

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
May 16-17, 2019
Quarterly Meeting
Grangeville, Idaho**

May 16

MISCELLANEOUS

Commission Field Tour: Anadromous Fish Management, South Fork Clearwater and Flying B Ranch Overview

Commissioners Blanco, Murphy, Cameron, Clezie, Attebury and Meyers participated on the tour. Commissioner Corkill was excused.

Public Hearing

Chairman Attebury called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie and Jerry Meyers in attendance. Chairman Attebury reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing and reported that all public comments would be reviewed by the Commission at the Friday meeting. Department staff is available after the meeting to answer questions. Introduction of Director and Department staff followed.

The following individuals provide public comment: James Lawyer, Donald Sickels, Jim Hagedorn, Butch Suor, Paul S. Snider, Bill Samuels, Aaron Lieberman, Justin Webb, Dirk Durham, Chad Bohn, Larry Hatter, Terry Lane, Miles Hatter, Larry Barany and Alex Arnold. Written comments received from: Larry Isham (Appendix 52, Exhibit 30).

May 17

MISCELLANEOUS

Opening Comments

Chairman Attebury called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

Agenda Changes

A request to move agenda item # 8 Large Tracts Program Update to be presented after agenda item 5.G.

Review of Public Comment

Director Schriever and Commissioners discussed and reviewed the public comments.

Topics included:

- Comments on the Upland Game Management Plan
- Youth pheasant opportunity and partnership with the Game Bird Foundation
- Wolf Management
- Limit nonresident participation in general hunts and outfitter allocation
- Opposition to require hunters to carry bear spray in grizzly bear range
- A request to conduct an aerial survey for elk in Unit 12
- White-tailed Deer Management Plan

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar

Consent Calendar Items

- Minutes: January 23-24, January 31, February 7, February 14, February 21, February 28 and March 7, 2019.
- Financial Report

19-45 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the January 23-24, January 31, February 7, February 14, February 21, February 28 and March 7 , 2019 minutes as presented in the consent calendar. Motion Carries.

19-46 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to approve the financial report as presented in the consent calendar. Motion Carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

5. A. 2020 Omnibus Temporary and Proposed Rulemaking to Reauthorize IDAPA 13

Paul Kline, Deputy Director and Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Trever presented.

Deputy Director Paul Kline briefed the Commission on the Governor's strategy for omnibus rulemaking to extend existing agency administrative rules beyond June 30, 2019 (temporary rulemaking). Proposed rulemaking will follow to ensure rules come before the 2020 Legislature so that they can be approved to continue to be in effect beyond the Legislative Session.

The Governor's Office has encouraged agencies to use this opportunity to comply with the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Act (Executive Order 2019-2) to reduce rules by deleting or consolidating text considered to be non-controversial or non-substantive in nature.

Notices of temporary and proposed rulemaking will appear in a special publication of the Idaho Administrative Bulletin on June 19, 2019. Agencies will publish one Notice for rules with fees and one Notice for rules without fees. A public comment period of 21 days will follow publication.

5. B. Adopt Proposed Rule Revising Issuance of Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Tags to comply with 2019 Legislation, Senate Bill 1088 a.

The 2019 Legislature passed Senate Bill 1088 as amended, which was signed by the Governor. This bill becomes law effective July 1, 2019 and revises the Fish and Game Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Hunt Tag program. The bill directs that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) may prescribe by rule the manner and conditions of using the tags and that the Commission shall issue five tags. The bill authorizes the Idaho Division of Veterans Services to screen all applicants for eligibility and provide the Commission with a prioritized list of applicants, based on “most deserving”, for issuance including two tags designated for candidates sponsored by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. The current program requirement that a qualified organization must sponsor an applicant does not change.

Adoption of revised rules is necessary to comply with new law. Rule revision also presents opportunity to implement the Governor’s Executive Order to reduce agency rules by deleting information in rule that is duplicative to statute and streamlining language. A copy of the proposal was provided (Appendix 52, Exhibit 31).

A summary of changes for reauthorization of IDAPA 13 Fish & Game Administrative rules was provided to the Commissioners (Appendix 52, Exhibit 32).

Kathleen Trever provided examples of the chapter consolidation changes (Appendix 52, Exhibit 33).

Staff Recommendation: Provide policy approval and direction for temporary and proposed rulemaking.

Commission adoption is required for temporary and proposed rulemaking to respond to the expiration of administrative rules on June 30, 2019. Review is necessary to ensure consistency between legislative ideas and Commission policy and priorities.

