

Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

Agenda Item No. 6

Agenda Items:
Legislative and Community Engagement Update &
Program Updates

Bureau Chief Approval: JF

Prepared by: Ellary TuckerWilliams

Legislative and Community Engagement Update - Background:

Since the Idaho Legislature adjourned sine die on April 10th, staff will provide a session wrap up and describe plans for community and continued legislative engagement outside of the legislative session,

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Informational and possible action. The Commission has authority to provide legislative policy guidance.

Public Involvement Process:

Legislative discussions by the Commission are conducted in public on a weekly basis during the legislative session.

Program Updates - Background:

The Commission is authorized to issue free permits or tags for specific programs and to prescribe by rule how the permits or tags are issued.

Children with Special Needs Big Game Tag Program - Each year, the Department provides five game tags for children with life-threatening medical conditions. The child must be 17 years of age or younger and must be sponsored by a qualified non-profit 501(c) organization. Tags may be used for deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, black bear, or mountain lion. Tags are valid for any open hunt (controlled or general). Tags may not be used for controlled hunts with fewer than five tags offered. The application window is January 2 through January 31. The draw of the tag is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This year's recipients were notified on April 4, 2024. Applications for 5 children were received from three sponsoring organizations (Fearless Outdoorsman, Hunting Dreams, and Outfitters 4 Hope). Tags were issued to 3 resident and 2 nonresident children.

Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Tag Program - The Department also provides five game tags for disabled veterans. Two of the five tags are designated to the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. Special Big Game Tags are only issued to disabled veterans who are sponsored by a qualified non-profit 501(c) organization. Tags may be used for deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, black bear, or mountain lion. Tags are valid for any open hunt (controlled or general). Tags may not be used for controlled hunts with fewer than five tags offered. The application window is January 2 through January 31. The draw of the tag is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Department works cooperatively with Division of Veterans Services staff to plan and conduct this drawing. 43 resident and 15 non-resident applications were received. The Division of Veteran Services is in the process of reviewing applications for selection.

Commission Community Challenge Grant Program.

Applications for the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Challenge Grants were accepted between March 1 and April 22, 2024.

Regional teams and the statewide team will be convened to review and rank applications. Recommendations for funding will come before the Commission for their consideration at their July 2024 Commission meeting.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Section 36-408, Idaho Code, identifies that the Fish and Game Commission has authority to issue free permits or tags to minor children with life-threatening medical conditions and that the Commission may prescribe by rule the manner and conditions of issuing and using permits or tags authorized under this subsection of Code (see IDAPA 13.01.04.900)

Section 36-408, Idaho Code, also identifies that the Commission has authority to issue free permits or tags to military veterans with disabilities and that the Commission may prescribe by rule the manner and conditions of issuing and using permits or tags authorized under this subsection of Code (see IDAPA 13.01.04.901).

Public Involvement Process:

The Idaho Fish and Game Department and Commission routinely solicit and receive public input.

Staff Recommendation:

Information only.