

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Headquarters
January 28-29, 2025
Boise, Idaho**

January 28

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Meeting

Chairman Ron Davies 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 Wednesday business meeting. Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies were present.

The following individuals provided in person testimony: Matt Borg, Brayden Landon, Jeff Abram, Ron Taylor, Tyler Strickland, Bill London, Rusty Kramer, Roseanne Noble, Luke Kidd, Travis Bullock, Rachel Kidd, and Muffy Davis.

January 29

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order at 8:00 am MST. Commissioners Bobbitt, Ebert, Murphy, Roach, Cheirrett, Harshbarger, and Davies was present.

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Review of Public Comment

Director Fredericks provided a summary of the public comments. There were forty members of the public in attendance with twelve people providing testimony.

- Several commenters requested restoring two weeks of bear hunting in Region 3, particularly for hound hunting.
- One commenter advocated for opening mountain lion seasons earlier in Regions 4 and 5.
- Multiple commenters expressed concerns about elk displacing deer and recommended shifting the Department's focus from predator control to deer population restoration.
- Several commenters raised wolf management concerns. Some requested allowing wolf trapping in GMUs 48 and 49, while others opposed trapping in these areas due to tourism impacts. There were calls to expand thermal hunting, find compromises to reduce conflicts, and focus on non-lethal wolf control methods. Some noted that wolf predation could help limit the spread of CWD, while others highlighted that wolf harvests can increase depredation due to pack disruptions.

- One commenter praised the Department's efforts in managing CWD in free-ranging wildlife and requested stronger oversight of captive wildlife facilities to ensure compliance with regulations.
- A commenter expressed support for the Department's strategic planning revisions, encouraging public engagement. There was also enthusiasm for the Rocky Point Wildlife Crossing project.
- One commenter criticized past decisions to cut hunting seasons without public input and requested maintaining the current season structure, with adjustments to allow hound hunting in September.
- Multiple commenters supported increasing hunting tags, realigning boundaries, and eliminating tags where necessary. Some expressed disappointment with the reductions in Units 41 and 42 but ultimately supported the changes.
- One commenter emphasized the need for improved management of the Owyhee herd.
- A commenter highlighted the high costs of wolf hunting and trapping, requesting greater financial incentives to support these efforts.
- One commenter requested reviewing the Paddock Fire's impact and considering a delay in shed hunting season.

Consent Calendar

Minutes November 6-7, 2025
Financial Report

25-01 Chairman Davies asked if there were any objections to adoption of the Consent Calendar (Minutes & Financial Report). The Consent Calendar was adopted without objection.

MISCELLANEOUS

Price Lock Opt-In

Jon Oswald, Bureau Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 01).

25-02 Commissioner Bobbitt moved that the Commission amend Order No. 22-20 to discontinue the ability to become newly eligible for Price Lock through purchase of a three-year license or lifetime license certifications after March 5, 2025. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 02).

25-03 Commissioner Cheirrett moved that the Commission adopt the staff recommendations for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat hunting seasons, tag numbers, and hunt boundaries for

the 2025 and 2026 seasons as presented. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Black Bear Management Plan

Shane Roberts, Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 03).

25-04 Commissioner Murphy moved that the Commission adopt the Idaho Black Bear Management Plan 2025-2030. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS

Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group Recommendations

Tara Reichert, Automated System Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 04).

25-05 Commissioner Ebert moves that the Commission support the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group's (NRTIAG) recommendation to implement a Draw system. He also motioned that all other recommendations made by NRTIAG should remain under consideration but be treated as secondary to the Draw system recommendation. Additionally, he requested that the Director provide an update at every Commission meeting until the Draw system is fully executed. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

LEGISLATION

Update on Rulemaking CY 2024 Rules Status and Zero-Based Regulation Chapters

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director of Programs and Policy, gave an update on Rulemaking (Appendix 58, Exhibit 05).

Legislative Update

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director of Programs and Policy, presented a legislative update (Appendix 58, Exhibit 06).

25-06 Commissioner Ebert moved that the Commission support HB1003. Commissioner Bobbitt supported this motion. Motion carries.

25-07 Commissioner Bobbitt moved that the Commission support Senate Bill 1013. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

REPORTS

December Tag Sale Report

Tara Reichert, License Operations Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 07).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update

Stacey Dauwalter, Wildlife Health Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 08).

Deer and Elk Status Update

Toby Boudreau, Statewide Deer and Elk Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 09).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES**Big Game Season Setting Preview**

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 10).

MISCELLANEOUS**Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) Overview**

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 11).

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Strategic Plan Update: Draft Priorities Discussion; Review of Public Outreach Process

Adam Park, Bureau Chief, Communications, and Anne Wescott, Strategic Plan Consultant, Boise State University, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 12).

REPORTS**Idaho Bats and White-Bose Syndrome**

Rita Dixon, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 13).

Middle Fork Salmon River Chinook Redd Survey

Luciano Chiaramonte, Wild Salmon and Steelhead Principal Research Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 14).

Valley and Paddock Fire Action Plan

Brad Lowe, Southwest Regional Habitat Manager, and Ann Moser, Southwest Regional Habitat Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 15).

Forest Legacy Program Overview

Casey Pozzanghera, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, and Jennifer Barker, Forest Legacy Program Manager, Idaho Department of Lands, presented (Appendix 58, 16).

Director's Report

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

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 58, Exhibit 17).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next meeting is March 25–26, 2025, in Boise, Idaho.

Executive Session I. C. 74-206 (1) (c) (f)

25-08 Commissioner Harshbarger moved, and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion that the Commission enter executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections (1) (c) (f).

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

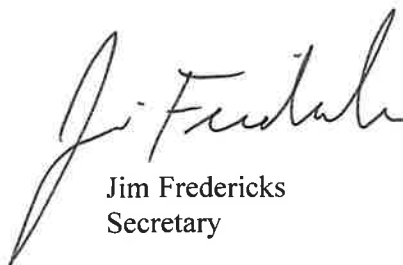
The Commission discussed potential property acquisition and litigation matters.

25-09 Commissioner Roach moved, and Commissioner Murphy seconded a motion that the Commission come out of executive session with no action taken. Motion carries.

Adjourn 5:00 p.m. MST



Ron Davies
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary