



Briefing for Legislative ATV Task Force: Background for a Proposed Moratorium Policy for the Motorized Hunting Rule by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, 9/27/11

●Based on concerns and feedback during the 2010 legislative session, the Fish and Game Commission discussed options to clarify the Motorized Hunting Rule (MHR) at their May and July meetings. A summary of the work was provided at the August 9 Legislative ATV Task Force meeting.

●On August 25, IDPR and IDFG jointly met focusing on the MHR and agency travel plan comments, as encouraged by the Legislative ATV Task Force. As a result of that meeting, an agreement in principle was reached between the agencies, including policy representatives. The agreement in principle is subject to refinement of the detail and approval of appropriate elements by the Idaho Parks and Recreation Board and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (IFG Commission) in November, and includes the following concepts specifically regarding the MHR (detailed notes of the meeting were previously provided to the Legislative ATV Task Force):

(1) The MHR would be retained by the IFG Commission as a needed and effective tool for managing big game vulnerability and hunter conflicts.

(2) The review and re-write of the MHR will continue by the IFG Commission in an effort to provide better clarity, understanding and simplicity. The draft revisions will be provided to IDPR for review and comment.

(3) The IFG Commission will establish a moratorium on expanding the MHR beyond existing designated hunts or hunt areas within the current thirty-one (31) Game Management Units. As such the MHR may only be added to additional GMUs if an equivalent number currently subject to the rule are dropped.

(4) The IFG Commission will direct the IDFG to use the moratorium period to evaluate the effectiveness of the MHR, both in biological terms of its effectiveness in meeting herd objectives and in satisfaction levels of hunters and the public and report to IDPR and other stakeholders.

(5) Joint efforts will be undertaken by IDFG and IDPR to improve communications, education, mapping and signage related to the MHR.

●As with any Commission rule or policy action, the proposed MHR moratorium policy will also be subject to public testimony to the Commission prior to action at their November meeting.