

Legislators Approve, Governor Signs 161% F&G License Fee Increase for Idaho Senior Citizens

by George Dovel

The original fee increase bill, H134, introduced in the House Resources and Conservation Committee by IDFG on February 9, 2005, provided for across-the-board increases of about 13.7 percent in most license, tag and permit fees. That bill would have added 50 cents to the \$3.00 basic cost of a Disabled Fishing License, a Disabled Combination License and a Resident Senior Combination Hunting and Fishing License for Idaho seniors 65 or older.

The vendor fee for each license, tag or permit printed would also have increased from \$1.50 to \$1.75 resulting in a total cost of \$5.25 for the Senior Combo, a 17% increase over the current price. The \$35 annual Taxidermist-Fur Buyer License was discontinued in H134 and replaced with a five-year license costing "not to exceed \$180.00" (slightly over \$36 per year including vendor fee).

Except for the traditional F&G support groups (Idaho Wildlife Federation, SCI-Idaho Chapter, Idaho Bowhunters, etc.) very few license buyers expressed support for any fee increase. H 134 died in the House Resources Committee and a new proposal was reportedly written primarily by Rep. Mike Moyle and sent to IDFG Director Steve Huffaker.

Gibbs, Huffaker Claim Only 10% Increase

On March 16, 2005 the new fee increase bill, S1191, was introduced in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee by F&G Commission Chairman Marcus Gibbs. He said, "This bill is similar to H134 that was held in the House committee. This bill is a compromise. The original increase was 13.7 percent and *the increase in this bill will be as near 10 percent as possible.*"

When Director Huffaker was asked about the bill, he said it was basically rewritten by the House Committee, then it came to him and he consulted with the Commission, and then the staff went through the proposal. He referred the Committee members to a handout in their folders, which contained 14 examples of resident and nonresident fee increases, all averaging about 10 percent.

Under the heading "How much will fees increase" the handout said, "This is a modest adjustment in fees. Resident hunting licenses would cost \$1.25 more. Fishing licenses would cost \$2.25. *All fees would go up 10% more, about the price of a gallon of gas*"(emphasis added).

Changes From H 134

In addition to a reduction from 13.7% to 10% in the rate of increase, there were several other changes in S1191. The annual Taxidermist License was reinstated, with the fee increased to \$38.25 plus the vendor fee, and the proposed five-year license was deleted. The Committee opted to rewrite that subsection to allow taxidermists/fur buyers to purchase either the one-year license for \$38.25 (+\$1.75 vendor fee) or the five-year license for \$175.00 (+ \$1.75.)

S 1191 also contained a new subsection authorizing the F&G Commission to establish rules and fees allowing sportsmen to *purchase* bonus or preference points. If enacted as written, this could have allowed affluent hunters to "buy their way to the head of the line" instead of possibly waiting several years to draw a controlled hunt permit.

Attempt To Circumvent Legislature

This latest Commission/Department effort to sell the best Idaho hunting to the highest bidder and gain the authority to set its own fees for the process was not successful. Senator Dean Cameron said he would like to have a discussion and debate about preference points, with the Department and the Commission coming back next year and addressing that issue.

He said he also would like the committee to set the public policy as to whether the preference points are a good idea or bad idea. He said his purpose was to remove the preference points from the bill and that he was also concerned about the fee increase.

His motion to send S1191 to the 14th Order for amendment was seconded by Senator Skip Brandt and passed unanimously.

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Because the hearing was held quickly after S1191 was printed, most Idaho sportsmen had no chance to see what it contained. Yet F&G supporters were provided the information in advance, and briefed in order to testify in support of the bill at the hearing.

As often happens, several hundred thousand Idaho license buyers depended on the nine Senators on the Resources Committee to protect their interests. To learn the exceptions to the general 10% fee increase, these Senators needed to either read the bill carefully, or else read page 3 of the Feb.-Early March Outdoorsman.

Senate Misled About Senior Combo Increase

Instead, the Committee members apparently relied on the misinformation provided them by Gibbs and Huffaker and the fact that the bill was mostly written by the House Resources Committee. They either did not see, or else ignored, the fact that S1191 increased the cost of the Resident Senior Combo License *ten times as much* as the increase in H134.

On April 8, 2005 a senior citizen member of SFW, the Mule Deer Foundation and the Turkey Federation sent the Committee an email expressing his disappointment at the members who failed to recognize that the Senior Combo increase from \$3 to \$10 (\$4.50 to \$11.75) exceeded the claimed 10 percent increase. That same evening he received the following reply from Sen. Cameron:

“Thanks for your email. We became aware of the difference only after it had passed the Senate. It was represented to the Senate as a compromise that the House of Representatives drafted. It was represented to the Senate as a 10% increase. I believe the Department and the House misrepresented it to us in the Senate. Those in the Senate voted on the bill on that basis. I appreciate your email and apologize I didn't catch the dramatic increase in the bill.”

Senators outside of the Committee who depended on the Resources Committee's “do pass” recommendation, also received the misinformation from IDFG. Following the amendments described above, the bill passed the Senate on March 29 by 29-5 (1 absent) with Senators Hill, R-Rexburg, Marley, D-McCammon, Pearce, R-New Plymouth, Richardson, R-Idaho Falls and Williams, R-Pingree voting against the fee increase.

Hasty Hearing in House

The House Resources Committee consideration of S1191 on March 31, 2005 included a presentation by IDFG Director Huffaker and supporting testimony from Idaho Bowhunters' Tom Judge, Idaho Wildlife Federation's Russ Heughins and Boise sportsman Fritz Ward. Rep. Eskridge quickly made a motion to send the bill to the floor with a “Do Pass” recommendation, and a brief discussion of the Senior Combo increase and other increases followed.

Rep. Barrett said she would not support the bill because the fee increase was too high and Rep. Andrus said

it would create more dissatisfaction among sportsmen.

Chairman Stevenson said the Taxidermist License change was made for his and Rep. Bell's constituents and Representatives Saylor and Eskridge said the money was needed to offset inflation and continue sportsmen's programs. Eskridge's “Do Pass” motion was approved by a voice vote with Representatives Andrus, Barrett, Denney, Roberts and (Paul) Shepherd voting Nay for the record.

On April 4, S1191 passed the house by 48-20 with Roberts and Trail absent, and was signed by the Governor on April 14, to become effective on July 1, 2005. The following Representatives voted *against* the fee increase:

Andrus, R-Lava Hot Springs, Barrett, R-Challis, Bayer, R-Boise, Bolz, R-Caldwell, Denney, R-Midvale, Ellsworth, R-Boise, Loertscher, R-Iona, Mathews, R-Idaho Falls, McGeachin, R-Idaho Falls, McKague, R-Meridian Moyle, R-Star, Nielsen, R-Mountain Home, Ring, R-Caldwell, Sali, R-Kuna, Schaefer, R-Nampa, Mary Lou Shepherd, D-Wallace, Paul Shepherd, R-Riggins, Wills, R-Glenns Ferry, Wood, R-Rigby and House Speaker Newcomb, R-Burley.

