



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

*Date: January 29, 2025*

*Agenda Item No. 11*

*Agenda Item: Big Game Season Setting Preview*

*Bureau Chief Approval: SR*

*Prepared by: Rick Ward*

*Position/Title: State Wildlife Manager*

### **Background:**

Staff will preview the upcoming big game season setting process and discuss public outreach plans and timelines leading up to the March 2025 Commission meeting.

In addition, staff will present recommendations from two regional working groups that met during 2024, the *Dworshak Elk Working Group* in the Clearwater Region and the *Southeast Region Mule Deer Advisory Committee*. Staff will discuss the reasons the working groups were established, objectives set by the groups, the processes used to reach final recommendations, and the Department's role in guiding that process. Staff will provide an assessment of potential effects of the recommendations and how those effects align with Department objectives for big game and hunting opportunity. Lastly, staff will provide an overview of how they propose to scope the working group recommendations with the public.

### **Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

Information on the status of big game species will be made available to the public online and during regional scoping in February 2025. The Department will collect public input on season proposals at that time. Scoping results will be presented to the Commission as part of the big game season setting presentation in March 2025.

### **Justification:**

Information will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, recommendations, or other input from the public.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information only.