

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – February 20, 2025
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Legislative Conference Call
Boise, Idaho**

A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Mike Roach, Jordan Cheirrett, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Amber Worthington, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Ellary TuckerWilliams, Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General, Jon Oswald, Tara Reichert, Adam Park, Shane Roberts, Rick Ward, Tricia Hebdon, Joey Ishida, Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Josh Royce, Craig White, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, Ryan Hilton, and Elizabeth Page.

IDFG staff participating via phone: TJ Ross, Clay Hickey, Veronica Gutierrez, Terry Thompson, Kenzie Baratti, Mike Peterson, Kim Sayer, James Brower, and Justin Williams.

Members of the public in attendance: Garrett Visser, Idaho Wildlife Foundation, and Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Conservation League.

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MST.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update (Commissioner Confirmations, IDFG Presentations, Bills, budget, Rulemaking, etc.)

Amber Worthington provided the following updates on rulemaking.

Following the previous update, the Chapter 7 review, initially held due to federal language concerns, is now scheduled for a Senate Resources vote on Monday, along with agency resource allocations. House Bill 248, the base appropriation budget, advanced to its third reading today and will proceed for final House consideration. Commissioner Mike Roach's confirmation hearing remains unscheduled on the floor.

New Bill Analysis for Discussion/Update on Pending Legislation / Action for Policy Position

Ellary Tucker Williams provided the following updates on legislation.

S1086 would expand criminal trespass definitions to include violations of recreational access terms on properly noticed lands, including BLM properties. Currently, IDFG enforces restrictions on state and some federal lands, but lacks authority on BLM. While intended to deter poor behavior, this expansion could significantly increase enforcement demands on IDFG's limited conservation officers, potentially straining relationships with land managers and the public. Although no direct fiscal impact is anticipated, increased workload may necessitate future

resource requests. S1086 has passed the Senate Resources committee and awaits a Senate floor vote.

The Department will continue to monitor and provide updates to the Commission.

HB 232 proposes a significant overhaul of Idaho's deer and elk tag allocation system. Currently, the system is complex, with varying rules for different hunt types. HB 232 would reduce non-resident hunter participation to 10%, repeal outfitter tag allocation, and transition non-resident tags to resident sales at non-resident prices. While aimed at simplifying the system and addressing crowding concerns, this could result in a substantial \$7.1 million revenue loss for IDFG. The repeal of outfitter allocation also carries potential economic impacts for the outfitting industry and rural economies. HB 232, introduced by Representative James Petzke, is currently referred to the House Resources and Conservation committee, with a proposed implementation date for the 2027 hunting season.

The Department will continue to monitor and provide updates to the Commission.

HB 262 would mandate that 25% of all non-resident deer and elk tags, or a minimum of 3,875 deer tags and 3,200 elk tags, be allocated to licensed outfitters across all hunt types. Currently, outfitter allocation varies by hunt type and is subject to Commission rulemaking. HB 262 would also require biennial recalculation of outfitter allocation, allowing for up to 50% growth, which conflicts with the mandate of allocating all outfitter tags. This shift could negatively impact DIY non-resident and resident hunting opportunities and potentially lead to revenue loss from unsold tags. Additionally, the immediate implementation could cause issues, as 2025 tags are already allocated. HB 262, introduced by Representative Judy Boyle, has been referred to the House Resources and Conservation committee.

The Department will continue to monitor and provide updates to the Commission.

Executive Session

25-16 Commissioner Bobbitt moved, and Commissioner Ebert seconded a motion that the Commission enter executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections (1) (c) (f).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, and Ron Davies.

The Commission discussed litigation matters.

25-17 Commissioner Bobbitt moved, and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion that the Commission come out of executive session with no action taken. Motion carries.

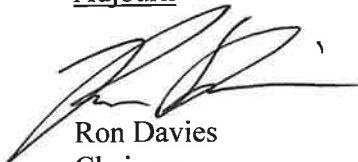
Open Session

Litigation Position


Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General presented. The Commission voted to authorize legal action regarding an existing lawsuit.

25-18 Commissioner Bobbitt moves that move the Commission authorize the Idaho Attorney General's Office to proceed with an appeal to the Ninth Circuit of the federal magistrate's decision in the lawsuit brought against the Governor, individual Fish and Game Commissioners, and the Director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and that the record reflect that information presented in this case found ZERO grizzly bears killed, injured or even captured during an open trapping season in Idaho in a trap lawfully placed for wolves or any other species during the past twenty-five years. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Ron Davies
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary