

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – June 17, 2021
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Nampa, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Brad Corkill, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Schriever, Deputy Directors Jim Fredericks and Scott Reinecker; Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General Owen Moroney, Mary Boyer, Lance Hebdon, Toby Boudreau, and Frank Edelman.

IDFG staff participating via phone, Chip Coris, J.J. Teare, Jon Rachael, Craig White, Dan Garren, Jim White, Tom Curet, Sharon Kiefer, Brian Pearson, Roger Phillips, Greg Wooten, Dennis Newman, Terry Thompson and Kara Campbell. Members of the public attending: Garrick Dutcher, Dan Sickels, Ben Howard and Eli Francovich.

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MDT

Season Setting and Rules

Changes to 2021-2022 Wolf Season Proclamation

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife presented an overview of items related to the July 1 effective date of Senate Bill 1211.

Background: Idaho Senate Bill (SB) 1211 (related to wolf management) will become law effective July 1, 2021. The legislation involves changes to some aspects of: recreational hunting and trapping (seasons generally set by Commission proclamation); agency control actions (conducted/contracted by the state under IDFG authorization), and control actions by private individuals (IDFG permit, with exceptions for wolves attacking or molesting livestock/domestic animals).

SB 1211 states that wolf trapping seasons will be open year-round on private land and authorizes methods available for any other wild canines (coyotes and foxes) for the taking of wolves. The law also addresses the use of wolf tags for hunting and trapping.

Staff are aware of some confusion about the distinction between agency/private control actions and recreational hunting/trapping seasons. The Commission's 2021/2022 big game season proclamation addresses only recreational hunting and trapping seasons by gray wolf tag-holders. The agency makes decisions for control actions separately from season-setting. Although overall wolf management objectives for seasons and control actions are related, the decision frameworks differ. This agenda action item is specific to amending wolf hunting and trapping seasons in response to SB 1211.

Changes adopted through the passage of SB 1211 will take effect July 1, 2021. Changes that affect recreational wolf hunting and trapping include amendments to Idaho Code 36-201 (trapping seasons and methods of take), Idaho Code 36-408 (wolf tags).

Under temporary administrative rule (IDAPA 13.01.08.413) that will take effect July 1, 2021 in conjunction with SB 1211, the Commission may set seasons identifying units in which method of take restrictions for game animals do not apply where such restrictions do not apply to coyotes or fox: these seasons are noted as “expanded methods of take allowed” in the draft amended proclamation. IDAPA 13.01.08.413 provides for the ability to hunt outside of official big game shooting hours in such units during “expanded method of take” seasons, so long as the hunter obtains written permission (on private land) or an IDFG permit (on government-owned land). This rule is patterned after Idaho Code 36-1101(b)(6), which provides for use of artificial light for hunting coyote by similar permission.

After review with the Commission on the June 3, 2021 conference call, IDFG posted draft amended 2021-2022 wolf season proposals on its website for public review and feedback through June 13, 2021. Individuals also sent emails or letters to provide input (Appendix 54, Exhibit 39).

After reviewing public comment, staff recommend the Commission adopt amended 2021/2022 trapping and hunting seasons.

21-43 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion that the Commission adopt an amended proclamation for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 wolf seasons as presented by staff. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Greg Cameron
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary