

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Headquarters  
May 21-22, 2025  
Idaho Falls, Idaho**

**May 21**

**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 Thursday 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: Austin Atkinson, Justin Webb, Douglas Miller, and Matt Borg.

**May 22**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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

**25-40** Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion to move the Commission amend the agenda as posted by staff prior to the start of the meeting. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**Review of Public Comment**

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

- A commenter expressed support for transitioning to a draw system for non-resident participation and opposed early sales of over-the-counter (OTC) tags. They supported the elimination of tag transfers for non-residents, suggested clarifying mentored youth rules, and requested that tag purchase dates be clearly communicated. Concerns were raised regarding automatic card charges and potential increases in non-resident fees. The commenter praised staff and the Commission for their efforts and encouraged a process similar to controlled hunt permits.
- A representative from the Foundation for Wildlife Management expressed appreciation for the Department's partnership and provided an overview of how associated funds have been utilized. They voiced support for Agenda Item 5F.

- A commenter from southeastern Idaho shared positive experiences with Department staff and encouraged continued in-person engagement through field presence, emails, and public meetings. They requested bolder collaboration with the Idaho Transportation Department on roadkill mitigation.
- A representative from the Idaho Houndsman Association voiced general support for the Department and appreciated ongoing communication regarding rulemaking.

### **Consent Calendar**

Minutes - February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  
Financial Report

**25-41** Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion to accept the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **Non-resident Tag Draw Framework & Tag Issuance**

Tara Reichert, Automated System Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 34).

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Non-resident Tag Issuance Temporary Rule, IDAPA 13.01.04, Rules Governing Licensing**

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 35).

**25-42** Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the Commission adopt the temporary rule as presented, to be effectively immediately for the rule to be applicable to the sale of the specified nonresident deer and elk tags for 2026, with the Governor's finding pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-5226 that adoption of a temporary rule is appropriate to protect public health, safety, or welfare, and to reduce a regulatory burden that would otherwise impact an individual or business, and that the Commission authorize the Department to make non-substantive edits in the proofreading process that do not alter the sense, meaning or effect of the rules. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **FY26 Shooting Range Grant Funding Recommendations**

Sarah VanAcker, Statewide Shooting Range Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 36).

**25-43** Commissioner Roach made a motion to approve the Director's Range Grant Funding Recommendations in Table 1 and the Director retains discretion for assigning the grant funding source. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### SEASON SETTING AND RULES

#### Revised Discount Order (24-47) for Second Non-resident Mountain Lion Tags

Shane Roberts, Bureau Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 37).

25-44 Commissioner Ebert made a motion that the Commission revise Discount Order 24-47 to add discounted nonresident tag fees for mountain lions in units 10A, 11, and 45, and other wording revisions as presented. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### Draft Mountain Goat Management Plan Release for Public Input

Laura Wolf, Regional Habitat Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 38).

### SEASON SETTING AND RULES

#### Commission Direction for the Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Bureau Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 39).

25-45 Commissioner Murphy moves the Commission direct the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board to expend up to \$450,000 during state fiscal year 2026 for the protection of ungulates and to address livestock depredations, with the target areas and subdivision of funding as described by staff. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

#### Commission Direction for Animal Damage Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Bureau Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 40).

25-46 Commissioner Cheirrett moves the Commission direct the Animal Damage Control Board to expend the transferred Idaho Fish and Game funds during state fiscal year 2026 as follows: \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU, \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation control of black bears and mountain lions, and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities to manage the effects of piscivorous birds on fisheries resources. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### LANDS

#### Thiessen Land Acquisition

Sal Palazzolo, State Habitat Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 41).

25-47 Commissioner Ebert moves that the Commission acquire the 1.7-acre Thiesen property. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **SEASON SETTING AND RULES**

### **Spearfishing Seasons & Rules**

Lance Hebdon, Bureau Chief, Fisheries, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 42).

**25-48** Commissioner Bobbitt moves that the Commission amend the 2025-2027 fishing seasons, to adopt the spearfishing seasons and limits presented by staff, to take effect July 1, 2025. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **Chinook Salmon Season Amendment**

Lance Hebdon, Bureau Chief, Fisheries, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 43).

**25-49** Commissioner Ebert moves the Commission approve the proposed changes to the daily and possession limits for Chinook Salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River basin, to take effect May 22, 2025. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Shikar-Safari Award Presentation**

Greg Wooten, Bureau Chief, Enforcement, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 44).

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Update**

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 45).

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bond for Nampa Hatchery**

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 46).

**25-50** Commissioner Bobbitt moves that the Commission adopt and approve the provided bond documents related to the financing of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game infrastructure reconstruction of the Nampa Fish Hatchery. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **REPORTS**

### **IDFG Strategic Plan Update Public Outreach Report**

Adam Park, Bureau Chief, Communications, and Anne Wescott, Strategic Plan Consultant, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 47).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### FY27 Budget Forecast

Jon Oswald, Bureau Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 48).

### South Fork Snake River Rainbow Trout Suppression Program and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Management

Sage Unsworth, Regional Fisheries Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 49).

### Upper Snake Region Grizzly Bear Management & Program Overview

Cade Bowlin, Regional Wildlife Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 50).

### History of Mule Deer in Idaho

Eric Freeman, Regional Wildlife Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 51).

### Marty Tract Restoration Work on Mud Lake WMA

Brett Panting, Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 52).

### Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

**25-51** Commissioner Murphy nominated Commissioner Dave Bobbitt to be the Chairman. Commissioner Roach seconded the nomination. Motion carries.

**25-52** Commissioner Ebert nominated Commissioner Jordan Cheirrett for the Vice Chair. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the nomination. Motion carries.

## REPORTS

### 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 53).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Planning for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

**Executive Session**

**25-53** Commissioner Harshbarger moved, and Commission Bobbitt seconded a motion, that the Commission go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections 1 (b) and (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 potential litigation matters, and a personnel matter relating to the Director's performance review.

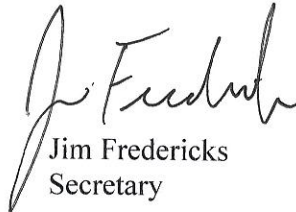
**25-54** Commissioner Ebert moved, and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion, that the Commission come out of executive session with the record to reflect that no final action was taken. Motion carries.

**Open Session**

**Adjourn 2:15 p.m. MST**



Dave Bobbitt  
Chairman



Jim Fredericks  
Secretary