

Idaho Wildlife Summit

7/8/9 → September 2012

Purpose

To convene and facilitate a conversation among Idahoans about the current model of wildlife management in Idaho, the need to keep it relevant to the changing values, needs, and interests of Idahoans, and to hear and understand what they expect from their state wildlife management agency, and how we can serve them better.

Justification

The current model of wildlife management in Idaho was established through a 1938 citizens' initiative, which was lead primarily by hunters and anglers. Since then, Idaho's human population has tripled – from 525,000 in 1940 to almost 1.6 million in 2010. People's values about wildlife and their needs, expectations, and interests about managing their wildlife are changing as well. The way in which Idaho Fish and Game has operated and has been funded essentially has not changed over time. Idaho Fish and Game manages wildlife in trust for the citizens of Idaho, yet hunters and anglers pay nearly the entire bill. As a result, Idaho Fish and Game finds itself struggling to address new and emerging wildlife conservation issues while retaining the core hunting and fishing programs.

Desired Outcomes

- Create a renewed social compact with the people of Idaho based on a common understanding, commitment and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation in Idaho.
- More Idahoans are motivated to support wildlife conservation efforts and to engage in wildlife management.
- Idaho Fish and Game has a clear sense of what Idahoans want from their wildlife management agency.
- Idahoans better understand what Idaho Fish and Game does and how those efforts benefit wildlife.