



What's in it for Anglers; How Fish and Game's Depredation Management/Access Fee Proposal will Improve Fishing in Idaho

When you buy an Idaho hunting or fishing license, your license fee pays for a wide range of fish and wildlife management activities. For instance, hunting and fishing license and tag fees foot the entire bill for Fish and Game's conservation enforcement program.

Idaho Code outlines some instances where portions of some license and tag fees are used for specific purposes.

Examples include:

- .75 cents from every deer, elk and pronghorn tag sold buys feed for wildlife during emergency winter feeding operations
- \$2 from every annual fishing and combination license sold pays for new fishing waters and to maintain fishing lakes, reservoirs and hatcheries

Proposal

Fish and Game is proposing that a new \$5 fee be applied to the purchase of all annual licenses. This funding would provide:

- Additional money to compensate landowners for depredation damages
- More resources for preventing big game crop damage
- More funding to increase hunting and fishing access

The Depredation Management/Access fee will generate an estimated \$2 million in new annual revenue. Half (\$1 million) will be used to compensate landowners for depredation losses and to prevent big game crop damage and half (\$1 million) will go to increase hunting and fishing access on private land.

How Anglers Benefit

Anglers who don't hunt may rightly wonder why they too are being asked to pay for managing impacts caused by Idaho's abundant big game herds.

Again, half of the new annual revenue raised by the new fee will be used to improve fishing and hunting access (\$1 million annually).

On top of that, Fish and Game will also increase the angling improvement portion from each fishing license sold from **\$2 to \$5** without raising the price of a fishing license.

This increase in the angling improvement portion of fishing license sales will ***increase the fund used to improve fishing in Idaho by about \$750,000.***

Fish and Game's Depredation Management/Access fee proposal benefits anglers by improving access to favorite rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, and it dedicates more funding for improvement and maintenance of hatcheries and popular fishing spots.

