

Meeting Date: August 23, 2018

Agenda Item No. 3D

Agenda Item: Turkey Landowner Permission Hunt
(LPH) Rule Adoption (**Action**)

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Jeffrey Knetter

Background:

In recent years, localized turkey populations have expanded and created depredation conflicts on private lands. In addition to turkey depredation issues, landowners who provide valuable turkey habitat in controlled hunt areas have expressed frustration at being unable to hunt turkeys on their own property because of low controlled hunt drawing odds.

The Department initiated formal rulemaking to create a rule to provide the Commission authority to establish Landowner Permission Hunts (LPH) for turkeys.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104(b) 5(B) grants authority to the Commission to provide additional turkey tags to landowners who provide valuable habitat; however, Idaho Administrative Rule language is necessary for implementation.

Idaho Administrative Rule 13.01.09.100.03 establishes rules regarding the use of tags and permits for wild turkey.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department provided an online comment period from June 6 – June 27; 137 individuals provided responses. In general, respondents were in favor (68%) of establishing a framework for Landowner Permission Hunt (LPH) seasons for turkeys, but were not in favor (49%) of a minimum acreage of 40 acres for a landowner to receive LPH permission slips. Those who did not favor the 40-acre minimum offered a wide range of alternatives that ranged from just a few acres to over 160 acres.

Justification:

Establishment of rules to allow creation of LPH hunts for turkeys would provide additional tools to the Department and landowners to help alleviate turkey depredation issues and increase social tolerance for turkey populations on private lands. It would also provide increased hunting opportunity for landowners who provide valuable turkey habitat in controlled hunt areas.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the following proposed rule to allow establishment of LPH seasons for turkeys:

Proposed revision to 13.01.09.100.03:

100. TAGS, STAMPS, PERMITS, AND VALIDATIONS.

03. Wild Turkey.

d. Eligibility: The holders of valid hunting licenses are eligible to apply for controlled hunts subject to the following restrictions:

iii Any person applying for a landowner permission hunt must have a signed permission slip from a landowner who owns more than seventy-nine (79) acres in the hunt area. The permission slip must have the landowner's name and address on it along with the landowner's signature.

m. Landowner permission hunt tags will be sold first-come, first-served basis at the Headquarters or regional office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game after March 20 and July 10.

Action Requested:

Approve the proposed rule for establishment of LPH seasons for turkeys.

Suggested Motion:

That the Commission adopt staff recommendations to adopt the proposed rule to establish LPH seasons for turkeys.