

Meeting Date: January 27, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5G

Agenda Item: Wild Turkey Management Plan
(Action)

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Don Jenkins, Natural Resource Program Coordinator and John O'Neill,
Regional Farm Bill Coordinator

Background:

Staff presented an overview of the development of the Wild Turkey Management Plan (Plan) at the Commission's November 2020 meeting. A second update and a draft plan were presented to the Commission at the November 2021 meeting and the Commission approved the plan for release to the public for review and input at that time.

This Plan provides guidance to the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will enhance wild turkey habitat and populations in Idaho. This is the Department's first management plan specific to wild turkeys. This Plan will function as the action plan for wild turkey management in Idaho during the next 6 years (2022-2027). It identifies major issues that affect wild turkeys and sets the overall direction for turkey management. The Plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization, and will provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will update the Commission on revisions made to the draft plan since the November meeting. A final plan will be presented to the Commission 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 Wild Turkey Management Plan will function as the action plan for wild turkey management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The draft Wild Turkey Management Plan was posted on the Department's website on November 20, 2021 and comments were accepted through December 10, 2021 (21 days). A summary of public input will be provided to the Commission during the meeting.

Public input summary:

- 52 unique submissions with 38 written comments.
- 96% of respondents were Idaho residents.
- When asked to indicate their satisfaction with the plan:
 - 60% (n=31) of respondents generally supported the plan
 - 29% (n=15) of respondents supported the plan with some concerns
 - 11% (n=6) of respondents did not support the plan

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.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends adoption of the Idaho Wild Turkey Management Plan (2022-2027).

Suggested Motion: I motion that the Commission adopt the Idaho Wild Turkey Management Plan (2022-2027).