History of Seniors' Free Hunting & Fishing

Although there are many wealthy senior citizens, government and industry recognize that most seniors have lost their ability to earn a living and will spend their life savings on increased medical expenses. Examples of financial help for seniors include doubling the IRS deductions, discounting medical treatment, issuing the Golden Age Passport to provide free or half-price access to parks, campgrounds and other outdoor recreation, and thousands of merchant discounts.

From 1899 when the Fifth Idaho Legislature established the Fish and Game Department until January 1, 1999, Idaho's older senior citizens were not charged fees to hunt or fish. Twenty years ago, seniors age 65-69 began paying \$3.50 for a combination hunting and fishing license, but age 70 and older continued to receive a free permit to hunt and fish as well as free deer, elk and bear tags.

Beginning in 1996 seniors age 70 and older were required to pay \$1.50 per tag to cover the printing costs of their deer, elk and bear tags but the tags remained free until 1999. During the 1998 Legislative session, ex-F&G Commissioner/Idaho Wildlife Federation President Fred Christensen and IWF member Sen. John Andreason promoted legislation to eliminate all free licenses, tags and permits provided to senior and handicapped residents.

Using the claim that “senior citizens are one of the wealthiest segments of Idaho's population and want to pay their fair share” Andreason sponsored Senate Bill 1500 to abolish all free permits and licenses. As written, the bill required *all* seniors 65 or older to pay \$3 for a hunting license, \$7 for a fishing license or \$10 for a combination license.

This far exceeded the \$4 that seniors age 64-69 were then paying for the combination license, and did not

include the \$1.50 vendor fee that was also charged to print each license. The bill also would have charged from \$5 to \$20 each for deer, elk and bear tags that were formerly free to hunters 70 or older.

Justification for the new charges was the formula used to distribute sportsmen's federal excise tax dollars. The money received by each state is allocated based on both land area and the *number* of licenses sold, regardless of cost, but does not include free licenses.

Senate Amended Bill

The Senate Resources Committee recommended amending S1500 to charge *all* seniors over 65 only \$3 (plus the \$1.50 vendor fee) for a combination hunting and fishing license, and to continue to provide free deer, elk and bear tags to those seniors 70 or older who purchased the \$3 license. The amended bill passed both houses and the \$3 (+\$1.50) fee became effective on January 1, 1999.

At that time a new license class, with the prefix "106" was created to identify seniors age 70 or older and enable them to continue to receive their free deer, elk and bear tags by paying only \$1.50 each to the license vendor. But another 1998 fee increase bill, House Bill 629, authorized a 67% increase in the Regular Deer Tag and a 40% increase in the Regular Elk Tag that Seniors age 65-69 must buy to hunt deer and elk.

Although their Senior Combination License fee had been reduced by \$1 (75 cents with vendor fee increase) by S1500 effective Jan. 1, 1999, the deer and elk tag fees for seniors age 65-69 were increased by \$12.00 (+ 50 cents) which passed and became effective May 1, 1998. Many seniors opted to wait until they turned 70 and could get the free tags but those tags were eliminated by House Bill 699 in the 2000 Legislative session.

Free 70+ Tags Eliminated

Hunters who had anticipated receiving the traditional free license and basic big game tags when they reached 70 found themselves having to pay \$35.25 to fish and hunt in general season hunts with little chance of harvesting any game. In order to get that unprecedented fee increase passed, IDFG had to agree to come back with a bill which allowed all seniors (not just those 70 or older) to buy the new "half-price" deer, elk and bear tags.

When that bill, H42, passed in 2001, the Senior Combo License with the "106" prefix for age 70+ was eliminated since all seniors now pay the same price for all licenses and tags.

New Senior Licenses Created

Beginning with the 2003 season, the Department and Commission created two new classes of Senior Licenses, which are not included in Idaho Code Sec.36-404 "Classes of Licenses", 36-406 "Resident Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Licenses – Fees", or 36-416 "Schedule of License Fees." Yet both of these new license classes for seniors have been listed in the hunting regulations brochures since 2003 and the licenses are being sold.

The first, with the prefix "117", is the "Resident Senior Hunting License." Although this license class was not specifically included in any fee increase bill, 445 of these licenses were sold to senior hunters in 2003 for the same price as the combination license.

The second senior license, with the prefix "118", is the Resident Senior Fishing License. In 2003, 3,159 of these licenses were sold to senior fishermen and women for the same price as the Senior Combination License. In 2003, seniors also purchased 25,936 Resident Senior Combination Licenses, which entitled them to hunt or fish for the same price.

The "Resident 2005/2006 Licenses, Tags and Permit Fees" on page 5 of the 2005 IDFG Big Game Rules booklet clearly shows the increases in senior fees. A resident senior hunter will now pay only \$1 less than a resident adult hunter, and pay more than twice as much as a person who qualifies for a disabled license to hunt or fish.

Hunting Is Expensive For Seniors

Even with the discounted senior license and deer, elk, bear and turkey tags, if a senior resident buys the tags and permits included in the Sportsman's Package separately it will still cost \$154.75. This will enable him to hunt in special weapons general seasons if he owns the archery and muzzleloader equipment and is proficient with it, but it does not include the cost of controlled hunt applications and permits to provide better odds of harvest.

If he or she chooses not to buy most of the tags and permits, it will still cost the average senior big bucks to have even a 20% chance to harvest a deer. Pheasant and cottontail rabbit populations are at record lows and hunters of these species on public lands are rarely successful.

The senior fisherman has better odds, especially if he is willing to settle for white-meated put-and-take trout, or else fish for warm water species. In addition to the tag costs, fishing for salmon and steelhead is expensive and the term "combat fishing" generally describes the process for most of those who are successful.

In FY 2004, which ended June 30, 2004, 566 Idaho seniors bought licenses to hunt, 3,637 bought licenses to fish, and 28,121 bought the combination license (a total of 32,324 senior resident license buyers). Although they far outnumber all of the special interest sportsmen groups, they receive little consideration from IDFG wildlife managers unless they are willing to spend a lot of dollars.

Many seniors and members of lower-income working families cannot afford to pay more than one hundred dollars each in license, tag, special weapons permits and special hunt fees for a reasonable chance to harvest Idaho's declining wild game.

When the new fee increases take effect on July 1, each 70-year-old hunter will be required to pay \$45.75 just for the license and 3 tags that were free until recently. For another \$10.75 he can have a chance to harvest a wild turkey if he can get permission to hunt on private land.

F&G Commission Says "Sell Idaho Wildlife"

By George Dovel

In 1987 the Idaho Legislature authorized one bighorn sheep tag to be auctioned off by the Commission and in 1991 it allowed a second sheep tag to be sold by lottery (see I.C. Sec. 408[e]). This article documents the ultimate impact of "selling" wildlife, both on the resource and on the citizens who own it.

During the February 7, 2005 House Resources and Conservation Committee meeting when the first fee increase RS (proposal) was presented for the Committee's approval to be printed, F&G Commissioner Cameron Wheeler asked the Committee members to think about the philosophical concept of selling wildlife as public policy.

Special Sheep Lottery Tag

Wheeler's presentation included a four-page brochure with color photos of the near-record Rocky Mountain bighorn ram head taken in Unit 11 in 2004 with a special lottery tag sold annually by the Idaho Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. Chances for the single Bighorn Sheep Lottery Tag cost \$10 each, with discounts for multiple tag purchases that multiply the chance of drawing the coveted tag.

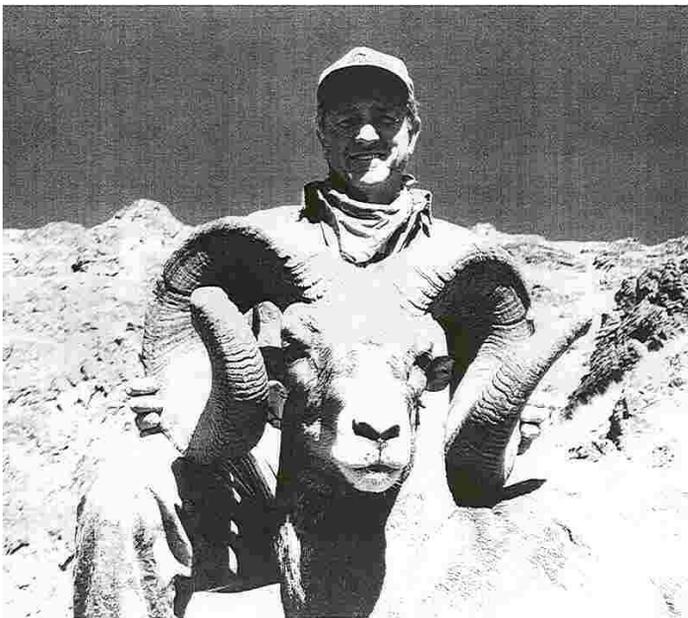


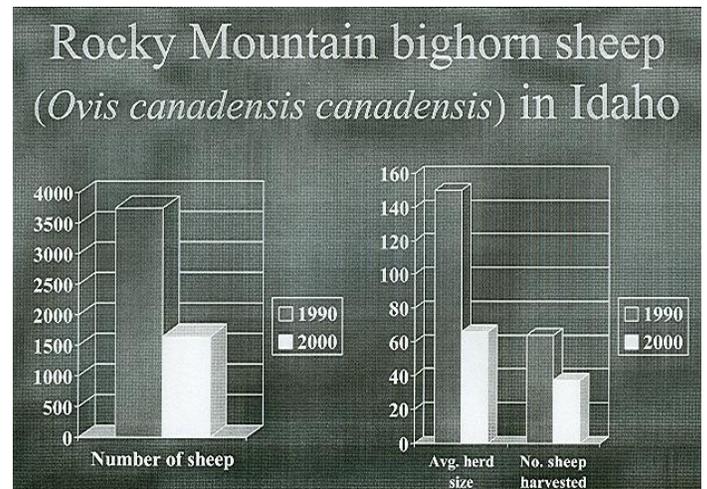
Photo provided to House Resources Committee by Commissioner Wheeler. California hunter poses with trophy bighorn ram killed in Idaho in 2004 using FNAWS Lottery Tag in Unit 11.

Thousands of these bighorn lottery tickets are sold each year to both residents and nonresidents with about 75% of the proceeds funding big game health research conducted at the Caine veterinary center in Caldwell. The winner is not required to purchase a hunting license or sheep tag or pay application or permit fees, and the once-in-a-lifetime harvest rule also does not apply.

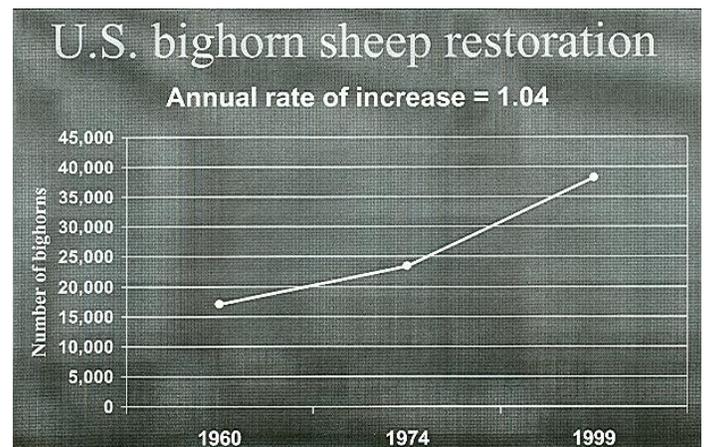
Special Sheep Auction Tag

The Commission provides the other bonus Rocky Mountain bighorn tag to the *national* FNAWS group to be auctioned to the highest bidder at its annual convention. Unlike the lottery tag where the winner may spend from \$10 to several thousand dollars or more to get a better chance of drawing, the auction tag is a sure thing for the wealthy hunter who bids the most bucks.

Because the odds of harvesting a trophy-size Rocky Mountain bighorn ram remain poor in most Idaho sheep hunting units, the Idaho Bighorn Auction Tag has generally brought lower bids than similar tags offered by several other states and two Canadian Provinces. The following graph and chart by IDFG Bighorn Biologist Frances Cassirer illustrate the radical decline in Idaho bighorn populations and harvests from 1990-2000 compared to an ongoing increase in the total U.S. population.



Recent 55% decline in Idaho's Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations and 43% decline in harvests during 10-yr. Period.



Yet during the 10-year period ending in 1999, bighorn populations in the United States increased by about 20 percent.

Craig Mountain Hunts Bring \$\$

Inclusion of the Unit 11 Craig Mountain-Hells Canyon Rocky Mountain bighorn herd in the 1995-96 hunts more than doubled the going price for the special tags. But the price dropped again during the next four years when the Unit 11 special draw hunt was temporarily discontinued.

Since 2001, one Unit 11 tag has been provided for the general drawing and a second Unit 11 tag is given to the FNAWS Auction on odd-numbered years and to the FNAWS Lottery on even-numbered years. Although I.C. Sec. 36-408(5) requires that the Auction Tag shall be taken from the nonresident bighorn sheep tag quota, IDFG has either circumvented or ignored that law.

Nonresidents Get Most Unit 11 Tags

Of the eight highly prized Unit 11 sheep tags that were offered from 2001-2004, seven went to non-resident hunters. The sole resident tag went to the 16-year-old son of a FNAWS member from Pocatello in 2003.

Competing with 247 other drawing applicants, including 213 nonresidents, the youth's name was selected by IDFG Director Huffaker. Using a scope-sighted muzzleloader with 200-yard capability, the boy bagged a new muzzleloader record Rocky Mountain bighorn while hunting with his father and a friend.

This increased the incentive for nonresidents to buy Lottery tickets for the Unit 11 hunt in 2004 and lottery sales increased from about \$60,000 in 2003 to \$101,468 in 2004. The 2004 winner killed the large ram in the photo on page 4 and that resulted in a Washington hunter bidding a record \$180,000 for the 2005 Idaho Unit 11 Auction Tag.

In 2004 two alternates were drawn for the Idaho FNAWS Lottery and both of them were also nonresidents. In 2005 the second and third place bidders were chosen as alternates in the FNAWS Idaho Auction and both of them were also nonresidents.

Residents Claim Unfair Treatment

Periodically since 1993 the F&G Commission has directed IDFG to implement a system that will limit nonresident participation in all controlled big game hunts to a maximum of 10 percent. Yet in 2000, five years after the GTECH automated license system supposedly solved the problem, one-fourth of all Idaho Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunters were still nonresidents.

House Bill 222, passed in 2001, corrected financial concerns raised by an Office of Performance Evaluation investigation of the Bighorn Lottery and Auction programs. It also redefined what the proceeds from each tag must be spent for and reiterated that the annual Auction Tag shall be taken out of the nonresident quota.

Because tickets for the Lottery Tag were being sold to Idahoans and it was assumed an Idaho resident would probably draw the tag, that tag was no longer required to be taken from the nonresident quota. However a notice on pages 4 and 5 of the 2005 and 2006 Controlled

Hunt Regulations for Moose, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat erroneously claims that the 10 percent nonresident sheep hunter quota does not apply to *either* of the special sheep tags.

Income From Special Tags

By law at least ninety-five percent of the Auction Tag receipts must be returned to IDFG and shall be used for bighorn sheep research and management purposes. Almost all of that money is being spent in the Hells Canyon area in a joint effort with Oregon and Washington to restore bighorns where they once existed.

At least 75% of the Lottery Tag receipts must be returned to a dedicated IDFG fund and spent for research involving problems between wildlife and domestic animals. The addition of revenue from the two special tags triples IDFG's income from selling licenses tags and permits to fewer than 100 bighorn sheep hunters.

The joint three-state bighorn recovery effort in Hells Canyon has experienced numerous setbacks during the past 20-30 years. But a similar FNAWS effort in Utah has reportedly tripled that state's declining bighorn sheep population during the past 24 years.

Utah's "Conservation Permits"

By creating special privilege hunting permits called "Conservation Permits" for FNAWS to sell to the highest bidder, the Utah Division of Wildlife paid for transplanting more than 1,000 bighorn sheep since 1981. The UDOW also expanded its list of sportsman groups who auction conservation permits to include the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWT), the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW).

The most popular Utah Conservation Permits are seven "Statewide Governor's Permits" (the equivalent of IDFG's "Supertags") which allow the seven highest bidders to hunt any open area or unit for the select species without going through the hassle of a draw where the odds of getting a permit can be discouraging. Seven similar permits are also offered to sportsmen in seven separate controlled hunt drawings but in 2004 a total of 22,517 applicants competed for the seven coveted permits!

Other States Mimic Utah

Other western game agencies provide similar auction or lottery tags called by a variety of names. The RMEF auctioned Montana's 2005 elk license at its national convention in Portland in February for \$23,000 and the MDF auctioned Montana's 2005 mule deer license for \$6,700 at its national convention in Reno in January.

At the annual FNAWS convention in San Antonio in March, Montana's 2005 bighorn sheep auction license brought \$160,000 and Montana's annual moose license was auctioned by the Boone and Crocket Club for \$15,000.

On April 1, 2005, Nevada's three "Heritage Fund Project" tags raised a total of \$230,000 during the annual

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Nevada Bighorns Unlimited banquet at the Reno Hilton. The desert bighorn tag brought \$110,000, the California bighorn tag brought \$50,000 and the Elk permit sold for \$70,000.

The Mule Deer Foundation's annual convention in Reno also drew the highest amount of money ever raised for an Arizona deer tag - \$134,000. The tag allows a licensed hunter to take one antlered mule deer in any legal hunting unit in Arizona from Sept. 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2006.

Special Trophy Management

The Kaibab and Arizona Strip regions of the state are known for producing massive bucks that continue to break world records for antler size. All of the dozens of special big game permits that have been auctioned for a high price in western states and provinces recently share similar characteristics.

They are limited entry hunts in areas where the species have been protected from general season hunting and are managed to maintain a high percentage of mature male animals. Like the Unit 11 Rocky Mountain bighorn hunt in Idaho, most offer relatively easy, undisturbed access to outstanding trophy heads that will never be available to the average big game hunter.

What began in Utah 24 years ago as an effort to save the declining San Juan desert bighorn herd without using funds from deer hunters, has evolved into several levels of management for big game. The number of hunters allowed in each level is strictly controlled and those who are not rich enough to buy a permit or lucky enough to draw one must either hunt in another state, wait several years to draw a low level permit, or quit hunting.

Utah Mule Deer Management

Mule deer are Utah's major big game animal and for several decades the average annual hunter harvest exceeded 100,000 deer of either sex. But when the 1960s environmental revolution halted emergency feeding and predator control programs, deer populations in Utah and neighboring states took a nose-dive.

Angry hunters fought back and legislators appropriated funding for emergency feeding and predator control. In 1983, 228,907 Utah hunters harvested 82,552 bucks and a limited number of does but wildlife managers began to overharvest the herds once again.

As in Idaho and other western states, biologists failed to mitigate the impact of record early snowfall and record total snowfall in the 1992-93 winter. Unable to access winter feed because of the snow depth, more than half of the mule deer died from starvation and predation and the herds have never recovered.

When they finally admitted the losses, biologists blamed them on too little habitat and too many hunters. SFW, formed by Don Peay, takes credit for cutting the number of rifle deer hunters from 200,000 to 70,000.

Rifle Hunters Disenfranchised

The addition of 27,000 archery and black powder hunters for a total cap of 97,000 allowed for expansion of special weapons hunters. Similar cuts in Nevada rifle deer hunters resulted in the two states forcing nearly a quarter million deer hunters to wait years to accumulate enough bonus points to draw a rifle tag.

For several decades, many states allowed dedicated archery hunters to hunt deer, and in some cases elk, in a special early season in a few units without competition from rifle hunters. When rifle hunters occasionally argued this was discrimination, the game agencies responded that archers use primitive weapons with far lower success rates and would be at risk in a season shared by rifle hunters.

Bonus Hunts For Archers

Until the mandatory big game harvest report proved otherwise, IDFG and its counterparts in other states claimed that archery success rates for deer and elk were only one-tenth as high as for rifle hunting. They argued that to be fair archers should be given 10 times as much deer and elk hunting opportunity as rifle hunters.

