



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

May 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *Improving Wildlife Management Planning*

Presented by: *Shane Roberts*

Position/Title: *Chief, Wildlife*

Agenda Item No.: 8

Supervisor Approval: SR

Background:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game writes and maintains (i.e., review and revision on 6-year interval) a total of 14 wildlife game species management plans, 5 predation management plans (4 terrestrial, 1 piscivorous bird), a plan for the management of wolverine/fisher/lynx, and the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan that together guide the conservation and management of wildlife populations and their habitats in Idaho.

The writing/revision of each game species management plan typically requires over one year of work from a diverse team of 8-20+ IDFG staff representing multiple bureaus and programs. Although the plans are extremely professional documents that cover a wealth of information, there are drawbacks to the traditional format beyond the extensive resources needed to create them. Each plan's single-species focus doesn't facilitate efficient consideration and prioritization of planned management actions across the wide range of species/habitats IDFG is charged with managing and conserving, which can lead to inefficiency, duplication, and potentially conflicting management objectives. Additionally, there are sections of the traditional plan format that aren't regularly used for reference after plan completion, which suggests room for improved efficiency. A new wildlife planning format could facilitate the consideration and prioritization of objectives across all game species that would better align with the 6-year planning timeline, could eliminate objective duplication and conflict, and could better organize and deliver the most important information in fewer total documents to those using the plans both internally and externally.

As demands on state resources continue to grow, IDFG is committed to evaluating traditional workflows to improve overall efficiency. This presentation will outline a proposal to gather and use input from IDFG staff and our conservation partners to inform a redesign of IDFG's wildlife management planning documents to improve their efficiency and effectiveness, while simultaneously decreasing demands associated with plan development and maintenance. The concepts of prioritization to efficiently use resources and simplification are also reflected in the Department's 2026 Strategic Plan.

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). IDFG's wildlife management plans are guiding documents for the management of wildlife in Idaho and are a direct reflection of the Department's Strategic Plan.



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Public Involvement Process:

The Department routinely collects public input to form the wildlife management direction in IDFG's current wildlife management plans through a variety of public surveys, public scoping, and in-person engagement opportunities (e.g., open houses). The intent would be to retain this extensive public engagement opportunity through any redesign of the format of the management planning documents.

Justification:

The Commission has traditionally reviewed and approved IDFG's game species management plans. Therefore, Department staff seek Commission concurrence and input on pursuing a planning format redesign to improve planning document efficiency and effectiveness.

Staff Recommendation:

None – Informational only.

Suggested Motion:

None – Informational only.