fish and Game's Nongame Program, also known as the Wildlife Diversity Program. Please let us know if you contributed through any of these in 2011.

- The Nongame Wildlife Check-off donation on state income tax form? – 40 percent yes.
- The purchase of a bluebird, elk, or trout vehicle license plate? – 46 percent yes.
- A direct donation to the Fish and Game Nongame Trust Fund? – 3 percent yes.

Summit participants were much more likely to support Fish and Game through tax-checkoff and vehicle license plates than the general public.

- Do you think the state of Idaho should invest more, about the same, or less

resources in protecting fish and wildlife habitat, land, and water in the next 2 years? – 76 percent said more, 20 percent said same, 2 percent said less.

- Do you think the state of Idaho should invest more, about the same, or less resources in protecting species that are not hunted? – 49 percent said more, 34 percent said same, 14 percent said less.

Summit participants were much more likely to support Fish and Game in investing more in fish and wildlife habitat than the general public

- How supportive would you be of efforts to identify a new revenue source for funding of Department priorities as a whole? – 90 percent said support, 5 percent said oppose.
- How supportive would you be of efforts to identify a new revenue source specifically focused on funding for conservation of species that are not hunted? – 87 percent said support, 6 percent said oppose.

Finally, we would like to know how willing you are to stay engaged with what we started here at the Idaho Wildlife Summit this weekend.

- How willing are you to continue participating in the dialogue that began with this Summit? – 96 percent said interested, 2 percent said uninterested.

“If 96 percent of Idahoans appreciate wildlife, are 96 percent of them paying? If everybody paid, then everyone would be involved.”