



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

Date: January 29, 2025

Agenda Item No. 5D

Agenda Item: Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group Recommendations

Prepared by: Ellary TuckerWilliams

Bureau Chief Approval: NA

Position/Title: Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator

Background:

The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group was convened to review current processes for how the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) issues general season deer and elk tags to nonresidents, and to develop recommendations to the Commission on potential changes and improvements. Recommendations were to be received by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration by the end of 2024 to facilitate any necessary legislation development and/or rulemaking in 2025 and/or 2026, should the Commission decide to move forward with implementing the recommendations. To ensure input from a range of perspectives, the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group included representation from the Idaho Legislature, resident hunters, rural economic interests, and the outfitting industry, totally 10 Idahoans from around the state. IDFG served on the Advisory Group in an ex officio manner to provide technical expertise and to answer questions.

IDFG provided the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group with 5 sideboards that needed to be either acknowledged or addressed with any future recommendations developed by the group. Those sideboards included:

- As a dedicated fund agency that is entirely self-funded, IDFG must remain financially whole
- Maintain customer demand
- IDFG is legally required to allow for a minimum of 10% non-resident hunter participation
- All recommendations are contingent upon the technological capabilities of Brandt, IDFG's third party vendor
- The Commission will make the ultimate decision on the recommendations brought forth by the Advisory Group

Interested members of the public were provided with the opportunity view all NRTIAG meetings and encouraged to submit comments for consideration through the online public feedback form on the IDFG website. Members of the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory



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Group received a total of 281 unique responses from both residents and non-residents. Most responses were resident hunters from Idaho (59%), and 41% are nonresidents from other states. See attached public feedback summary for more details.

In general, many hunters cited their frustration with the current system for a variety of reasons including the online application process, perceived unfairness with in-person or vendor tag accessibility vs online, the in-person ability to purchase tags for other people, and the inability to apply for tags online as a hunt party. There was also concern with increased demand on the resource leading to overhunting and lower wildlife quality/health, and perceptions that changes to tag sales were primarily to increase the Department revenues. The bulk of responses were pro-draw (n=135), with the majority of those individuals being residents (n=102). Non-residents are mostly split between pro-draw (n=33) and pro-OTC (n=27). Residents also have strong responses towards increasing the price of non-resident tags (n=51) and reducing the overall number of non-resident tags (n=48), many citing a goal of reducing the total number of non-resident hunters. Only one non-resident hunter suggested increasing prices or reducing the number of tags. See attached public feedback summary for more details.

After several educational meetings focused on explaining Idaho's extremely complex non-resident tag system and outfitter allocation, members of the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group collectively described what qualities a "perfect" non-resident tag system would have, which included the following, in no particular order:

- Fair
- Simple
- Transparent
- Trustworthy
- Reliable
- Consistent
- Reduces administrative burden
- Maintains demand
- Provides non-residents with the ability to plan ahead
- Meets outfitter needs
- Allows for party/group hunt opportunities
- Provides informative data
- Keeps IDFG fiscally solvent



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The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group then proceeded to identify problems with the current over the counter (OTC) system that needed to be addressed with any future recommendations, which included the following in no particular order:

1. Update outfitter tag allocation
2. In-person vs. online distribution
3. Proxy sales/tag mules
4. System failure
5. Multiple avenues to purchase tags (IDFG offices, vendors, on-line, phone)
6. Vendor challenges and discrepancies
7. Non-resident and resident frustration
8. Department integrity
9. Variability in tag types and quotas (e.g., mentored youth, DAV, lifetime licenses)
10. Staff capacity
11. Fairness

The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group then proceeded to score these problems in the context of an over-the-counter system and a draw system. They were instructed to assign a score of 0 if that problem was insolvable, 1 if it was solvable with high effort and additional resources, or 2 if it was solvable with current resources. Below are the results of that scoring exercise. The numbering of the above list coincided with the numbering in the below table.

	OVER THE COUNTER	DRAW
<i>Problem 1</i>	1	1
<i>Problem 2</i>	0	1
<i>Problem 3</i>	1	2
<i>Problem 4</i>	1	1
<i>Problem 5</i>	1	2
<i>Problem 6</i>	1	2

Key:

0 = Not solvable

1 = Solvable with high effort and additional resources

2 = Solvable with current resources



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<i>Problem 7</i>	1	2
<i>Problem 8</i>	1	1
<i>Problem 9</i>	1	1
<i>Problem 10</i>	1	1
<i>Problem 11</i>	1	2
TOTAL	10	16

After the exercise, a draw system scored better in addressing the identified problems with 16 total points. Therefore, the group collectively decided to focus their efforts on developing a non-resident draw system instead of improving the current over the counter system.

Members of the NRTIAG met 7 times, equating to over 350 manhours spent learning and discussing the topic at length from a diversity of perspectives. This does not include the personal time they each spent researching, reading hundreds of public comments, talking to members of the public, and reviewing supplemental information provided by IDFG. Presentations included but was not limited to overview of the non-resident tag distribution and sale process, Disabled American Veteran tags, Mentored Youth tags, non-resident allocation, outfitter allocation, cost comparison of Idaho tags to other western states, non-resident hunter demographics, non-resident distribution, summary of how other western states address allocation, and multiple hypothetical allocation recalculation spreadsheets. Meeting minutes are publicly available on the NRTIAG webpage on the IDFG website for more details.

Each member took their charge very seriously, earnestly participated in the process, and came to the table with a desire to find practical solutions. While members of the NRTIAG did not always agree, both in practice and philosophically, they were able to work collaboratively and find many areas of common ground. After extensive, respectful, and sometimes spirited discussions, below are the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group's formal recommendations to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for consideration.

Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:



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Members Present: Benn Brocksome, Ned Burns, Jerry Cloninger, Brad Compton, Mark Harris, Aaron Lieberman, Tyrel Stevenson, Mike Veile, and James Petzke (present for a portion of the meeting).

Members Absent: Michael Fuller (absent for the entirety of the meeting) and James Petzke (absent for a portion of the meeting)

Per the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group (NRTIAG) charter, a 3/4's majority is needed to advance any recommendations to the Commission for consideration.

NRTIAG members present agreed to allow James Petzke and Michael Fuller to provide their vote via email in their physical absence, barring any substantive changes to the language as drafted and provided to members of the group for review prior to the meeting on December 19th, 2024. James Petzke and Michal Fuller were marked as “absent” with any new recommendations or previously drafted recommendations with substantive language changes.

Voting Key:

- Y - yes
- N - no
- Ab - absent
- Abs - abstain

A) Draw vs Over-the-Counter Non-Resident Tag Issuance Framework

a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is to transition from its current over-the-counter non-resident general season deer and elk tag framework to a draw system.	y	y	y	y	y	y	abs	y	y	y	Motion: NB Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration. Aaron Lieberman abstained from the vote because IOGA cannot support transitioning to a draw system



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												without first understanding the outfitter allocation recommendations, which are foundational to engaging meaningfully with the broader framework.
Outfitter tag allocation is to be separate from the non-resident general season deer and elk tag draw system.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y		Motion: MH Second: AL Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.

B) General Season Deer and Elk Tag Draw System

- a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following for a general season deer and elk non-resident tag draw system:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
Non-residents can only apply for the general season deer and elk tag draws online, over the phone, at regional offices, or at approved vendors.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
Idaho will be the first western state to close its draw application window, barring any extenuating circumstances.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	Motion: BB Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration. Mike Veile voted no because he believes this recommendation will artificially inflate an



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											excessive demand.
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will charge a non-refundable draw application fee, in an amount to be determined by the Commission.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: MH Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will require non-residents to have a valid same-year Idaho big game hunting license to apply for the general season deer and elk tag draws.	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: MH Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration. Brad Compton voted no because he cannot support the recommendation without first knowing what other states charge and how it may impact demand, per the NRTIAG charter.
The transfer of general nonresident season deer and elk tags to save place in quota will not be allowed, except outfitter-allocated non-resident general season deer and elk tags may be transferred to another outfitted non-resident hunter at the request of the licensed outfitter	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: AL Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.



