



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

### **May 2025 Commission Meeting**

**Agenda Item:** Commission Direction for Animal Damage Control Board Funds **(Action)**

**Prepared by:** Tricia Hebdon

**Position/Title:** Assistant Bureau Chief, Wildlife

**Agenda Item No.:** 5G

**Bureau Chief Approval:** SR

### **Background:**

Idaho law directs the annual transfer of \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for prevention and control of damage caused by predatory animals and other vertebrate pests to agriculture production in Idaho. Idaho law authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

Typically, the Commission has directed \$50,000 to support USDA Wildlife Services activities identified in the 2006 MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board for general control of predatory animals.

The Commission has typically directed the remaining \$50,000 for specific wildlife management activities, such as intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative, feral hog control in the Bruneau Valley, or activities under Idaho's American White Pelican Management Plan.

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

Idaho Code 36-112 directs the annual transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the fish and game fund to the animal damage control fund. To maintain eligibility for Idaho's receipt of federal excise tax funds for wildlife conservation, fish management and restoration, and public shooting ranges (such as the Pittman-Robertson Act excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment), the Commission must maintain control of its license funds. Idaho Code 36-112 maintains this control by requiring the Animal Damage Control Board to follow Commission direction for funding depredation control activities using these funds.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

The public may comment on this topic at the Commission meeting.

### **Justification:**

Commission direction on the expenditure of Department funds is required.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU. Staff further recommends the remaining \$50,000 be divided, with \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation



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control of black bears and mountain lions and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities to manage the effects of piscivorous birds (mainly pelicans) on fisheries resources.

Staff will prepare a letter for the Chair's signature reflecting the Commission's directions to the Animal Damage Control Board.

**Suggested Motion:**

I move the Commission direct the Animal Damage Control Board to expend the transferred Idaho Fish and Game funds during state fiscal year 2026 as follows: \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU, \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation control of black bears and mountain lions, and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities to manage the effects of piscivorous birds on fisheries resources.