

Meeting Date: November 19, 2015

Agenda Item No. 16B

Agenda Item: Controlled Hunt Drawing Odds Review **Bureau Chief Approval:** _____

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Background:

The Department has a random system of drawing for controlled hunts. Each hunter has an equal chance of being drawn. For example, if 100 hunters apply for a 20-tag controlled hunt, each individual applicant has a 20% probability of drawing a tag. Viewed another way, a hunter who consistently applies for that hunt should expect to draw a tag once every 5 years. However, because the selection is random, many applicants do not realize those odds. Some hunters may draw 2 times in 5 years, while others may not draw for 8 to 10 years or more. Because of this, even though all applicants have an equal chance of drawing despite their past drawing success, some hunters perceive the current system as unfair.

There are several potential changes that may affect drawing odds. Each change would have different effects on drawing odds. Because these changes would likely involve tradeoffs such as reduced opportunity or increased cost, these factors must be included in the analysis. This information is vital to making informed decisions about how to change drawing odds, and what those changes would mean to sportsmen.

During the presentation, staff will discuss different methods of affecting drawing odds, potential costs or restrictions associated with these methods, and predicted changes in odds should any of these methods be implemented.

These methods include:

- Implementing longer layout periods for successful applicants in antlered-only controlled hunts (currently, successful applicants must wait one year before applying again for an antlered-only hunt)
- Implementing a point-system
- Restricting controlled hunt applicants to applying for one species only (deer, elk, or pronghorn)
- Restricting applicants who apply for quality or high quality deer, elk or pronghorn hunts to applying for one species only
- Differential pricing for quality or high quality deer, elk, or pronghorn hunts

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Idaho Codes Sections 36-104(b) and 36-105(3) define the Commission's authority to set seasons and to set limits on tags by proclamation. Further, Idaho Code 36-104(b)5 provides the Commission authority to conduct a public drawing to issue controlled hunt tags and to charge certain fees. Further, Idaho Code 36-104(b)(5)(D) grants the Commission authority to implement a controlled hunt bonus or preference point system.

Rules associated with eligibility, applications, and purchase of Controlled Hunt tags appear in IDAPA 13.01.08.260.

Public Involvement Process:

A sportsmen survey was recently completed to determine if sportsmen would like adjustments made to the current controlled hunt draw system. Any option considered for improving controlled hunt drawing odds would be scoped with the public prior to making a final recommendation to implement.

Justification:

This information is intended to improve understanding of potential options to improve controlled hunt drawing odds.

Staff Recommendation:

No recommendations at this time. This agenda item is for informational purposes.