

TITLE 36
FISH AND GAME

CHAPTER 2
CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

36-201. FISH AND GAME COMMISSION AUTHORIZED TO CLASSIFY WILDLIFE. (1) With the exception of predatory animals, the Idaho fish and game commission is hereby authorized to define by classification or reclassification all wildlife in the state of Idaho. Such definitions and classifications shall include:

- (a) Game animals
- (b) Game birds
- (c) Game fish
- (d) Fur-bearing animals
- (e) Migratory birds
- (f) Threatened or endangered wildlife
- (g) Protected nongame species
- (h) Unprotected wildlife

Predatory wildlife shall include:

- 1. Coyote
- 2. Jackrabbit
- 3. Skunk
- 4. Weasel
- 5. Starling
- 6. Raccoon
- 7. Rattlesnake

(2) Notwithstanding the classification assigned to wolves, all methods of take including, but not limited to, all methods utilized by the United States fish and wildlife service and the United States department of agriculture wildlife services, shall be authorized for the management of wolves in accordance with existing laws or approved management plans. In addition, any method utilized for the take of any wild canine in Idaho shall be available for the taking of wolves.

(3) Wolf trapping season shall be open year-round on all private property, as long as individuals are in compliance with the permission requirements contained in section [36-1603](#), Idaho Code, before entering private property. It is the expectation of the legislature that wolf collaring will be used as one of the proactive management tools for packs that are predisposed to depredation on domestic livestock and for assisting with population counts.

[36-201, added 1976, ch. 95, sec. 2, p. 325; am. 1977, ch. 75, sec. 1, p. 154; am. 2005, ch. 179, sec. 1, p. 552; am. 2010, ch. 82, sec. 1, p. 161; am. 2018, ch. 147, sec. 1, p. 305; am. 2021, ch. 307, sec. 3, p. 916; am. 2023, ch. 138, sec. 1, p. 382.]

36-202. DEFINITIONS. Whenever the following words appear in [title 36](#), Idaho Code, and orders and rules promulgated by the Idaho fish and game commission or the director of the Idaho department of fish and game, they shall be deemed to have the same meaning and terms of reference as hereinafter set forth. The present tense includes the past and future tenses, and the future, the present.

(a) "Title" means all of the fish and game laws and rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(b) "Commission" means the Idaho fish and game commission. "Commissioner" means a member of the Idaho fish and game commission.

(c) "Department" means the Idaho department of fish and game.

(d) "Director" means the director of the Idaho department of fish and game or any person authorized to act in his name.

(e) "Employee" means any employee of the Idaho department of fish and game whose salary is paid entirely or in part by funds administered by the Idaho fish and game commission and whose appointment is made in accordance with [chapter 53, title 67](#), Idaho Code, and related rules.

(f) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, company, or any other type of association, and any agent or officer of any partnership, corporation, company, or other type of association. The masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter. The singular, the plural, and the plural, the singular.

(g) "Wildlife" means any form of animal life, native or exotic, generally living in a state of nature provided that domestic cervidae as defined in section [25-3701](#), Idaho Code, shall not be classified as wildlife.

(h) "Trophy big game animal" means any big game animal deemed a trophy as defined in this subsection. For the purpose of this section, a score shall be determined from the antlers of the mule deer, white-tailed deer or elk as measured by the copyrighted Boone and Crockett scoring system. The highest of the typical or nontypical scores shall be used for determining the total score.

1. Mule deer: any buck scoring over one hundred fifty (150) points;
2. White-tailed deer: any buck scoring over one hundred thirty (130) points;
3. Elk: any bull scoring over three hundred (300) points;
4. Bighorn sheep: any ram;
5. Moose: any bull;
6. Mountain goat: any male or female;
7. Pronghorn antelope: any buck with at least one (1) horn exceeding fourteen (14) inches;
8. Caribou: any male or female;
9. Grizzly bear: any male or female.

(i) "Take" means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, shoot, fish, seine, trap, kill, or possess or any attempt to so do.

(j) "Hunting" means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for, any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken, or wounded. Such term does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait for, any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching wildlife or taking pictures thereof.

(k) "Fishing" means any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish or bullfrog.

(l) "Trapping" means taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance to

any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls, or other devices.

(m) "Possession" means both actual and constructive possession, and any control of the object or objects referred to; provided that wildlife taken accidentally and in a manner not contrary to the provisions of this title shall not be deemed to be in possession while being immediately released live back to the wild.

(n) "Possession limit" means the maximum limit in number or amount of wildlife which may be lawfully in the possession of any person. "Possession limit" shall apply to wildlife being in possession while in the field or being transported to final place of consumption or storage.

(o) "Bag limit" means the maximum number of wildlife which may be legally taken, caught, or killed by any one (1) person for any particular period of time, as provided by order of the commission. The term "bag limit" shall be construed to mean an individual, independent effort and shall not be interpreted in any manner as to allow one (1) individual to take more than his "bag limit" toward filling the "bag limit" of another.

(p) "Buy" means to purchase, barter, exchange, or trade and includes any offer or attempt to purchase, barter, exchange, or trade.

(q) "Sell" means to offer or possess for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or the act of selling, bartering, exchanging or trading.

(r) "Transport" means to carry or convey or cause to be carried or conveyed from one (1) place to another and includes an offer to transport, or receipt or possession for transportation.

(s) "Resident" means any person who has been domiciled in this state, with a bona fide intent to make this his place of permanent abode, for a period of not less than six (6) months immediately preceding the date of application for any license, tag, or permit required under the provisions of this title or orders of the commission and who, when temporarily absent from this state, continues residency with intent to return, and who does not claim any resident privileges in any other state or country for any purpose. Such privileges include, but are not limited to: state where valid driver's license is issued; state of voter registration; state where resident state income taxes are filed; state where homeowner's tax exemption is granted. Provided that, until any such person has been continuously domiciled outside the state of Idaho for a sufficient period of time to qualify for resident hunting and fishing privileges in his new state of residence, said person shall be deemed not to have lost his residency in Idaho for the purposes of this title. However, mere ownership of real property or payment of property taxes in Idaho does not establish residency. Provided further that:

1. Idaho residents shall not lose their residency in Idaho if they are absent from the state for religious (not to exceed two (2) years) or full-time educational (not to exceed five (5) years) purposes, full-time to be defined by the educational institution attended, and do not claim residency or use resident privileges in any other state or country for any purpose.

2. Idaho residents who are in the military service of the United States and maintain Idaho as their official state of residence as shown on their current leave and earnings statement, together with their spouse and children under eighteen (18) years of age living in the household, shall be eligible for the purchase of resident licenses.

3. A member of the military service of the United States or of a foreign country, together with his spouse and children under eighteen (18)

years of age residing in his household, who have been officially transferred, stationed, domiciled and on active duty in this state for a period of thirty (30) days last preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such assignment continues, to purchase a resident license. A member of the state national guard or air national guard, domiciled in this state for a period of thirty (30) days last preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such residency continues, to purchase a resident license.

4. Any person enrolled as a corpsman at a job corps center in Idaho shall be eligible, as long as he is so enrolled, to obtain a resident fishing license irrespective of his length of residence in this state.

5. Any foreign exchange student enrolled in an Idaho high school shall be eligible, as long as he is so enrolled, to obtain a resident fishing license irrespective of his length of residence in this state.

(t) "Senior resident" means any person who is over sixty-five (65) years of age who meets the definition of a "resident" pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(u) "Nonresident" means any person who does not qualify as a resident.

(v) "Order, rule, regulation and proclamation" are all used interchangeably and each includes the others.

(w) "Blindness" means sight that does not exceed 20/200 as provided by the administrative guidelines of section [56-213](#), Idaho Code.

(x) "Public highway" means the traveled portion of, and the shoulders on each side of, any road maintained by any governmental entity for public travel, and includes all bridges, culverts, overpasses, fills, and other structures within the limits of the right-of-way of any such road.

(y) "Motorized vehicle" means any water, land or air vehicle propelled by means of steam, petroleum products, electricity, or any other mechanical power.

(z) "Commercial fish hatchery" means any hatchery, pond, lake or stream or any other waters where fish are held, raised, or produced for sale but shall not include facilities used for the propagation of fish commonly considered as ornamental or aquarium varieties.

(aa) "License" means any license, tag, permit or stamp.

(bb) "License vendor" means any person authorized to issue or sell licenses.

(cc) "Proclamation" means the action by the commission and publication of the pertinent information as it relates to the seasons and limits for taking wildlife.

(dd) "Commercial wildlife tannery" means any person or entity whose primary business is the actual tanning of wildlife skins/hides, processes in excess of ten thousand (10,000) wildlife skins/hides per year, and receives more than seventy-five percent (75%) of its business via common carrier in interstate commerce.

[36-202, added 1976, ch. 95, sec. 2, p. 325; am. 1977, ch. 110, sec. 1, p. 238; am. 1978, ch. 92, sec. 1, p. 171; am. 1986, ch. 49, sec. 1, p. 141; am. 1986, ch. 51, sec. 1, p. 145; am. 1989, ch. 260, sec. 1, p. 636; am. 1994, ch. 26, sec. 1, p. 42; am. 1995, ch. 64, sec. 2, p. 162; am. 1995, ch. 287, sec. 1, p. 951; am. 1996, ch. 55, sec. 1, p. 164; am. 1998, ch. 170, sec. 4, p. 577; am. 1998, ch. 175, sec. 1, p. 615; am. 1998, ch. 212, sec. 1, p. 739; am. 1999, ch. 173, sec. 1, p. 464; am. 1999, ch. 370, sec. 23, p. 1006; am. 2010, ch. 53, sec. 1, p. 100; am. 2015, ch. 55, sec.

1, p. 143; am. 2017, ch. 61, sec. 1, p. 139; am. 2017, ch. 161, sec. 1, p. 381.]