

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 19, 2017

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive (Mendive), Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Jordan

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Gestrin

**GUESTS:** Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Sal Palazzolo, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Brett Bowersox, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Wyatt Prescott, ILD; Russell Westerberg, ICOA

**Chairman Gibbs** called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
13-0102-1601:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed fee rule establishes a mandatory trapper education program for trappers purchasing their first trapping licenses on or after July 1, 2011. This change is in large part due to a spike in the sale of trapping licenses around 2011 from a variety of factors such as the change in fur prices in 2010/2011, more interest in wolf trapping, an increasing concern from the public regarding some of the trapping practices on the landscape, and concern from formal trapping organizations about the increase of new trappers out in the field who had not been properly trained.

This proposed rule broadens the description of mandatory education to include trapping and because they had never properly referenced archery education, are correcting that. This proposed rule also deletes an obsolete rule regarding the practical handling and shooting of firearms requirement from hunter education certification. This changes the hunter education program from live fire exercises to field exercises; safety is still emphasized in carrying guns, crossing fences, getting in and out of vehicles, and muzzle control. Hunter education trainers are encouraged to voluntarily offer live fire training, but it is no longer required. Finally, this proposed rule sets a fee of \$8.00 for each student who enrolls in the mandatory hunter education, archery education, or trapper education programs.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0102-1601**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1601:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule would administer grizzly bear hunting should the Idaho Fish and Game Commission authorize hunting after grizzly bear within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are taken off the Federal Endangered Species List. This rule does not make any decision to delist the grizzly bear, nor does this rule propose to open any hunting season to grizzly bear in Idaho. The best way to look at this is "if" the Commission were to open a season, this docket would be representative of the business rules to conduct a hunt. Should the grizzly bear be delisted and the Commission opens a hunting season, this proposed rule would establish a "once in a lifetime" harvest much like mountain goats and bighorn sheep are managed. The taking of a grizzly bear under defense of life and property, pursuant to Idaho Code, does not fall under the scope of this rule. The hunt would mirror the controlled hunt process with very limited allocation.

Within this proposed rule, the Department has added grizzly bear to the application periods, identified animals that can be legally taken, sex identification requirements, tag validation and attachment requirements, and mandatory check and reporting requirements. These provisions are consistent with how other big game species are managed. The 3-state MOU between Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming creates consistency in how the three states would approach hunting seasons, and identifies what grizzly bear can be taken legally should a hunt be opened. Additionally, the Idaho Fish and Game Proclamation identifies how they would address discretionary mortality allocated to Idaho, which could impact the hunt quota and if a season would have to be shut down if the state's quota was met. Concerns were raised about why rules are being proposed before the grizzly bear is even delisted or a hunt proposed. Due to concerns from several committee members and further discussion needed, this proposed rule will be held over until the next committee meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017.

**DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1601:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule modifies the current boundary of the Hagerman goose hunting closure area to remove certain private property to allow hunting to reduce goose depredation on crops.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1601. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1602:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule simplifies the age and mentor requirements for youth-only hunts to make them more consistent with the eligibility provisions of the license or hunting passport and updates the rule to be consistent with **H 350** which was passed in 2016. For upland and migratory birds, the youth hunt provisions did not align with the age provisions of the license. Even so, there are still differences in age requirements due to which species is being hunted. Turkey requires a tag, so the minimum age remains at 10 years old, while the minimum age for a youth hunting pheasant, which only requires a youth passport, remains at 8 years old. These are examples of why the Department cannot go to a straight minimum age across the board. For the youth only general and controlled hunts, the age bracket is now 10-17 years old, to mirror the junior hunting license age bracket. Under Upland Game, the Department is changing the minimum age from 17 to 18 years old to be consistent with an adult license and **H 350**, rather than have the requirement for a youth license for one year. Under the youth waterfowl hunt, the minimum age of 15 has been changed to an age bracket of 8 to 17 years of age. But, there is still a minimum age requirement of 16 years old to possess a Federal Migratory Bird stamp. Finally, under Tags, Stamps, Permits, and Validations, there's a technical correction from resident to nonresident child or grandchild.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1602. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 13-0111-1601:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule provides for the opportunity to harvest unclipped summer Chinook salmon in the Clearwater River pursuant to a season that would be set by the Commission. At the time of its adoption by the Department in 2016, it was a temporary proposed rule because of a situation on the Clearwater River where they were developing a hatchery run of summer Chinook salmon to expand both tribal and non-tribal harvest opportunities and had a greater return than anticipated. Because they were not expecting such a large return, the hatchery did not clip the adipose fins. The current rules for Chinook salmon only allow the retention of hatchery fish that are adipose clipped. Although these are hatchery fish, the Commission wants to provide the opportunity to harvest these fish in the future, so that is the basis of this proposed rule.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0111-1601. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 13-0117-1601:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule revises the distance from roads and trails for placing bear bait in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions, due to hilly terrain and an extensive road network, which makes the current standard infeasible in many areas of these regions. In 2016, a proposed rule was approved which clarified the definition of a road, making it easier for the public to understand. Even with this clarity, there was still much concern in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions that the 200 yard distance from roads and trails required to set a bait site was too difficult due to the terrain. There were no concerns from other regions around the state; the Commission made an exception, only for the Panhandle and Clearwater regions, within this proposed rule to change the 200 yard requirement from any road or trail to 200 feet.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0117-1601. Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Miller, Erpelding, and Jordan** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

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Representative Gibbs  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary