

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
July 30, 2025 – August 1, 2025
Stonebraker Ranch, Chamberlin Basin, Idaho County**

July 30

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Dave Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 9:45 am MDT. Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Jordan Cheirrett, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies were present. Commissioner Mike Roach was absent and excused. Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Regional Supervisors Carson Watkins, Josh Royce, and Dan Garren, Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Trever, and Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator Ellary Tucker-Williams were present.

The Commission received a status update on public access and wildlife management in wilderness areas. Discussion of this topic included an overview of the history and extent of human use in the central Idaho wildernesses and the recognition of the importance of continued public access in the central Idaho wilderness legislation. Discussion included a history of Fish and Game inholdings such as the Stonebraker and nearby Hotzel Ranches, trail and airstrip conditions and maintenance needs, and an overview of wildlife management, habitat conditions, federal requirements (such as the ESA, wilderness acts, NEPA, and National Forest Management Acts), and related challenges and opportunities.

Director Fredericks and Ms. Tucker-Williams provided an overview of legislative engagement activities. This included an update on the Idaho Code Cleanup Act, the DOGE Task Force Committee, and follow up to the 2025 legislative proposals on nonresident tags.

Director Fredericks and Deputy Director Rachael provided an update on the non-game program and funding (specialty license plates, income tax check off and other donations, federal grant funding under the ESA and other federal grants). Discussion included an overview of non-game species of greatest conservation need and ESA implications.

Director Frederick and Deputy Director Rachael provided a status report on the Department's process for updating its strategic plan (last updated in 2015). Discussion included the process for gathering input, which has included sessions for public and employee engagement, and online comment opportunities. The status report included a summary of the findings of the public, partner, and employee engagement process. The planning process has identified priorities for habitat conservation, management of invasive species and disease management, predation and depredation management, satisfaction or hunter/trapper/angler/other wildlife recreation, relationship with the legislature, public outreach engagement, and education, fiscal sustainability, and agency culture, recruitment and retention.

Director Fredericks provided a presentation on the history of the 2012 Idaho Wildlife Summit, public criticisms and agency response to those criticisms.

Director Fredericks updated the Commission House on Bill 268 (effective July 1, 2025) and the resulting shift to non-classified status for positions for Regional Supervisors and Bureau Chiefs.

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Director Fredericks discussed the process for making in-season adjustments for anadromous fisheries, particularly chinook salmon. Director Fredericks reviewed in-season adjustments in recent years made under the Commission and Director's authorities. To improve the ability to make decisions on short-timeframes meaningful to fisheries, the Fisheries Bureau plans to provide a matrix for potential in-season adjustments (e.g., geography, limits, days of week) for the Commission's review and consideration at the time seasons are initially set.

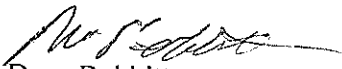
Regional Supervisor Garren provided an update on private land elk conflicts and concepts the Department is exploring to address sometimes competing objectives. These objectives include: reducing conflicts and related damage claims and pro-ration of claims, promoting public hunting access and opportunity, respecting private property rights, promoting conservation of valuable elk habitat on private lands, promoting elk tolerance on private agricultural lands associated with valuable habitat, discouraging elk presence in conflict areas not associated with valuable habitat, and discouraging sanctuary areas that aggravate elk depredation on nearby ag lands (commonly through elk traveling to crop lands at night to feed). Mr. Garren discussed concepts for tags for landowners as alternatives to depredation payments, and for tags as incentives to promote harvest for population management on private lands in depredation areas. Mr. Garren reviewed landowner feedback on these concepts and potential benefits and concerns. The Department will continue to explore potential options for Commission discussion at a future meeting.

The Commission received an overview of the history of elk relocations, both their role in restoring/rebuilding populations in the 1900s and more recent efforts in the 2000s. Discussion on the future role of translocations included logistical considerations, considerations for receiving sites (such as habitat quality, predation management, access and current elk population status), considerations for source animals (disease, depredation history, anticipated success rate, and current elk population status). The Department will consider potential opportunities for small-scale translocations and will develop recommendations and a protocol to present for discussion with the Commission at a future meeting.

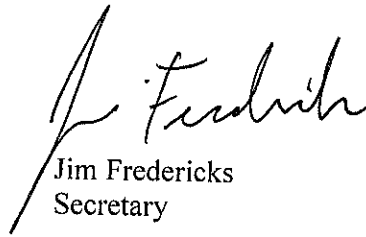
The Commission received an update on the Super Hunt tag program, which was authorized to generate funding for sportsmen access programs. The tag offers 12 tags each for elk, deer, and pronghorn, and 4 moose tags (a total of 40 tags). Eight of these tags are offered as a Super Hunt Combo where two successful applicant get tags for all species. There are two drawings and program marketing is based on the ability to buy an unlimited number of ticket applications. The price for each ticket application is \$6 for the Super Hunt and \$20 for the Super Hunt Combo. The update included a review of recent year marketing efforts and sales revenue. Discussion included a comparison of fairness considerations relative to draw odds for a program with a

specific revenue-generating objective versus fairness in first-come/first-served general tag sales and controlled hunts in which applications are limited.

Adjourn 2:30 p.m. MST



Dave Bobbitt
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary