

Meeting Date: July 23, 2020

Agenda Item No. 5.A.

**Agenda Item: Commission Direction of Animal
Damage Control Board Funds
(Action)**

Bureau Chief Approval: TB

Prepared by: Martha Wackenhut

Background:

Idaho statute provides for the annual transfer of \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for control of predatory animals and birds. Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

Typically, \$50,000 has been directed by the Commission to support Wildlife Services activities identified in the MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board for general control of predatory animals.

The additional \$50,000 has been directed for specific wildlife management activities such as intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative, wolf control in elk management zones at or below management objectives, feral pig control in the Bruneau Valley, and raven control conducted in SW and SE Idaho.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho code 36-112 provides that the State Controller shall annually, by August 1 of each year, transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Fish and Game fund to the Animal Damage Control fund. The state Animal Damage Control Board in using these moneys shall follow Fish and Game Commission direction on actions regarding predatory animals or birds forwarded by the Department by the same date.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Justification:

Commission direction on expenditure of Department funds is required.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU. Staff further recommends the remaining \$50,000 be divided, with \$25,000 going to control wolves, black bears and mountain lions and \$25,000 going to assist in the implementation of the State American White Pelican Plan.

Staff will have a letter prepared for the Commission Chairman's signature at the conclusion of this agenda item.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopts staff recommendation to direct \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the MOU, \$25,000 for control of wolves, black bears and mountain lions and \$25,000 for assistance in the implementation of the State American White Pelican Plan.