

# The Bonner Sportsmen

## Newsletter

Official newsletter of the Bonner County Sportsmen's Association and Foundation Aug. 2026

## FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 @ 7:00

Leo Hadley Range, 1114 Lake St., Sandpoint  
We hope you can all attend

## 2026 GUN SHOW

The BCSA had our Gun & Horn Show on March 6-8 and between the friendly people and massive amount of guns it was destined to again be a great success. The show was well attended and brought in a substantial amount of income to the association to provide for our projects. We'd like to thank all the volunteers and those who bought raffle tickets this year, as well as congratulate Brian Book for the gun winning raffle ticket. Thank you also to David and Patti Prince who donated a beautiful wooden vase and a leather concealed weapon purse for the raffle.



Joseph and Daniel Spencer manning the raffle booth.



# YOUTH DAY AT THE RANGE

Bonner County Sportsmen's Association

*Photos by Kathy Konek*

On June 2 at the outdoor range, 42 kids came to learn about gun safety, target shooting, sight pictures and trigger squeeze. The all volunteer crew provided friendly instruction, equipment, lunch and a chance to make new friends.



The Bonner Sportsmen is an official publication of the Bonner County Sportsmen.  
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# FISHING CONSERVATION

*Article by Randall Klein, BCSA*

The smoke from wildfires didn't deter the members of the Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club (Fishing) from their yearly project to rake the gravel in the Sullivan Springs creek that flows into Granite Creek. Sullivan Springs and Granite Creek are prime Kokanee spawning grounds and the yearly clearing of moss by raking helps the fish in their . . . endeavors.

The three boats used to get from Holiday Shores and Bayview to Granite Creek were provided by members of the club. Members of the Idaho Fish and Game Department were also there to help rake. The lunches with really good, big sandwiches, chips and giant cookies were provided by Avista from the Clark Fork Pantry and they also provided the road transportation. Thanks to the LPOIC for letting me help them with their work.



*Lunch in the woods was enjoyed by all.*

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

By the 1930's, hunting pressure had caused the need for restocking and more regulated hunting of elk in Idaho and many areas of the Rocky Mountains. This article is from 1936 in Bonner County. *Taken from the BCSA scrap book.*

## More Elk Are Released Here

### 18 Head Turned Loose In Game Preserve Near Trestle Creek

Out of a shipment of 20 elk from the Gardner entrance of Yellowstone national park, 18 were released between Hope and Trestle creek yesterday afternoon under the supervision of game wardens and members of the Bonner County Sportsmen's association.

The shipment, brought in by truck, included 15 cows and five bulls. Two of the cows died in transit and a third appeared to be quite sick when the animals were unloaded. It appeared possible this cow might die.

The elk were all between two and 3-year-olds.

#### Swam To Island

One bull, apparently being in fine fettle, went down the hill, across the Northern Pacific tracks to the edge of the water and jumped in. It swam a mile



across the lake to Warren's island, clambered out upon the shore and disappeared in the brush.

It is expected it will keep Capt. Pollard company on the island for the remainder of the winter.

The animals were released about a mile east of Trestle Creek. The huge truck was backed up to an embankment and the elk walked out of the back of the truck to the bank and went on up the hill.

They will be watched closely by forestry officials and James Campbell of Hope, chairman of association's big game committee.

The elk were brought the 560 miles from Gardner, Mont., in 20 hours and the driver of the truck said that the loss of two animals on such a trip is considered below average. The trucker was going back to Gardner to get two more loads of elk for transshipment to the Wallace area.

All elk were ear-tagged by the biological survey and Ross Hall, president of the sportsmen's association, said the animals were in fine condition, much better than the herd released last year in the same area.



# Bluetongue Virus in North Idaho

*Article used with permission from IDAHO FISH AND GAME website      Published September 16, 2025*

Last year, laboratory tests confirmed epizootic hemorrhagic disease and bluetongue virus in white-tailed deer in North Idaho. Deer from the Clearwater Region tested positive for EHD, while deer from the Panhandle Region tested positive for both diseases.

Although the two diseases are different, they are closely related. Both are a type of hemorrhagic disease spread by small biting flies, known as midges, which reproduce in and around warm, stagnant water. This summer's conditions likely created situations where midge populations "boomed" around limited water sources, leading to increased risk when deer gather at them.

Hemorrhagic disease outbreaks occur periodically in the Clearwater and Panhandle regions, often during hot, dry summers like 2025. In northern states and other regions where hemorrhagic disease is less common, deer have little to no immunity to the virus.

When outbreaks occur, they can be explosive and severe, causing high mortality in localized areas. The outbreaks tend to cycle, occurring every 3-5 years as herd immunity fluctuates, allowing deer populations to recover from hemorrhagic diseases quickly. It is difficult to estimate how many deer are being affected in Idaho, but the number of reports received in 2025 was less than 200 in the Panhandle and less than 600 in the Clearwater.

Outbreaks can generally be expected to continue until cool, wetter weather arrives or after a hard frost occurs and kills the midges that spread the disease. Fish and Game staff will continue to monitor the situation.

Idaho is not alone in experiencing hemorrhagic disease outbreaks. Reports of diseased deer are coming in across the country, likely due to the drought-like conditions of summer.

Hemorrhagic diseases are distinctly different from and unrelated to chronic wasting disease. Chronic wasting disease is a fatal and contagious disease that affects the nervous systems of deer, elk, moose and reindeer. Its effect on populations is long-term and chronic. Conversely, hemorrhagic disease outbreaks can be explosive and severe, but they are often localized and short-lived.

Humans and domestic pets such as dogs and cats cannot be infected with EHD or BTV. White-tailed deer are particularly susceptible, but it can affect mule deer and elk. However, elk are less likely to develop severe forms of these diseases.

Fish and Game veterinary staff do not recommend eating meat from deer found dead from EHD or BTV due to the possibility of secondary bacterial infections. Deer that recover from and survive an EHD or BTV infection are safe to eat.

You can report sick or dead deer online via the Idaho Fish & Game Wildlife Health Reporting page.