

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting-November 22, 2021
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Nampa, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by Zoom conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Ed Schriever, Deputy Director Scott Reinecker, Deputy Attorneys General, Owen Moroney and Kathleen Trever, Valerie Taro, Lance Hebdon, Sharon Kiefer, and Frank Edelmann. IDFG participating via phone: Toby Boudreau, Mary Boyer, Chip Corsi, J.J. Teare, Jon Rachael, Craig White, Dan Garren, Jim White and Tom Curet.

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. MST.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Detection Update

Director Schriever started with a brief statement about CWD. Last week the Department confirmed the first two CWD positive samples in Idaho. The samples came from Unit 14. CWD is brand new to the state and there is concern about the prevalence and geographic spread of the disease. The Department is in an enhanced information gathering mode so it can clearly describe the extent of this disease to the Commission and to the public. The information gathered in the coming weeks will be the basis for management decisions to come. The items discussed today are not long-term management decisions; they reflect a need to gather more data to clearly assess the situation of where the Department is.

Toby Boudreau, Chief, Wildlife presented how the current sampling works. The Department has been surveilling for CWD for the past 24 years. In 2018, after CWD detections in western Montana, Idaho has updated its surveillance strategy every year. Because of earlier CWD appearance in Wyoming, Idaho had annually surveyed areas along the eastern border from Utah up through Region 6. Idaho added a sampling of rotation of other areas throughout the state. He also explained that under Idaho's CWD strategy, the next step after a CWD detection is to increase sampling to determine CWD prevalence (the percentage of the disease in a population) and geographic distribution. To have a smaller margin of error in statistical analyses, the Department will identify a minimum sample size to collect per species, gender and geographic area. The Department will determine how many additional samples will be needed through possible special surveillance hunts.

Deputy Attorney General Trever presented the special rule changes regarding IDAPA 13.01.10 Taking of Big Game Animals. The changes give the Department the authority to have mandatory checks in an emergency hunt and the ability to waive the requirement of evidence of sex/species as a way to keep from transporting unnecessary brain and spinal column from the area.

The second rule change addresses the transportation of carcasses in a CWD zone (Appendix 54, Exhibit 61). Because of the potential for rapid evolution of CWD, staff recommends that the Commission delegate (by rule) authority to the Director to designate a CWD management zone on a temporary basis for a period not to exceed ninety days, subject to commission review and action.

Staff recommends clarification that domestic cervids are regulated by the State of Idaho Department of Agriculture.

Staff also recommends clarification on skull caps because cleaning and drying in the field is not practical. Skull caps may not include brain or spinal tissue. The staff recommended rule changes also give the Department discretion to retain carcasses or parts, authorizes the Department to use seizure authority if a person is in violation of this section, and confirms that a person violating this section may be liable for handling and disposal costs, as authorized under Chapter 34 and 53 Title 19, Idaho Code for restitution.

21-88 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to adopt the rule changes to IDAPA 13.01.08 and IDAPA 13.01.10 presented by staff as temporary rules and as amendments to pending rules, subject to any necessary approval of the Governor's Office, with allowance for formatting or editing by staff that does not change the substance of the rules. Motion carries.

Mr. Boudreau then presented on distribution of deer and elk populations through collar data and how that will help assess CWD management zones. The stars on the map represented where the CWD deer were located (Appendix 54, Exhibit 62). There will be increased targeted sampling in areas 11A, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 23. At the conclusion of the current hunt seasons, the Department will know how many and where additional samples will be needed to have an appropriate minimum sample size for determining prevalence and geographic distribution.

21-89 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded the motion to designate Game Management Units 14 and 15 as a CWD Management Zone. Motion carries.

21-90 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded to delegate to the Director the authority to:

- establish one or more emergency hunts in the area identified for increased sampling for chronic wasting disease, subject to a maximum combined harvest of 1,000 mule deer and white-tailed deer and a limitation of these hunts to residents only;
- and establish discounted prices for tags in these hunts.

Motion carries.

Adjourn



Greg Cameron
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary