

**STATE OF IDAHO
OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES LICENSING BOARD
BOARD MEETING**

FINAL MINUTES

June 24 – 26, 2008

**(KEY: MSC = MOTION: MADE, SECOND: CARRIED
MSF = MOTION: MADE, SECOND: FAILED)**

The regular meeting of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board was called to order at 1:00 p.m. June 24, 2008, in the Board Room, 1365 North Orchard, Room 172, Boise, Idaho by Tom Long, acting in the absence of a Board Chairman, caused by that seat being vacant, and in the absence of the Board Vice Chairman, who was unable to attend the meeting. Returning members Wayne Hunsucker and Tom Long were in attendance; incoming members Chris Korell and Alex Irby were in attendance. Will Judge was absent. Also present were Executive Director, Jake Howard, Acting Board Secretary Robin Brown, and Board Attorney Roger Hales.

BOARD AGENDA - The Director welcomed new Board members Chris Korell and Alex Irby and provided an overview of the agenda. All members gave a brief overview and introduction of who they are, and what part of the industry they represent. – Wayne Hunsucker – Public at Large, Tom Long – River/Rafting Outfitter, Chris Korell – Hunting Outfitter, Alex Irby – F & G Representative.

BOARD ELECTIONS – Director Howard explained that Board elections are scheduled every June as explained IDAPA 21/01.01.72. **MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long – AYES - All in Favor; NAYES - None) to elect Wayne Hunsucker as Board Chair; Tom Long nominated Will Judge as Vice – Board Chair. Nomination was seconded by Alex Irby. MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long – AYES - All in Favor; NAYES – None); Tom Long nominated Chris Korell as Treasurer. Nomination was seconded by Alex Irby. MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long – AYES - All in Favor; NAYES - None).**

Tom Long volunteered as an ad hoc committee representative to deal with matters involving the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA).

CONSENT AGENDA - The Director asked the Board to approve the consent agenda. **MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long – AYES - All in Favor; NAYES - None) to approve consent agenda.**

DIRECTORS REPORT – Director Howard presented a request made by IDFG Director, Cal Groen that he appear before the F&G Commission at the regular meeting in Post Falls on July 24, 2008. The Director mentioned that he had invited Director Groen to a discussion later in the meeting, but he had indicated that he was unable to attend and that Deputy Director Virgil Moore would attend. The Director indicated that he was scheduled for vacation that week of the Commission meeting but would reschedule to attend. The Board Chairman and the Board member Alex Irby who represents the IDFG on the Board indicated they will also attend the meeting.

Wayne Hunsucker said he recently had been fishing on the Kenai River in Alaska and was impressed with the use documentation system there. He suggested that the Board look into implementing log books for boating and fishing with exact times of passenger boarding and disembarking and tracking specific catch.

Tom suggested the implementation of “pop up” agendas.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Guests: Maria Barrett, Natural Resources Budget Analyst Division of Financial Management - Director Howard said in response to Board member Judge’s request at the April meeting that he had prepared an explanation of the 2008 budget. He provided the budget package approved by Board, the Governor Office and the State Legislature. He identified where the request for temporary salary money discussed in April was explained. He stated that nearly all of the 2008 appropriation of \$565,000 will be spent due to some unanticipated costs. He said that he anticipates that approximately \$520,000 will be generated in revenue, meaning there will be a short fall of approximately \$45,000 that must be covered from the IOGLB free fund account which will bring it to less than \$200,000.

The Director said that one of the unanticipated costs was associated with updating the agency database that is used to house licensing information. He said that the bid for updating the system was twice what was requested. He said currently there are three separate database systems and the primary one used for licensing was not initially set up properly when it was first made operational about twelve years ago. This is the one linked to the online system and some of the problems being experienced are related to it. Also, it is the core system to which the outfitter use record system, the GIS for maintaining the licensed operating areas and the one for big game tag allocations must be linked. He said that because none of these are linked, each are duplicative and require considerable staffing time to maintain or use. He explained the primary database system has needed to be upgraded for sometime to handle the volume of information stored, and to functionally meet the needs of the board and industry. He said that any one of these database systems failing cannot be an option. He said that addressing the database system will help improve operations and customer service.

The Director said that the budget reports have largely been used to record expenditures. He said the difficulty with the budget is most costs are fixed, or are based on agency demands. He said as an example, salaries and benefits consume 67% of the budget, and cost for rent, database services, and mailing take another significant amount. He said agency demands generally dictate expenditures. For an example, one enforcement case handled in 2008 cost over \$40,000 and the bid to update the licensing system database came in at over \$50,000. For this, he said \$20,000 was requested in the 2008 budget, but as the result, an additional \$14,500 will be encumbered from the remaining funds unexpended in the 2008 budget, and the remaining amount must come from the 2009 budget or delayed another year. He said that in managing the budget, generally the only flexibility come within from funds typically used for enforcement, which is generally not a good situation.

Ms. Barrett said that the DFM is aware of the IOGLB’s budgetary needs. That DFM recognizes that the agency’s revenues are not addressing the agencies operational needs and that Director Howard is doing a good job keeping operational costs within revenues and noted that he consulted with her on this year’s anomaly. She said that the free fund accounts are to be maintained for unexpected expenditures and amounts vary from agency to agency depending on the size of the budget and the agency functionally. She said for this reason Directors of dedicated fund agencies like IOGLB must be very sensitive to revenue and operational costs, as continually depleting free fund accounts will

quickly become a concern of the DFM. She said that maintaining a \$200,000 free fund balance is appropriate for IOGLB. She said general fund monies are not available to dedicated fund agencies when free fund monies are depleted.

Director Howard said that the stepped implementation of the fee increase approved by the legislature in 2004 will be fully implemented in 2009, and that beginning in 2010, IOGLB expenditures will start using free fund monies quickly. At that point, either a fee increase will be necessary, or the Agency must begin curtailing operations. The Director said that in the interim, new avenues need to be found operationally to focus staffing on core needs of the industry, and that Tom Long and he had discussed several ideas which will be presented later in the meeting.

The Director said that he will work with staff to assess expenditures and to set up the 2009 budget as expenditure guideline. He said that also new avenues need to be found operationally to focus staffing on core needs of the industry.

The Director asked the Board to approve the Financial Report. **MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) to approve financial report.**

The Director asked the Board to approve the April Minutes. **MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) to approve April minutes.**

WORK SESSION – DISCUSSION ON INDUSTRY INPUT – Tom Long facilitated a discussion involving Grant Simonds regarding a survey conducted by IOGA. Mr. Simonds explained that the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association conducted two distinct and separate internet surveys in April and May of 2008 regarding licensing board topics and that IOGA appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the IOGLB in its efforts to improve customer service to the industry.

The April 2008 IOGA Survey was an outgrowth of some concerns that IOGA members had been voicing to the IOGA leadership, both formally and anecdotally for some time regarding IOGLB (Licensing Board) matters. President Alison Steen and Executive Director Grant Simonds were joined by IOGA Government Affairs Committee members Chris Swersey and Louise Stark in presenting some industry concerns to the IOGLB on February 14th.

The May survey came on the heels of a mid-May meeting at the IOGA Home office involving Tom Long, Jake Howard, Grant Simonds and Alison Steen, via phone conference. Subsequent to this meeting, outfitter and IOGLB member Tom Long summarized in letter topics that IOGLB desired input from the industry prior to the late June 2008 IOGLB meeting. IOGA added several themes and what follows is a summary of input received.

Discussion included suggestions for improvement - that an educational bulletin on bonding be sent out to the outfitters; the IOGLB buy/sell manual be updated; IOGA needs to invite IOGLB to be on the agenda at the winter meeting regarding an information session on buy/sell processes. The Board also suggested there be a general session at that meeting where questions and answers can be presented to the Board, IDFG and Federal Agencies. There was acknowledgement by the Board and direction to move forward in streamlining the guide training verification process, and explore whether it is a rule change or a policy change. Director Howard and Tom Long agreed to update fire emergency procedures to address concerns for weekend contact and holiday process when last minute fires warrant an outfitter operational move. There was also discussion on how best to notify the industry

and public in general, of changes resulting from legislation that the IOGA promoted and that was enacted during the 2008 legislative session regarding illegal/unlicensed activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN – Strategic Plan Discussion – The Director explained IOGLB’s industry survey completed earlier in the year. He also explained the strategic planning process and presented a draft updated strategic plan. He said that he did not quite have it finished but would email a copy to the Board once it was completed and a copy would be posted on the IOGLB website.

