

November 16, 2009

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board



Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Waterfowl Association (IWA). The IWA, was established “dedicated to enhancement and preservation of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting in Idaho.”

The continual decline of waterfowl hunting opportunities is a common concern to all our members. The IWA sees a significant potential threat to diminished hunting opportunities with waterfowl guiding. The IWA has adopted a formal position that we are strongly “Opposed to Guided Waterfowl Hunting in Idaho” on public or private lands. This position was developed based on a near unanimous poll of our members. The IWA understands that there is a current moratorium between IOGLB and IDFG on this issue (IOGLB Policy #2027). IWA also understands that IOGLB is proposing a committee to work on a path forward from this temporary moratorium. We would like to address the following concerns with this proposal:

1. IOGLB proposed voting members of committee are too one sided.
 - *Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (1) - voting*
 - *Outfitters and Guides Industry (2) – voting*
 - *Idaho Sportsman Advisory Caucus (1) - voting*
 - *Sportsman Groups (2) – voting*
 - *Possibly the Wild Turkey Federation & Idaho Waterfowl Association*
 - *Land Owner Groups or individuals (2) – voting*

We feel that this group is too strongly represented by the guiding industry. Our proposal is to change to the following:

- *Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (1) - voting*
 - ~~- *Outfitters and Guides Industry (2) – voting*~~ The industry is already represented by the IOGA.
 - *Idaho Sportsman Advisory Caucus (1) - voting*
 - *Sportsman Groups (2) – voting*
 - *Wild Turkey Federation*
 - *Idaho Waterfowl Association*
 - ~~*Land Owner Group or individuals (1) – voting*~~ Listing “individuals” is too vague, may not be representative enough of multiple landowners, and who would decide the individual?
2. IWA would like to see turkey and waterfowl addressed separately. These have very different issues or concerns and what works for one may not for another. If this is broken up then the sportsman groups suggested for voting could be separated.
 3. IWA would like to suggest a polling option of waterfowl hunters. We feel that this group is the one that will be most affected and is likely to be the least represented. A polling option could be completed with the IDFG licensing system or by lottery draw of current Idaho waterfowl hunters.

In conclusion, the IWA would like to request to be part of the committee on this issue and would like the IOGLB and IDFG to consider our requests. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bryce Cook, Idaho Waterfowl Association
1112 E. Locust Lane
Nampa, ID 83686
cell: 208-899-1867
email: brycecook@cableone.net