



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

January 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *History of Elk in Idaho*

Presented by: *David Dressel and Toby Boudreau*

Position/Title: *Regional Wildlife Biologist, and Deer & Elk Coordinator*

Agenda Item No.: 10

Supervisor Approval: SR

Background:

The Department's State of Deer and Elk video series has focused extensively on the management and monitoring of Idaho's deer and elk populations. These presentations are intended to be informational, providing the background and describing the inner workings of deer and elk management across the state. The goal of the series is to help inform the public about many of the factors involved in the management of deer and elk and to increase transparency of the data the Department collects and how it is used to manage deer and elk populations.

This presentation is the third installment of a segment of the series focused on describing the history of mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk in Idaho. The presentation will provide an overview of the history of elk in Idaho, the current state of elk, factors that have influenced elk distribution and abundance, and the ongoing work conducted by the Department to ensure the sustainability of elk populations in Idaho.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104(2) grants authority to the Commission to determine when an open season may be declared for the taking of wildlife. The Department is charged with preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing the state's wildlife (IC 36-103). IDAPA 13.01.08 establishes rules regarding the take of big game animals.

Public Involvement Process:

N/A.

Justification:

This presentation is informational for the Commission and a version of the presentation will become part of the Department's State of Deer and Elk informational video series to share with the public.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – informational only.

Suggested Motion:

N/A – informational only.