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION – Guest, former Board Member, Marc Gibbs. - Marc Gibbs was recognized for his term of service as a Board member. The Board Chairman also recognized former board member Scott Farr’s service and acknowledged that Mr. Farr was not able to participate in the Board meeting. Commemorative mugs were presented to both Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Farr.

MSC (MOTION - LONG; SECOND – IRBY; AYES - All in favor; NAYES – None) at 4:00 p.m. that the Board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code to discuss personnel matters along with Director Howard, Board Attorney Hales. Former member Marc Gibbs was invited to stay to participate in this executive session due to his familiarity with the topic. Director Howard and Mr. Gibbs were excused and the Board continued in executive session. MSC (MOTION - LONG; SECOND – IRBY; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) that the Board end executive session. Executive session ended at 4:50 p.m. with no decision made.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Irby; AYES - All in favor; NAYES - None) – In comparison to other state agency directors, IOGLB’s Executive Director is proportionally underpaid and that the Director’s salary be brought to the state policy for the position as explained in a letter to the Board from the Governor and that the Executive Director salary be increased to \$33.00/hour.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Irby; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) -- Board Chairman Hunsucker, with the backing of the whole Board, will write a letter to the Governor with the request for the increase, indicating the Director’s performance had been exemplary, that the letter highlight Director Howard’s accomplishments and outline the objectives for future performance reviews.

Director Howard thanked the Board for their generosity and their support, but felt the Board should reconsider the salary increase. He stated that the increase is likely to affect other operational areas needing funding.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hunsucker recessed the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

June 25, 2008 - Meeting Reconvened at 8:40 a.m. by Board Chairman Wayne Hunsucker.

WOLF HUNTING WORK SESSION – Guests: Grant Simonds - IOGA; Doug Schleis -Wild Idaho News; Maria Barrett, Natural Resources Budget analyst from the Governor’s Office; Stephen Goodson, Office of the Governor. Former Board Member, Marc Gibbs. Virgil Moore, Brad Compton - IDFG - Director Howard reported earlier in the year, the Board had become aware that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game was considering public wolf hunting opportunities. He said that he had been directed by the Board at their April meeting to seek input from IDFG, USFS and others regarding

the possibility of adding wolf hunting to outfitters licenses. He explained what was discussed by the Board at the April meeting and what was proposed was the Board globally adding wolves as an activity to all outfitter licenses who currently provide bear, cougar, and/or any other type of predator hunting, such as coyote or bobcat. He said that this would include most big game outfitters. For those few big game outfitters not already licensed for bear, cougar and another types of predator hunting, the outfitter could request that wolves to be added to their license through a minor amendment. A minor amendment requires minimal analysis on part of the Board and partnering agencies.

Mr. Moore said that the F & G Commission has set the wolf seasons and tags are in place but the agency is waiting to hear whether the judge rules on this matter and imposes an injunction. He explained that if the judge does not do this, wolf hunting will be available later this year. He said that IDFG does not have concerns with the Board proposal.

The Director provided responses from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who supports the concept with one recommendation – authorize for 3 years and then evaluate whether any changes are necessary. United States Forest Service – “does not see that outfitted wolf hunting would be a viable stand alone outfitting business but the would opt to add outfitted wolf hunting to existing big game outfitters permits as requested by the outfitter. Idaho Department of Lands – “has no objection to the proposal, however any site specific concerns on State Endowment Lands would be addressed in their outfitter leases. They explained that endowment lands are not managed for the benefit of the general public, but are managed as a land-trust for and in the best interest of the owning institution...”

MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long; AYES - All in Favor; NAYES - None) at 8:55 a.m. that the board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code to discuss litigation matters with Director Howard, Board Attorney Hales. MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Irby; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) that the board end executive session. Executive session ended at 9:25 a.m. with no decision made.

TURKEY HUNTING WORK SESSION – Guests: Joseph Peterson – Flying B Ranch; Virgil Moore – IDFG; Kirby Butler – NWTF; Charles Henry – NWTF; Thomas Eubanks – sportsman; Lloyd Oldenburg – public; Mike Wood – NWTF; Mark Bell – NWTF/Sportsman; Michael Stoddard – NWTF; Ron Dickmore – Palisades RD/C-T NF; Stephen Goodson, Office of the Governor, Brent Porter – Palisades RD/C-T NF; Barnabas Koka – NWTF,Regional FS; John Howard – NWTF/State President; Grant Simonds – IOGA; Brad Compton - IDFG

Chairman Hunsucker welcomed all in attendance and prefaced the session with an explanation of what his perspective is and he thought additional public hearings regionally throughout the state may be appropriate. He also stated that people who hunt by using outfitters are also public and he believes the Board has a responsibility to see that they are provided services.

Representatives from the NWTF and sportsmen groups were in attendance and several spoke. All stated their groups did not support outfitted turkey hunting and that if the Board allows outfitted turkey hunting that they are united and will ask the state legislature to intervene. Of particular concern is that this decision on public lands will allow an escalation of commercialization of outfitted turkey hunting and that turkey hunters will have even less access than they do now and that this will eventually lead to outfitters negotiating lease agreements with land owners where “private” lands will be further restricted. They said that this will also further limit access to public lands restricted by access through private lands. The Board was questioned about the documented public need for this activity.

Mr. Moore said F &G Commission's position is not to support outfitted turkey hunting for many of the same reasons, and there must be a demonstrated need and for further study and review before that position would change. He said this position has been provided to the Board and that in the past and it has been stated publicly.

Mr. Simonds and Mr. Peterson presented a letter from the IOGA in support of outfitted turkey hunting. Mr. Simonds said that from IOGA's perspective outfitted turkey hunting is a public access issue because there are people who do not know how to hunt turkeys, and who do not have the proper equipment to do so. They choose to use an outfitter because outfitters have the capability of providing this public service. He said that IOGA proposes that outfitters currently licensed for turkeys on their private lands/ground also be licensed for additional leased land. He said that doing so could make some of those lands available to public because the outfitter is facilitating use on those lands that might otherwise be closed to the general public. Mr. Peterson explained his application that lead to the Board considering this matter and shared his perspective on outfitted opportunities.

The Director provided written responses from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the United States Forest Service, NWTF and sportsmen groups, the IOGA and several outfitters.

The Board tabled the matter and indicated they will not be make a decision regarding outfitted turkey licensing until after the matter is fully discussed with the IDFG. There was discussion about the IOGA researching the public need for outfitted turkey hunting and reporting back to the Board.

APPOINTMENT – JOHN CURNEY/DARREN PUETZ – GUESTS: Mike Dawes, representing World Cast Outfitters, and the Eastern Idaho Outfitters and Guides Coalition; Mike Lawson, DA – Henry's Fork Anglers; Randy Berry, DA – Teton Valley Lodge; Monica Zimmerman and Wendy Reynolds representing BLM/Upper Snake Field Office; Stephanie Balzarini – Department of the Interior – Boise; Darren Puetz, and John Curney representing BDO; Stephen Goodson, Office of the Governor; Ron Dickemore – Palisades RD/C-T NF–

Mr. Curney and Mr. Puetz presented on behalf of Black Dog Outfitters (Mr. Puetz) interest in being licensed for fishing on the South Fork of the Snake and other SE Idaho rivers. They stated that the Board and federal agencies are mismanaging outfitter use on these resources, and as the result, the rivers are underutilized by outfitters. They stated that the BLM, USFS and Board also are favoring out of state interests, and by doing so, they are preventing Mr. Puetz from becoming an outfitter licensed to provide boating excursions and fishing trips on these rivers. Mr. Curney and Mr. Puetz provided the Board with a document that summarized their presentation.

Wendy Reynolds – Bureau of Land Management and Ron Dickemore – National Forest Service, Palisade Ranger District, refuted Mr. Curney and Mr. Puetz's claims and explained the planning process currently being undertaken to determine capacity which may lead to changes on the South Fork. They also stated that residence is not a basis in a permitting decision. Both indicated that there had been prior communication with Mr. Curney and Mr. Puetz on this overall matter.

Mr. Dawes, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Berry said that they are licensed on these resources and they could not support Mr. Curney's and Mr. Puetz's presentation or request. They stated the Board licensing Black Dog Outfitters on any of these rivers would be unacceptable to them. They said the processes used by the Board and agencies to manage these resources is very appropriate. Mr. Lawson indicated

that he is licensed in other states and the permitting and licensing system in Idaho is recognized as being the best in the country and the model which other states like Wyoming and Montana have tried to follow. They were certain that the majority of the licenses operating on these rivers were residents of Idaho.

Grant Simonds stated that IOGA will provide its perspective on outfitter allocated use day and shared use issues in a written statement.

RECESSED FOR LUNCH AT 12:40 p.m. reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

INTERVIEWING OF APPLICANTS RESPONDING TO PROSPECTUSES FOR UNITS 36A AND 37 - MSC (MOTION, IRBY; SECOND – LONG; AYES - All in favor; NAYES - None) at 2:00 p.m. that the board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code to interview applicants who responded to the prospectus. Director Howard, Board Attorney Hales were present and applicants – Russ Hose – Big Lost River Outfitters, Idaho’s Premier Adventures LLC; Michael Scott & Louise Stark – White Cloud Outfitters and Ken Smith were interviewed on an individual basis. MSC (MOTION, LONG; SECOND, IRBY; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) that the board end executive session. Executive session ended at 4:00 p.m. with no decision made.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) Award Unit 37 to White Cloud Outfitters/Michael Scott and Louise Stark based upon proximity and accessibility to their base of operation, and award Unit 36A to Ken Smith, all things being equal, it would enhance the size of his area and increase his outfitter opportunities.

MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long; AYES - All in favor; NAYES - None) at 4:05 p.m. that the board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code to discuss personnel matters along with Director Howard, Board Attorney Hales. MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Irby; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) that the board end executive session. Executive session ended at 4:25 p.m. with no decision made.

MSC (MOTION, LONG; SECOND, IRBY; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) to rescind previous motion for director salary.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES - None) Motion to respond to Governor’s request for salary recommendation to increase Director Howard’s salary from at \$28.40 in keeping with the Governor’s salary structure and guidelines and achieve closer parity to other directors’ salaries and industry standards.

MSC (MOTION, Irby; SECOND, Long; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) The Board is concerned with parity of staff salaries as they relate to private industry and other state agencies, and is directing Mr. Howard, within reasonable budgetary guidelines, to identify areas on how this could be achieved.

BIG GAME ALLOCATION MANUAL - MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Irby; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) Motion to accept the draft big game allocation manual as submitted with the recommendation of the addition of Scott Farr’s language to include leftover pull tags back into the pool.

The Director was asked to provide the allocation manual to the industry for comment, to notify them that comments will be considered at the August Board meeting and the Board expects to finalize and adopt the big game allocation manual at that meeting.

Chairman Hunsucker recessed the meeting at 5:00 p.m. June 26, 2008 – Meeting reconvened at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Wayne Hunsucker. Member Alex Irby was not present.

RECOGNITION - STEVE TOBIASON AND MIKE KANE - Steve Tobiason was recognized for his service as Board Prosecuting Attorney. The Board presented him a commemorative mug. Mr. Tobiason indicated that he had resigned from his law firm and was taking an opportunity to provide legal counsel for a large corporation located in the Treasure Valley. He introduced his former law partner, Mike Kane who will assume board prosecutorial responsibilities. Mr. Kane explained his background which includes significant experience in administrative law and in representing other self governing agencies.

CONSENT AGREEMENT – BIGFOOT OUTFITTERS, RUSSELL GILMORE - Mr. Tobiason presented a consent agreement involving to the Board. - **MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) Motion to accept Consent Agreement & Stipulation from Russell Gilmore. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: 1. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall provide the horns and/or cape to Mr. Travis Carlson for the elk he shot within seven (7) business days of the acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent Agreement by the Board. 2. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall provide a refund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Mr. Darwin E. Steininger within thirty (30) days of the acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent Agreement by the Board. 3. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall provide a refund of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Mr. Dennis J. Steininger within thirty (30) days of the acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent Agreement by the Board. 4. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall reimburse the Idaho Board of Outfitters and Guides the amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for investigation and prosecution costs within ninety (90) days of the acceptance of the Stipulation and Consent Agreement by the Board. 5. Respondents shall be placed on one (1) year probation, with said probation commencing when the Board accepts the Stipulation and Consent Agreement. During the period of probation: a. Respondents shall comply with the applicable local, state, federal laws and rules related to each Respondent's outfitting license and outfitting activities. b. Respondents shall not make any license amendment request to the Board during each Respondent's period of probation. c. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall pay all fines, refunds and reimbursement of costs as required pursuant to the Stipulation and Consent Agreement within ninety (90) days of the acceptance of the Agreement by the Board. d. Respondent Bigfoot Outfitters, LLC shall supply sufficient licensed guides to meet its contractual obligations to each client.**

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES - All in favor; NAYES - None) at 9:10 a.m. that the board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code for review of potential litigation with Director Howard, Board Attorney Hales. MSC (MOTION, Korell; SECOND, Long; AYES - All in favor; NAYES – None) that the board end executive session. Executive session ended at 9:25 a.m. with no decision made.

UNIT 45 PROSPECTUS – PRIVATE LAND POLICY DISCUSSION - Guests: Virgil Moore, Mark Gamblin, Dave Parrish - F & G; Stephen Goodson, Office of the Governor; Grant Simonds – IOGA.

Director Howard explained that the prospectus to solicit applications for conducting outfitted and guided mule deer and elk hunting in IDFG Unit 45 had been under consideration for several years. He explained that any outfitting license approved by IOGLB would be only for lands administered by BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, or IDL but that the license may be amended to include private lands only if those lands are enrolled in IDFG's *Access Yes!* program.

Mr. Parrish explained that Unit 45 is currently managed as high-quality mule deer hunt that has high hunter success, low hunter density, and a good opportunity for harvesting a trophy buck. In 2007, 75 antlered mule deer permits were offered in Unit 45 (Oct. 5-31) and were among the most coveted deer permits in the state. The drawing odds for this hunt in 2007 were 3% underscoring its popularity with hunters. During the 2007 season, hunter success was 88% and 91% of the bucks taken had 4-point or larger antlers.

Unit 45 is part of the Bennett Hills Mule Deer Population Management Unit (PMU) that also includes Units 43, 44, 48, and 52. Most mule deer in this PMU migrate to winter range on the south front of the Bennett range in Unit 45. The Bennett Hills winter ranges are considered to be the primary limiting factor to mule deer in this PMU. In February 2008, the wintering deer population was estimated at 10,500 head. Antlerless harvest is used to maintain winter deer numbers at the appropriate level for the available habitat.

The resident elk population in Unit 45 is estimated at approximately 550 to 650 head, however, more than 1,300 elk winter in the unit. The management objective is to maintain current resident elk numbers and a ratio of 30 bulls/100 cows. Presently, 130 antlered elk permits are offered in two hunts (30 permits, Sept. 25-Oct. 10; 100 permits, Oct. 15-Nov. 9). In addition, antlerless hunts are typically offered including a hunt for youth-only. Beginning in 2008, a muzzleloader-only general antlerless season will be offered from Sept. 15-30. Elk Controlled Hunt Area 45 includes all of Units 45 and 52. However, since there is an existing outfitter for big game in Unit 52, the outfitter licensed and permitted in 45 will be limited only to Unit 45 (see operating area descriptions). Much of the best summer and fall elk habitat is located on or is accessible through private lands on Bennett Mountain. Hunters have very limited opportunity to hunt on private property or to access public lands through private property.

Because of the importance of Unit 45 to the Magic Valley's big game wildlife resources, IDFG places a high priority on management. Two of the major issues confronting big game management in Unit 45 include:

- 1) Depredation problems (damage to private property) have the potential to become severe in the agricultural areas on the Camas Prairie and the south side of the Bennett Hills. Antlerless harvest is key to managing the deer and elk populations at appropriate levels. The lack of access to and through private lands hinders IDFG's ability to achieve antlerless harvest objectives.
- 2) Much of the private land on the Bennett Hills is unavailable to hunters. In addition, access through private property to some lands administered by BLM and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is closed.

