

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – February 5, 2026
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Legislative Conference Call
Boise, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, Jon Rachael, Ellary TuckerWilliams, Elizabeth Page, Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General, Jon Oswald, Justin Williams, Lance Hebdon, Shane Roberts, Tara Reichert, Tricia Hebdon, and Rick Ward.

IDFG staff participating via phone: Carson Watkins, TJ Ross, JJ Teare, Josh Royce, Craig White, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, Ryan Hilton, and Jana Ashling.

Members of the public in attendance: Nick Fasciano, Idaho Wildlife Federation.

Chairman Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MST.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update (Commissioner Confirmations, IDFG Presentations, Bills, budget, Rulemaking, etc.)

Jim Fredericks, Director, confirmed Chairman Dave Bobbitt’s Commission confirmation hearing will be on February 16th, 2026.

The Department will provide an agency update on Monday, February 9th, 2026, in the House Resources Committee.

The Department’s budget will go in front of JFAC on February 25th, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

The Department will present: Chapters 3, 16, and 19, on Monday, March 2nd, 2026, in the Senate Resource Committee; Chapters 4, 17, and 8, on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, in the House Resource Committee; and Chapters 4, 17, and 8 on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, in the Senate Resource Committee.

New Bill Analysis for Discussion/Update on Pending Legislation / Action for Policy Position

Ellary Tucker Williams provided the following updates on legislation.

House Bill 536 would expand the authority of county commissioners to declare certain animals as agricultural pests. While the bill’s stated intent is to explicitly include rats, the language is broader and would allow counties to designate “any other mammal” that causes agricultural damage as a pest. As written, this could include big game species such as deer, elk, or pronghorn,

potentially allowing control actions outside of Idaho Department of Fish and Game's regulatory authority. The Department has raised concerns about conflicts over management authority and possible impacts to wildlife populations and sportsmen opportunity. The bill has been introduced and referred to the House Local Government Committee.

26-09 Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the Commission not support and testify, on House Bill 536. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Senate Bill 1238 would require the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide a minimum 30-day public comment period before the Commission adopts, amends, or repeals season-setting proclamations, excluding emergency actions. While the Department already provides multiple opportunities for public input, comment periods currently vary based on timing and data availability. The bill would create consistency but would require adjustments to existing season-setting timelines. Fiscal impacts are expected to be minimal. The bill has been introduced and is currently held at the call of the chair in Senate Resources.

The Commission took no position on Senate Bill 1238 but agreed to monitor and answer any questions.

Adjourn 9:35 a.m. MST

Dave Bobbitt
Chairman

Jim Fredericks
Secretary