



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

January 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *Evaluation Process for Translocating Elk, Deer, and Pronghorn in Idaho*

Presented by: *Katie Oelrich*

Position/Title: *Natural Resources Program Coordinator*

Agenda Item No.: 11

Supervisor Approval: SR

Background:

Translocation of wildlife is a management tool used to support specific objectives such as establishing new populations, augmenting existing ones, and achieving specific conservation or recreational objectives. Because translocation involves substantial logistical, biological, and social considerations, its use requires careful evaluation and detailed planning to ensure the best chance of achieving desired outcomes. It should be applied within the broader context of available management strategies and considered only where conditions indicate it is appropriate and likely to succeed.

To support consistent, well-informed decision-making, a guidance document has been developed for staff considering translocation projects involving elk, deer, and pronghorn. This document presents a two-step framework to assess whether a translocation is warranted and feasible, and to identify factors that influence the likelihood of achieving management goals. The purpose of this draft framework is to ensure that any translocation undertaken is supported by a well-designed plan that maximizes the probability of a successful outcome.

This presentation will provide the Commission with an overview of the draft guidance document.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission is charged with administering wildlife policy, and through the Department, is responsible for preserving, protecting, perpetuating and managing the state's wildlife (Idaho Code § 36-103).

Public Involvement Process:

The Department has not directly engaged the public on these topics, but this Commission action item was publicly noticed.

Justification:

This presentation is for Commission information. Information presented will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, recommendations, or other input from the public regarding the decision-making process for translocating wildlife.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – informational only.



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Suggested Motion:

N/A – informational only.