Meeting Date: May 17, 2019

Agenda Item: Moose Management and Research Update

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

Background:

Staff will present an update on development of a revised Department Moose Management Plan. The intent of the revision of the moose management plan is to provide guidance for the Department and land management partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of moose populations in Idaho and to guide harvest season recommendations. This plan will function as the action plan for moose management during the next 6 years (2020-2025). The plan will guide the Department in development of annual work plans and program prioritization, and will provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will also provide an update on current and proposed moose research activities.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:
The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species Management Plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The Moose Management Plan will function as the action plan for moose management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:
After the draft Moose Management Plan is approved for release, the Department will seek further input on the draft plan from the public, interested groups, and agencies. The Department will be asking moose hunters to provide biological samples from moose harvested this fall.

Justification:
This agenda item is for Commission information on the current status of the revision of our moose management plan and to provide an update on plans for moose research.

Staff Recommendation:
No formal action is requested at this time. This agenda item is for Commission information.