

Mule Deer Survival Study

Thanks to all who braved the weather and assisted with trapping and collaring mule deer in support of our ongoing survival study. At the end of December, we successfully collared 19 fawns and 2 does in Unit 32, as well as 8 fawns in Unit 22. All the animals we handled appeared healthy going into winter. The collared deer have been monitored already in January, and will be observed monthly throughout the year. Trapped near Emmett, these deer will be found as far north as McCall by next hunting season.

Big Game Season Setting

This is the time of year where IDFG sets hunting regulations for this coming fall. During this process, we use harvest data and public input to ensure that the hunting opportunity available is in balance with current population data and management objectives. We then make proposals to adjust the regulations (if necessary) and make them available for more public input before making recommendations to the commission for their decisions. For example, last year's McCall zone elk surveys indicate a growing elk herd and ample bull numbers, so you'll likely see a proposal to increase controlled hunt bull tags in 19A and 23.

Look for initial proposals on the IDFG website starting around Feb. 10. Later in February, we'll host open houses in McCall and Council. We'll also have a web-chat on March 3. As always, you can call (634-8137) or visit our office to comment on proposals, or to get more details on dates and times for open houses or web-chats. Your input is an important part of this process, and we hope to hear from you!

Landowner-Sportsmen Coordinator

We have a new Landowner-Sportsman Coordinator for the Southwest Region! Katherine Oelrich was born in southern Idaho and studied at Northwest Nazarene University and Boise State University. She first worked for IDFG in 2008 as a Wildlife Diversity Technician, then as a Research Technician for the wolf-ungulate ecology study in the Lolo and Sawtooth study areas, and on various projects in the wildlife program for the Southwest Region. Katie is excited to be in her new job, and is looking forward to meeting local landowners. You can contact her at the Nampa Regional Office at 465-8465.



Wildlife Diversity Program

Wolverines are wandering the snowy high country when most other animals have migrated or are hibernating. We recently deployed baited remote cameras at strategic locations known to be occupied by wolverines to collect photos and DNA from snagged hair. Each wolverine's fur pattern is unique, so a good quality photo can help identify known or new individuals. DNA will confirm their identity and also tell us which animals are related to each other based on a DNA database from the Rocky Mountains. Cameras will run through April.

Would you like to receive occasional McCall wildlife updates via-email? Leave your email address with the McCall IDFG staff, or send an email with the subject line "McCall Wildlife Updates" to: mccallfishandgame@idfg.idaho.gov

