IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

November 2026 Commission Meeting ***Agenda Item No.:*** *14*
Agenda Item: *Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Overview, Opportunities, and Challenges* ***Supervisor Approval:*** *SR*
Presented by: *Jessica Barker*
Position/Title: *Regional Wildlife Biologist*

Background:
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) owns and manages 31 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) across the state. These WMAs vary in size, purpose, and habitat type but all have the purpose of preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the fish and game of Idaho. While managing for various species in different habitats, all WMAs manage the land for public opportunity, coordinate with various agencies and landowners, manage habitat for wildlife, and deal with invasive weeds. The largest Wildlife Management Area in the state is the Craig Mountain WMA.

Craig Mountain WMA consists of 88,000 acres of land owned by IDFG but coordinates with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) who all own land adjacent to IDFG. Like many other WMAs who coordinate with partners, IDFG cooperatively manages Craig Mountain WMA with partners for wildlife and habitat management, hunting, fishing, trapping, and compatible outdoor recreation activities. In addition to working with partners, we work to keep or restore habitat for wildlife by implementing habitat projects, invasive weed management, and maintaining facilities for efficient locations for conducting work and storing equipment.

The goal of this presentation is to provide the Commission with an overview of general management operational challenges of WMAs across the state, focusing on specific examples from the Craig Mountain WMA. In addition, the goal is to highlight some of the more unique opportunities and challenges associated with managing land for wildlife, habitat, and compatible public uses.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:
The Department is charged with preserving, protecting, perpetuating and managing the stat's wildlife (Idaho Code 36-103). Idaho Code 36-10(9b) grants authority to the Commission to adopt rules for the use of lands owned or controlled by the Department. IDAPA 13.01.03 establishes rules on public use of lands owned or controlled by the Department.

Public Involvement Process:
N/A.

Justification:
Information presented will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, recommendations, or other input from the public regarding Wildlife Management Areas.

Staff Recommendation:
N/A – Informational only.