

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Salmon Regional Office
July 27-28, 2022**

MISCELLANEOUS

July 27

Presentation and Aerial Tour of Wilderness Areas and Pahsimeroi Hatchery

Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, Derick Attebury and Ron Davies participated on the tour.

Public Meeting

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Bobbitt, Ebert, Cameron, Cheirrett, Attebury and Davies were present. Chairman Murphy reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing and reported that the Commission at the Thursday business meeting would review all public comments.

The following individuals proved public comment: Donald Sickels, Travis Bullock, Justin Webb, Mitch McFarland and Gus Thoreson.

July 28

Opening Comments

Agenda Changes

Move agenda item # 8 3 Billion Bird Program Report to 10:15 on the agenda.

Review of Public Comment

Director Schriever and Commissioners discussed and reviewed the public comments. Topics included:

- Comments from Mitch McFarland, Idaho Wildlife Sheep Foundation, appreciates the collaborative work with the Department for conservation of sheep relative to agenda item 5. E.
- 2020 commitment to revisit the historic use for outfitters business. Deputy Director Fredericks discussed with Gus Thoreson after the hearing.
- Foundation for Wildlife Management request to consider F4WM Community Challenge Grant application.
- Lifetime licenses and the need for transparency.

- Request to consider putting the Sawtooth Zone Elk tags into a draw system; and all units and zones not meeting elk objectives for the last 10 years changes need to be implemented.

Consent Calendar

Consent calendar items (February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 23-24, and April 14, 2022, and Financial Report) were adopted without objection.

FISCAL

FY24 Budget Approval

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration, provided an update and a request for the Commission's approval for the state fiscal year 2024 Legislative Budget Request (Appendix 55, Exhibit 20). The 2024 budget request package is due to the Governor's office on September 1, 2022. The Department is seeking approval to submit the request, though minor details are still in development. These minor details are expected to change the overall total by \$3 million or less, or less than 2% of the total.

22-40 Commissioner Bobbitt moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to approve the State Fiscal Year 2024 budget request as presented and allow the Department to modify the request as necessary for minor adjustments. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Sage-Grouse Season Setting

Michelle Kemner, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented the final recommendations for the 2022 sage-grouse hunting seasons and bag limits, including bag and possession limits for take by falconry (Appendix 55, Exhibit 21). The sage-grouse tag system is designed to limit harvest to no more than a maximum of 10% of the estimated fall population in each of the 12 reporting zones. In each zone, fall populations were estimated based on spring lek counts and recruitment estimates derived from juvenile: adult ratios observed in the harvest. To generate tag numbers for each zone, Department staff first determined allowable harvest (targeting 8% of the estimated fall population in most zones during 2021), then assumed a 90% success rate. Fall 2021 harvest success was lower than anticipated. Proposed fall 2022 calculations are presented for 90% and 75% success rates.

22-41 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion that the Commission adopt the staff recommendations for the 2022 sage-grouse hunting season and bag limits, including bag and possession limits for take by falconry. Motion carries.

FISCAL

Commission Challenge Grants

Amber Christofferson, Deputy Director, explained that the Fish and Game Commission authorized a Commission Community Challenge Grant (Challenge Grant) composed of 7 regional (\$10,000 each) and 1 statewide grant (\$30,000) to provide partnership opportunity to implement projects broadly supported by the local/statewide sportsman community and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, populations, or associated recreational opportunities.

The application period was March 1 through April 15, 2022. Grant money is awarded for project expenditure during FY23: July 1, 2022 through June 1, 2023.

The Department received 36 Regional proposals and two statewide project proposals. Regional and statewide committees met in May and June to review the applications and make recommendations for funding.

