

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
June 26-28, 2023
Special Meeting
Stonebraker Ranch**

June 26-28

Commission Chair Ebert called the meeting to order with Commissioners Bobbitt, Murphy, Cameron, Attebury, and Davies present. Commissioner Cheirrett was excused.

MISCELLANEOUS

Review/Status updates (no action items)

1. Backcountry Access and Fish and Game Property Management
Commission tour and review of the history of the Stonebraker and Hotzel Ranches and their acquisition by the Commission. Reviewed issues and activities regarding backcountry access in the Frank Church and other federally designated wildernesses and non-wilderness areas, including trails and airstrips.
2. IDFG Opinion Survey
Reviewed potential survey of public opinion regarding the Department (similar IDFG surveys conducted in 2002 and 2012).
3. Chronic Wasting Disease
Reviewed IDFG activities in the CWD Management Zone; reviewed continuation of IDFG's statewide CWD monitoring plan in areas outside the Management Zone. Chair Ebert and Commissioner Bobbitt and Regional reviewed information they and IDFG staff received at the recent CWD symposium in Denver, CO.
4. Rulemaking Scheduling and Planning
Reviewed the planning for the remaining 3 years of the Governor's 5-year direction for "Zero-based Rulemaking"—rulemaking for 2024, 2025, 2026 Legislative Review. Reviewed the 2023 legislative change that requires review of all administrative rule chapters at least once every eight years after 2026, and approval by both legislative houses for all final rulemaking after July 1, 2026. Discussed how rulemaking requests/petitions may occur outside of ZBR schedule (example of requests for changes to 13.01.02 mandatory education rules relative to bear identification and wolf trapping)
5. Budget Planning
Reviewed budget planning, including projecting revenue and the status of set-aside, rainy-day, and federal source funds. Reviewed "price lock" discount order, nonresident/resident fees and comparison of costs of hunting and fishing in Idaho relative to other states. Discussed additional priorities, such as increased law enforcement relative to increased population and access management.

6. Legislative relations

Reviewed process used in recent years for the Commission's review of pending legislation of interest to the Commission/Fish & Game constituencies, and potential process improvements. Reviewed Governor's Office process for agency-sponsored legislation, including budget, and direction for agency coordination on legislative matters. Reviewed ways to improve effectiveness of Fish & Game interaction with legislators, both during and outside of session. Discussed how to improve knowledge of agency and legislator perspectives on Fish and Game issues and related constituent interests and concerns.

7. Managing non-resident hunter participation

Reviewed information for initial years of limiting nonresident participation in general elk/deer zones/units that are unlimited for residents, and association outfitter tag allocation. Reviewed current frameworks for statewide and zone/unit limits for nonresidents and outfitter set-aside, and distinctions in frameworks for capped zones (residents & nonresidents limited) and controlled hunts. Reviewed categories of nonresident for limits/exceptions, such as NR DAV and lifetime license holders that have become NRs.

8. Big Game Management Frameworks and Species Planning

Discussed IDFG's activities for implementing wolf management plan and related 2023 Wolf Depredation Control Board activities. Reviewed framework of agency control actions and expense reimbursement for trapper/hunters under agreements/challenge grants with F4WM.


Reviewed agency activities relative to finalizing/updating interagency conservation strategies for grizzly bears and delisting frameworks.

Reviewed elk management objectives at summary level.

9. Historical/current big game hunting methods of take frameworks/rationale

Reviewed upcoming ZBR rulemaking for 13.01.08, which will encompass technology allowances/restrictions in general and special weapons hunts (archery/muzzleloader/short-range weapon) and motorized hunting rule. Demonstration of thermal binoculars and review of shotgun technology.

Adjourn.



Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary