

Idaho Fish and Game's Role in Transmission Line Siting and Permit Process



Importance of Project Permitting

- Project area may include:
- Habitat for big game, sage grouse,
- Habitat for species of greatest conservation need
- Flight corridors for migratory birds
- Large intact habitats such as winter range
- Important public angling, hunting and wildlife watching areas

IDFG is Not a Regulatory Agency in the Siting Process

- Provide data and expertise on fish and wildlife populations, their habitats and wildlife associated recreation
- Contribute to scoping fish, wildlife and habitat issues
- Provide input on project related study plans and mitigation
- Permit wildlife possession (related to project study)

IDFG Considerations in Siting Process

- IDFG Mission-
- Idaho Law 36-103. WILDLIFE PROPERTY OF STATE -- PRESERVATION. (a) *Wildlife Policy. All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.*
- Implemented through Idaho Statutes, Administrative Rules and Commission Approved Species Management Plans

IDFG's Statutes, Policies, and Rules

- Compass, IDFG Strategic Plan
- IDFG Species Management Plans
 - Elk
 - Mule deer
 - Fish Management
 - Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan
- Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage Grouse in Idaho (multi-agency)

Technical Assistance

- Applicant collects and analyzes information to evaluate project impacts
- IDFG provides project technical review and assistance to:
 - Project proponent (applicant),
 - Permitting authorities (BLM and Counties)
 - Interested stakeholders

Issues IDFG identified during Boardman to Hemmingway scoping

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- Species and habitats in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan
- Migratory corridors and habitat for big game
- Increased motorized disturbance from new access
- Sage grouse populations and habitat
- Raptor and waterfowl high use areas
- Pygmy rabbit habitat
- Habitat fragmentation