

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – March 12, 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, 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, Adam Park, Justin Williams, Shane Roberts, Tricia Hebdon, Tara Reichert, and Hilarie Engle.

IDFG staff participating via phone: Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Josh Royse, Craig White, Dan Garren, Ryan Hilton, Chasity Tritz, Veronica Gutierrez, Mike Peterson, Stacey Human, and James Brower.

Members of the public in attendance: None.

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

LEGISLATION

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

Director Fredericks provided key updates:

Rulemaking discussions in the House Resources Committee included strong public testimony, with most speakers in support of the pending rules; however, the committee ran short on time. Similar to the Senate, Chapter 8 was held at the call of the Chair. A portion of Chapter 4 related to allowing IDFG to manage bighorn sheep in Units 13 and 18 will not advance due to lack of agreement between the House and Senate. Chapter 8 has not yet passed either chamber and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate on Monday, March 9th, 2026, where a prompt vote is anticipated. The rule is expected to move to the House next Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, or Thursday, March 12th, 2026.

Chairman Bobbitt's confirmation remains on the calendar.

The Department's maintenance budget has passed the Senate and is currently on the Third Reading Calendar in the House. The enhancement budget remains uncertain, though it has passed out of JFAC.

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

Ellary TuckerWilliams provided an update on current legislation.

House Bill 652 (Hunting, State Sport) has passed the Senate and is on the reading calendar, with one remaining step before reaching the Governor's desk. House Bill 678 (Wolf Trap Check with Transmitting Trail Camera) has passed the Senate Resources Committee and will advance to the Senate floor. House Bill 774 (Code Clean-up, Fish and Game) has also passed the Senate Resources Committee and will move to the Senate floor. House Joint Resolution 10 (State-Owned Lands) was discussed.

House Bill 855 would require individuals to be Idaho residents for a minimum of five years before becoming eligible to purchase a lifetime hunting, fishing, or combination license. For applicants under the age of five, a legal guardian must have maintained Idaho residency for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the application. Under current law, individuals need only six months of residency to qualify for a lifetime license, with an exception for Idaho-born infants. While most lifetime license holders remain Idaho residents, the Department has identified concerns about individuals establishing short-term residency solely to obtain a lifetime license and bypass the non-resident draw system for deer and elk tags. Because non-resident lifetime license holders pay non-resident fees but are treated as residents for tag allocation, this practice could undermine the intent of the non-resident draw framework. The bill aims to reduce potential abuse of the program, align with concerns raised by the public and legislators, and support fair allocation of hunting opportunities. Fiscal impact to the Department is expected to be negligible. The bill has been introduced and referred to committee.

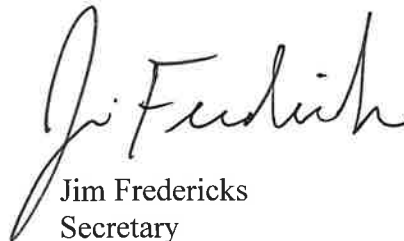
26-18 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the Commission support and testify in favor of House Bill 855. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Senate Bill 1300 (Agency Directors, Appointed by the Governor) has passed the Senate Resources Committee and the Senate floor and is awaiting a hearing in a House committee. Senate Bill 1326 (Property Rights, Protection) has passed Senate State Affairs with amendments and has been transmitted to the House, where it is awaiting committee assignment. Senate Bill 1348 (Farragut State Park) has passed Senate State Affairs and has been referred to the 14th Order for amendment. Senate Concurrent Resolution 124 (Wildlife Crossings) has passed the Senate and moved to the House; the Commission does not take positions on concurrent resolutions. Senate Joint Memorial 115 (Pelican Population Curtailment) was introduced earlier in the week; the Commission does not take positions on joint memorials.

Adjourn 9:15 a.m. MST



Dave Bobbitt
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary