

Meeting Date: May 17, 2016

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Wolf Management Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

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Background:

- Wolves have been managed by the State since 2009, with a court ordered stoppage in 2010 and have been hunted and trapped in Idaho since 2011. Federal oversight over wolf monitoring in Idaho under the ESA ended on May 5, 2016.
- State managed hunting and trapping opportunity has increased over time as the Department adaptively managed wolves and wolf conflict with livestock. Increases in opportunity have shown some gains in harvest and trapper harvest has become a larger proportion of the harvest in some areas.
- State management has also curbed livestock depredations in some areas, but other areas operators have witnessed increases in livestock depredations by wolves. Agency removals of wolves continue for reducing livestock depredation and predation management for elk and deer populations below objective.
- Staff will brief the Commission on population status and harvest.
- Staff will review options for the future of estimating wolf populations.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is charged with administering state wildlife policy through supervision and management of IDFG (Idaho Code 36-104). Species Management Plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan.

Justification:

Wolf management is an important issue for the Department and Commission and periodic updates are necessary.

Staff Recommendation:

Information only.

Action Requested:

N/A