

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Conference Call
April 11, 2019
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S Walnut
Boise, ID**

Present: Deputy Director Scott Reinecker , Owen Moroney, Sharon Kiefer, Greg Wooten, Toby Boudreau, Roger Phillips, Brian Pearson, Jon Rachael and Mary Boyer. Director Schriever and Regional Supervisors Brad Compton, J.J. Teare, Dan Garren, Craig White, Jim White, Doug Petersen and Rick Ward participated via phone call.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Attebury with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie and Jerry Meyers.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Season Setting: 2019-2020 Migratory Game Bird

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Migratory Bird Coordinator presented the proposals (Appendix 52, Exhibit 27).

Idaho's migratory game bird seasons are set within frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), after they consult with all state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Adaptive Harvest Management process determines the general duck season framework.

- process adopted by Service in 1996; used to evaluate duck habitat and populations annually to select the optimal season framework for U.S. duck seasons.
- special harvest strategies are used for some of the less common ducks (i.e., pintail, scaup).
- goose seasons are determined by flyway management plans for each goose population.

IDFG conducted a hunter opinion survey in 2016 to assess hunter preferences on how to structure waterfowl seasons and zones, within the confines of the federal framework. Responses from this survey are intended to guide Idaho waterfowl season proposals from 2016-2020.

Important results from the 2016 waterfowl hunter preference survey are:

- ✓ Most Idaho waterfowl hunters said they prefer continuous seasons, rather than split seasons.
- ✓ Hunters in most of north and southwest Idaho preferred waterfowl seasons that start and end later, to allow for hunting opportunities as close as possible to the end of the Federal Framework (as late in January as possible).
- ✓ Hunters in much of east Idaho preferred waterfowl seasons that start as early as possible in October to allow for hunting opportunities prior to wetlands freezing.

Recommendations presented today reflect hunter desires within the current Federal Framework.

Staff Recommendation: The Department's recommendation is to take the maximum allowed hunting days and bag limits allowed by federal framework. The proposed daily duck bag limit would be seven ducks, but not more than 2 female mallards, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasbacks. The proposed daily bag limit for Wilson's snipe would be 8 and the proposed daily bag limit for coots would be 25. The proposed daily bag limit for Canada geese would be 4 (except in Zone 4 during September 1-15, when the daily bag limit would be 5), the proposed daily bag limit for white-fronted geese would be 10, and the proposed daily bag limit for snow and Ross's geese would be 20. The proposed possession limit would be three times the daily bag limit.

There is no daily bag limit for American crows.

The proposed daily bag limit for doves would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

The proposed daily and season limit for sandhill cranes is 2 cranes.

19-42 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the 2019-2020 migratory game bird seasons as presented by staff. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Season Setting: Amendment to 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons in Unit 50 (excluding Blaine County) and Unit 51

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife presented the proposal (Appendix 52, Exhibit 28).

The Commission set statewide 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 wolf hunting seasons at its March 13, 2019 meeting. The season-setting framework for hunting on private land year-round was intended to include all of Custer and Lemhi Counties to address depredation concerns. Units 50 and 51 include parts of one/both of these counties. However, because IDFG's administrative boundaries place game management units 50 and 51 in the Upper Snake Region rather than in the Salmon Region, the portions of Custer and Lemhi County were inadvertently omitted from the year-round hunting season for private land.

Description: Amend the 2019 & 2020/2020-2021 wolf seasons for hunting on private land in Units 50 (excluding Blaine County) and 51 to year-round seasons.

Staff recommendation: Staff support this amendment to meet the intent of the season-setting framework.

19-43 Commissioner Meyers moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendation to amend the 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons for Units 50 and 51. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Order: Discount of Application Fees for Special Controlled Hunts (“Superhunts”)

Scott Reinecker, Deputy Director, presented the proposed order (Appendix 52, Exhibit 29).

Many western state fish and wildlife agencies offer special big game auction and lottery programs to generate revenue for license funded conservation programs. Idaho’s program is the Special Control Hunt Program (“Super Hunt”) established by Commission rule (IDAPA 13.01.08.261) which offers forty (40) big game tags through a random lottery draw process. Lottery applications in Idaho are sold for individual species (Super Hunt tags-10 deer, 10 elk, 10 pronghorn, 2 moose tags) and for combined species (Super Hunt Combo-there are 2 tag packages that bundle 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 pronghorn, and 1 moose tag per package). These tags are good for any open controlled or general hunt for each species. By rule, income from the Super Hunt application fees is used for the sportsman access program. The majority of “first” applications each year are from Idaho resident hunters but many resident and nonresident applicants purchase additional applications for each draw

In July, 2015, the Commission approved a Discount Order that provided a consistent fee of \$6.00 per each Super Hunt application and \$20.00 per each Super Hunt Combo application that incorporated the vendor fee. This approach has demonstrated benefits for both revenue and customer simplicity.

Staff very recently realized that the 2015 Super Hunt Discount Order expired on August 10, 2018 which was the closing date for receiving all applications for the second 2018 Super Hunt draw. Advertising and sales of the 2019 Super Hunt applications at the 2018 discount price are ongoing because of the belated realization that the order had expired. If the Commission wishes to continue the 2018 discount or some other discount framework, the Commission must adopt a new Discount Order. Otherwise, the Department will reprogram fees to revert to standard control hunt application fees described below.

19-44 Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommended discount order 19-22 for a two year period beginning April 11, 2019 through August 10, 2020.

Nonresident Tag Limitation in General Deer/Elk Hunts

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife, stated that the Department seeks Commission feedback on a proposal for negotiated rulemaking.

The Department is considering negotiated rulemaking to authorize the Commission to limit by proclamation the number of nonresident deer/elk tags in general hunt areas where there is not a limit (cap) on resident tags, and related consideration of allocation of outfitter tags. One rule concept is authorizing the Commission to limit nonresident tags for a general hunt area to no less than 10% of estimated resident tags.

Initial steps for Negotiated Rulemaking/Public Involvement:

- Request Governor’s Office Approval (File AARF): 4/19/19

- File Notice of Intent (NOI) for Negotiated Rulemaking with Office of Admin Rules: 5/3/19
- Publication in Administrative Bulletin for 21-day public comment: 6/5/19
- Update the Commission on rulemaking proposal at the July 2019 meeting

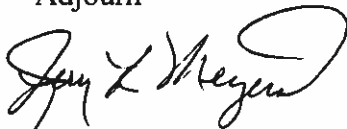
Idaho Code 36-104 grants authority to the Commission to set seasons and adopt administrative rules. The Idaho Administrative Procedure Act (Idaho Code Title 67 Chapter 25) governs the process for considering, adopting, and implementing IDAPA rules.

Other negotiated rulemakings on the above schedule (briefed at prior meetings):

- Eligibility of passport holders ages 8 & 9 to buy turkey tags
- Authority for the Commission to set by proclamation the areas where a WMA upland bird permit is required for persons 18 and older to hunt/possess pheasant (areas where the Department stocks pheasants)
- Delayed eligibility for controlled hunt applicants to buy big game tags in areas with tag limits (caps) (e.g., 5 days after the first date of availability of capped tags)
- Restriction of import of live mule deer, white-tailed deer and moose into Idaho
- Requirements for wolf snaring (evaluating combination of diverters, snare stops and breakaway devices)

Commission consensus is for the department to proceed with negotiated rulemaking for nonresident tag limitation in general elk/deer hunts.

Adjourn



Jerry Meyers
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary

