

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – February 6, 2025
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, Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General, Jon Oswald, Adam Park, Greg Wooten, Shane Roberts, Tricia Hebdon, Tara Reichert, Rick Ward, and Elizabeth Page.

IDFG staff participating via phone: Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Josh Royce, Craig White, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, Dennis Newman, TJ Ross, Kenzie Baratti, Terry Thompson, and Mike Peterson.

Members of the public in attendance: Kyle Mackay, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Nick Fasciano, and Ben Brocksome.

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

LEGISLATION

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

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, provided updates on Commissioner Ron Davies, and Commissioner Mike Roach's confirmation hearings. Commissioner Ron Davies' re-appointment was approved by the Senate on February 5, 2025, while Commissioner Mike Roach's confirmation was put on hold until February 7, 2025.

The Department's budget will go in front of JFAC on February 13, 2025.

All proposed rules have been approved by the House Resources Committee. All rules, with the exception of Chapter 7, have been approved by the Senate Resources Committee.

The Senate Resources Committee has placed a hold on Chapter 7 due to concerns regarding federal language. The specific language in question states that Commission or Department authorization of an activity does not constitute authorization for the "take" of federally protected species. The Committee's inquiry focuses on whether this authorization is already covered by existing constitutional or statutory provisions. If not, they are considering whether statutory language would be a more appropriate mechanism for this authorization.

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

Ellary Tucker Williams provided the following updates on legislation.

HB 82 updates the terminology in Idaho's livestock depredation compensation fund to align with Wildlife Services' language, resolving discrepancies that created administrative challenges. It also allows partial payments for "possible depredation" claims if funds remain after confirmed and probable claims are paid. While it does not directly impact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the bill streamlines the compensation process and may improve tolerance for wolves and grizzly bears.

25-10 Commissioner Harshbarger made a motion that the Commission support and testify on HB 82. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

HB 128 would prohibit the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from enforcing rules that ban the use of sabots in muzzleloader-only hunting seasons. While sabots may not significantly impact hunter success rates, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission has historically used equipment restrictions to balance hunting opportunities and technological advancements. The bill has been introduced and referred to the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

25-11 Commissioner Ebert made a motion that the Commission does not support and testify on HB 128. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

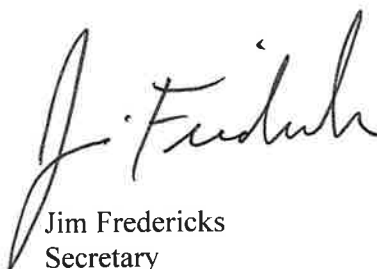
HJM 4 urges the removal of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act and the return of management authority to individual states. It also calls for the Trump administration to review ESA regulations and policies, arguing that the current approach hinders delisting despite successful population recovery. While the bill has no immediate effect on Idaho Department of Fish and Game, future delisting could significantly impact state management and resources.

25-12 Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion that the Commission support and testify, if deemed appropriate by the Governor's Office, on HJM 4. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Ron Davies
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary