

TOURNAMENT FEE INCREASE ACTION

February 6, 2009

On Wednesday evening February 4th I was advised by Steve Spicklemier from Idaho BASS Federation Nation that the proposed \$100 Tournament Permit Fee Increase had been scaled back to \$25.

I followed that conversation up on Thursday evening with Virgil Moore, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Virgil advised that when the original proposal was sent to the Legislature it included funds for department employee pay raises that will not be allowed in the current economic crisis. As the department reworked the proposal they were given the opportunity to adjust the Tournament Permit Fee from \$100 to \$25. I assured him that was an acceptable amount for the permit and that they had our support for such an increase. Virgil stated that the Tournament Permit Fee received about 1/3 of all of the comments received about the overall increase. Another 1/3 was in regards to wolves of which the Idaho Department of Fish and Game currently has no control and all of the other issues combined garnered the same number of comments initiated by the bass fishing community.

My thanks go out to everyone who took the time to contact Fish and Game on this matter. For those who allowed others to fight for them I hope that this will show what we can do as a team and that you too will answer the call the next time you're needed.