

**IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION POSITION STATEMENT
OPPOSING CHANGE IN LAND MANAGEMENT DESIGNATION OF THE
BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS AREA VIA PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ACTION**

There are serious, but as yet unofficial, proposals to designate federal lands in and around the Boulder-White Clouds area in central Idaho as a national monument, along with a history of proposed federal legislation to designate these lands as wilderness.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has consistently supported sound management of federal lands for wildlife and wildlife habitat, including federal recognition of the State of Idaho's primary authority over wildlife management on federal lands. In addition, the Commission has supported active management of federal lands as warranted to rehabilitate wildlife habitat and address declines from noxious weeds, infestations, disease, and other threats.

The Commission has consistently supported continuation of state-regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping activities on federal lands, including designated wilderness and national recreation areas.

Lawsuits and other efforts have sought to restrict state wildlife management authorities related to federal lands, including restrictions that would ignore fundamental legislative and political compromises made to obtain local and state support for wilderness and other special land designations in Idaho.

The status of state wildlife management authorities and state-regulated hunting, fishing and trapping remains uncertain in the absence of any official federal proposal for change in the federal designation of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and other federal lands comprising the Boulder-White Clouds area.

In addition, some of the proposals for the Boulder-White Clouds seek designation via executive order of the President under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Such Presidential designations of other national monuments have failed to provide opportunities for thoughtful public discussion and debate of key values. They have also failed to lay the appropriate foundation needed to address complex management issues related to wildlife and their habitat, some of the key resources such designations purport to conserve. Prior executive land management designations have failed to recognize the primacy of state wildlife management authority, to provide the ability for active management of habitat as warranted for the benefit of wildlife, and to continue important traditions of state-regulated hunting, fishing and trapping.

The Commission therefore states its opposition to any change in federal land designation of the Boulder-White Clouds area via executive order of the President.

Dated this 10th day of July, 2014.

/S/

Fred Trevey, Chairman