



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

*Date: January 29, 2025*

*Agenda Item No. 5C*

*Agenda Item: Black Bear Management Plan (ACTION)*

*Bureau Chief Approval: SR*

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### **Background:**

Department staff presented an overview of the draft *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030* at the Commission's November 2024 meeting. This management plan is intended to set direction for black bear management in Idaho and to function as the action plan for black bear management activities through 2030. This management plan provides needed updates to current information and identifies major issues affecting black bear management. This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization and provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

The draft *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030* was released for 21 days of public comment in November 2024. The Department received 246 individual comments, including comments from several groups (Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Western Watersheds Project, and Safari Club International). Residents provided 88% of the comments. During this presentation, staff will provide a more in-depth review of public input received on the draft plan, overview revisions made in response to that input, and present a proposed final plan for Commission action.

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

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents for management actions and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030* will function as the action plan for black bear management in Idaho.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

The draft *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030* was posted on the Department website for public review and comment for 21 days, from November 12 – December 3, 2024. Comments were collected via an online webform, email, and phone calls.



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**Justification:**

The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. This plan will guide management actions and monitoring activities for black bears in Idaho through 2030.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The staff recommendation is for the Commission to adopt the *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030*.

**Suggested Motion:**

I move the Commission adopt the *Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025–2030*.