

36-106

Statutes and Session Law

TITLE 36 FISH AND GAME

CHAPTER 1 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

36-106 DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.

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(a) Office of Director Created. The commission shall appoint a director of the department of fish and game, hereinafter referred to as the director, who shall be a person with knowledge of, and experience in, the requirements for the protection, conservation, restoration, and management of the wildlife resources of the state. The director shall not hold any other public office, nor any office in any political party organization, and shall devote his entire time to the service of the state in the discharge of his official duties, under the direction of the commission.

(b) Secretary to Commission. The director or his designee shall serve as secretary to the commission.

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(d) Oath and Bond. Before entering upon the duties of his office, the director shall take and subscribe to the official oath of office, as provided by section 59-401, Idaho Code, and shall, in addition thereto, swear and affirm that he holds no other public office, nor any position under any political committee or party. Such oath, or affirmation, shall be signed in the office of the secretary of state.

The director shall be bonded to the state of Idaho in the time, form and manner prescribed by chapter 8, title 59, Idaho Code.

(e) Duties and Powers of Director.

1. The director shall have general supervision and control of all activities, functions, and employees of the department of fish and game, under the supervision and direction of the commission, and shall enforce all the provisions of the laws of the state, and rules and proclamations of the commission relating to wild animals, birds, and fish and, further, shall perform all the duties prescribed by section 67-2405, Idaho Code, and other laws of the state not inconsistent with this act, and shall exercise all necessary powers incident thereto not specifically conferred on the commission.

2. The director is hereby authorized to appoint as many classified employees as the commission may deem necessary to perform administrative duties, to enforce the laws and to properly

implement management, propagation, and protection programs established for carrying out the purposes of the Idaho fish and game code.

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5.(A) The director, or any person appointed by him in writing to do so, may take wildlife of any kind, dead or alive, or import the same, subject to such conditions, restrictions and rules as he may provide, for the purpose of inspection, cultivation, propagation, distribution, scientific or other purposes deemed by him to be of interest to the fish and game resources of the state.

(B) The director shall have supervision over all of the matters pertaining to the inspection, cultivation, propagation and distribution of the wildlife propagated under the provisions of title 36, Idaho Code. He shall also have the power and authority to obtain, by purchase or otherwise, wildlife of any kind or variety which he may deem most suitable for distribution in the state and may have the same properly cared for and distributed throughout the state of Idaho as he may deem necessary.

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(D) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 36-408, Idaho Code, to the contrary, on and after the effective date of this act, the director shall not expend any funds, or take any action, or authorize any employee or agent of the department or other person to take any action, to undertake actual transplants of sheep into areas they do not now inhabit or to augment the number of sheep in existing herds until:

(i) The boards of county commissioners of the counties in which the release is proposed to take place have been given reasonable notice of the proposed release.

(ii) The affected federal and state land grazing permittees and owners or leaseholders of private land in or contiguous to the proposed release site have been given reasonable notice of the proposed release.

(iii) The president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives have received from the director a plan for the forthcoming year that details, to the best of the department's ability, the proposed transplants which shall include the estimated numbers of sheep to be transplanted and a description of the areas the proposed transplant or transplants are planned for. Upon request, the department shall grant one (1) hearing per transplant if any affected individual or entity expresses written concern within ten (10) days of notification regarding any transplants of sheep and shall take into consideration these concerns in approving, modifying or canceling any proposed sheep transplant. Any such hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the request. Upon any transplant of sheep into areas they do not now inhabit or a transplant to augment existing populations, the department shall provide for any affected federal or state land grazing permittees or owners or leaseholders of private land a written letter signed by all federal, state and private entities responsible for the transplant stating that the existing sheep or livestock operations in the area of any such sheep transplant are recognized and that the potential risk, if any, of disease transmission and loss of sheep when the same invade domestic livestock or sheep operations is accepted.

6.(A) The director shall have the power, at any time when it is desired to introduce any new species, or if at any time any species of wildlife of the state of Idaho shall be threatened with excessive shooting, trapping, or angling or otherwise, to close any open season or to reduce the bag limit or possession limit for such species for such time as he may designate; in the event an emergency is declared to exist such closure shall become effective forthwith upon written order of the director; in all other cases upon publication and posting as provided in section 36-105, Idaho Code.

(B) In order to protect property from damage by wildlife, the fish and game commission may delegate to the director or his designee the authority to declare an open season upon that particular species of wildlife to reduce its population. The director or his designee shall make an order embodying his findings in respect to when, under what circumstances, in which localities, by what means, and in what amounts, numbers and sex the wildlife subject to the hunt may be taken. In the event an emergency is declared to exist such open season shall become effective forthwith upon written order of the director or his designee; in all other cases upon publication and posting as provided in section 36-105, Idaho Code.

(C) Any season closure order issued under authority hereof shall be published in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the order for at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, and such order shall be posted in public places in each county as the director may direct.

(D) During the closure of any open season or the opening of any special depredation season by the director all provisions of laws relating to the closed season or the special depredation season on such wildlife shall be in force and whoever violates any of the provisions shall be subject to the penalties prescribed therefor.

(E) Prior to the opening of any special depredation hunt, the director or his designee shall be authorized to provide up to a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the available permits for such big game to the landholder(s) of privately owned land within the hunt area or his designees. If the landholder(s) chooses to designate hunters, he must provide a written list of the names of designated individuals to the department. If the landholder(s) fails to designate licensed hunters, then the department will issue the total available permits in the manner set by rule. All hunters must have a current hunting license and shall have equal access to both public and private lands within the hunt boundaries. It shall be unlawful for any landholder(s) to receive any form of compensation from a person who obtains or uses a depredation controlled hunt permit.

7. The director shall make an annual report to the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of state, of the doings and conditions of his office, which report shall be made in accordance with section 67-2509, Idaho Code.

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9. Any deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep or bison imported or transported by the department of fish and game shall be tested for the presence of certain communicable diseases that can be transmitted to domestic livestock. Those communicable diseases to be tested for shall

be arrived at by mutual agreement between the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture. Any moneys expended by the department of fish and game on wildlife disease research shall be mutually agreed upon by the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture. In addition, a comprehensive animal health program for all deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, or bison imported into, transported, or resident within the state of Idaho shall be implemented after said program is mutually agreed upon by the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture. In order to enhance and protect the health of wildlife within the state, as well as safeguard the health of livestock resources, the director of the department of agriculture shall employ at least one (1) veterinarian licensed in Idaho whose duties shall include, but not be limited to, addressing wildlife disease issues and coordinating disease prevention work between the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture. The employing of said veterinarian shall be by mutual agreement of the director of the department of fish and game and of the director of the department of agriculture. The veterinarian shall be on the staff of the division of animal industries, department of agriculture. The salary or compensation to be paid said veterinarian or veterinarians shall be divided equally between the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture, and the department of fish and game's portion shall be deposited directly into the livestock disease control account. The veterinarian shall be employed on and after July 1, 1989.

10. In order to monitor and evaluate the disease status of wildlife and to protect Idaho's livestock resources, any suspicion by fish and game personnel of a potential communicable disease process in wildlife shall be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the department of agriculture. All samples collected for disease monitoring or disease evaluation of wildlife shall be submitted to the division of animal industries, department of agriculture.

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