



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

May 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *Fish and Game Conservation Officer*

Discretion and Decision Making

Presented by: *Jacob Berl*

Position/Title: *Senior Conservation Officer*

Agenda Item No.: *10*

Supervisor Approval: *JW/CW*

Background:

This agenda item will provide an overview of the role of Conservation Officer discretion and decision-making during Fish and Game law enforcement contacts. Conservation Officers in Idaho are a critical component of regional field operations and perform a variety of functions oriented toward ensuring positive conservation outcomes and maintaining key relationships with Idaho communities. Maintaining compliance with Fish and Game laws is central to fulfilling the mission of the department and to keeping broad public support for fish and wildlife conservation and regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping. This presentation will describe the principles of the Conservation Officer's Enforcement Creed and factors affecting information processing and decision-making when determining the outcome of fish and wildlife crimes.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho code, 36-1301 describes the power and duties of IDFG Conservation Officers and establishes the role of officers related to the enforcement of rules and proclamations promulgated by the Commission.

Idaho code, 36-1301(2) establishes that Conservation Officers who receive Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification shall have the full authority given by statute to peace officers in Idaho. All IDFG Conservation Officers receive and maintain POST advisory council certification.

Public Involvement Process:

This presentation is information only for the Commission.

Justification:

Enforcement of Fish and Game laws represents a key component of conservation in Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

None – Informational only.

Suggested Motion:

None – Informational only.