



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

May 2025 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF)
Bond for Nampa Hatchery (**Action**)

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Position/Title: Foundation Development Coordinator

Agenda Item No.: 7A

Bureau Chief Approval: AW

Background:

The Department of Fish and Game ("Department") is pursuing necessary infrastructure reconstruction of the Nampa Fish Hatchery ("NFH"). It would like to propose this project to Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("IFWF") as something to consider partial financing for on behalf of the Department. The Department has completed design work and received bid proposals for construction.

NFH is located at 3806 S Powerline Rd, Nampa, ID 83686 and is the largest producer of rainbow trout in the state. It raises and stocks 500,000 fish yearly to every region in the state. The reconstruction of NFH would span from fiscal year 2025 to 2027, and entails reconstructing and reconfiguring the water supply headworks, main raceways, and the waste collection and discharge system. The existing raceway floors are approximately 2.5 feet below the operating surface elevation of the settling pond, making dewatering the raceways for cleaning impossible (increasing the probability of disease). A steel pavilion will also be added to cover the new raceways to exclude predators, offer weather protection to staff, provide better temperature control in the raceways, and increase the biosecurity of the facility. The current facility is nearing the end of its operational life. Widespread issues such as cracking concrete, frozen valves and non-functioning drain systems make renovation impractical.

The lowest responsible bid for this project is \$18,077,012, which breaks down to \$13,148,012 for the raceways, water supply headworks, and waste system, and \$4,929,000 for the steel pavilion around the raceways. In addition, we would budget up to an additional \$1,157,988 for contingencies and cost of issuance, with a total cost not to exceed \$19,235,000.

The Department is self-funded, and this project represents a large outlay of cash in a short period of time. As such, the Department proposes spending \$5,000,000 of its own funds on the front end and would like IFWF to consider the merits and feasibility of short-term financing for the balance of \$14,235,000 with repayment over a period of approximately 6 years. This option would also allow the Department to include the steel pavilion in the project, extending the life of the raceways and providing important biosecurity.

If the proposed funding is approved, the Department would utilize its annual \$3,000,000 base budget (spending authority) for hatchery deferred maintenance for repayment. Additionally, it received approval to reappropriate \$5,000,000 of its deferred maintenance



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budget from FY 2025 which would be used in FY 2026 for the initial infusion of Department funds into the project.

IRS rules allow the Foundation to issue tax-exempt Bonds on behalf of the Department. However, in order to comply with these IRS rules, the Commission, in its management and oversight role for the Department, must first approve the purposes and activities of the Foundation and the issuance of the Bonds. The Commission must additionally agree to accept full legal and unencumbered title to the Project upon retirement of the Bonds. For these reasons, the Commission is being provided the principal financing documents and, by adoption of the provided resolution, approving said documents, the issuance of the Bonds, and agreeing to accept title upon retirement of the same. Notwithstanding said approval, the Bonds, once issued, remain the obligation of the Foundation as set forth in the financing documents.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Justification:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

The Foundation requests that the Idaho Fish & Game Commission approve the following for the Idaho Department of Fish & Game Nampa Hatchery Project.

Suggested Motion:

The Foundation requests that the Idaho Fish & Game Commission adopt and approve the provided bond documents related to the financing of the Idaho Department of Fish & Game infrastructure reconstruction of the Nampa Fish Hatchery.