As big game populations declined, IDFG expanded general either-sex deer and elk seasons for archers and severely reduced general seasons for rifle hunters. In return for giving archers and black powder hunters exclusive rights to hunt in mid-summer, during the rut and during early winter (all periods when deer and elk are most vulnerable), IDFG charges them 2-3 times as much.

The following chart compares the cost for a basic resident hunting license and deer tag for each class of hunter with the cost when both archery and muzzleloader permits, costing \$18.25 each, are added to increase the chance of harvesting a deer:

	Idaho Resident Cost to Hunt Deer			
	<u>Disabled</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Adult</u>
License	5.00	7.25	11.75	12.75
Deer Tag	10.75	10.75	10.75	19.75
	15.75	18.00	22.50	32.50
+ permits	36.50	36.50	36.50	36.50
	52.25	54.50	59.00	69.00

Shortly before we published Bulletin #1 in March 2004, we received a request from sportsmen in the Clearwater Region to research the harvest success of Idaho general season elk hunters using rifle, archery and muzzleloader. Because the 2003 data was not yet available we provided the following information for the 2002 general elk seasons in all zones from IDFG data:

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Hunters</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Females-%*</u>	<u>%Success</u>
Rifle	53,353	6,760	483 - 7.1%	12.7%
Archery	17,389	1,966	455 - 23.1%	11.3%
Muzzleloader	6,367	604	510 - 84.4%	9.5%
Total or avg.	77,109	9,330	1,448 - 15.5%	12.1%

*male calves are included in the bull harvest

For those who check these figures in information published by IDFG, they do not include the exaggerated estimates originally added by the late IDFG Statistician Lou Nelson. As reported in *The Outdoorsman*, in 2004 IDFG Big Game Manager Brad Compton told the Commission the padded estimates were found to be 100% inaccurate in a follow-up survey.

Vulnerability – Not Weapon – Determines Kill

In general season A-B tag hunts, bowhunters almost killed the same percentage of elk as rifle hunters while killing three times as many females. The 31% that were special weapons hunters killed 28% of the total elk, yet 67% of the female elk that were killed.

Despite the claim that so-called “primitive weapons” hunters are used as a management tool to reduce elk harvests and have less impact on populations, exactly the opposite was true. By allowing them to kill either sex in most zones as another bonus for paying more money, they reduced calf recruitment twice as much as rifle hunters with more limited female harvest.

Does this mean bowhunters kill fewer “trophy” bulls? Absolutely not – in fact just the opposite was true in the Lolo Zone. Unlimited bowhunters were allowed to hunt “any elk” during the rut with an “A” tag but rifle (“any weapon”) hunters with “B” tags were capped at 1600 in 2002 and hunted from Oct. 10 – Nov.3.

Lolo Zone Bull Elk Harvest				
Year-Weapon	Hunters	Success	% Spikes	%6-pts
1998 Bow	275	17.0%	2.3%	37.2%
1998 Rifle	1,297	11.3%	15.2%	35.2%
1999 Bow*	274	9.5%	0	100.0%
1999 Rifle*	1,213	15.7%	28.9%	14.0%
2000 (no breakdown on weapon success)				
2001 Bow	199	20.6%	7.9%	39.5%
2001 Rifle	757	22.6%	34.4%	15.0%
2002 Bow	314	16.6%	6.5%	33.0%
2002 Rifle	1,113	16.8%	22.0%	19.9%

* unreliable phone survey always claimed reduced bow harvest

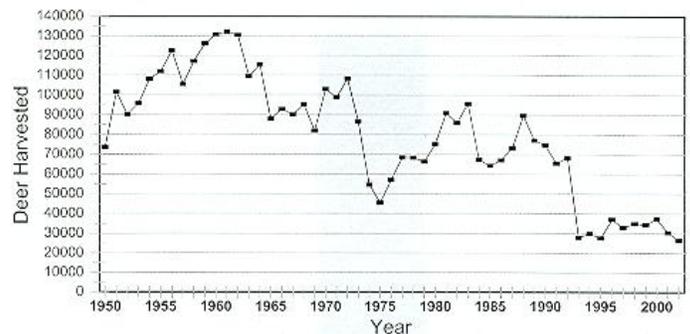
The accurate mandatory report shows comparable harvest success with rifle or bow but in 2001 and 2002 bow hunters killed significantly fewer spikes and more mature “trophy” bulls than rifle hunters. This resulted from bowhunters being allowed to hunt during the peak of the rut when breeding bulls are extremely vulnerable.

The Myth of Controlled Hunts

Fewer hunters in 2001 resulted in a higher percent of success while more hunters in 2002 resulted in a lower percent of success yet the total kill remained stable. This is one more example showing that reducing hunter numbers by 50% or less (where harvests are greater than 100 animals) does *not* reduce the number of animals harvested.

When Utah cut the number of general season deer hunters from 200,000 to 97,000 in 1994 (a 52% reduction) it claimed that would reduce harvests and rebuild the deer herd. Instead, the harvest remained stable or increased until the combination of drought and the 2001-2002 winter caused it to take another nose-dive just like Idaho (see Utah DOW “Total Deer Harvested” graph below).

**Total Deer Harvested
1950-2002**



Like Idaho, most Utah mule deer have never recovered from the 1992-93 winter losses, and they won't until predators are reduced sufficiently statewide to restore healthy recruitment. Predator control in Utah's two “Premium Limited Entry” units and several of its “Limited Entry” units has been very successful but deer harvest in most “general season” units remains very low.

In 2004, 15% of the 97,000 buck permits in these units were set aside for juveniles between ages 14 and 18. Archers continued to receive more than their share of the total buck deer permits but that total has been reduced to 95,000 in 2005.

In the Central and Northeast Regions 1,000 permits were cut from each, and the Southern Region season length was cut from nine days to five. The Southeast Region already had only a five-day season from October 22-26 and UDOW says the deer seasons in the Central and Northeast Regions will be cut to five days in 2006.

SFW-Utah Deer Goals Not Achieved

In 1994 when the number of Utah rifle deer hunters was cut by almost two-thirds, SFW was the driving force behind reducing the number of hunters. It believed that would help increase deer numbers to the 425,000 deer biologists said Utah range would support.

In the SFW publication, *Sportsmen's Voice*, it often advertises that goal along with increasing the average general buck deer season from 16 days to 20-25 days.

Yet in the UDOW five year deer plan prepared in November 2004, biologists say there are now only 280,000 deer in Utah and their new goal is to increase that number to 320,000 by 2008. It also warns there will be no increase if the drought continues or habitat programs are reduced.

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Despite the limited hunter quota, severely reduced seasons and expensive habitat improvement programs, buck-to-doe ratios in Utah's "general season public land units" have dropped below the 15:100 objective in three of the states' five regions. Although hunters kill a few mature bucks in these units, the total deer harvest remains at record lows.

In contrast, buck-to-doe ratios in the two "Premium Limited Entry" units exceed the 35:100 *minimum*, with a three year average of 38:100 in Paunsaugunt and 42:100 in Henry Mountains. In the eight "Limited Entry" units, three exceed the 25:100 *minimum* but five do not.

With extensive predator control for several years, the Book Cliffs Unit also exceeds the 35 bucks per 100 does in the 25-35:100 objective for the eight units. However fawn recruitment has improved significantly in several of these units following recent predator control.

In 2004, 938 Utah residents and 93 nonresidents drew either a limited entry buck permit costing \$53 or a premium limited entry buck permit costing \$138. Like several hundred deer auction tag purchasers, they enjoyed a unique hunt where deer are managed to provide a healthy ratio of mature bucks to does.

Archers Receive Special Privileges

Although special weapons hunters made up only 29% of the applicants in Utah's *Premium Limited Entry* deer hunts in 2004, they received 40% of the total permits. Bowhunters' odds of drawing one of these coveted permits were 1-in-18 compared to 1-in-49 for rifle hunters.

In all of the *regular Limited Entry* deer hunt drawings, archers' odds of drawing were better than 1-in-10. In 2004 elk archers were given 25% of limited entry permits, muzzleloaders 15%, and any-weapon hunters only 60%. As in Idaho seasons/quotas are designed to give archers special privileges that rifle hunters do not enjoy.

In return, many bowhunter organizations strongly support F&G agency agendas and fee increases. In SFW's promotional video designed to solicit membership, most of SFW's endorsements are from bowhunters, archery equipment manufacturers or retail archery sales businesses.

CWMU Permits

Like several other western states, Utah offers land owners (or lessees) with 10,000 or more contiguous acres a number of "Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit" (CWMU) big game permits. The landowner can use or sell 90% of those permits but must allow 10% to be awarded to CWMU drawing applicants.

Drawing odds are better than for limited entry permits and there is usually a better chance of harvesting a deer than in the "general season public lands buck hunt." The 90% of permits are comparable to Idaho's Landowner Preference Permits, except they can be sold outright rather than go through the charade of charging a "trespass fee".

Many of the landowners also offer guides, food and lodging for a fee to the 10% who draw permits. In 2004, Utah residents drew 227 of these private land permits while more than 2,000 were sold by landowners for a high price, mostly to nonresidents who usually paid for outfitting and guiding services as well.

More Permits Approved

The number of Conservation Permits provided to a handful of Utah organizations to sell for a high price has mushroomed to 538 in 2005. When a habitat proposal failed to pass recently SFW President Don Peay convinced UDOW to provide 200 additional permits in 2007.

Unlike the auction tags, these "Convention Permits" will be disposed of in a lottery conducted by SFW at an annual "Wildlife Convention" to be held in Salt Lake City. Attendees, and others who travel to the Convention site but don't participate, can buy only one \$5 chance per hunt, but can buy additional chances to draw in the other 199 hunts for lions, bears, turkeys and the usual big game.

The permits allow harvests *in addition to* once-in-a-lifetime and annual bag limits for each species. And unlike the auction tags, the drawing will be conducted by the convention organizers (SFW, RMEF, etc.) and they will be allowed to keep all of the money.

Conservation Permits from other states will also be auctioned along with the usual donated guns, gear and hunts. According to Peay, providing chances on these permits at an affordable price will allow anyone who travels to the convention center a chance to win a hunt.

SFW has provided figures estimating that the increase in auction permits since 1997 has resulted in millions of dollars in additional income to various Utah businesses including outfitters, taxidermists, etc. But unlike the Conservation (auction) Permits, the Convention (lottery) Permits will be taken from existing limited entry permit quotas.

According to UDOW, this will eliminate 200 of the quality permits that have been available to Utah hunters (180 to residents) and slightly reduce their odds of drawing the remaining permits. The percentage of the 200 Convention permits that are won by nonresidents will probably depend on the number of nonresidents who attend the convention and purchase multiple hunt chances.

Idaho "Director's Tags"

Like Utah's Wildlife Board, the Idaho F&G Commission continues to increase the number of its highly coveted Super Tags (which it now calls "Super Hunts"). What began as an incentive to return mandatory reports timely and submit controlled hunt applications early to prevent GTECH's automated license system from being overloaded, has been expanded to selling lottery tickets in two separate drawings for the "hunt of a lifetime."

A total of 10 each deer, elk and antelope, two moose and two combination hunts for all four species are being awarded to the lucky lottery ticket purchasers in two

separate drawings each year. These hunts allow harvests in addition to once-in-a-lifetime trophy quotas or annual bag limits for each species, and are good in all hunts for those species in the state, whether general season or controlled.

During the January 2005 F&G Commission meeting in Boise, newly elected Chairman Marcus Gibbs said he would like the Commission to address the issue of Director's tags at a future meeting. This would provide either the Governor or Director with tags they can issue for "special circumstances".

Several years ago, a Nevada DOW Director was replaced following allegations that he used the Directors (Governor's) tags improperly for private or political purposes. This illustrates how far the Commission has deviated from the legal premise that all wildlife is the property of the state and is held in trust and managed for (all of) its citizens.

SFW - Utah Accomplishments

With cooperation from other special interest sportsmen organizations, state and national lawmakers and federal land managers, SFW-Utah, under Don Peay's leadership, has helped change attitudes concerning the necessity for predator control and the importance of hunting to the state and national economy.

A cooperative 10-year \$100 million BLM big game habitat improvement program and a \$500,000 annual state appropriation for predator control provide benefits to game and at least some hunters. But the annual allocation of \$4 million in Utah sales tax and general fund revenue for wildlife habitat improvement receives mixed reviews from mainstream Utah hunters.

"World Class" Trophy Hunting

SFW's published goal to create "world class" trophy hunting in a handful of the state's units, which benefit a few wealthy sportsmen and lucky lottery winners, is embraced by UDOW big game managers. The new mule deer plan emphasizes providing wildlife viewing in these areas - rather than improving mule deer populations for the 85% of hunters who must hunt in other areas.

SFW-Utah correctly points out that its activities have helped increase populations of elk and of scarce trophy species. But the infusion of big money for more than a decade has not halted the decline in Utah mule deer populations and harvests in most of the state.

The list of SFW-Utah accomplishments in the Winter 2004-2005 issue of "Sportsmen's Voice" includes an \$8,000 minimum fine for poaching and a "\$24,000 deer permit" offered as "a reward if you turn in a poacher in the Henry Mountains unit."

Utah heads the list of western states that practice European style game management for a few wealthy sportsmen to enjoy every year. Meanwhile hunters of average means must draw for up to 10 years for a reasonable chance to hunt and harvest the wildlife they also own.

The relative abundance or scarcity of so-called "trophy" permits/tags partly determines the price that will be paid by a wealthy hunter. During The January 2005 Idaho F&G Commission meeting, IDFG biologists said bighorn sheep production in Hells Canyon Unit 11 could support harvesting four rams per year rather than two, and recommended adding two more tags.

But during the public hearing, FNAWS-Idaho President Chuck Middleton asked the Commission not to add any sheep tags in Unit 11. He said his organization feels an increase in hunters would impact the amount of money they are able to raise in the Super Tag lottery and FNAWs drawing.

Idaho's Bonus Hunts

As we have documented in previous bulletins, in the 1980s IDFG began to increase the number of controlled hunts in deer and elk units that already had a general season. In 2005 most of the 14,002 limited deer permits and 22,156 limited elk permits are in units where a general season already exists.

Instead of adjusting general season dates to regulate the take of both sexes based on vulnerability, the F&G Commission is selling increased hunting and harvest opportunity for the few who are willing to pay the extra bucks and are lucky enough to draw the permits.

The Wildlife Bureau claims there are 300,000 deer in Idaho (an average of nearly 4 deer per square mile on summer, transition and winter range) and admits the existing habitat can support 600,000 deer. If that were true the historical three top deer hunting areas in Idaho should have more than four deer per square mile and IDFG should allow no antlerless harvest or buck hunting in the rut until those units have 8 deer per square mile.

In one of those three top deer areas, the South Fork of the Payette River (Units 33, 34 & 35), the recent helicopter census revealed less than one deer per square mile of unit. Yet the F&G Commission set the following 2005 deer seasons for those units:

Archery general season: Aug. 1-Sept. 1, either-sex
Any-weapon general season: Oct. 10-31, youth either-sex
Muzzleloader CH: Nov. 10-30 bucks-only 150 permits.

Allowing four months of almost uninterrupted deer hunting, 54 days of female and fawn harvest and a muzzleloader buck hunt during the rut in these units guarantees the depleted deer population will not recover. The phrase "Selling Idaho Wildlife" has become synonymous with exploiting scarce Idaho game for dollars rather than managing it for abundance.

Instead of working with mainstream Idaho hunters to provide abundant wildlife for everyone, including those who seek trophy animals, some special interest sportsmen groups continue to seek exclusive hunts for themselves when the animals are more vulnerable.

Update on 2005 F&G Legislation

By George Dovel

HJM 5 – This joint memorial, sponsored in the House by Representatives Lenore Barrett and JoAn Wood, reiterated the legislature's previous actions in regard to wolf recovery and the adverse impact excessive wolf populations are already having in Idaho. It stated that Idaho would be better served with the wolf having the special predator classification and said that Idaho reserves the rights and remedies offered by Title 7 of the U.S. Code and Section 11(h) of the Endangered Species Act.

In other words, HJM 5 said either give us the ability to properly manage wolves as agreed upon, or we will resort to protection from predators guaranteed in the Constitution and provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It passed the House on March 18, 2005 by 62-5 with Representatives Boe, Crow and Snodgrass absent.

Reps. LeFavour, D-Boise, Martinez, D-Pocatello, Pasley-Stuart, D-Boise, Ringo, D-Moscow and Rusche D-Lewiston voted against it.

HJM 5 was received in the Senate Resources Committee on March 21, but a hearing was delayed until March 29. At that time eight of the nine Committee members approved HJM with Sen. Langhorst going on record as opposing it. And it was sent to the floor for a vote.

The following day, Committee member Sen. Don Burtenshaw announced that he was going to ask that the bill be returned to Committee for further discussion based on a letter shown to him by Chairman Gary Schroeder.

The letter, faxed to Schroeder shortly after HJM 5 was sent to the full Senate, was from Craig Manson Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. It questioned the intent expressed in HJM 5 and said, "*it may be perceived by certain individuals and groups as a step away from the commitments to manage wolves as previously adopted. That may embolden certain of those groups and individuals to press forward with their unproductive litigation.*"

The Memorial was debated in the Senate Committee on March 30, with Burtenshaw leading debate against it and Schroeder advising he had received a letter from the Governor's Office but was asked not to share it. HJM 5 passed the Committee again, but by a 5-4 vote.

Senators Langhorst, D-Boise, Stennett, D-Ketchun, Little, R-Emmett and Burtenshaw, R-Terretton voted against it.

There was no mention of why HJM 5 was held in Committee so long or who may have alerted USFWS to send the letter to Schroeder. Off the record comments included, "the skids are greased and the fix is in." After lively debate, HJM 5 failed in the Senate by 6-28 with Sen.

Williams absent. Senators voting for the Memorial were Brandt, R-Kooskia, Broadsword, R-Sagle, Cameron, R-Rupert, McKenzie, R-Nampa, Pearce, R-New Plymouth and Sweet, R-Meridian.

Meanwhile an almost identically worded resolution passed in Montana and paved the way for Montana to seek other remedies if wolf delisting in Montana continues to be delayed as it has been in Minnesota.

S 1171 – The extreme IDFG resistance to the appropriation for predator control in this bill reported in Bulletin #10 continued in the House after it passed in the Senate. The news media published guest opinions and editorials denouncing both S 1171 and Sportsmen For Fish and Wildlife - Idaho Chapter for its role in the legislation.

When the House Resources Committee hearing was held on March 31, only IDFG Director Huffaker and Idaho Bowhunters/Sportsmen Advisory Council President Tom Judge testified in opposition to the bill. When Judge was asked if the Advisory Council members had been contacted he admitted that some individuals may not have been.

In addition to written or oral testimony from Rick Waitley, Executive Director of Food Producers of Idaho and Judy Bartlett Idaho Farm Bureau spokesman in support of the bill, testimony from 10 sportsmen also supported it. These included SFW President Kelton Larsen, Secretary Jeff Robbins, Board Members Jack Oyler and Marv Hagedorn and Executive Director Nate Helm.

Mark Collinge, Idaho Director of APHIS Wildlife Services, explained how the predator projects would be decided on and S 1171 was sent to the floor with a "Do Pass" vote of 15-3. Reps. Jacquet, D-Ketchum, Mitchell, D-Lewiston and Saylor, D-Coeur d'Alene voted against the bill.

When it was sent to the full House, each Representative received a "List of Concerns" about S1171 from the Idaho Sportsmen's Advisory Council. Rep. Mike Moyle promptly provided a response to the House members, correcting the misinformation provided by the Council.

S 1171 passed the House by 53-14 with LeFavour, Roberts, and Skippen absent. Representatives voting against the bill were Boe, D-Pocatello, Clark, R-Hayden Lake, Henbest, D-Boise, Jaquet, D-Ketchum, Jones, R-Filer, Martinez, D-Pocatello, Mitchell, D-Lewiston, Pasley-Stuart, D-Boise, Pence, D-Gooding, Ringo, D-Moscow, Rusche, D-Lewison, Saylor, D-Coeur d'Alene, Smith(30), R-Twin Falls and Smylie, R-Boise.

(Read the response by Mark Collinge to the half-truths from the bill's opponents in the June Outdoorsman.)

Sportsmen Asked To Fund Nongame

By George Dovel

In several Outdoorsman issues, I have described how the latest version of CARA was passed by Congress, with help from state Fish and Game Directors via their "parent" organization, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA).

Called "State Wildlife Grants", this law provides federal funding to states for the alleged purpose of preventing ESA listing of additional nongame animals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other life forms including plants. I have also explained that the several million "free" federal dollars, already received and spent by IDFG, required 1-for-3 matching state dollars that did not exist.

Except for a few dollars generated by income tax check-offs and wildlife license plate sales, sportsmen license dollars have been and will continue to be misused to match the federal money. I explained that, in 2005, the state matching requirement would change from \$1 for every \$3 provided by the feds to \$3 for every \$3 provided (a 100% match).

In response to a question from former F&G Commissioner Burns, IDFG claimed it had "sources" of matching funds, but never revealed what they were. Now that the state's matching requirement has tripled, IDFG is admitting at least part of the truth.

In a full page discussion of nongame funding in the May 8, 2005 Idaho Statesman, IDFG Nongame Wildlife Manager Chuck Harris was reported as admitting that the funding (\$730,000 this year) will now require an equal contribution by the state. The article also admits that money from license plates and other nongame donations falls far short of the amount needed.

Prior to enactment of House Bill 67 in the 2003 Legislative Session, The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) was responsible for managing wild flowers and plants. But Parks and Rec. introduced the bill to transfer that management responsibility to IDFG because F&G had already hired botanists and also operated the Conservation Data Center (CDC) established 15 years earlier by Former Director Jerry Conley.

IDPR was eager to get rid of the duties because it lacked the state matching dollars. But IDFG Dir. Huffaker eagerly accepted the added expense because it meant receiving more federal dollars (and IDFG could just ask for another sportsman fee increase and use much of it to fund non-game/fish programs as it did in 2000).

Huffaker Told "a Whopper"

During the House Resources Committee hearing on January 27, 2003 several members expressed concern with the possibility of sportsmen's money being used to manage endangered plants, if this responsibility was transferred to IDFG. Huffaker replied, "During (the past)

15 years sportsmen money has never been used for anything that would not benefit sportsmen."

Three years earlier, IDFG Director Steve Mealey documented nearly \$3 million of sportsmen license fees that was spent by IDFG that year for non-game/fish activities with zero benefit to sportsmen. Recent Bulletins have listed substantial license fee expenditures with no benefit to sportsmen, including salaries and expenses for some CDC employees.

Nongame Deception

Like IDFG officials, the Statesman article parrots other non-hunters' (and anti-hunters') claim that wildlife watchers are the single largest outdoor recreation group and the only one that is growing significantly. They base this on the USFWS "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Survey" conducted every five years.

According to former USFWS official Jim Beers, that survey was redesigned to make it appear that birders (bird watchers) spend more money than hunters and more than fishermen in some eastern states. Even the Statesman admits that the survey includes back yard bird feeders and most hunters and fishermen in the wildlife watcher group but it doesn't mention that the cost of family camping trips and vacations are also included in wildlife watching.

The reality is that bird watchers refuse to pay for "management" of nongame species in either income tax check-offs or bluebird license plates. That is why the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Wildlife Federation put elk, mountain goat and trout on the license plates so hunters and anglers would buy them to proudly display on their vehicle (and pay for wolf and other nongame management in the process).

The Statesman editor says that as hunter's and anglers' license purchases decline, it may be unwise to depend on them to fund nongame management. It fails to mention that hunters are declining because many are being priced out of competing for game that is getting more scarce every year.

Law Forbids Using Sportsman Fees

One of the restrictions placed on the nongame matching funds for the \$730,000 in offshore oil money is that hunter and angler license money may not be used as a match. Idaho law also forbids the use of sportsman fees to fund nongame but that never deterred Jerry Conley when he and Steve Barton misappropriated it to help fund "Watchable Wildlife" the MK Nature Center, the CDC, "Project Wild" and a host of other non-game and non-fish programs adopted when Conley was also President of the IAFWA.

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The May 8, Statesman article included a Guest Opinion by Conley seeking spending flexibility for IDFG by requiring hunters and anglers to fund watchable wildlife programs. He also wrote, "They (hunters and anglers) should not support outdoor organizations and individuals who insist that absolutely no license-fee funding be used for watchable wildlife or for outdoor education activities like the Boise MK Nature Center."

Conley continued, "It's right for sportsmen to allow professional wildlife managers the flexibility to make the best use of our hunting and fishing dollars, without imposing hair-splitting restrictions, to fund broad-based programs that shorten the time between bites for sportsmen and add richness to our watchable wildlife enjoyment."

One of the outdoor organizations that Conley was suggesting should be blacklisted was obviously Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife-Idaho. In an article next to Conley's, SFW-Idaho Executive Director Nate Helm emphasized the group's position that hunters and anglers should not bear an increased cost for the enjoyment of the rest of the public.

Helm reiterated that I.C. Sec. 36-103 (Idaho Wildlife Policy) says that the citizens of Idaho should (shall) be provided continued supplies of wildlife for hunting fishing and trapping. He also said, correctly, that most sportsmen feel their license dollars should be spent

only to manage the game species they are paying to harvest.

Helm mentioned several agencies and programs that provide funding for nongame species, including the Governor's Office of Species Conservation, nongame research by Idaho universities and colleges, and Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service programs which spend millions of dollars studying and protecting nongame species and their habitats.

(Neither article mentioned that several sections of the Idaho Code prohibit using license fees for nongame activities. The fact that nongame funding sources provided in Title 36 are not adequate to provide the ~million dollars that is necessary to match the federal SWG money should not be a concern of Idaho sportsmen.

This remains another federal burden that is imposed on Idaho and other states with the requirement that the states come up with additional money. This problem should be addressed by Idaho's Congressional delegation and by Idaho Legislators empowered with the responsibility to manage Idaho's natural resources.

If the Legislature chooses not to take general fund or sales tax money away from education and other vital programs to provide a match for SWG, the logical option would be to eliminate the grant program and all other IDFG programs that do not benefit sportsmen license buyers.-ED)

Outdoorsman articles reveal little known facts about a variety of fish and game management issues that affect every Idahoan, especially those who cherish Idaho's hunting, fishing and trapping heritage. Please help distribute these facts to help stop the destruction of our billion-dollar wildlife resource and restore sound wildlife management for future generations. A donation in any amount will help defray the cost of printing and mailing these informative bulletins to elected officials. A donation of \$20 or more will pay the cost of printing and mailing all bulletins to you for the next 12 months, and will guarantee they will also be sent to the Senator and Representatives in your District.

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