



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

November 2025 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *History of White-tailed Deer in Idaho*

Presented by: *Kenny Randall and Toby Boudreau*

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

Agenda Item No.: 15

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 innerworkings of deer and elk management across the state. The purpose of this series is to address the "whys" and "how's" of wildlife management, while linking on-the-ground work conducted by the Department to management outcomes.

This presentation will focus on white-tailed deer and is the second of three installments 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 white-tailed deer in Idaho, the factors that influenced deer distribution and abundance over time, the current state of white-tailed deer, and the ongoing work conducted by the Department to ensure the sustainability of white-tailed deer populations in Idaho.

The goal of the State of Deer and Elk 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.

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. This agenda item is for Commission and public information only.

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. This agenda item is for Commission and public information only.