

**Meeting Date:** November 15, 2022

**Agenda Item No. 6 a.**

**Agenda Item:** Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation Report

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Hilarie Engle

**Background:**

Commission has requested updates about the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation activities.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Staff Recommendation:**

Present update as follows.

**Justification:**

Requested by Commission.

**1. 2022 IFWF Competitive Grants (\$107,879):**

**Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge (\$3,640) - Pollinator Garden Expansion:** To partner with the community, Deer Flat NWR, Friends of Deer Flat, the Deer Flat Chapter of Idaho Master Naturalists, and the Nampa Garden Club to expand a pollinator garden located between the Refuge Visitor Center and Lake Lowell.

**The Mayfly Project (\$5,890) - The Mayfly Project Idaho Falls Chapter:** To support the project in Idaho Falls. They will serve 9 children in foster care that reside at a local group home this summer.

**The Nature Conservancy in Idaho (\$10,000) - Jantz Farm Conservation Easement:** Located in a crucial area, the protection of Jantz Farm will complement, and further secure, decades of public and private work to permanently protect this critical wildlife movement area.

**Boise Valley Fly Fishers (\$7,114) - Diane Moore Nature Center River Access Trail:** To build a 100 ft. path with steps to the Boise River to control erosion and protect native plants while continuing to allow public access.

**Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. (\$5,000) - Raptor Flight Barn - Final Phase:** To support the completion of the final phase of construction for the SWS Flight Barn. The Flight Barn facility is a 20' X 50' pole-barn structure, used for flight testing, housing, and rehabilitating injured and/or orphaned birds of prey (falcons, hawks, owls, and eagles).

**The Game Bird Foundation (\$6,235)** - Private Lands Habitat Enhancement: To assist in the purchase of materials for establishing habitat with our members and excited landowners. Grant funds will be used to purchase bunch grass and pollinator habitat seed and to cover costs for tractor rental.

**Idaho Museum of Natural History (\$10,000)** - Raising Water Awareness with Stream Table: To purchase a portable Stream Table (EM2 model by EMRiver) to be used as an educational resource both in the museum and for off-site outreach events. Museum educators will use the stream table to engage K-12 learners with hands-on lessons about river processes and how rivers connect fish, wildlife, and people across our mountainous state.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (\$10,000)** - Restoration Nursery at Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge: To implement a native plant nursery program for propagating native seeds and cuttings collected from our refuge to improve habitat, combat the spread of invasive species, foster partnerships with other land management agencies, and promote environmental stewardship through public engagement.

#### **IDFG Only Grants- \$25,000**

**Magic Valley Region (Region 4)** - Communicating the Science Behind Wildlife Migrations & Increasing Technical Assistance: IDFG seeks to purchase seven (7) video camera-enabled GPS radio collars. The primary purposes of these collars as it relates to the Owinza Butte migration corridor include:

- Production of educational content that includes videos and migration visualizations of individual animals, documenting their seasonal migration and subsequent habitat use.
- Production of educational materials that focuses on the importance of preserving migration corridors in Idaho, with a focus on the myriad of human-built barriers encountered by deer and pronghorn during their twice-annual migrations.
- Evaluation of pronghorn and mule deer barrier interactions (i.e., highways, fences, canals, railroads, etc.).
- Development of content that will enhance collaboration with partners on future projects (i.e., ITD, BLM, Sawtooth National Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, city and county governments, private landowners, and NGOs).
- Facilitate data transfer and interpretation to the IDFG Technical Assistance Bureau on proposed land use projects and activities within the Owinza Butte migration corridor including transportation and renewable energy projects.

**Upper Snake Region (Region 6)** - Indian Fork Stream Restoration Project, Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality lists Tex Creek as one of many creeks in the Willow Creek watershed that exceeds the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and temperature to support cold-water aquatic life and salmonid spawning. The Tex Creek sub-watershed in the Willow Creek drainage supports native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Improving native cutthroat trout populations and riparian habitat are the top 2 management objectives for the Willow

Creek drainage outlined in the current Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Fisheries Management Plan.

Improving the riparian area and floodplain connectivity of Indian Fork, the largest tributary of Tex Creek, has been identified as a priority project on TCWMA due to moderate down-cutting, presence of some woody riparian vegetation, simple access for restoration, current intermittent flows in the lower reaches, and potential benefit to multiple management species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Overall, this work will increase the acreage of the riparian footprint within the Indian Fork drainage that supports a wide variety of fish and wildlife species including mule deer, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, northern leopard frog, and willow flycatcher.

## **2. Wildlife License Plate Sales**

The Wildlife Plates continued to have growth in 2021, a 30% increase over 2020.

### **New Sales 2020-2021**

Bluebird-	2466, 91% increase over 2020
Elk-	3790, 95% increase over 2020
Trout-	2125, 84% increase over 2020

### **Renewals 2020-2021**

Bluebird-	2403, 19% increase over 2020
Elk-	3108, 14% increase over 2020
Trout-	2310, 23% increase over 2020

Total New Plate Sales- 17,606 (2021) vs. 9,225 (2020)

Total Renewals- 52,779 (2021) vs. 44,958 (2020)

Total contributions programs:

Bluebird- Non-game program:	\$1,350,830.50
Elk-Dept of Ag:	\$ 33,259.75
Trout-Parks & Rec	\$ 32,055.00

## **3. IFWF Next Meeting:**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting virtually

**Meeting Date:** November 15, 2022

**Agenda Item No. 6 b.**

**Agenda Item:** Selection of Fish and Game  
Commission Liaison to Idaho Fish & Wildlife  
Foundation

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Hilarie Engle

**Background:** The Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation's (IFWF) Board of Directors has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission. A term of the MOU is that the Commission will designate a Commissioner who may attend IFWF board meetings as the liaison between IFWF and the Commission. The Commission designates a liaison annually. The 2022 Liaison was Commissioner Cameron.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** The Commission has the policy authority to define its relationship with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and to designate a liaison.

**Public Involvement Process:** Action of the Commission is a public process.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the following motion to designate a Commission liaison for 2023:

*I move that Commissioner XXXX serves as the 2023 Commission Liaison to the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation.*

**Justification:** A Commission liaison is important for the implementation of the MOU and relationship with the IFWF.