A primary goal of this process is to ensure that the permitting and licensing of a big game outfitter in Unit 45 does not further compromise the ability of IDFG to achieve annual deer and elk harvest management objectives or further limit access to hunting areas for non-outfitted hunters. It is desirable to permit and license a specific outfitter capable of helping find and implementing solutions to assist with these and other resource management issues in Unit 45.

Mr. Parrish explained that *Access Yes!* is a program designed to improve hunter access to private land or through private land to public land by compensating willing landowners who provide access. Compensation to landowners can be monetary or may be in the form of improvements to habitat or infrastructure. Landowners can place limits on the number of hunters that are allowed access and may have other access restrictions on timing, motorized vehicle use, and camping, etc. Applications (bids) to enroll lands in the *Access Yes!* program are evaluated annually by IDFG.

Two outfitter allocated mule deer tags are available for the 2008 hunting season and may be used by the successful applicant provided terms and conditions of the Prospectus are met. In future years, the need for an outfitter allocation will be based upon an outfitter's ability to meet the goals of this Prospectus and annual authorization by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

This opportunity is available to all interested parties including those individuals that currently are licensed by IOGLB for big game hunting in Idaho wishing to amend their existing operation and to individuals that own property in Unit 45. Unlicensed individual and private property owners must be able to meet the requirements set forth in Section VI this prospectus. The individual selected to provide elk and mule deer hunting outfitted services will be licensed by the IOGLB and will have a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) issued by BLM. Director Howard explained that an existing outfitter is licensed in the area for black bear and mountain lion hunting and no additional opportunities are anticipated for those species.

Director Howard and Mr. Parrish acknowledged that since the inception of this opportunity leading to this prospectus several years ago was that the SRP, State of Idaho Outfitter's License and applicable allocated big game tags made available by the IDFG and managed by the IOGLB will be issued for a trial 3-year period beginning once the application process has been completed and an outfitter has been selected. Director Howard and Mr. Parrish stated that an applicant will be selected primarily on their ability to provide outfitted deer and elk hunting services. Special consideration will be given to applicants that can demonstrate an ability to provide improved access for non-outfitted hunters to public and/or private lands within the operating area. They said the continuation of this opportunity past the three years is largely dependent on the licensee's ability to fulfill these long term objectives as determined by working group comprised of Board, IDFG and BLM representative.

Note: Director Howard informed the Board he had a personal matter of some urgency surface and as a result, he was excused from the meeting.

The Board continued the meeting and discussed matters related to outfitting on private lands relative to the MOU with the IDFG representatives and Mr. Moore said that he would provide some ideas.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES - All in favor; NAYES - None) at 11:10 a.m. that the board adjourn to executive session in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 67-2345, (1) (a) Idaho Code to review potential litigation matters with Board Attorney Hales. MSC

(MOTION, Korell; SECOND, Long; AYES - All in favor; NAYES – None) that the board end executive session. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m. with no decision made.

DARREN THORNE APPLICATION - MSC (MOTION, Korell; SECOND, Long; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) Motion to: 1. Approve Sales Agreement between Podsaid and Thorne – Require both Podsaid & Thorne to jointly notify in writing all currently booked clients of the sale and identify Thorne as the new outfitter for their booked hunt and of their right to reimbursement – Require the name of all clients submitted to Board by August 1, 2008; 2. Approve Thorne for Outfitter license; 3. Terminate Podsaid’s Outfitter license based upon sale; 4. Allow an amendment to Podsaid’s guide license to allow guiding for Thorne with Podsaid’s guide license to terminate December 31, 2008, consistent with prior disciplinary Board order.

BIG GAME TAG ALLOCATION MANUAL - MSC (MOTION – Long; Second – Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) – Motion to include IOGLB/F&G MOU, the Allocation Manual and the strategic plan to website.

MSC (MOTION, Long; SECOND, Korell; AYES – All in favor; NAYES – None) TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 12:00 p.m.

WAYNE HUNSUCKER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

JAKE HOWARD, DIRECTOR