IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

November 2026 Commission Meeting ***Agenda Item No.:*** *17*
Agenda Item: *Application of IDAPA 13.01.16.450.03.i—Director or Regional Supervisor Authorization to Place Ground Sets on Snow-Covered Routes* ***Supervisor Approval:*** *JR*
Presented by: *Carson Watkins*
Position/Title: Regional Supervisor

Background:
This item will provide the IDFG Commission with historical perspective on the development and purpose of IDAPA Chapter 16 rules allowing Director or Regional Supervisor authorization to place ground sets on snow-covered routes. Administrative rule 13.01.16.450 defines trap setback requirements and prohibits the placement of ground set traps on, across, or within any public right of way (defined by 36-202), except on snow-covered routes or "public highways" as authorized by the Director or Regional Supervisor. Negotiated rulemaking was conducted in 2025–2026 to allow agency discretion in the designation of public highways exempt from rules requiring ground set traps to be placed outside of the right-of-way. The rule change was ratified during the Idaho legislature's 2026 session and stemmed from a practical desire by wolf trappers to place in-route and route adjacent ground sets closer to wolf travel pathways or where route delineation is obfuscated by snow. The agency has developed a formal procedure to guide application of the new rule that maintains calibrated implementation among regions. This presentation will inform Commissioners about elements of the procedure and provide information related to where a trap setback variance may be applied under agency procedure.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:
IDAPA 13.01.16.450.03.i
Idaho Gray Wolf Management Plan 2023–2028

Public Involvement Process:
Administrative rule 13.01.16.450.03.i was developed following Idaho Code Section 67-5220 of the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act. Interested public provided input and helped shape draft rule development.

Justification:
The Commission has traditionally reviewed and approved many wildlife management actions where agency authority is granted by statute or rule. Therefore, the Department seeks Commission concurrence and input on this procedure and the spatial application of trap setback variance to promote wolf harvest.

Staff Recommendation:
None—informational only

Suggested Motion:
None—informational only