Final recommendations presented to the Commission for approval and announcement:

Panhandle Region

- Trout Unlimited
 - Amount recommended: \$5,000
 - Brief description: Initiation of a Priest River Working Group
- Idaho Trails Association
 - Amount recommended: \$5,000
 - Brief description: Trail maintenance, clearing and restoration in Unit 9

Clearwater Region

- Great Burn Conservation Alliance
 - Amount recommended: \$10,000
 - Brief description: Kelly Creek noxious weed control

Southwest Region

- Idaho State Bowhunters Association
 - Amount recommended: \$7,000
 - Brief description: Purchase youth archery equipment
- Wild Sheep Foundation
 - Amount recommended: \$3,000
 - Brief description: Purchase telemetry collars

Magic Valley Region

- Wood River Land Trust
 - Amount recommended: \$4,000
 - Brief description: Big Wood River Watershed macroinvertebrate trend monitoring

- Magic Valley Bowhunters
 - Amount recommended: \$5,000
 - Brief description: Repair indoor shooting range's electronic street sign
- Idaho State Bowhunters
 - Amount recommended: \$1,000
 - Brief description: Purchase archery equipment for new hunters

Southeast Region

- National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Amount recommended: \$6,000
 - Brief description: Purchase a "habitat trailer"
- Idaho State Bowhunters
 - Amount recommended: \$2,000
 - Brief Description: Provide five lifetime licenses to be given out at their banquet
- East Idaho Houndsman Association
 - Amount recommended: \$2,000
 - Brief Description: Provide five lifetime licenses to be give out at their banquet

Upper Snake Region

- Safari Club International
 - Amount recommended: \$10,000
 - Brief description: Conduct a pronghorn migration study

Salmon Region

- Idaho Trails Association
 - Amount recommended: \$6,140
 - Brief description: Trail maintenance, clearing and restoration in Camas Creek
- Foundation for Wildlife Management
 - Amount recommended: \$3,860
 - Brief Description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses related to wolf harvest in Game Management Units specified by IDFG.

Statewide Applications – Four Applicants:

- F4WM for \$30,000
 - Amount recommended: \$30,000; Cost Share: \$30,000
 - Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses related to wolf harvest in Game Management Units specified by IDFG.

22-42 Commissioner Bobbitt moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to approve recommendations of the regional and statewide review committees and announce outcome of FY 2023 Commission Community Challenge Grants. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Release of 2022 Bighorn Sheep Auction and Lottery Tag

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist presented staff recommendations to release bighorn sheep tags for auction and lottery.

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 review 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 been selected to receive the auction tag, and the opportunity to market the lottery tag has been granted to *Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation*.

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 highest bid for the auction tag was \$310,000 in 2021. In years the tag could not be used in Hunt Area 11, the highest winning bid was \$165,000 in 2020 and 2022. Since 1988, the auction tag has generated \$2,923,225 in net proceeds for bighorn sheep research and management.

Proceeds received from the auction tag are currently used to identify causes for, and solutions to, disease in bighorn sheep.

Lottery tag -- The lottery tag generated \$212,146 in 2020 and \$114,531 in 2018 when the tag was valid in Hunt Area 11. During odd-numbered years when the tag is not valid in Hunt Area 11, lottery proceeds were \$189,047 in 2021 and \$109,593 in 2019. The lottery drawing is scheduled for July 29, 2022. Since 1992, the sale of tickets for the lottery tag drawing has generated \$1,770,433 in net proceeds.

Lottery-generated funds are used to support the Department's Wildlife Health and Forensic Lab program.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission award the opportunity to auction the 2023 bighorn sheep tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation and the 2023 bighorn sheep lottery tag to the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation.

22-43 Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion that the Commission award the 2023 bighorn sheep auction tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation and the 2023 bighorn sheep lottery tag to the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation. Motion carries.

Discount Order for Lottery Tag Special Controlled Hunt Applications

Idaho Code Section 36-408(5)(b) authorizes the Commission to issue one (1) special bighorn sheep tag each year, with the tag to be issued by the Department of Fish and Game to an eligible person as determined by lottery drawing. Under Section 36-408 the bighorn sheep “lottery tag” may be marketed by the Department or a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation selected by the Commission.

Commission rule, IDAPA 13.01.04.800, clarifies that “tickets” for the bighorn sheep lottery tag are nontransferable controlled hunt applications. Agreements with the nonprofit organization selected for marketing the Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag have identified discounted prices, including additional discounts for multiple purchases. The published brochures (season proclamation and summary of rules) for Moose/Bighorn Sheep/Mountain Goat have reflected these agreed-upon prices. The Commission has determined that a discount order pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code Section 36-415, is an appropriate procedural mechanism for memorializing the ticket/application prices for the Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag.

Fees for all “Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag” Special Controlled Hunt Applications for the July 2023 drawings are proposed to be consistent with those in the 2022 drawing as follows:

- One (1) Ticket/Application - \$20.00
- Six (6) Tickets/Applications - \$100.00
- Fourteen (14) Tickets/Applications - \$166.75
- Twenty-Five (25) Tickets/Applications - \$250.00

Staff Recommendation: Adopt discounted fees for all “Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag” Special Controlled Hunt applications for the July 2023 drawing.

22-44 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to adopt discounted fees for all “Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag” Special Controlled Hunt applications for the July 2023 drawing. Motion carries.

Administrative Rules: Adoption of Temporary and Proposed Rules

Amber Christofferson, Deputy Director, presented.

Background:

Consistent with Executive Order 20-01 for Zero-Based Regulation, the Commission is reviewing four chapters of IDAPA rules this year:

- **13.01.02**, Rules Governing Mandatory Education and Mentored Hunting
 - ZBR review includes Commission direction to consider a requirement for mandatory gender identification for mountain goat hunters
- **13.01.10**, Rules Governing Wildlife Importation, Possession, Release, Sale, or Salvage

- **13.01.14**, Rules Governing Falconry
- **13.01.18**, Rules Governing Feeding of Pronghorn, Elk, and Deer

In addition to ZBR rulemaking, the Commission authorized rulemaking for two proposals originating from petitioned rulemaking:

- 13.01.04, Rules Governing Licensing (rule change to support outfitter tag allocation in general deer and elk hunts limited for non-residents only)
- 13.01.04 , Rules Governing Licensing (rule change for exception from method of take restriction for big game hunting to allow attached electronic camera device for a sighted assistant to help a blind hunter line up on a target)

Following opportunity for negotiated rulemaking, staff prepared proposed rule language for the Commission's consideration for the four ZBR chapters and the two individual rule proposals.

Staff also prepared a temporary rule regarding outfitter tag allocation to be effective for tag allocation occurring in 2022 for general deer and elk hunts in 2023 that are limited for nonresidents only (residents unlimited). The temporary rule language differs from the proposed rule. This difference is because allocation in the proposed rule relies on two years of outfitter hunter use data verified under Idaho Code 36-408, which will not be available at the time of allocation in 2022. Data verification began through the Department's licensing system in 2021. The temporary rule will use verified 2021 use data and 2020 data reported to the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board. The 2020 use data is less precise, in part because it preceded the Commission's restriction of nonresident general deer tags by unit and may identify use based on species of deer hunted versus the IDFG regular/white-tailed tag designation.

Idaho Code 36-104 grants authority to the Commission to set seasons and promulgate IDAPA rules. Idaho Code 67, Chapter 52 (Idaho Administrative Procedure Act) governs the process for considering, adopting, and implementing IDAPA rules. Idaho Code 67-5220 provides for negotiated rulemaking, and Idaho Code 67-5221 provides for adoption of proposed rules for additional public notice and comment.

22-45 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion that the Commission adopt proposed rules as presented, with authority for the Department to make non-substantive edits in the proofreading process that do not alter the sense, meaning or effect of the rules. Motion carries.

22-46 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion that the Commission adopt the temporary rule as presented, with the governor's finding pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-5226 that adoption of a temporary rule is appropriate to confer a benefit on Idaho citizens, and with authority for the Department to make non-substantive edits in the proofreading process that do not alter the sense, meaning or effect of the rules. Motion carries.

REPORT

3 Billion Bird Program Report

Nanette Seto, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Acting Deputy Director provided an overview of the Service's 3 Billion Bird program at the meeting.

A study published in 2019 revealed that the overall population of breeding birds in the United States has declined by 2.9 billion since 1970. These declines encompass a wide range of species, including many birds that have always been considered common, like the red-winged blackbird, which has declined by 96 million. This discovery prompted multiple entities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to launch "3 billion bird" initiatives to address the decline.

The Service, through their 3 Billion Birds Program, has identified 6 priorities to initially focus efforts: grassland birds, forest birds, seabirds, shorebirds, aerial insectivores, and bird collisions.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 implements four international conservation treaties that the U.S. entered into with Canada in 1916, Mexico in 1936, Japan in 1972, and Russia in 1976. It is intended to ensure the sustainability of populations of all protected migratory bird species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Wildlife management plans, including species management plans and the State Wildlife Action Plan, guide conservation and management of wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan.

LANDS

Fort Boise – Mann Property Exchange

Sal Palazzolo, State Wildlife Program Manager presented.

The Fort Boise – Mann exchange would approve the Department to exchange 1.52 acres located on the east side of the Union Pacific Railroad for 0.77 acres located on the west side of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Department's parcel has never been developed or maintained as part of Fort Boise WMA. The exchange will streamline the Fort Boise WMA boundary, eliminate potential private property trespass issues, and alleviate safety concerns regarding sportsmen near a very active section of railroad track.

IDFG will convey to Mann a parcel totaling 1.52 acres with an estimated value of \$6,638. The IDFG Property shares a common boundary along the eastern edge with other property owned by Mann. In return, Mann will convey to IDFG a 0.77 acre parcel with an estimated value of \$3,354. This parcel is bordered on two sides by the Fort Boise WMA. Mann will pay the value difference between the Mann Property and IDFG Property.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in November 2020.

IDFG already manages the adjacent surrounding land, so resources are already available and on-site to manage the small parcel.

22-47 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded a motion to approve the Fort Boise-Mann property exchange. Motion carries.

DEQ Land Transfer

Sal Palazzolo, State Wildlife Program Manager reported that this proposal is for acceptance of fee-title for a 40-acre parcel from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The property is located between the towns of Pinehurst and Kellogg in the Panhandle region. Recreational access provided includes current fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities, future float-boat access, and public access to an additional 295 acres of BLM and IDEQ lands. Acquisition of the property would provide both habitat restoration opportunities and public access to a 3.5 mile section of the South Fork of the CDA River. IDFG purchased the neighboring 90-acre McKee property in 2021 as Phase 1 of the project. This transfer is phase 2.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in November 2018.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated to be \$1,680.

22-48 Commissioner Bobbitt moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission accept the 40-acre DEQ property transfer. Motion carries.

Opening Myrtle Creek Preserve to Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping

Carson Watkins, Panhandle Regional Supervisor reported that the Myrtle Creek preserve was one of 33 game preserves created by the Idaho legislature between 1909 and 1939 to protect wildlife from over-hunting. Myrtle Creek preserve was created in 1937 and contains 23,000 acres in combination of National Forest land, private timber land, and Idaho Department of Lands property in Boundary County west of Bonners Ferry. Myrtle Creek is one of 4 preserves that remain closed to hunting today, including David Thompson Preserve (Bonner Co.), Lewiston Preserve (Nez Perce Co.), and Springfield Preserve (Bingham Co.; closed to take of game birds and waterfowl).

Myrtle Creek is the primary water source for the city of Bonners Ferry. Legislation provides that the Fish and Game Commission may open the lands within the preserve to hunting, fishing, and trapping with the concurrent approval of Bonners Ferry City Council and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

The City of Bonners Ferry has provided a letter of support (Appendix 55, Exhibit 22), and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has provided a letter (Appendix 55, Exhibit 23) of approval for the Commission to restore hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities within the preserve.

Deputy Attorney Kathleen Trever noted that Communications staff will provide news releases informing the public of the Commission decision to restore the opportunity to hunt, fish, and trap within the boundaries of the Myrtle Creek Preserve. The Department hunting brochures and website will be updated to reflect this change.

Wildlife preserves were created by the Idaho legislature (Idaho Code §36-1901) for the purpose of providing “better protection of wild animals and birds, for the establishment of breeding places therefor and for the preservation of the species thereof.”

Idaho Code §36-1902 prohibits take of wild animals and wild birds in wildlife preserves created by state law.

Myrtle Creek Preserve has an additional restrictions (Idaho Code §36-1905) that prohibits fishing. Idaho Code §36-1905 provides that “*the Idaho fish and game commission may, after receiving concurrent written approval from the Idaho department of environment quality and the Bonners Ferry city council, open certain waters and lands lying within the Myrtle Creek preserve to hunting, fishing or trapping during prescribed seasons.*”

22-49 Commissioner Bobbitt moved and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion that the Commission restore the opportunity to hunt, fish, and trap within the boundaries of the Myrtle Creek preserve. Motion carries.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approval of the Bonneville Cutthroat Management Plan Final

Martin Koeing, Sportfish Program Coordinator presented (Appendix 55, Exhibit 24) and noted that this document has been a large team effort, which has included contributions from staff in our Southeast Region, Eagle Fish Genetic Lab, Fisheries Research and Headquarters.

The plan is an update to the 2007 document and was first presented during the March 2022 Commission meeting. The updated plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development, program prioritization, and development of regulatory recommendations.

There are four major components to the plan:

- Conservation/Management goals
- Natural history and biology
- Factors affecting status (threats)
- Conservation/Management priorities

Public input on the draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan was collected during the 30-day public comment period in May 2022. The comment period was announced via press release and email newsletter. In addition to the general public, agency partners including the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, UT Division of Wildlife Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, County Commissioners, and Trout Unlimited. Staff have reviewed the comments received and considered them in developing this final draft of the plan. A summary of

the comments and associated changes to the draft plan to reflect relevant comments were presented to the Commission (Appendix 55, Exhibit 24).

22-50 Commissioner Cheirrett moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission approve the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan as presented with the provision that if Bonneville Cutthroat Trout are identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the final State Wildlife Action Plan, the Bonneville Cutthroat Plan will be updated to reflect the change in status. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Second Application Period in Drawing for Swan Controlled Hunt Tags

Jon Rachael, Chief, Wildlife Idaho's first swan hunt was held during fall 2020. Tags (50) were offered on a first-come, first-served basis and sold out very quickly. During 2021, tags (50) were issued through a controlled hunt drawing following an application period that coincided with the second big game controlled hunt application period, August 5-15.

This spring, the application period published in the migratory game bird hunting proclamation identified the swan controlled hunt application period as May 1 - June 5, concurrent with other fall controlled hunts (i.e., deer, elk). Unfortunately, the proclamation was not printed and available for distribution until after the June 5 application deadline; consequently, very few constituents were aware of the application period. Only 13 applications were received for the 50 available tags.

Under existing frameworks for controlled hunts, applications for fall controlled hunts may be submitted electronically through the automated licensing system at any vendor location, including Department offices, through the Internet, or via telephone, not later than June 5 (or an alternate date specified by the Commission when this date is impractical) for fall hunts, annually. Further, in any controlled hunt, not more than ten percent (10%) of the tags will be issued to nonresidents.

Staff recommends the Commission adopt a second Controlled Hunt drawing to distribute the remaining swan tags (37) for the 2022 season. The application period would coincide with the second big game controlled hunt application period from August 5-15.

22-51 Commissioner Cameron moved and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendation to implement a second Controlled Hunt drawing to distribute swan tags for the 2022 season. Motion carries.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Review of DRAFT State Wildlife Action Plan for Public Comment

Rita Dixon, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator
Background:

The Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is a statewide plan for conserving and managing Idaho's most at-risk fish and wildlife species and their habitats. The SWAP provides strategic and voluntary guidance on priority conservation actions needed for SWAP species including both "species of greatest conservation need" and "species of greatest information need", as determined by the Department. For the first time, the Department has incorporated plant species into its 2022 revision. The plan also emphasizes preventing future species listings under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.; ESA), thus helping maintain state-led management authority for Idaho's native fish, wildlife, and plants.

In authorizing the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (STWG) in 2000, Congress required that all states wishing to remain eligible for funding under this program commit to reviewing, and if necessary, revising their plans at intervals of not more than 10 years. Accordingly, this plan represents the Department's comprehensive review and revision of its 2015 SWAP.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Wildlife management plans, including species management plans and the State Wildlife Action Plan, guide conservation and management of wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The SWAP will function as the action plan for at-risk species management in Idaho.

Pending approval by the Commission to release the draft 2022 SWAP revision, the Department will initiate a 30-day public comment period in August 2022 to give the public and affected stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the draft plan.

Following review of public input staff will incorporate improvements and prepare a final draft for Commission consideration for adoption at their November meeting.

States are required to provide an opportunity for public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of their respective state wildlife action plans. In addition, the plan must include a description of how the state involved the public in the development of its plan. The approval of the 2022 SWAP revision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service depends on meeting this requirement.

Staff seeks Commission concurrence to release the Draft SWAP revision for public review and input.

Commission concurrence is to release the Draft SWAP revision for public review and input.

Sport Fish Restoration Award

Gary Whelan, Michigan DNR, President AFS Fisheries presented the award.

The American Fisheries Society's, Fisheries Administration Section selected the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and its project entitled "American white pelican predation and implications for native trout and recreational fisheries in southern Idaho" as recipient of the 2021 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award in the category of Research and Surveys. The annual Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project awards, given by the Fisheries Administration Section of the American Fisheries Society, are intended to both highlight the importance and

effectiveness of the Sport Fish Restoration program and recognize excellence in fisheries management, research, and education.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bighorn Sheep Annual Action Plan Update

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist provided an overview of the 2022 bighorn sheep action plan (Appendix 55, Exhibit 26). The Commission adopted the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (2022-2027) at their May 19, 2022 meeting. The intent of the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan is to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of bighorn sheep populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. This plan also provides guidance for annual action plans for bighorn sheep management in Idaho. The annual action plan will describe in more detail planned activities to address management directions and strategies.

REPORTS

Update on Chronic Wasting Disease Citizens Advisory Committee and 2022 CWD Sampling Strategy

Jon Rachael, Chief, Wildlife (Appendix 55, Exhibit 27) provided a report on the status of chronic wasting disease testing and management in Idaho.

IDFG has been monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk since 1997 and have sampled approximately 22,000 animals over the last 25 years.

CWD was first detected in the state in Unit 14 in late 2021. The Commission designated a temporary CWD management zone as Units 14 and 15 and IDFG staff increased CWD surveillance efforts in the area. A CWD Surveillance Area was identified as all of Units 14 and 15, and portions of Units 11A, 13, 18, and 23. Emergency CWD surveillance hunts were employed in those units in December to collect additional CWD samples. In total, four hunter-harvested deer tested positive for CWD in 2021, all harvested in Unit 14. In addition to the harvested deer, two other animals in Unit 14 with potential CWD-like symptoms were sampled and tested positive for CWD, one whitetail buck and one cow elk. To date no additional CWD samples have tested positive and CWD has not been detected outside of Unit 14.

For the CWD sampling period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, Department staff collected and tested the following CWD samples:

Species	Number of Samples Collected
Mule Deer - Statewide	1213
Mule Deer – CWD Surveillance Area	178
White-tailed Deer - Statewide	1035
White-tailed Deer - CWD Surveillance Area	369
Elk - Statewide	331
Elk - CWD Surveillance Area	69

At the January 2022 Commission meeting, staff presented an update on the status of CWD in Idaho, including CWD management actions identified in IDFG's *2021 Strategy for Chronic Wasting Disease*. Management actions identified included consideration of season changes in the CWD management zone, the establishment of a CWD citizen advisory group, continued CWD monitoring statewide, and a new rule granting the Commission authority to require hunter-harvested animal testing in specific areas.

At their March 2022 meeting, the Commission adopted modifications to the 2022 hunting seasons in Unit 14 and implemented a mandatory check requirement for all deer, elk, and moose harvested in Units 14 and 15 for the 2022 hunting season.

Fall Chinook and Coho Forecasts

Chris Sullivan, Anadromous Program Coordinator, provided an update about Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon fisheries and outlook for fall salmon and steelhead seasons (Appendix 55, Exhibit 28).

Director's Report

Director Schriever updated the Commission on Department happenings, and the written reports stands as written.

Commissioner Reports

Written reports stand as written (Appendix 55, Exhibit 29).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November in Lewiston.

Executive Session

22-52 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion that the Commission enter into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections (1) (c) (f). Roll Call Vote Ayes: Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirret, Derick Attebury and Ron Davies.

The Commission discussed potential property acquisition and litigation matters.

22-53 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded a motion to come out of executive session with the record to reflect that no final action was taken. Motion carries.

Adjournment



Timothy M. Murphy
Chairman



Ed Schriever
Secretary