

# Idaho Upland Game, Turkey & Furbearer

2020 & 2021 Seasons and Rules



*Effective February 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022*

*See Migratory Bird Seasons and Rules for Crow, Doves and Sandhill Crane*

**[idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)**

# NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE THREATENING IDAHO'S LANDS & WILDLIFE

Help Idaho stop the spread of noxious weeds by reporting infestations to your local or state weed control official and by cleaning your off-road vehicle and hunting gear free of weeds and weed seeds.

Yellow Starthistle



Rush Skeletonweed



Leafy Spurge



Spotted Knapweed

**FREE**  
IDAHO NOXIOUS WEED  
BOOK ONLINE

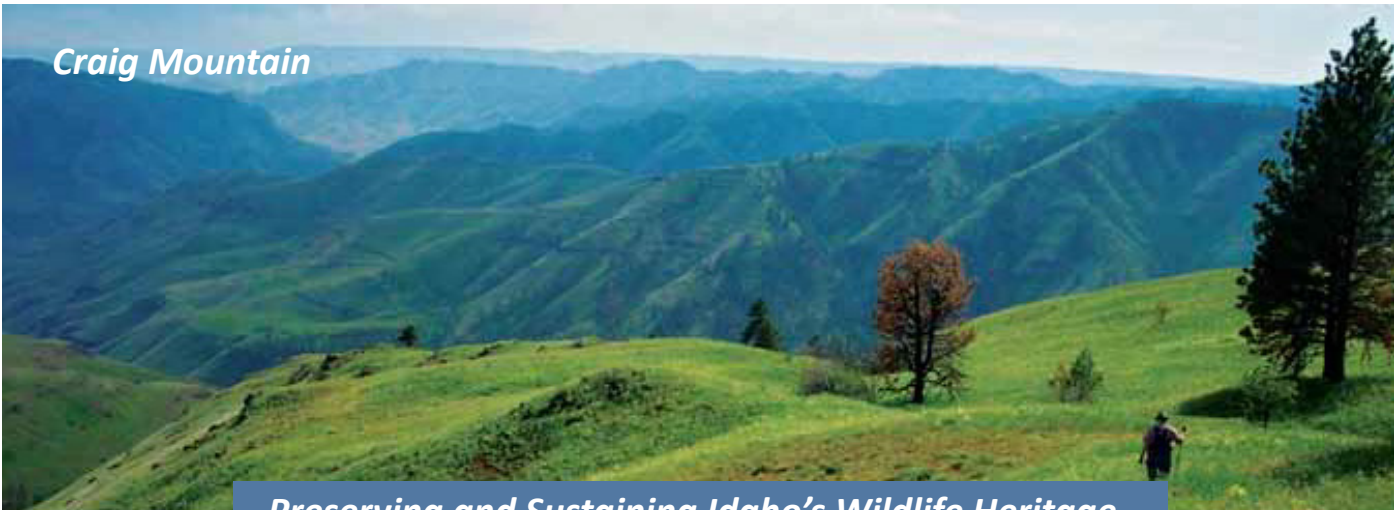
**1-844-WEEDSNO OR**

**WWW.IDAHOWEEDAWARENESS.COM**



Pulling  Together  
Against Invasive Weeds

## Craig Mountain



**Preserving and Sustaining Idaho's Wildlife Heritage**



Idaho Fish & Wildlife  
FOUNDATION

*For over 30 years, we've worked to preserve and sustain Idaho's wildlife heritage. Help us to leave a legacy for future generations, give a gift today!*

- Habitat Restoration
- Wildlife Conservation and Education
- Public Access

For more information visit **IFWF.org** or call **(208) 334-2648**



# DIRECTOR SCHRIEVER'S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO



I am honored to be the director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and it remains my priority to maintain our high-quality hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. The Department, along with the Fish and Game Commission, work cooperatively to use biological and social science to manage upland game, turkey and furbearer populations, which includes hunting and trapping opportunities.

Hunting and trapping provide nearly everyone opportunities to enjoy outdoor experiences with friends and family, create some of our most memorable lifetime experiences, and the foundation of many family traditions that often span generations.

This brochure contains a multitude of opportunities for hunting upland game and upland birds, and trapping for furbearers for anyone who buys a valid license.

