

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 21, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Lickley, Moon, Raybould, Erpelding, Rubel, Mason, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Shepherd

GUESTS: Owen Moronay, Attorney Generals Office; Ed Schriever, Sharon Kiefer, Toby Boudreau, Michael Pearson, Paul Kline, Scott Reinecker, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Brian Brooks, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Russell Westerberg, RMP-Station Creek; Benjamin Davenport, Idaho Mining Association; Rialin Flores, Conservation Voters of Idaho; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Ed Schriever, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, introduced himself to the committee stating this is his 8th day as Director. He also wished to express his appreciation to former Director **Virgil Moore** for his leadership to the Department over the last 8 years. Director Schriever stated the Department's finances are in great shape, in part due to the 2017 license and tag increases and the successful price lock program. He explained by sportsmen and women purchasing licenses and tags, they are directly funding the Department's mission. Additionally, through the purchase of hunting and fishing equipment, a surcharge, or tax, is collected through a national program. That money is then distributed to each state based on a formula, of which Idaho receives 2.4% of the national total. Director Schriever emphasized that no general funds or state tax dollars are appropriated to the Department, rather they rely on revenues from licenses, tags and permits as well as the previously mentioned federal taxes to fund the Department. The license and tag increases, price lock program, and the depredation access program have added stability to their revenue model and addresses concerns raised from sportsmen and women. Director Schriever finished his presentation by providing an overview of the enhancements to the Department's proposed fiscal year 2020 budget.

Chairman Gibbs turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Gestrin**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0102-1801: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule is a revision to allow youth who are 8 years old, without a license or hunter education certification, to possess consecutive annual hunting passports until reaching the age of 10.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0102-1801**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1802: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule is a revision stating a parent or grandparent who draws a controlled hunt tag and wants to designate that tag to a child or grandchild, will now exclude the option of designating "once in a lifetime" controlled hunt species (moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or grizzly bear).

- MOTION:** **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1802. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1803:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule would allow hunters, 65 years of age or older; or hunters with a senior combination hunting license, or a disabled combination license, or a nonresident disabled American Veteran hunting license to be eligible to apply for left over youth only controlled hunt tags during the second application period.
- In response to questions and concerns regarding why there isn't more of an effort to get as many youth as possible out hunting before giving youth controlled hunt tags away, **Ms. Kiefer** stated they don't have enough youth interested in using all the tags they have available. She clarified all of the eligibility people identified are already eligible for these leftover tags, so they anticipate this would speed up the sales process from a customer efficiency standpoint and help get as many tags as possible out the door.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to reject **Docket No. 13-0108-1803. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erpelding** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.
- DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1804:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule would allow certain caliber airguns using pre-charged pneumatic power as a method of take for big game. She stated since this rule is written identifying what is an unlawful method of take, the revised section would state it is unauthorized to take deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, or grey wolf with any airgun less than .35 caliber and it is unauthorized to take elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or black or grizzly bear with any airgun less than .45 caliber.
- In response to a question as to why airguns are a necessary option for hunting, **Ms. Kiefer** stated many states have already adopted airguns as a legal method of take. As more people move into Idaho, they already have a familiarity with the use of airguns, so the Fish and Game Commission spent an entire day at the range testing airguns against more commonly used weapons used to hunt big game, they examined the velocity and ballistics, and heard from some of the experts in the use of airguns to arrive at this decision.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Moyle** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1804. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1805:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule was written in an attempt to gain better customer response and efficiency for submitting controlled hunt applications. This rule would be revised to not allow mail as a method to submit regular controlled hunt applications and would state applications would be accepted electronically through the automated licensing system at any vendor location, including the Department's regional offices and the headquarters office, in addition to the Internet, or over the telephone.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1805. Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Boyle and Blanksma** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.
- DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1803:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule clarifies the use of turkey tags in conjunction with a turkey controlled hunt permit including validation. It also revises the controlled hunt application period to be consistent with the turkey season proclamation.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1803. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0110-1802: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the importation of carcasses or other parts of deer, elk, or moose from another state, province of Canada, or country with any documented cases of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This proposed rule would also create additional transport prohibitions if the Commission designates any part of Idaho as a CWD management zone. Ms. Kiefer stated these provisions are being adopted as a risk management strategy.

Rep. Moyle expressed concern the proposed language in this rule wasn't clear to differentiate between dead and live animal parts. **Ms. Kiefer** stated this rule only pertains to dead animal carcasses and parts. **Rep. Moyle** requested the record reflect that the Department's representative stated this proposed rule does not include live animal parts and is only referring to dead animal carcasses and parts.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0110-1802. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0116-1802: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule revises the distance that ground sets for trapping furbearing animals, or predatory or unprotected wildlife, may be placed from maintained paved or unpaved public trails. This revision changes the distance from within 5 feet of the center line of the unpaved trail to within 10 feet of the edge of any maintained unpaved trail. Paved trails have been added to the other already approved locations (public campgrounds, trailheads, and picnic areas) for placing ground sets incorporating snares, traps or attached materials, and cage or box live traps, within 300 feet of these approved locations.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0116-1802. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0116-1803: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule removes the restriction that red fox may only be taken by trapping in Valley County and portions of Adams County in the Little Salmon River drainage. This was done in order to align with the Commission's adoption of the 2018 furbearer season allowing hunting of red fox as a method of take in these counties.

MOTION: **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0116-1803. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0117-1801: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule includes the same revisions as in **Docket No. 13-0116-1802**, and is for the purpose of trapping gray wolf.

Jonathan Oppenheimer, Government Relations Director, Idaho Conservation League, stated they are **in support** of this proposed rule revision.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0117-1801. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0117-1802: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule is to restrict liquid scent (urine) to only synthetic scent to attract deer and elk as a measure to reduce the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease entering Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0117-1802. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0118-1801: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this proposed rule is to integrate the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) into the conditions and criteria considered by the Department for emergency winter feeding of deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk. It prohibits the private feeding of deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk within any CWD management zones, and it makes a technical correction to the chapter title.

In response to a question regarding CWD management zones in Idaho, **Ms. Kiefer** stated currently Idaho does not have any established zones. This is a proactive action, so in the event CWD is detected in Idaho the Commission would establish CWD designated management zones, and then prohibitions would be placed on non-Departmental feeding of deer and elk. She also clarified incidental feeding of deer and elk during the normal practice of feeding livestock in the winter is not a violation of this section.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0118-1801. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

Representative Gestrin
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary