

TEMPORARY AND PROPOSED RULE FOR AGENDA ITEM 5L.

13.01.18 – RULES GOVERNING EMERGENCY FEEDING OF ANTELOPE PRONGHORN, ELK, AND DEER OF THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

100. INTENT.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recognizes ~~that~~ the importance of maintaining big game populations ~~should be maintained~~ under natural conditions and by naturally available forage. Winter forage is the major limiting factor which determines the basic size of the big game populations, and it must be maintained if the animals are to prosper and propagate. ~~In order to~~ To maintain these winter ranges, big game numbers must be controlled through adequate harvest. The Commission does not sanction ~~any~~ widespread supplemental winter feeding programs. Additionally, ~~big game animals, especially elk, when concentrated by supplemental feeding concentrates big game animals, making deer and elk very susceptible to spreading or contracting Chronic Wasting Disease, are very susceptible to as well as other infectious diseases that which can be transmitted to livestock. The risk of disease transmission may factor into making a supplemental feeding decision. However, b~~ Big game harvests and weather vary from year to year throughout the state. In most years and areas, snow depths, temperatures, and animal body condition do not create adverse conditions for wintering animals. Unusual weather conditions, limited winter forage, or other circumstances may create critical periods of stress for animals or force them into areas involving public safety. The Commission is unable to manage the big game populations for extreme weather. Therefore, emergency feeding of big game is appropriate under certain criteria. (x-xx-xx) (4-3-95)

101. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO REGIONAL SUPERVISORS.

Because the declaration of and quick response to a feeding emergency will depend on local conditions, the Commission and Director delegate the authority to declare a feeding emergency and to expend funds on feeding to the Regional Supervisors of the Department of Fish and Game. (4-3-95)

102. EMERGENCY FEEDING CRITERIA.

01. Declaration of Feeding Emergency. A feeding emergency may be declared if one (1) or more of the following criteria are met: (4-3-95)

- a. Actual or imminent threat of depredation to private property. (4-3-95)
- b. Threat to public safety, including traffic hazards. (4-3-95)
- c. Excessive mortality which would affect the recovery of the herd. (4-3-95)
- d. Limited or unavailable winter forage caused by fire or unusual weather. (4-3-95)

02. Additional Guidelines. The Regional Supervisors may develop additional guidelines on emergency feeding within the listed criteria based on risk of disease transmission, local conditions and local public input. (x-xx-xx) (4-3-95)