

**Idaho Trappers Association – Upper Snake River Trappers of Idaho
Intermountain Fur Harvesters – Foundation of Wildlife Management
Idaho Houndsmen Association**

February 22, 2018

To the IDFG Commissioners, State Game Manager Jon Rachael, and Director Moore

The undersigned groups represent the majority contingent of organized trappers and houndsmen in the State of Idaho representing over 1,900 members and supporters statewide. Our groups agree the best path forward to ensure and enhance the tradition of trapping in Idaho is to work together with stakeholders vested in the wildlife resource and with government agencies responsible for management of that resource. When applicable we will strive to find consensus and compromise to deliver a unified voice on relevant issues to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and are thankful to the Department for promoting trapping and snaring as an effective tool for wildlife management.

Trapping and snaring have proven to be the most successful tools to manage wolf populations and augment their predation on other wildlife populations. These units have high wolf populations are impacting elk populations. In units 32A and 33 houndsmen are unable to hunt much of the areas in fear that wolves will kill their hounds. As such, **our groups propose opening the following units to wolf trapping/snaring in Idaho: 69, 66, 33, 32A, and 2 (only partially open now).**

Furthermore, some units receive snow and freezing temperatures well before the season begins, which makes foothold trapping difficult. Compound this with November 1st road closures (to insulate elk wintering grounds) and success rates decline even further. These units are either receiving heavy elk depredation or in the Southern Idaho units wolves are displacing huge numbers of elk to the lower country which are causing major depredation on crops. That is why **we also propose opening the following units on Oct 1st: 4, 4A, 39, 43, and 44.**

Thank you for considering these proposals. We hope the Department views our request as a modest change, and are open to dialogue to address any questions or concerns. We also understand that wolf management itself elicits an emotional response from Idahoans on either side of the issue and any proposed changes, one way or the other, will be highly scrutinized. It is our wish to work diligently with the Department in a professional manner to better guide wolf management and the future of our trapping heritage. We look forward to working with you. Please contact Rusty Kramer with any questions.

Thank you,

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