19-47 Commissioner Blanco moved and Commissioner Meyers seconded a motion to adopt as presented the temporary rules effective June 30, 2019 and proposed rules with proposed efficiency edits to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order 2019-2, the Red Tape Reduction Act combining agenda items 5.A and 5. B. Motion Carries.

Petition for Rulemaking to Require Hunters to Carry Bear spray in Grizzly Bear Range in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife presented.

On April 4, 2019, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received a petition for adoption of a rule related to bear spray. The petition asks for the adoption of a rule requiring hunters to carry and have immediately accessible bear spray in the field within game management units inside or adjacent to the Greater

Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Demographic Monitoring Area. The Humane Society of the United States; Sierra Club; Center for Biological Diversity; Natural Resources Defense Council; Western Watersheds Project; Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; and WildEarth Guardians submitted the petition, citing Idaho Code section 67-5230.

Idaho Code section 67-5230 allows any person to petition an agency to adopt a rule and requires agencies to either “deny the petition in writing, stating its reasons for the denial” or initiate rulemaking. The Commission must take action on the petition no later its first regularly scheduled meeting after submission of the petition. I.C. § 67-5230(1)(b).

The IDFG has authority to promulgate rules under Idaho Code, Title 36.

This petition would create a rule that would be overly burdensome for the both the Department and the hunting public in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). The Department believes that education is far better tool to use in helping both hunters and non-hunters to be better prepared to be safe and enjoy recreating in bear country. The Department currently conducts bear safety educational activities throughout the state.

The staff recommends that the Commission deny the petitioners request to advance rulemaking to mandate the carrying of bear spray by hunters in the GYE.

19-48 Commissioner Meyers moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded a motion that the Commission deny the petitioners request to move forward with rulemaking and instruct the department to prepare a denial for the petitioners. The reasons for denial include: (1) such a rule would be overly burdensome, (2) the public would be better served through education, and (3) the Department’s already thin enforcement resources have higher priorities. Motion Carries.

LEGISLATION

2020 Legislative Proposals

Paul Kline, Deputy Director, presented the legislative proposals.

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.

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.

19-49 Commissioner Cameron moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendation for development of proposed Department sponsored legislation for the 2020 session of the Idaho Legislature. Motion Carries.

FISCAL

Commission Direction for Expenditure of Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife, presented. In 2014, the Idaho Legislature passed HB470 creating the Wolf Depredation Control Board; responsible for administering the wolf control fund established by the same bill. Creation of the Board was largely in response to loss of federal funding for wolf depredation control. The Board has no management authority for wolves, which is held by the Fish and Game Commission.

Idaho statute annually transfers up to \$110,000 of Department funds to the Wolf Depredation Control Board for response to, and control of, wolf depredations. The actual amount of the transfer each year is based on matching the amount provided by the livestock industry, up to a maximum of \$110,000. The Department provided \$54,565, \$105,330, \$95,351, and \$110,000 in FY15, FY16, FY17, FY18, and FY19 respectively. It is anticipated the livestock industry will again come close to contributing the maximum allowed by law in in FY20. Additionally, the Board receives an appropriation from the general fund; \$200,000 in FY19.

A summary of Idaho wolf depredation control actions for July 2018-May 10, 2019 was provided to the Commission (Appendix 52, Exhibit 34).

Previous Commission direction has been to use the sportsmen funds for management and control of wolves for the protection of ungulates in areas with department approved predation management plans.

Staff recommends directing the expenditure of up to \$110,000 for management and control of wolves for the protection of ungulates in areas where management objectives are not being achieved.

19-50 Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation to direct the expenditure of up to \$110,000 for the protection of ungulates in areas where management objectives are not being achieved. Motion Carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Season Setting : Summer Chinook

Jim Fredericks, Chief, Fisheries, reported no action for this item due to the low forecast and the Department does not expect efficient returns for these fisheries on the South Fork Salmon River.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approve Upland Game Management Plan

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Migratory Bird Coordinator, presented the plan. Staff presented an overview of the status and content of Upland Game Management Plan revision at the Commission's November meeting. A second update and a draft of the plan were presented to the Commission at the January 2019 meeting.

This revision of the upland game management plan will provide guidance to the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will enhance upland game habitat and populations in Idaho. This plan will function as the action plan for upland game management. Major issues that affect upland game species are identified, which set overall direction for upland game management during the next 6 years (2019-2024). This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization, and will provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

A review of public comment was provided.

Commissioner Blanco shared copies of the Nest Predator Bounty Program, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Appendix 52, Exhibit 35). Commission discussion followed.

The Commission suggested that the Plan be put on hold for a couple of months and asked staff to look at predation management and goals for population and bring back to the Commission for adoption at the July meeting. No action taken on the Plan.

LANDS

Large Tracts Program Update

Sal Palazzolo, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented. Mr. Palazzolo introduced Trevor Stone, Potlatch-Deltic and Peter Stegner, Riley Stegner and Associates (representing North Idaho Forest Group).

Background: Passage of H.B. 230 provided additional funding to the Department to implement innovative access projects. In 2018 the Department, developed the “large tracts program” to incentivize longer term, cost-effective public access to large tracts of private lands. The Department invited proposals from large-acreage landowners ($\geq 50,000$ acres) to provide multi-year public access for hunting/fishing/trapping activities.

The first proposal was from Potlatch-Deltic for privately owned timber lands in northern Idaho. Potlatch-Deltic owns parcels located in Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, and Shoshone Counties, totaling 567,002 acres.

The second proposal was from the North Idaho Forest group (Stimson Lumber Co., Hancock Forest Management and Molpus Woodlands Group) for parcels in Bonner, boundary, Benewah,, Shoshone, Kootenai county totaling approximately 358,305 acres.

This agenda item is informational in providing the Commission with an update on the completion of this multi-year, non-exclusive lease with Potlatch-Deltic and pending completion with the North Idaho Forest Group.

- 1) As used in this Lease, “Recreational Activities” includes lawful hunting, fishing, and trapping; wildlife viewing; hiking; and recreational travel limited to motor vehicle travel on roads open to full-sized vehicles and non-motorized travel.
- 2) The Lease is effective from May 2019 through December 31, 2021 (Initial Term). Beginning on January 1, 2022, the Lease will automatically renew for successive three-year terms indefinitely (*e.g.*, 2022-2024, 2025-2027).
- 3) IDFG will pay Lessor rent for each calendar year, based on a cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per acre of Leased Area.

Acquisition:

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the proposals.

Antelope Creek

This 640-acre property is located approximately 20 miles East of Idaho Falls, ID. This property abuts IDFG land that is managed as part of the Tex Creek WMA. The Property contains relatively natural habitat of sagebrush, riparian areas, forested slopes, and aspen stands. Habitat found on the Property provides benefit to species such as moose, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, mountain lion, Great Horned Owl, Mountain Bluebird, Orange-crowned

Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Greater Sage Grouse, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and Northern Harrier, among many other species. Elk, mule deer, and moose, all use the property. In late fall, numerous elk transition through the property to winter habitats, with some wintering on the property itself. Moose and limited numbers of mule deer and elk summer on the property. Robust aspen stands on the property provide quality fawning habitat for mule deer.

The Property adjoins public lands owned and managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and is in close proximity to public lands managed by U.S. Forest Service. Its conservation will help buffer and protect important wildlife habitat on these adjoining public lands.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2017.

Acquisition costs are \$820,000 (appraised value) of Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds.

19-51 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to approve acquiring the 640- acre Antelope Creek property. Motion Carries.

Kepps Crossing

This 912-acre property is located approximately 20 miles East of Idaho Falls, ID. This property abuts IDFG land that is managed as part of the Tex Creek WMA. The Property contains relatively natural habitat of sagebrush, riparian areas, forested slopes, and aspen stands. Habitat found on the Property provides benefit to species such as moose, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, mountain lion, Great Horned Owl, Mountain Bluebird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Greater Sage Grouse, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and Northern Harrier, among many other species. Elk, mule deer, and moose, all use the property. In late fall, numerous elk transition through the property to winter habitats, with some wintering on the property itself. Moose and limited numbers of mule deer and elk summer on the property. Robust aspen stands on the property provide quality fawning habitat for mule deer.

The Property adjoins public lands owned and managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and is in close proximity to public lands managed by U.S. Forest Service, and its conservation will help buffer and protect important wildlife habitat on these adjoining public lands.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2017.

Acquisition cost are \$1,140,000 (appraised value) of Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds.

19-52 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve acquiring the 912-acre Kepps Crossing property. Motion Carries.

Hoover

The Hoover property is a relatively intact 232 acre parcel of native grass and shrub communities adjacent to the Boise River WMA approximately 10 mile Northeast of Boise, ID. The primary wildlife community that would benefit from this acquisition is big game, including mule deer and elk. This area provides winter habitat for elk and to a lesser degree mule deer. Perhaps the most impactful benefit is the connectivity with forthcoming efforts to install a wildlife overpass on nearby Highway 21. The location provides for excellent security for wildlife as well, due to the challenges of access. The property is bordered on two sides by IDFG and US Forest Service lands.

The area harbors mule deer and elk year round, and in winter they generally partition the habitat between elk on the more exposed ridges and deer in the more sheltered draws. The other key habitat feature is the connectivity this parcel provides between the higher elevation forest habitat and the lower elevation shrub-steppe habitat in the Warm Springs watershed.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game proposes to acquire the property to provide long-term conservation of year-round wildlife habitat and to provide wildlife-based recreation, including hunting.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2019.

Acquisition cost is \$350,000 (appraised value) and will be comprised of \$287,800 in blended Pittman Robertson-license monies from the sale of Lawman and Withers properties and \$62,200 in license funding.

19-53 Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to approve acquiring the 232-acre Hoover property. Motion carries.

Exchange Eagle Hatchery Boundary

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game was contacted by the Cunningham family with a request to exchange a small portion of Eagle Hatchery (owned by IDFG) for an equal portion of property owned by the Cunningham family. The Cunningham property exchanged to the Department will be used for additional parking and has a canal as the boundary. The Department property exchanged to the Cunningham Family has a road easement on it for emergency vehicles (for the Cunningham Family) and follows an existing fence line. Each parcel in the exchange is 0.496 acres in size. There will be no loss of access to the Eagle hatchery property or the Boise River for the public.

This exchange is requested by the Cunningham Family and will benefit the Department as well. All associated costs were split between the Cunningham Family and the Department.

19-54 Commissioner Murphy moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to adopt staff recommendation and approve proceeding with the Eagle Hatchery exchange. Motion carries.

FISCAL

FY21 Budget Direction and License System Updates

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration provided the update (Appendix 52, Exhibit 36). The Department has begun the planning process for preparation of the fiscal year **2021** budget request to be submitted to the Governor's Office by September 3rd. This presentation will update the Commission on the current financial status of the Department and discuss revenue and expense expectations for the upcoming budget year.

The annual budget request is developed starting with the "base" amount of ongoing appropriation, which is then adjusted for routine cost increases (employee medical insurance, statewide costs allocated to IDFG, etc.).

The department then requests enhancements which can be ongoing or one-time for the upcoming year.

Current Timeline:

- May Commission meeting: Overview of Budget Development and initial estimates for revenue and general priorities
- May – July: Department staff compile and submit requests for additional appropriation to cover new projects with funding
- July Commission meeting: Preliminary Discussion of budget request, including items for supplemental appropriation and FY21 line item enhancements.
- July – August: Refinement of budget estimates and supporting documentation
- August Commission meeting: Final approval of FY21 Budget request
- September 3rd, 2019: Deadline to submit request to Governor's office and Legislative Services Office.

REPORTS

Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator, reported that the Region 3 main building is on schedule to be completed by May 15th. The Shop/Shipping building is under construction and will be completed in the following months.

At its April meeting IFWF approved a grant of up to \$125,000 for the Rocky Point project.

Back Country Access Update to Include Airstrips, Trails, and Access Points

Tom Curet, Regional Supervisor presented. In response to reductions in accessibility for backcountry hunting and fishing and complaints of hunter congestion at backcountry airstrips, the Department has recently increased efforts in improving backcountry access for hunters, anglers, and trappers. In particular, in central Idaho, backcountry access has been severely impacted by the lack of federal funding, equipment, personnel and action. Since the federal designation of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act in 1980, maintenance of trails and access portals into and through the Frank Church River of No Return (FCRONR) has routinely failed to meet the demand, resulting in diminished accessibility. The backlog of deferred trail maintenance and access issues have intensified in recent years due to large scale fires and considerably more downed trees, making access through burned areas almost impossible. Since 2000 approximately 50% of “Frank” has burned.

Several years ago the Department developed a small working group (SWG) to begin improving backcountry access for our constituents

The SWG has initiated the evaluation of the following information:

1. Evaluated 10 IDFG Backcountry properties within or adjacent to the Frank for backcountry access improvements.
2. Evaluated current airstrip access for hunter, anglers, and trappers.
3. Initiated a backcountry trail condition mapping exercise with IDPR
4. Evaluated road access portals near the boundaries of the Frank to look for maintenance opportunities.
5. Secured funding and provided technical assistance for trail, road, and airstrip improvements and renovations.

Briefing About Special Bighorn Sheep Lottery and Auction Tags

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist provided the briefing. Idaho Code 36-408(5)(a) dictates that one special bighorn sheep tag shall be auctioned off by an incorporated nonprofit wildlife conservation organization selected by the Commission each year. The Commission is also authorized to issue one special bighorn sheep tag to be issued by lottery by the Department or a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization selected by the Commission [Idaho Code 36-408(5)(b)]. At Commission direction, the Bureau of Wildlife staff developed guidelines for selection of organizations competing for opportunity to offer wildlife auction and lottery tags. When there are multiple bidders, Wildlife Bureau staff reviews and score all applications for the auction and lottery tags to assist in selecting which conservation groups receive these special wildlife tags to market through lottery or auction. Only two organizations have applied to offer the bighorn sheep auction tag and bighorn sheep lottery tags in recent years. *Wild Sheep Foundation* has applied for the auction tag, and the *Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation* has applied for the lottery tag.

Auction tag-- The auction tag sells for the highest price during odd-numbered years when the tag may be used in Hunt Area 11 in Hells Canyon. The auction tag sold for high values of

\$180,000 in 2005 and \$175,000 in 2019. The winning bid for the tag was \$90,000 in 2016 and \$105,000 in 2018 when the tag could not be used in Hunt Area 11. Since 1988, the auction tag has generated \$2,315,225 for bighorn sheep research and management.

Lottery tag-- The lottery tag has generated as much as \$114,531 in 2018 and \$86,246 in 2006 when the tag was valid in Hunt Area 11 and has generated approximately \$40,000 - \$65,000 during odd-numbered years when the tag is not valid in Hunt Area 11. Lottery proceeds were \$45,236 in 2015 and \$65,825 in 2017. The lottery drawing is held on the last Wednesday in July each year and is scheduled for July 31, 2019. Since 1992 the sale of tickets for the lottery tag drawing has generated \$1,346,320.

Commission action is required to release special bighorn sheep tags to conservation groups and is scheduled for the July meeting. The competitive bid process assures special tags are issued objectively and that maximum value is received for the tags to implement critical management programs.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Moose Management (and Plan) Update

Hollie Miyasaki presented the update on development of a revised Department Moose Management Plan. The intent of the revision of the moose management plan is to provide guidance for the Department and land management partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of moose populations in Idaho and to guide harvest season recommendations. This plan will function as the action plan for moose management during the next 6 years (2020-2025). The plan will guide the Department in development of annual work plans and program prioritization, and will provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Draft Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer Plan Updates

Daryl Meints, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, presented an overview of the status and content of the Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer Management Plan revisions at the Commission's March meeting.

The intent of a revision to the Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer plans is to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. These plans will function as the action plans for deer management in Idaho. Major issues that affect deer are identified, and set overall direction for deer management during the next 6 years (2020-2025). These plans will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization, and provide guidance on development of regulation recommendations.

Following the Commission meeting the current drafts will be posted on the Department website to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment. Agency partners, interested organizations and individuals will be notified of the opportunity to comment. After consideration

of public input, a final plan will be prepared to present to the Commission for adoption in August.

Development of these draft management plans was guided by public input received from deer hunters who responded to opinion surveys conducted in 2017 and 2018. The Department will seek further input from the public, interested groups, and affected agencies on the draft plans. The draft plans were posted on the Department's website for three weeks beginning in late May to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment. Comments will be considered as the draft is revised into a final document that will be presented to the Commission for adoption in August.

REPORT

Wolf Management Update

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife, presented the update (Appendix 52, Exhibit 37).

- 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Election of Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman

19-55 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to nominate Jerry Meyers as Chairman and Brad Corkill as Vice Chairman. Motion carries.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Director Schriever noted the Director's report in the agenda book stands as written

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 52, Exhibit 38).

Planning for Next Meeting

Commissioners discussed items for the July meeting in Salmon.

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Session

19-56 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Meyers seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) (b)(c) and(f).

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Jerry Meyers.

19-57 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to come out of executive session and no action taken. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Jerry Meyers
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary