



Idaho Fish and Game Commission Directs Department to Create A New Fee Proposal to Manage Big Game Depredation Impacts and Improve Hunting and Fishing Access

Winter 2017 conditions have presented major challenges for Idaho wildlife managers. Despite Fish and Game's efforts to feed and haze big game away from private property, Idaho farmers and ranchers are experiencing crop/forage losses affecting their livelihoods.

This winter's challenges highlight one aspect of the funding demands facing Fish and Game. Whether this winter is an anomaly or not, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission recognizes that managing for abundant big game herds comes with responsibility to address impacts those herds cause to privately owned farms and ranches.

The Commission also recognizes a need to bolster programs for public access to private lands from willing landowners in response to changing patterns in Idaho land ownership and traditional access.

Proposal:

To keep Fish and Game on sound financial footing and address priorities, the Fish and Game Commission is proposing a new annual fee to 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

How fees would apply to all annual licenses:

- \$5.00 charge to purchase an Adult Resident annual hunting/fishing/trapping license
- \$2.00 charge to purchase all other annual resident licenses (Junior, Senior, Disabled American Veteran and Military Furlough license)

- \$10.00 charge to purchase an Adult Nonresident annual hunting/fishing/trapping license
- \$4.00 charge to purchase other nonresident annual licenses (Junior and DAV)

How Fish and Game would use new revenue (estimated \$2 million in new annual revenue):

- \$500,000 more funding to compensate for crop damages up to \$1.5 million annually based on available cash balance
- \$500,000 more funding to prevent crop damage from big game herds
- \$1,000,000 to improve access to private land from willing landowners for hunting and fishing

How does this new proposal relate to Fish and Game's Price Lock Revenue Proposal?

This proposed new fee would be paid prior to purchasing an annual license and does not change the Price Lock Revenue Proposal currently under consideration. The Price Lock proposal involves a 20% fee increase to most daily/annual resident licenses, but allows resident license buyers to avoid the increase as long as they purchase an annual license each year beginning in 2017. For more details on Price Lock, visit the Fish and Game website at <https://idfg.idaho.gov>

