

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: Pheasant Stocking Program Update

Bureau Chief Approval: 

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Background:

In recent years, there have been discussions, inquiries and requests to expand the Department's pheasant stocking efforts to other Department-owned or managed lands, or Access Yes! properties.

Currently, Idaho Code 36-409(i) grants authority to the Commission to issue a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Upland Game Bird Permit to all persons over seventeen (17) years of age prior to hunting stocked upland game birds on WMAs designated by the Commission. Furthermore, IDAPA 13.01.09.600.01 establishes which WMAs require a person to have a WMA Upland Game Bird Permit to hunt or possess a pheasant - Fort Boise, C.J. Strike, Montour, Payette River, Sterling, Market Lake, Mud Lake, Cartier, and Niagara Springs. These nine WMAs represent the primary locations where the Department implements pheasant stocking efforts for hunting.

This presentation will review the Department's current pheasants stocking program – budget, costs, and revenue. It will also outline the necessary steps required to expand the program to other areas, and the amendments to statute and rule that would be required to allow for permit holders to hunt stocked pheasants in areas other than WMAs. Staff will request further direction from the Commission on potential expansion of the Department's pheasant stocking program to lands outside of Department WMAs.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-409(i) grants authority to the Commission to issue a WMA Upland Game Bird Permit prior to hunting stocked upland game birds on WMA. IDAPA 13.01.09.600.01 establishes which WMAs require a person to have a WMA Upland Game Bird Permit if in possession of a pheasant, permit limit, and recording requirements.

Public Involvement Process:

Informational item.

Justification:

Informational item.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda is for information only. No action required.