

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Headquarters
May 6-7, 2026
Boise, Idaho**

May 6

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Meeting

Chairman Dave Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. PDT 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, and Ron Davies were present.

The following individuals provided in person testimony: Joe Kaufman, Justin Webb, Jon Crane, Rob Porter, Kyle Maki, Jonathan Stein, Larry Hatter, and Robert Roman.

May 7

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. PDT. Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Mike Roach, and Ron Davies were present.

Review of Public Comment

- Director Fredericks provided a summary of public comments. There were approximately fifteen members of the public in attendance, with nine individuals providing oral testimony. Representatives from the Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM) provided comments on agenda-related items as well as broader wildlife management topics.
- Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meeting, with nine individuals providing oral comment, including representatives from the Foundation for Wildlife Management and the Idaho Wildlife Federation.
- Several commenters addressed Agenda Item 5.F, Landowner Permission Hunt (LPH) season adjustments in Unit 14. Four commenters expressed concerns regarding proposals to increase the number of LPH tags, citing potential reductions in hunting opportunity for the general hunting public. Additional recommendations included consideration of a youth hunt, translocation of elk, restricting hunting around Tolo Lake to short-range weapons, increasing cow hunting opportunity on adjacent public lands, and improving wolf management to reduce elk movement onto private property.
- Two commenters addressed Agenda Item 5.B and expressed appreciation to the Commission and Department for recent rule changes that expanded trapping opportunities. Both commenters also encouraged the Commission to consider providing

\$200,000 in funding support for the Foundation for Wildlife Management reimbursement program to support continued wolf removal efforts.

- A commenter expressed support for exploring management opportunities for walleye fisheries in northern Idaho waters. The commenter acknowledged that walleye are not suitable for all water bodies but encouraged the Department to consider whether Lake Pend Oreille or another northern Idaho lake could support managed walleye fishing opportunities.
- A commenter expressed dissatisfaction regarding the Department's involvement in a water rights application process and requested consideration of ways to improve or resolve concerns related to that process.
- A commenter expressed concerns regarding operation of the Farragut Shooting Range, specifically citing perceived safety concerns and noise impacts affecting nearby residents.

Consent Calendar

Minutes

- February 26th, 2026
- March 5th, 2026
- March 12th, 2026
- March 19th, 2026
- March 24th – 25th, 2026

Financial Report

Financial Report

Jon Oswald, Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 36).

26-30 Commissioner Ebert made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, and agenda as presented. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Commission Direction for Animal Damage Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 37).

26-31 Commissioner Roach made a motion that the Commission direct the Animal Damage Control Board to expend the transferred Idaho Fish and Game funds during state fiscal year 2027 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 Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Commission Direction for Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 38).

26-32 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the Commission direct the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board to expend up to \$500,000 during state fiscal year 2027 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.

FY 27 Shooting Range Grants

Sarah VanAcker, Statewide Range Manager, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 39).

26-33 Commissioner Ebert made a motion that the Commission approve the FY27 range grant funding recommendations as presented by staff. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2026 – 2027 Migratory Bird Season – Setting

Jeff Knetter, Program Coordinator for Upland Game and Migratory Birds, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 40).

26-34 Commissioner Davies made a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for the 2026 – 2027 migratory game bird seasons as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Helmick Conservation Easement Part II

Casey Pozzanghera, Lands/Mitigation Program Coordinator, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 41).

26-35 Commissioner Roach made a motion that the Commission acquire the 38-acre Helmick Ranch Conservation Easement in Elmore County. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Elk Landowner Permission Hunt Season Adjustment Unit 14

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 42).

26-36 Commissioner Ebert made a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for changes to the 2026 Unit 14 Landowner Permission Hunts as presented by staff. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

FY 28 Budget Forecast

Jon Oswald, Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 43).

IFWF Update

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF), presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 44).

Improving Wildlife Management Planning

Shane Roberts, Chief, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 45).

White-nose Syndrome Update

Rita Dixon, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, Wildlife, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 46).

Fish and Game Conservation Officer Discretion and Decision Making

Jacob Berl, Senior Conservation Officer, Enforcement, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 47).

Lake Pend Oreille Rainbow Trout Management and Angler Science Program

Jeff Strait, Fishery Research Biologist, Fisheries, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 48).

History and Conservation Impact of the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement in Northern Idaho

Rob Ryan, Fishery Mitigation Staff Biologist, Fisheries, and Eric Oldenburg, Licenses Manager, Avista Utilities, presented (Appendix 59, Exhibit 49).

Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Cheirrett was nominated by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion passes.

Commissioner Roach was nominated by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Davies. Motion passes.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Director Fredericks highlighted items from each Bureau in the Director's Report (Appendix 59, Exhibit 50).

Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 59, Exhibit 51).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 15th – 16th, 2026, in Jerome, Idaho.

Executive Session

26-37 Commissioner Murphy moved, and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion, that the Commission go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections 1 (b) (f). We do not need to consider lands items under subsection (c) today. Motion carries.

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

The Commission discussed property acquisition and litigation matters.

26-38 Commissioner Ebert moved, and Commissioner Murphy seconded a motion, that the Commission come out of executive session with the record to reflect that no final action was taken. Motion carries.

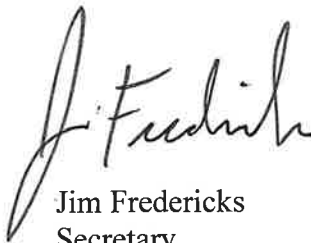
Open Session

26-39 Commissioner Ebert moved, and Commissioner Murphy seconded a motion authorizing Chairman Bobbitt to provide performance evaluation feedback to Governor's Office. Motion carries.

Adjourn 2:30 p.m. PDT



Dave Bobbitt
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary