



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Technical Assistance PROCEDURE NO.: DIR-3.0

Background

The Technical Services Bureau administers the Department's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to advance the Department's mission to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage Idaho's fish, wildlife, and botanical resources and associated recreation for the public interest (Idaho Code § 36-103). Technical assistance is typically requested for proposed actions, including resource planning and regulatory processes and projects, that could affect the Department's mission. Requestors include state, federal, and local governmental agencies; private landowners; and development interests (e.g., transportation, energy, minerals, water diversions, etc.). As an Executive agency and often in coordination with other Executive agencies, the Department develops and communicates technical assistance in many written (e.g., letters, emails, memos, reports, etc.) and verbal forms (e.g., meetings, site visits, etc.).

General Guidance

The Department implements its mission in a manner that is compatible with other State business, including promoting the safety, health, and welfare of Idaho citizens through public and private enterprises. Therefore, the TAP respects policymaking authorities of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and Idaho Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.

TAP staff provides fact-based and solution-oriented technical assistance that (1) informs decision-makers about estimated effects of proposed actions and (2) recommends measures to offset adverse effects through the mitigation hierarchy (i.e. avoid, minimize, and offset). Applying the best available scientific information and subject-matter-expert knowledge, TAP's technical assistance collaboratively advances the Department's mission as codified in its strategic plan and Commission-approved policies and management plans. Conversely, technical assistance avoids judgments or advocacy related to societal value systems. The Department's technical assistance therefore generally does not express support or opposition without Commission or Director approval. An exception, Regional Supervisors may approve participation in administrative proceedings (e.g., water rights) in coordination with the Technical Services Bureau.

Oversight

Regional – Regional Supervisors oversee region-specific TAPs as implemented by Regional Technical Assistance Managers. Regional Supervisors may assign regional staff to support Technical Assistance Managers as needed. Headquarters TAP staff aid single-region technical assistance upon request.

Headquarters – Headquarters TAP staff oversee technical assistance requests (1) spanning multiple regions, (2) requiring official coordination with other State agencies (e.g., Governor's Office of Species Conservation and Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources), or (3) having broad-based strategic implications. Headquarters TAP staff coordinates with Regional Supervisors, Regional Technical Assistance Managers, Bureaus, and Deputy Attorneys General as appropriate. The Director's Office is advised of sensitive or strategic technical assistance requests.