We know how important upland game hunting and trapping are to those folks who participate in these outdoor activities, and we are committed to professional wildlife management. Idaho's upland game and furbearer populations produce a diversity of hunting and trapping opportunities, and regulated hunting and trapping ensures sustainable use of our wildlife heritage.

We fully appreciate that harvesting healthy, organic meat is an important part of hunting, and a reason many new hunters learn to hunt. Processing game meat and enjoying great meals from the animals we harvest give hunters, along with their families and friends, a chance to continue to enjoy the benefits long after the hunt is over. Furthermore, upland game hunting is often a good way to introduce people to the sport.

In addition to providing opportunity to pursue a fascinating group of animals, regulated trapping provides many benefits to Idahoans. The management of furbearers through trapping reduces wildlife damage to crops and property, and in some instances, reduces threats to human health and safety. The data collected from trapped furbearers helps track the status and health of these species.

Also, knowledge held by the trapping community has aided Fish and Game in reintroduction efforts of beaver and river otters, and consistently helps with capturing other species for research.

Idaho's upland game and furbearer populations are in good shape, and in general, seasons are structured to maximize hunting opportunity. Because of the diversity of species and habitats available to hunters, Idaho's upland hunting resources are unique, not only in the West, but nationally.

While upland game bird populations can dramatically fluctuate from year-to-year, most upland bird hunting has been stable over the last decade with over 300,000 birds harvested annually. Our turkey hunting is excellent, with hunters enjoying 30-percent success rates in general hunts during the spring of 2019, and we see no signs of a dramatic change in 2020.

However, that's not to say everything is exactly how Fish and Game's wildlife managers, or hunters, want it. Our pheasant population is struggling, due in large part to habitat loss. Fish and Game staff is pursuing ways to provide pheasant hunting opportunities throughout the state and investigating expanding the current pheasant stocking program beyond the boundaries of Wildlife Management Areas.

Idaho's turkey population continues to grow, but turkeys are also pushing the boundaries of social tolerance in some areas. To counter that, managers are increasing turkey hunting opportunity in problem areas — including general and either-sex controlled hunts — to reduce private land conflicts. These hunts are in conjunction with prevention measures aimed to reduce conflicts caused by turkeys on private lands.

Fish and Game recently completed a revision of its long-term management plan for upland game and we incorporated your input on how to improve upland game hunting in the future. As such, the plan identifies three main priorities to address:

- population and harvest management and monitoring
- habitat improvement and management
- hunting access

Fish and Game biologists have developed strategies to help address these issues over the next six years. Furthermore, they are currently in the process of updating our long-term management plan for turkeys, and they will be seeking your input on how to manage turkey hunting in the future.

Thank you for supporting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and wildlife conservation in Idaho, and I wish you happy hunting, fishing and trapping in 2020 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Schriever', written in a cursive style.

**Ed Schriever**, Director  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game



# Idaho Department of Fish and Game

## Idaho Wildlife Policy

*“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.”*

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

### Idaho Fish and Game Commission

- Brad Corkill, Panhandle
- Vacant, Clearwater
- Tim Murphy, Southwest
- Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
- Lane Clezie, Southeast
- Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
- Jerry Meyers, Salmon

### Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 S. Walnut St., P.O. Box 25  
Boise, ID 83707

**208-334-3700 • [idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)**

- Ed Schriever, Director
- Scott Reinecker, Deputy Director
- Paul Kline, Deputy Director

### Regional Offices

- Panhandle Region..... 208-769-1414  
2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d’Alene ID 83815
- Clearwater Region ..... 208-799-5010  
3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501
- Southwest Region ..... 208-465-8465  
15950 N. Gate Blvd., Nampa ID 83687
- McCall Subregion..... 208-634-8137  
555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638
- Magic Valley Region ..... 208-324-4359  
324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338
- Southeast Region ..... 208-232-4703  
1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204
- Upper Snake Region ..... 208-525-7290  
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401
- Salmon Region..... 208-756-2271  
99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

## To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to **[idfg.idaho.gov/buy](http://idfg.idaho.gov/buy)**. A service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.
- Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

