

**Meeting Date:** May 17, 2019

**Agenda Item No.** 5.D.

**Agenda Item:** 2020 Legislative Proposals, Department  
Sponsored

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Paul Kline

**Background:** Staff seeks policy guidance from the Commission regarding concepts for Department-sponsored legislation for the 2020 Legislative Session. Submission of formal proposals to the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS) for Governor Office approval is required (July 12, 2019 deadline). Subsequently, the agency must submit Governor-approved proposals in legislative bill format and to EALS by August 16, 2019. The EALS process does not apply to legislative ideas that may be sponsored by legislators, non-executive entities, or the public.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Commission has responsibility to provide policy direction for Department-sponsored legislation.

The Department is proposing two ideas for legislation.

1. Current law (Idaho Code 36-409 (i)) establishes authority for the Commission to issue a wildlife management area (WMA) upland game bird permit that must be purchased to hunt stocked upland game birds on state WMAs designated by the Commission. Proposed legislation would broaden the Commission's authority to require hunters to possess an upland game bird permit to hunt stocked birds in additional areas (not WMAs).
2. Current law (Idaho Code 36-416) establishes a fee schedule for various licenses, tags, and permits. Non-resident license, tag and permit fees have remained stable since 2009, with one fee adjustment in 2017 to non-resident daily fishing licenses and non-resident consecutive day fishing licenses. As directed by the Commission, the Department is conducting negotiated rulemaking (with potential for rule consideration by the 2020 Legislature) to authorize the Commission to restrict non-resident participation by proclamation in general season big game hunts to reduce hunter congestion. The Department expects that restricting non-resident participation in general hunts will reduce license and tag sales and corresponding revenue. The Department is proposing new legislation to increase non-resident license, tag and permit fees to offset potential declines in sales and revenue associated with lower non-resident participation. If the Commission moves this idea forward, the Department will analyze potential fiscal impacts in more detail to enable the development of a new, non-resident draft fee schedule.

**Public Involvement Process:** There is opportunity through Commission hearings in May, 2019 through January 2020 for public input regarding approved legislative proposals. There is also substantial opportunity for public involvement through legislative committee hearings about bills during the 2020 session.

**Staff Recommendation:** Provide policy approval or direction for legislation sponsored by the Department.

*I move we adopt the staff recommendation for development of proposed Department-sponsored legislation for the 2020 session of the Idaho Legislature.*

**Justification:** Review is necessary to ensure consistency between legislative ideas and Commission policy and priorities.