

## 2018-2019 Upland and Furbearer Season Setting Comment Summary

The Southeast Region elicited public comment on 4 proposals specific to the region from November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. An open house was held at the regional IDFG office in Pocatello on December 7<sup>th</sup> for public comment on these proposals in addition to online, e-mail, and comments received by phone call. The region received a total of 37 online comments, 2 phone calls providing specific comments to proposals, 15 e-mails, and a total of 7 attendees at the open house.

Fourteen of the 15 e-mails submitted were from individuals associated with Watershed Guardians, a local NGO focused on beaver conservation. In general their comments were asking for closing or reduction of trapping in the Mink Creek drainage, Jackson Creek, Dempsey Creek, Birch Creek, and the Pebble/Toponce Creeks. They also submitted comments urging IDFG to improve the trapper reporting so that drainage where beaver are removed can be recorded. Lastly, this group feels strongly that illegal take of beaver is widespread and that enforcement is lacking and subsequent penalties are not severe enough. Mike Settell, the executive director, was one of the 7 attendees at the open house. At the open house, Mike provided me with a signed petition with 33 signatures supporting the requests of Watershed Guardians. Lastly, at least 3 of the online commenters were also associated with Watershed Guardians and submitted the same comments received in e-mails.

We only received completed comment sheets from two individuals who attended the open house. Both were opposed to the statewide proposals for rabbits/hares and changing the turkey daily bag limit. One is fundamentally against trapping and did not support any of the beaver proposals. The other individual indicated some support for the beaver proposals but suggested a more conservative approach with reduced take on the controlled permits.

Three other attendees at the open house came to discuss issues specific to turkey management. One attendee represented the Wild Turkey Federation. Specifically, they came to voice concern over management in GMU 70 and GMU 71. They do not support a harvest season in GMU 70, and would like to see the spring general season in GMU 71 changed back to a controlled hunt.

The final attendee at the open house came to discuss trapping and how we make decisions, but did not give any specific comments or feedback specific to the proposals.

One of the phone calls was from an individual in Massachusetts who did not support any type of trapping. The other phone call was from a private landowner along Jackson Creek in GMU 71 who supported closing that stretch to trapping.

Below is a detailed summary for each proposal from the online comments.

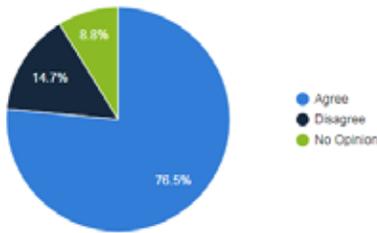
### **Southeast Region**

**Fall Turkey:** (changes in red and ~~stricken~~ or underlined)

- 1. Proposal: The Department proposes to add a new late fall general hunt on private land only in Units 73, 73, 75, 77, and 78 from Nov. 21 – Dec 31 to address nuisance turkey conflicts on private land during winter.**

November 21, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and November 21, 2019 through December 31, 2019 General fall hunt in Game Management Units 73, 74, 75, 77, and 78. This hunt is open on private lands only.

Over 76% of online respondents supported this proposal while ~9% did not support the proposal (34 total). Five comments noted that a list of willing landowners should be provided or that private landowners should agree to allow access. One comment suggested not restricting to private land. One respondent that disagreed voiced concern for the turkey population. Several comments suggested extending this opportunity to GMU 71.

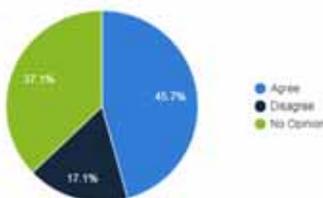


**Beaver Trapping:** (changes in red and ~~stricken~~ or underlined)

- 2. Proposal: The Department proposes to add two Controlled Trapping Units for the Cottonwood Creek drainage within Bannock County (5 beaver each).**

Unit	Season Dates	No. Permits	No. of Beaver
<u>XXX</u>	<u>October 22 – April 15</u> <u>Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>XXX</u>	<u>October 22 – April 15</u> <u>Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

Approximately 46% of online respondents supported this proposal while 37% did not support the proposal (35 total). The remainder had no opinion. Two commenters are not supportive of trapping in general, and another disagreed sharing the same comments from Watershed Guardians.

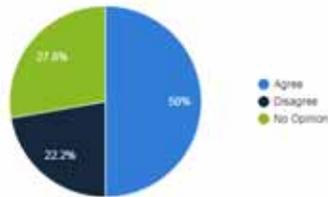


**3. Proposal: The Department proposes to allow beaver trapping in Miner and Cedar Creeks.**

Exceptions: Beaver

**Bingham County:** ~~Cedar Cr. And Miner Cr., and~~ Public lands (Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage.

Fifty-percent of respondents supported this proposal and 28% did not support the proposal (36 total). One person who disagreed did so because of the limited access, two others disagreed because they feel the beaver population is adequate in the drainages and trapping is not warranted. They both noted other drainages where translocation would be a good idea. A few others who disagreed did so because they do not support trapping.



**4. Proposal: The Department proposes to split Controlled Beaver Trapping Unit 202 into two separate Controlled Trapping Units for Pebble Creek and Toponce Creek in Caribou County. Each Controlled Trapping Unit would allow take of 5 beaver each.**

Unit	Season Dates	No. Permits	No. of Beaver
202	October 22 – April 15 Pebble Creek drainage <del>and Toponce Creek drainage</del> in Caribou County.	<u>1</u>	<del>10</del> <u>5</u>
<del>202</del>	<del>October 22 – April 15</del> <del>Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.</del>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

This proposal received 53% support and 32% who did not support (34 total). Of the 4 online comments received, two were opposed to trapping altogether. One comment suggested issuing more than 1 controlled permit for each drainage to spread the opportunity around. The last comment supported the split, but asked for further reduction in take. This same individual also echoed the same comments received from all Watershed Guardian followers relative to other drainages in the region.