## Other Information

Rules booklets, nonresident license applications: 208-334-3700

U. S. Forest Service:

Southern Idaho ..... **[fs.usda.gov/r4](http://fs.usda.gov/r4)**

Northern Idaho..... **[fs.usda.gov/r1](http://fs.usda.gov/r1)**

Bureau of Land Management: ..... **[blm.gov/idaho](http://blm.gov/idaho)**

Idaho Relay Service (TDD) ..... 1-800-377-3529

## To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



*Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran’s status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.*

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife. The official rules are available at **[adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current](http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current)** or from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code. 2020/2021\_Upland Game, Furbearer, and Turkey\_BOC/pca 41918/2-2020/220,000 ROP/GG

# Idaho Department of Fish and Game

## Upland Game, Turkey and Furbearer Rules 2020 & 2021

### Contents

What's New? .....	5
Upland Game Bird Seasons .....	6-13
Forest grouse .....	6
California and Bobwhite quail .....	7
Chukar and Gray partridge .....	8
Sage-grouse .....	9
Sharp-tailed grouse.....	10
Pheasants .....	11
Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) .....	12
Rules for Upland Game Birds.....	13
Upland Game Bird Identification.....	14-15
Red Squirrel Seasons .....	16
Rules for Upland Game Animals .....	16
Cottontail and Hare Seasons .....	17
Wild Turkey Hunt Information .....	18-29
Wild Turkey General Information .....	18-19
Rules for Wild Turkeys.....	20
Wild Turkey Distribution.....	21
Wild Turkey General Seasons.....	22
Wild Turkey General Season Maps.....	23
Wild Turkey Controlled Hunt Seasons.....	24-25
Landowner Permission Required Hunts .....	25-26
Controlled Hunt Worksheet Application .....	27
Turkey Depredation Hunts Sign Up.....	28
Wild Turkey Identification and Safety .....	29
Falconry Seasons .....	30
Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Seasons.....	31-33
Beaver, Bobcat, River Otter Permits and Reporting .....	34-35
Furbearer - Methods of Take and Rules .....	36-38
Bobcat and Lynx Identifying Characteristics.....	39
Guidelines to Minimize Non-Target Catches .....	40
Trapper Responsibilities .....	41
Mandatory Trapping Education Course .....	42
Attention Ground Squirrel Hunters.....	43
General Rules and Information .....	44-46
Proxy Statement.....	47
Youth Hunt Information .....	48
Upland Game, Furbearer Licenses and Permits.....	49
Licenses, Tags and Permits .....	50-51
Resident License, Tags and Permit Fees.....	52-53
Nonresident License, Tags and Permit Fees.....	54
Hunting Passport .....	55

### What's New?

#### Turkey

- Created a new general youth hunting opportunity in units 32 (in Payette County) and 38.
- Added units 7, 9, and 70 to list of units open to general spring turkey seasons.
- Increased the length of the general fall turkey seasons in the Panhandle.
- Expanded use of Special Unit tags to all units in the Panhandle Region.
- Added units 7 and 9 to list of units open to general fall turkey seasons.
- Added a general fall turkey hunt outside the National Forest System boundary in units 22, 31, 32 (except that portion in Payette County), and 32A.
- Increased the season length of the general fall seasons in the Southeast Region and added unit 71.
- Added a new spring controlled hunt in the Salmon Region.
- Increased the number of tags for spring controlled hunts in the Southwest Region.
- Increased the number of tags for a fall controlled hunt in the Salmon Region.
- Added new Landowner Permission Required hunts in the Southwest and Southeast regions.

#### Trapping

- Increased the river otter personal quota from 2 to 3 statewide.
- Increased the Panhandle Region river otter quota from 40 to 45.
- Expanded river otter trapping seasons and opportunity in the Clearwater, Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake and Salmon Regions.
- Red fox season has been expanded in the Panhandle and Clearwater Regions to open Oct 10 and close March 31.
- Beaver trapping changes in the Magic Valley and Southeast Regions
- Expanded trapping seasons for beaver, mink, muskrat, and river otter to open Oct 15 in the Southeast Region.
- Setback distance for ground sets on established trails and paved trails increased see page 36.

#### Turkey Controlled Hunt Application Dates:

- Spring hunt application period: Feb 1 - March 1  
Results available by March 20
- Fall hunt application period: May 1 - June 5  
Results available by July 10