

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Headquarters
January 14-15, 2026
Boise, Idaho**

January 14

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Meeting

Chairman Dave Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. MST and reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing and reported that all public comments would be reviewed by the Commission at the Thursday business meeting. Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies were present. Commissioner Tim Murphy was virtual.

The following individuals provided in person testimony: Matt Borg, Jon Hall, Pat Ropega, Kyle Maki, Rusty Kramer, Braden Landon, Chuck Gee, Don Colter, Ella Driever, Jeff Abrams, and Sallie Morse.

January 15

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. MST. Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies were present. Commissioner Tim Murphy was virtual.

Review of Public Comment

Director Fredericks provided a summary of public comments. There were approximately thirty members of the public in attendance, with ten individuals providing oral testimony and six individuals submitting written comments.

- A commenter expressed support for the IDFG Strategic Plan Update, noting appreciation for the outreach efforts and interest in reviewing the final draft.
- A commenter also speaking to the IDFG Strategic Plan Update voiced concern with the plan's emphasis on human use of wildlife, stating that wildlife should not be viewed solely as a commodity managed for people.
- A commenter addressing the Upland Game, Furbearer, and Falconry Season Setting asked that, if the pheasant season is extended in southeast Idaho, the Department monitor hunter participation and potential impacts on pheasant populations.
- A commenter related to the Upland Game, Furbearer, and Falconry Season Setting testified in support of additional water trapping opportunities, extension of seasons, and an increase in river otter quotas.

- Several commenters addressing the Update on Rulemaking expressed frustration with the process used to develop technology-related rules, particularly the late inclusion of all big game species rather than limiting the rules to ungulates. Commenters conveyed a broader concern that public input was not adequately considered.
- A commenter related to the Update on Rulemaking raised specific concerns regarding mountain lion seasons.
- A commenter speaking to the Jacks Creek (Owyhee) Bighorn Sheep Augmentation Update expressed support for the recent augmentation effort and appreciation for the partnership between the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation and the Department.
- A commenter addressing the Fisher Augmentation Program expressed support for the program and appreciation for the partnership between the Idaho Trappers Association and the Department.
- A commenter related to the Depredation Compensation Alternative Tag Concept Update stated they looked forward to the presentation later in the meeting and acknowledged the importance of addressing elk depredation conflicts on agricultural operations, while also expressing concern about the potential sale of tags.
- A commenter provided testimony unrelated to the agenda, expressing concerns with the Department's technical input process as it relates to a proposed shooting range near Eagle, Idaho.
- Written comments were submitted expressing concern over declining biodiversity and the management of native carnivores, including mortalities associated with predator management and trapping.
- Additional written comments raised concerns regarding the wording of technology-related rules and the process used to develop those rules.
- Written comments were also received opposing increases in river otter quotas and the lifting of beaver trapping closures in certain areas.
- One written submission suggested consideration of a 365-day fishing license valid from the date of purchase rather than the current calendar-year license structure.

Consent Calendar

Financial Report

Jon Oswald, Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 01).

26-01 Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion to accept the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

IDFG Strategic Plan Update

Adam Park, Chief, Communications, and Anne Wescott, Strategic Plan Consultant, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 02).

26-02 Commissioner Davies made a motion to adopt the IDFG Strategic Plan 2026 as presented. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Upland Game, Furbearer, and Falconry Season Setting

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game/Migratory Game Bird Coordinator, and Cory Mosby, Natural Resource Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 03).

26-03 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for 2026 and 2027 Upland Game, Turkey, and Falconry seasons as presented. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

26-04 Commissioner Murphy moved the Commission adopt staff recommendations for 2026 and 2027 Upland Game, Turkey, Furbearer, and Falconry Seasons as presented, with a modification that the Southwest River Otter Harvest Quota be set at 30 with a corresponding adjustment to the Statewide Quota, which is consistent with the smaller stepwise quota increase originally requested by the Idaho Trappers Association. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS

Turkey Tag Discount Order

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game/Migratory Game Bird Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 04).

26-05 Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion that the Commission adopt a discount order for specific turkey tags in the 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons as presented by staff. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

2026 Owyhee Bighorn Sheep Seasons

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 05).

26-06 Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations to close the 2026 California bighorn sheep hunting season in Hunt Area 41 (Hunt #7002). Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

LEGISLATION

Update on Legislation

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 06).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Update on Rulemaking

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 07).

MISCELLANEOUS**Nonresident Tag Draw Update**

Tara Reichert, License Operations Manager, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 08).

2025 Outfitter Use Report

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, and Tara Reichert, License Operations Manager, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 09).

REPORTS**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update**

Stacey Dauwalter, Wildlife Health Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 10).

MISCELLANEOUS**History of Elk in Idaho**

David Dressel, Regional Wildlife Biologist, and Toby Boudreau, Deer/Elk Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 11).

Evaluations Process for Translocating Elk, Deer, and Pronghorn in Idaho

Katie Oelrich, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, Regan Berkley, Regional Wildlife Manager, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 12).

REPORTS**Jacks Creek (Owyhee) Bighorn Sheep Augmentation Update**

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 13).

MISCELLANEOUS**Fisher Augmentation Program**

Cory Mosby, Natural Resource Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 14).

Idaho Native Nongame Fish Program

Brett Bowersox, Natural Resource Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 15).

REPORTS

Depredation Compensation Alternative Tag Concept Update

Dan Garren, Regional Supervisor, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 16).

Director's Report

Director Fredericks highlighted items from each Bureau in the Director's Report.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 59, Exhibit 17).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 24th – 25th, 2026, in Boise, Idaho.

Executive Session

26-07 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commission Roach seconded a motion, that the Commission go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections 1 (f). Motion carries.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies.

The Commission discussed litigation matters.

26-08 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Davies seconded a motion, that the Commission come out of executive session with the record to reflect that no final action was taken. Motion carries.

Open Session

Adjourn 2:30 p.m. MST

Dave Bobbitt
Chairman

Jim Fredericks
Secretary