

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game considers the following document to be an agency guidance document for purposes of Idaho Executive Order 2020-002. The guidance document is not new law; it is the Department's interpretation or implementation of existing law.

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Handling Tree Squirrel Depredations PROCEDURE NO.: WLD-3.0

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Idaho Code 36-1107 provides for control of depredating protected wildlife and the *Policy Plan* further allows control of nuisance or damage-causing tree squirrels--stipulating that such control is the province of the Department. With this authorization in mind, follow these procedures in servicing tree squirrel depredations:

- A. A Department representative will investigate tree squirrel complaints to determine the validity and extent of the problem (such investigation does not require on-the-scene inspection--may be via phone).
- B. If a legitimate problem exists, the offending animals will be removed by:
 1. The Department representative; or
 2. The complainant (having received the properly safeguarded written instructions from the Department representative). *
- C. Animals may be removed by:
 1. Live trapping** or
 2. Killing

Either method is acceptable, depending upon circumstances and it is up to the discretion of the Department representative.

- D. Live-trapped tree squirrels will be transplanted to:
 1. Areas already occupied by tree squirrels where there is low potential for further problems;
or
 2. Nonurban areas where there is no potential for further problems.

In no instance will tree squirrels be transplanted to urban areas where they do not already exist (unless a specific request has been cleared with the regional supervisor).

- E. If no suitable transplant areas exist, live-trapped animals must be killed and disposed of as humanely as possible. Such disposal may be done either by the Department representative or by the complainant.

Because of high aesthetic value of the tree squirrel and the resultant strong public feeling, disposal **must be** humane, unobtrusive, and efficient as possible.

* The Department representative will specify, in writing, the conditions (length of time, location, methods of disposal, methods of take) under which the complainant may take depredation squirrels.

** The Department will furnish live traps and holding cages.