

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – February 27, 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, Brody Harshbarger, and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Director Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director Amber Worthington, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Ellary Tucker Williams, Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General, Tricia Hebdon, Rick Ward, Sal Palazzolo, Tara Reichert, and Elizabeth Page.

IDFG staff participating via phone: Carson Watkins, JJ Teare, Veronic Guitierrez, Craig White, Dan Garren, Matt Pieron, and Ryan Hilton.

Members of the public in attendance: Nick Fascianto, Idaho Wildlife Federation.

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 updates on rulemaking and legislative developments.

The Chapter 7 review, initially scheduled for a Senate Resources vote, was postponed due to other priorities on the agenda. It has now been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 5th, 2025.

Commissioner Mike Roach's confirmation remains pending, with his nomination advancing to the third reading calendar daily. However, a final confirmation vote has not yet been scheduled.

HB 248, the base appropriation budget, continues to progress through the Senate but has not yet reached a final vote. Additionally, an enhancement budget bill has been referred to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) for review. A rules concurrent resolution remains under consideration by both legislative chambers, and a recent committee vote resulted in unanimous approval.

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

Ellary Tucker Williams provided the following updates on legislation.

HB 302 would significantly alter Idaho's wildlife translocation process by requiring county commissioner approval. Currently, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) relocates wildlife based on public safety concerns and conservation needs, with minimal bureaucratic delays. The bill mandates notifying affected landowners and public grazing permittees, who can

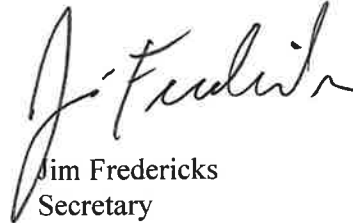
object and trigger a county commission hearing, potentially delaying or blocking relocations. IDFG warns that this could lead to increased euthanasia of wildlife due to a lack of holding facilities and hinder conservation efforts, game bird stocking, and endangered species recovery. Additionally, the bill may impose high costs on IDFG due to increased disease surveillance requirements and administrative burdens.

25-19 Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion that the Commission does not support and testify on HB 302. Commissioner Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Adjourn



Ron Davies
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary