



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

Date: November 7, 2024

Agenda Item No. 5E

Agenda Item: Refund / Raincheck Report (Action)

Bureau Chief Approval: JO

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Position/Title: Chief, Bureau of Administration

Background:

The Commission has delegated authority to the Director for rainchecks and refunds in the interest of efficiency and customer service due to the frequency and fact-specific nature of these requests.

The delegation excludes rainchecks or refunds for antlered Moose, Bighorn Sheep, or Mountain Goat tags, including the affiliated license; any controlled hunt tags awarded via auction or lottery, including Superhunt; and any controlled hunt tags for big game hunts that have drawing odds less than 5% as calculated by the total number of tags divided by the total number of first choice applicants. The delegation does provide for rainchecks/refunds for these species, however, in the case of widespread environmental incidents, such as fire where opportunity or access is severely limited, or illness, injury, or death which precludes any hunting related to a controlled hunt tag.

This agenda item has 3 parts, relative to refunds / rainchecks:

Part one is a recap of the refunds and rainchecks that the Department has received and approved or denied within its delegated authority.

Part two is an informational comparison of refund / raincheck policies and practices in Idaho and other states. It will consider common issues between states such as natural disasters (like wildfire) that impact hunter opportunity or access, as well as illness or injury that precludes the ability to hunt.

Part three is an action item for the Commission to consider two raincheck requests for trophy species.

- The first request is from a resident hunter for a raincheck on a mountain goat tag due to a physician-certified medical issue that prevents the individual from hunting during the 2024 season. This request is for Controlled Hunt No. 6006 (hunt area 27-



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2, August 30, 2024 – November 12, 2024) and is one of two tags available in that hunt. Mountain goats are highly prized and drawing odds are low. In 2024, the draw odds were 7%.

- The second request is from a resident hunter for a bighorn sheep tag. The request is for Controlled Hunt No. 5008 (hunt area 27-1, August 30 – October 13, 9% draw odds). The hunter contends that the Red Rock and Birch fires blocked a trailhead he intended to use, and that western access to the hunt area was also closed. Additional information on fire closures and access limitations during the hunt will be provided during the agenda item presentation.

Options for the Commission response to the raincheck requests include:

1. Deny the request (with or without waiver of waiting period for future application).
 - By rule (IDAPA 13.01.08.257), the wait-out period for applicants drawn for mountain goat or bighorn sheep controlled hunts is two years. The Commission may choose to waive the wait-out period for these individuals based on these circumstances.
2. Grant the raincheck request and issue a tag for the same hunt for the 2025 hunting season without modifying the tags approved for 2025 for the specified Controlled Hunt.
 - Outcome - there would be an additional hunter in the hunt area in 2025. Depending on the hunt, this can increase crowding and competition, decreasing hunt quality experience for participants.
3. Grant the raincheck request and issue a tag for the same hunt for the 2025 hunting season but reduce the 2025 tags available by 1 tag.
 - Outcome – there would be the same number of hunters in the hunt area in 2025 as originally approved, however there would be a net loss of opportunity for 1 new hunter.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 36-408, the Commission has authority to prescribe the number and kind of wildlife that may be taken under authority of the several types of tags and permits provided for in Title 36, and the manner in which said tags and permits shall be used and validated. Consideration of requests for refunds, rain checks, and other customer



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service accommodations regarding license, tags and permits, is within the Commission's statutory discretionary authority.

The Commission has not adopted rules related to issuance of refunds for resident licenses or tags in general.

IDAPA 13.01.08.257 defines eligibility for applying for controlled hunts and states that any person whose name was drawn on a controlled hunt for any mountain goat or bighorn sheep is not eligible to apply for that same species' tag for two (2) years.

Public Involvement Process:

The Commission delegation of authority to the Director was an action item for public comment to the Commission in January of 2015.

Justification:

Mountain goat and bighorn sheep tags are some of the most sought-after hunting opportunities the Department offers. Consequently, drawing odds are low, and raincheck requests may affect the availability of future-year opportunities to other hunters. The Commission has authority to consider requests for mountain goat and bighorn sheep tag rainchecks.

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission consider and take action on each of the 2 hunter requests described above.

Suggested Motion:

Possible Sample Motions:

For request one: the raincheck for mountain goat Controlled Hunt No. 6006.

- *That the Commission honor the request for a raincheck for mountain goat Controlled Hunt 6006 for the 2025 season and reduce the number of tags in the 2025 drawing from 2 tags to 1 tag.*
- *That the Commission honor the request for a raincheck for mountain goat Controlled Hunt 6006 for the 2025 season and maintain the number of tags in the 2025 drawing at 2 tags as previously approved by the Commission.*



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- *That the Commission deny the raincheck request.*
- *That the Commission deny the raincheck request but waive the 2-year wait-out requirement so that the hunter can apply again during the 2025 drawing.*

For request two: the raincheck for bighorn sheep Controlled Hunt No. 5008.

- *That the Commission honor the request for a raincheck for bighorn sheep Controlled Hunt 5008 for the 2025 season and reduce the number of tags in the 2025 drawing from 12 tags to 11 tags.*
- *That the Commission honor the request for a raincheck for bighorn sheep Controlled Hunt 5008 for the 2025 season and maintain the number of tags in the 2025 drawing at 12 tags as previously approved by the Commission.*
- *That the Commission deny the raincheck request.*
- *That the Commission deny the raincheck request but waive the 2-year wait-out requirement so that the hunter can apply again during the 2025 drawing.*