



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

July 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: ISDA Domestic Cervid Industry Update

Presented by: Chanel Tewalt and Scott Leibsle

Position/Title: Director and State Veterinarian, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Agenda Item No.: 7

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Background:

In 1994, the Fish and Game Commission was charged with regulation of the domestic cervid industry in Idaho, following the addition of cervid-farming statutes to Idaho Code 25-3701. In 2005, a legislative change transferred all functions related to domestic cervids from the Fish and Game Commission to the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Division of Animal Industries.

Since 2005, ISDA has overseen the industry through comprehensive statutes and IDAPA Rules governing Domestic Cervids 02.04.19; which designate elk, fallow deer, and reindeer as livestock and require facility registration, premises inspections, animal identification, health testing (CWD, tuberculosis, and brucellosis), recordkeeping, disease surveillance (including quarantine procedures), and impose penalties for noncompliance.

ISDA will present on the statutory and regulatory framework that supports domestic cervid farming as an agricultural pursuit and explain how the program works in Idaho.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Captive cervid industry requirements in Idaho are outlined in statute (25-3701) and IDAPA (02.04.19).

Public Involvement Process:

The public will have opportunity to comment on the agenda item at the Commission public meeting.

Justification:

The information presented will aid Commissioner understanding of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's responsibilities and jurisdictions as they relate to the domestic cervid industry in Idaho to facilitate their responses to requests, recommendations, or other questions from the public.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – Informational only.