

Meeting Date: May 19, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5E

Agenda Item: Adopt Furbearer Management Plan (**Action**) **Bureau Chief Approval:** JR

Prepared by: Cory Mosby, Furbearer Staff Biologist

Background:

Staff presented an overview of the draft Furbearer Management Plan at the Commission's March 2022 meeting. The previous Furbearer Management Plan was implemented in 1990. The intent of the revision to the Furbearer Management Plan is to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of furbearer populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations.

This plan provides updated guidance and identifies priorities for in the management and conservation of this suite of species over the next 6 years.

Staff will provide a review of public comments received on the draft plan at the meeting.

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 to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The Furbearer Management Plan will function as the action plan for furbearer management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The draft Furbearer Management Plan was posted on the Department's website on March 28, 2022 and comments were accepted through April 20, 2022 (24 days).

Public input summary:

- 59 unique submissions with 39 written comments.
- 93% of respondents were Idaho residents.
- When asked to indicate their satisfaction with the plan:
 - 58% (n=34) of respondents generally supported the plan
 - 34% (n=20) of respondents supported the plan with some concerns
 - 8% (n=5) of respondents did not support the plan

Upon review of comments, it was decided that no substantive changes to the draft plan were needed, and the final draft in consideration for adoption is unchanged from the draft presented during the March 2022 Commission meeting.

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. The Furbearer Management Plan will guide management actions, monitoring activities, and harvest season recommendations through 2027.

Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommendation is to adopt the Idaho Furbearer Management Plan (2022-2027) as presented.

Suggested Motion: That the Commission adopt the Idaho Furbearer Management Plan (2022-2027).