

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 15, 2007
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cameron Wheeler at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Wright, Budge, McDermott, Power and Barowsky participating.

Present in the Director's office were Director Groen, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant and Rick Hobson representing Western Watersheds.

Director Groen reported on the Senate Resource and Environment Committee meeting held February 14th to discuss SB 1086 (wolf tag). He noted that Representative Fred Wood and Chairman Bert Stevenson were there as sponsors for the bill. Jim Caswell, Office of Species Conservation spoke regarding the process and features of the rule. Jim Unsworth reported on how the Department will manage wolves when delisting happens. Director Groen stated that SB1086 was passed out of Committee and will go to the Senate floor with Senator Schroeder to carry the bill on the floor.

LEGISLATION

Sharon Kiefer updated the Commission on pending legislation. Commissioners were sent via email an agenda (Appendix 40, Exhibit 29) for the call.

Director Groen gave a short briefing to Commissioners regarding how the Department would restore spending authority if a budget amendment is approved to add back \$1 million of spending authority to the FY08 budget. (Appendix 40, Exhibit 30).

Ms. Kiefer reported that the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee has started a hearing on four of the domestic cervidae bills. She noted that the Department did testify. Jim Unsworth will be available to answer questions from the Committee.

Department Sponsored bills SB1010 and SB 1011 have passed the Senate and a do pass report form House Resource and Conservation Committee. Rep. Fred Wood will carry SB1010 and Rep. Joanne Wood will carry SB1011 to the floor.

SB 1087 amends existing law to revise term of office provisions relating to the Fish and Game Commission. Commission concerns in the previous analysis sheet have been addressed.

The Commission position is no position.

SB 1127 Cervid Carcass Importation –Adds to existing law to provide for restrictions on the importation and disposal of cervid carcasses from chronic wasting disease endemic

areas; to provide exceptions; to provide for violations and penalties; and to provide that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall publish lists of chronic wasting disease endemic areas.

SB 1137 Cervid Carcasses – Importation – Adds to existing law to restrict the importation of cervid carcasses or parts of cervid carcasses from other states or countries; to provide exceptions; to provide for certain testing; and to provide for violations and penalties.

The Commission position is to monitor SB 1127 and SB 1137

SB 1129 amends existing law relating to fish and game to provide for the confiscation and sale of certain conveyances.

07-43 Commissioner Power moved and Commission McDermott seconded a motion TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 1129. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

SB 1128 amends existing law relating to fish and game to provide that it shall be a misdemeanor to use devices accessed via the internet to shoot or kill any birds or animals; and to provide for penalties.

The Commission position is to monitor and to find out what the Sponsor's intent is

SCR 107 Hunting – Enclosed – Pen - Stating findings of the Legislature and urging the State Board of Land Commissioners to conduct a study to determine whether the lease of state lands to enclosed-pen hunting operations is consistent with its long-term obligation. The Commission position is to monitor.

SJM 103 (Appendix 40, Exhibit 31) Letter & Application

Sikes Act – Stating findings of the Legislature and urging Congress to grant the appropriation request of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – Idaho, as authorized under the Sikes Act, for the South Central Idaho Isolated Wildlife Tract Cooperative Habitat Program.

07-44 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to support Senate Joint Memorial 103. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

SJR 103 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Idaho to provide that it shall be the duty of the State Board of Land Commissioners to provide access to state lands to members of the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and recreation to the extent consistent with providing the maximum long-term financial return to the endowment and to provide that not more than ten selections of state lands shall be sold in any one year.

07-45 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion TO MONITOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 103. The motion carried in an unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary