



# State of Idaho

## Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board

**BRAD LITTLE**  
Governor  
**RUSSELL BARRON**  
Administrator

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### Board Meeting Minutes of 03/05/2025

**Board** Brad Compton - Chair  
**Members** Tammy Overacker  
**Present:** Dennis Skinner  
Erik Weiseth

**Division** John Price, Executive Officer  
**Staff:** Zac Clifford, OGLB Program Coordinator  
Greg Loos, General Counsel  
Skip Liddle, Investigative Unit Manager  
Allegra Earl, Licensing Unit Manager  
Kevin Steiner, Investigator  
Rebecca Keintz, Licensing Specialist  
Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist  
Dyan Durham, Board Support Specialist

**Board** Lonnie Allen  
**Members**  
**Absent:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Brad Compton.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 11/13/2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Comment

Adam Bass, Boise River Outdoor Outfitters, requested the Board propose rule changes to increase the number of licensed outfitters allowed on the BO1 section of the Boise River from 2 to 5.

Aaron Lieberman, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA), asked that the Board give an update on individual licensed sections listed in the licensing system. He informed the Board that DOPL has done well reaching out to the Fly-Fishing Competition for enforcement purposes. He stated that IOGA is planning a meeting with the Forest Service in Kamiah and would like to see the Board represented at the meeting. Mr. Lieberman also asked the Board to communicate with the Forest Service to clarify if an outfitter would need an additional license to trap if the Trapping Excursion legislation passes; stated that IOGA testified in support of the Trapping Excursions legislation presented by the IDFG Commission; and that IOGA did not introduce any of the proposed legislation regarding hunting tag allocation.

Jeff Bitton, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, stated he has a proposal for a rule change related to the 0.6 rounding for tag calculations which he has shared with Board Member Overacker.

#### BOARD BUSINESS

**IDFG Update:** Rick Ward, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), stated that IDFG will adopt the rules that passed the legislature and that they are currently taking public comments on preliminary big game hunting proposals. He stated that IDFG decided that now is not a good time to go through capped hunts recalculations. The Board asked what the public reception has been to the proposed draw system and when implementation would happen. Mr. Ward stated that if adopted, the draw system would go into

effect for the 2026 season. For enforcement purposes and convenience, the Board asked IDFG to consider requiring that a hunting license indicate whether a bear hunting test has been passed. The Board also asked Mr. Ward if any changes have been made to price locks. Mr. Ward stated there are no changes, but it will depend on if IDFG switches to a draw system. The Board asked if the Commission is looking at other proposals and Mr. Ward stated the current priority is addressing the draw system before looking at the other 27 recommendations. The Board asked about the status of the MOU and Mr. Ward stated IDFG legal counsel has advised pausing MOU updates until after the legislative session has concluded, but that the current MOU is still valid and has no expiration date.

## **DIVISION BUSINESS**

**Legislative Overview:** Mr. Price presented information on the following legislation:

- H0015 establishes that all accredited postsecondary schools in Idaho receive an exception to the requirement of being a licensed outfitter through the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Board; bill has passed the House
- H0128 allows muzzleloader hunters one more choice in projectiles; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- H0192 revises a structured allocation system for tags in both general and controlled hunts; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- H0196 establishes a five-year moratorium on mule deer doe hunting in specific game management units; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- H0232 caps all hunts at 10% nonresident participation and ends the allocation of elk and deer tags; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- H0262 establishes a structured allocation system for tags; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1003 makes any person with outstanding fines for violations of Idaho Code § 36-1402 ineligible for any hunting, fishing, or trapping license, tag, or permit; bill has passed the House
- S1011 requires at least one member of a Winter Feeding Advisory Committee be an agricultural producer; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1012 provides an appeal option for individuals experiencing depredation from wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1013 adds the requirement that students must receive instruction on trespassing and personal and real property tampering laws and allows individuals to trap under the supervision of a certified guide without the individual being certified themselves; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1053 clarifies that private landowners are responsible for building and maintaining fences bordering federal land when the private landowner wants to prevent livestock from entering their land from federal land; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1062 clarifies aspects of leases, permits, or other types of land use for commercial purposes; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- S1085 increases the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) sticker fee for Idaho residents, nonresidents, and rental machines; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing
- HJM004 is a memorial calling for an end to listing grizzly bears in the lower 48 states as an endangered species and returning management to the states; bill has been read and referred to JRA for printing

Mr. Price also presented information on the following legislation: H0302 H0014, H0103, H0107, H0151, H0152, H0122, H0228, H0223, and S1076. Mr. Price will continue to track and report on any new legislation that may affect the Board

**DOPL Strategic Plan:** Mr. Price provided an overview of the Division's strategic plan. He explained that it is updated annually and will be presented to the Board each year. This year's updates primarily

involved removing completed initiatives, such as consolidation efforts, the implementation of the new licensing system, and streamlining processes.

**Board Meeting Survey:** Mr. Price stated the Division had updated the Board meeting feedback survey, which is sent to all Board members after each meeting. He noted that the revised survey was expected to be released soon and encouraged Board members to submit feedback to help identify what is going well or any opportunities for improvement.

**Financial Update:** Mr. Price presented the Board's financial report for the second quarter of FY2025, which indicated that the Board had a cash balance of \$399,424.14 as of December 31, 2024.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

**Spring Chinook Authorization:** Mr. Price stated the Board had made a motion years ago authorizing a Spring Chinook season; however, the way the motion was worded only authorized it for that year. Richard White, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), stated they understood the authorization was not meant to expire. The Board discussed how new opportunities are chosen via the waiting list and how outfitters get to use the Spring Chinook authorization.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the ongoing previously agreed terms until re-addressed by the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

**Open Opportunities Procedures:** Mr. Clifford presented a draft using standardized, regulatable, and objective parameters to determine how to award open opportunities. He stated that considering qualifying experience in new opportunities would be up to the Board. The Board discussed choosing qualified outfitters vs. the most capable to optimize resource use. Mr. Loos stated the Board can also choose from qualified outfitters by reviewing their resumes and then following up with a review of their use reporting. Mr. Weiseth asked the Board to provide guidance on mapping functions and requirements for open opportunities so outfitters can use correct legal maps when applying for new opportunities. Mr. Clifford stated the Board accepts any legally recognized map for new opportunities and that there is a tutorial video available online for outfitters to review. The Board directed staff to include a link to the online tutorial on the Board's website.

The Board tabled further discussion pending requested changes and delegated Erik Weiseth to make changes to the current draft.

**Hot Pursuit:** Mr. Price asked the Board to define the difference between hot pursuit and an overlap agreement and inquired if hot pursuit can merge into predator overlap agreements. The Board stated hot pursuit can be merged into predator overlap agreements if the federal agencies also approve of them.

A motion was made and seconded to direct staff to approve hot pursuit minor amendments as predator overlap minor amendments pending approval of federal agencies. The motion carried unanimously.

**Designation Rounding Presentation:** Mr. Clifford gave a presentation on rounding tag designations, giving history on why rounding is at .6. He shared examples of designations where rounding to .5 designated more tags than what was available and caused inconsistencies. He summarized the positives of using .6 rounding and the negatives of using .5 rounding. The Board stated there are still issues with rounding at .6 that negatively impact outfitter business. The Board mentioned a proposal by the IOGA to add an extra step in the designation process that distributes surplus tags to those who lost a tag. No action was taken at this time.

**Enforcement Update:** Mr. Steiner gave an enforcement update, summarizing his involvement and relationship with IDFG and the Forest Service. He discussed patrols with IDFG and stated all trips were successful with positive involvement with outfitters and guides. He summarized his efforts to curtail illegal guiding during the upcoming World Fly Fishing Championship.

**OASIS Update:** Mr. Price gave an OASIS update, stating they are working on updates to resolve issues. Mr. Clifford explained the OASIS update request system. He stated that 14 requests have been resolved and there are currently 18 requests awaiting resolution. He also stated that the outfitter search function now displays areas and activities. The Board asked if it would be possible for the public to look up the license type of each outfitter and if the licensed activity for each outfitter could be made public and printed on the outfitter license. Mr. Price stated that accessing licensed activities was for enforcement purposes only. Mr. Clifford shared that there are technical issues with configuring the database to the exact specifications the Board requests, and that these requests will be new functions that will take time to build out.

**Use Reporting:** Mr. Price updated the Board on a miscommunication issue regarding the setup of outfitter use reports and stated that communication was sent to all outfitters outlining the correct procedure for submitting use reports. Additionally, a request has been submitted to the system developers to ensure the use reports are corrected in time for the next reporting season. The Board engaged in a discussion about the merits of monthly reporting versus annual reporting, considering the pros and cons of each approach.

**Work Plan Update:** Mr. Price gave an update on the work plan. He reviewed high-priority items and tasks that have been completed. The Board reviewed possible rule change ideas and proposals and reviewed ongoing annual to-do items.

**Mapping Update:** Mr. Price provided an update on the mapping process and raised concerns about the costs of maintaining a public interface for mapping, which will require a new interface design. Mr. Price explained that digitalized maps are currently hosted on an unsupported IDFG server with broken links. The Board discussed the importance of having the maps hosted on a DOPL server at least internally to prevent overlapping operating areas. The Board asked the Division to investigate the costs of developing a new public interface compared to maintaining an internal one.

**Update on Memoranda of Understanding:** Mr. Price stated that, with the Board's direction, he is prepared to seek an MOU with the Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Parks and Rec. The Board directed Mr. Price to pursue an MOU with those state agencies.

**Negotiated Rulemaking Discussion:** The Board discussed potential law and rule changes for negotiated rulemaking including boundary definitions for the SAS and SN14, boundary changes for BO1A, bear identification test requirements, removing or rewording Rule 100.6, changes to the designation calculations for 0.6 rounding, the boundary definition for Snake River 2, and SJ1 clarification.

**Licensing Report:** Ms. Earl presented the licensing report. She explained that the consolidation of different license types for outfitters has resulted in a decrease in the total number of licenses.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to obtain or retain a license or registration. The vote was: Mr. Skinner, aye; Mr. Weiseth, aye; Ms. Overacker, aye; and Mr. Compton, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously. No decisions were made in executive session.

### **Applications**

A motion was made and seconded to grant conditional licensure for applications 1543991 and 1414711 with terms discussed in the executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Discipline**

A motion was made and seconded to close case numbers 1477768, 1488809, 1519735, 1547771, and 1538174 with an advisory letter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to close case numbers 1413913 and 1424255. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Hardship Requests**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the first hardship request made by Sawtooth Wilderness Outfitters and deny the second hardship request. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the hardship requests for Bighorn Outfitters, Castle Creek Outfitters, Wild Idaho Outfitters, and Mile High Outfitters. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to deny the hardship requests for Russel Pond & B Bar C Outfitters and Owyhee Mountain Outfitters. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.

The next meeting is on 04/17/2025.