

Meeting Date: May 17, 2017

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Wolf Plan Outline, Review Steps

Bureau Chief Approval: STR

Prepared by: Jim Hayden, Craig White

Background:

The Department has assessed available wolf data and literature, and developed an outline for the wolf management plan (see attachment for draft outline). In addition, staff has written most of the draft chapters of the wolf plan based on the outline. Initial management direction in the draft wolf management plan is based on biological data, social desires by hunters, and previous policy direction from the Commission. Staff will prepare a final draft, seek executive leadership review, request release for public review from the Commission, revise the plan based on public input, and request adoption by the Commission based on the following schedule:

Milestones

May 17	Commission meeting update with outline and updated schedule
May 29	Staff complete initial draft
June 23	Regional review completed
July 7	Executive leadership review completed, final draft prepared
July 8	Final draft included in Commission packet
July 26-28	Request Commission to release for public comment
July 31 - Aug 18	Public input
Aug TBD	Incorporate public comment and prepare final plan
Aug TBD	Request Commission adoption

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Key considerations:

- Demonstrating management that continues to ensure a self-sustaining wolf population
- Addressing wolf management opportunities and needs

Public Involvement Process:

The public involvement process for development of a plan typically consists of

1. A series of public meetings and website opportunity explaining the draft plan, gathering input for consideration in constructing the final plan.
2. A public meeting before the commission regarding response to the final plan before commission action on the plan.

Justification:

Development of a wolf plan identifies current issues and establishes management guidance for wolves in Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

Information only

Action Requested:

None

Draft Outline for Wolf Management Plan

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) Executive Summary
- 3) Introduction
 - i) Purpose and Scope
 - ii) Law and Policy
 - iii) Previous Planning
 - iv) Planning Process and Public Involvement
 - v) Other Relevant IDFG Planning Documents
 - vi) Legal Status
- 4) Background
 - i) Distribution
 - ii) Population Status and Trend
 - iii) Habitat
 - iv) Social Dynamics and Territoriality
 - v) Predation
 - vi) Wolves as a Big Game Animal
 - vii) Wolf Management Issues
 - (a) Issue 1: Conservation of Wolves in Idaho
 - (b) Issue 2: Wolf Hunting and Trapping Opportunities
 - (c) Issue 3: Impacts to Other Hunting Opportunities
 - (d) Issue 4: Impacts to Domestic Livestock Producers
 - (e) Issue 5: Wolf Control
 - (f) Other Issues
- 5) Wolf Management Goals
 - i) Maintain a self-sustaining population of wolves that is connected with wolf populations in adjacent states and provinces, and is managed under authority of the State of Idaho.
 - ii) Provide opportunities for recreational use of wolves that recognize their social, cultural, economic and ecological importance in Idaho and are consistent with other management direction.
 - iii) Reduce wolf impacts on livestock in a manner that is consistent with other management direction.
 - iv) Use hunting, trapping, and other actions identified in local predation management plans to reduce wolf impacts on ungulates in areas where wolf predation is a substantial factor limiting ungulate populations that are not meeting management objectives.
 - v) Promote a public outreach program intended to inform the public of wolf management strategies and activities, and provide educational resources about wolf biology, wolf hunting and trapping, and wolf conflicts.

6) Wolf Management Zones

- i) Definitions
- ii) Expectations for management practicality and effectiveness
- iii) Specifics
 - (1) Backcountry Zone
 - (2) Front Range Zone
 - (3) High Depredation Sub-Zone
 - (4) Southern Zone

7) Bibliography

8) Appendices

- i) Appendix 1. Elk population status in Idaho
- ii) Appendix 2. Elk management and wolf predation in Idaho
- iii) Appendix 3. Lethal wolf management other than hunting and trapping