

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Headquarters  
July 16-17, 2025  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

**July 16**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Public Meeting**

Chairman Dave Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. PST 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: Gary Finney, Travis Bullock, Erik Weiseth, Jeff Bitton, Kyle Maki, Todd Hoffman, Alma Sanchez, and Mike Schlegel.

**May 22**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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

**Review of Public Comment**

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

- A commenter expressed gratitude for the Department's work and partnership, advocated for the delisting of grizzly bears and wolves in the lower 48, and requested the reinstatement of the wolf trapping season.
- A commenter supported the idea of guaranteed tags for individuals who hunt and harvest wolves and offered praise for the Fisheries Bureau.
- Representatives from the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association introduced themselves and acknowledged their ongoing engagement with the Department.
- A commenter thanked the Department for updating management plans, commended efforts related to chronic wasting disease (CWD) and noted appreciation for recent program work.
- A commenter raised concerns about overcrowding by nonresident anglers on the St. Joe, North Fork, and Clearwater Rivers, stating that nonresidents outnumber residents by as much as 20:1. They noted most were from Washington and suggested the Department consider a capped model similar to British Columbia's.

- A commenter representing the Nez Perce Tribe expressed appreciation for the collaborative work of specific Department staff on carnivore-related issues.
- A commenter from the Wild Sheep Foundation encouraged the Department to continue including their organization in marketing efforts for the 2026 lottery tag. They highlighted their long-standing participation and noted they have historically taken only a small percentage of the overhead allowed in the lottery package.

### **Consent Calendar**

Minutes – June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
 Financial Report  
 Winter Feeding Advisory Committee

**25-56** Commissioner Davies made a motion to accept the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

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

Tara Reichert, Automated System Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 54).

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Administrative Rules: Adoption of Proposed Rules – Zero Based Regulation**

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 55).

**25-57** Commissioner Cheirrett made a motion to move the Commission adopt the proposed rules as presented, with authority for the Department to make non-substantive edits in the proofreading process that do not alter the sense, meaning or effect of the rules. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **SEASON SETTING AND RULES**

### **Outfitter Set-Aside and Non-Resident General Season Tags**

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 56).

**25-58** Commissioner Harshbarger moves that the Commission set aside general season elk tags and general season deer tags from the 2026 statewide nonresident limits for sale to persons that have entered into an agreement to use the services of a licensed outfitter, with the number of tags to be determined as the sum of the Initial Tag Use Number and the higher of the 2023-2024 use data. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**25-59** Commissioner Davies moves that the Commission allocate 2026 outfitter tag allocation and the 2026 general-season tag limits for nonresidents for elk zones and deer units that are

unlimited for residents, as presented by staff in the summary tables. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**2025-2026 Sage Grouse Season Setting**

Jennifer Struthers, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 57).

**25-60** Commissioner Roach moves that the Commission adopt the 2025-2026 sage-grouse hunting season dates and bag and possession limits, including bag and possession limits for take by falconry, will be presented at the Commission meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**Sage Grouse Falconry Discount Order #25-19**

Jennifer Struthers, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 58).

**25-61** Commissioner Ebert moves that the Commission adopt the discount order for sage-grouse tags for falconry for the calendar year 2026 portion of the 2025-2026 sage-grouse season as presented by staff. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Mountain Goat Management Plan**

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 59).

**25-62** Commissioner Davies moves that the Commission adopt *the Idaho Mountain Goat Management Plan 2025-2030* as presented by staff. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**Release of Bighorn Sheep Tags for Auction and Lottery**

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 60).

**25-63** Commissioner Cheirrett moves that the Commission release the 2026 bighorn sheep auction tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation to conduct an auction and the 2026 bighorn sheep lottery tag to the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation to conduct a lottery. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**SEASON SETTING AND RULES**

**Elk Controlled Hunt Area 36A-3 Addition**

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 61).

**25-64** Commissioner Davies moves that the Commission create elk controlled hunt area 36-3 as presented by staff and apply that controlled hunt area to existing controlled elk hunt numbers 2133, 2182, and 2429 for the 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### Chronic Wasting Disease 2024-2025 Surveillance & Management

Stacey Dauwalter, Wildlife Health Program Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 62).

**25-65** Commissioner Cheirrett moves that the Commission institute mandatory CWD sampling requirements for mule deer and white-tailed deer harvested from GMU 63A. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### SEASON SETTING AND RULES

#### Duck Hunter Opinion Survey & Zone Configuration

Jeffery Knetter, Upland/Migratory Game Bird Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 63).

**25-66** Commissioner Ebert moves that the Commission adopt staff recommendations for duck zone configurations to take effect for the 2026-2030 hunting season. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Recipients of the Commission Community Challenge Grant

Ellary TuckerWilliams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 64).

**25-67** Commissioner Murphy moves that the Commission approve staff recommendations of the regional and statewide review committees and permit staff to announce the outcome of FY2026 Commission Community Challenge Grant process. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### FISCAL

#### FY27 Budget Forecast

Jon Oswald, Bureau Chief, Administration, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 65).

**25-68** Commissioner Harshbarger moves that the Commission approve the State Fiscal Year 2027 budget request as presented and allow the Department to modify the request as necessary

for minor administrative items if they arise. Commissioner Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **LEGISLATION**

#### **Idaho Code Clean-up**

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 66).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Wolf Population Estimation**

Matt Mumma, Wildlife Research Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 67).

#### **Hatchery Program Overview**

Beau Gunter, Hatchery Program Manager, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 68).

#### **Kootenai River Fish Research**

Sean Wilson, Principal Fisheries Research Biologist, presented (Appendix 58, Exhibit 69).

### **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 70).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Planning for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Lewiston, Idaho.

#### **Executive Session**

25-69 Commissioner Ebert moved, and Commission Roach 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/ potential purchase of property.

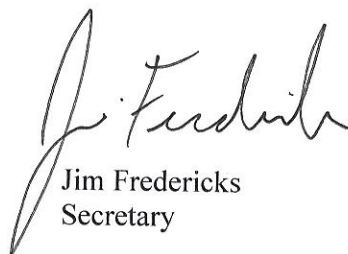
**25-70** Commissioner Ebert moved, and Commissioner Harshbarger seconded a motion, that the Commission come out of executive session with the record to reflect that no final action was taken. Motion carries.

**Open Session**

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



Dave Bobbitt  
Chairman



Jim Fredericks  
Secretary