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<p>The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will offer a group option on the general season deer and elk tag draw applications. Specifics to be determined by the Department.</p>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	<p>Motion: JC Second: BB</p> <p>Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.</p>
<p>The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will preauthorize credit/debit card transactions and charge for successful general season non-resident deer and elk tag draw applicants.</p> <p><i>Note: The intent of this recommendation is to reduce the quantity of tags in a subsequent draw or OTC sale, decrease the likelihood of less desirable tags going unsold, and provide consistency with other western states.</i></p>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	<p>Motion: BC Second: BB</p> <p>Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.</p>
<p>Any leftover, returned, or failed transaction non-resident general season deer or elk tags are to be sold to residents and non-residents in a subsequent draw and/or over-the-counter on a first-come first-served basis, with specifics of the later sale(s) to be determined by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.</p>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	<p>Motion: BB Second: MH</p> <p>Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.</p>



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C) Non-Resident Disabled American Veterans Tags

- a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following for non-resident Disabled American Veteran (DAV) tags under a general season deer and elk tag draw framework:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is to have a separate non-resident general season deer and elk tag draw for DAV (preceding the non-DAV tag draw), in which the number of DAV tags allowed is limited per unit/zone, either by percentage or otherwise as set by the Department.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: BC Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will require DAV to have an Idaho hunting license valid for big game to apply for the DAV general season deer and elk draws.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: MH Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
The application for the DAV draw will allow (but not require) applicants to also complete (at the same time) a draw application for the regular non-resident general season deer and elk draw as a non-DAV applicant, which will be submitted in the event they are not successful in the DAV draw. DAV applicants	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: JC Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.



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will only be charged a single application fee for the DAV and contingent non-DAV draw.											
DAV applicants may submit a group application, but DAV and non-DAV applicants cannot be combined on the same application	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: NB Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will not count non-resident DAV tags against the statewide non-resident limits.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.

D) Mentored Youth Tags

- a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following for non-resident mentored youth tags under a general season deer and elk tag draw framework:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is to maintain the current mentored youth program in the new draw framework.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BB Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
Idaho Department of Fish and Game will not count mentored youth against the statewide non-resident limit.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: MH Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.

E) Non-Resident Lifetime License Holders

- a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following for non-resident lifetime license holders under a general season deer and elk tag draw framework:



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Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is to maintain the current Lifetime License program in the new draw framework.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BC Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
Non-resident tags bought by lifetime license holders will not count against statewide non-resident limit.	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: BC Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.

F) Reduction of Non-Resident General Season Deer and Elk Hunter Participation to 10%

a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
Should there be any future recommendation or directive to reduce non-resident general season deer and elk hunter participation to 10%, the subsequent loss in IDFG revenue will be recouped among resident, non-resident, and outfitter allocated tag prices, in an amount as determined by the Commission.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	abs	ab	y	y	Motion: MV Second: MH Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration. Aaron Lieberman abstained, citing the need to review recommendations with stakeholders and noting outfitter-allocated tags are already part of the nonresident quota.
The Commission is encouraged to survey	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y	Motion: TS Second: BC



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resident hunters to gauge willingness of residents to pay higher resident fees to reduce non-resident participation and offset revenue loss to the Department.												Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
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G) Outfitter Tag Allocation – General

- a) The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Commission and Legislature are to consider allowing licensed outfitting businesses to market their services directly to non-resident draw applicants.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y	Motion: JC Second: NB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.
The Commission is to consider formulating an outfitter tag allocation working group.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y	Motion: BB Second: BC Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.

H) Outfitter Tag Allocation – Capped Elk Zones

- a. The Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group recommends to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission the following for capped elk zone outfitter allocation within a general season deer and elk non-resident draw system:

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will recalculate the historical use for establishing capped elk zone outfitter allocation at a	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y	Motion: MH Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.



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frequency to be determined by the Fish and Game Commission.												
Commission is to work with IOGLB to review historic use (such as residents hunters building historic outfitter use) including private and public land outfitting.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	n	ab	y	y	Motion: BC Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration. Aaron Lieberman voted no, citing the topic's complexity and the absence of prior group discussion or adequate time for consideration before the meeting.	
Tags allocated for outfitter use in addition to current allocation would come from the nonresident portion under the cap for each zone.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: TS Second: BB Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.	
Total outfitter tag allocation cannot exceed a percentage as determined by the Commission of any given non-resident quota capped elk zone.	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	y	y	y	Motion: MV Second: BC Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.	
Backcountry capped elk zones are to be considered separately. The Commission is to consider redistributing	y	y	y	y	ab	y	y	ab	y	y	Motion: MH Second: BC Recommendation advances to the Commission for consideration.	



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returned allocated tags to the resident quota.												
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I) Outfitter Tag Allocation – Newly Limited Units and Zones

- a) Due to the extensive amount of time spent on discussing the non-resident general season deer and elk tag draw framework and outfitter allocation in capped elk zones, the NRTIAG was unable discuss newly limited (also known as uncapped units and zones) before recommendations were due to the Commission. Therefore, there are no recommendations specific to newly limited units and zones (also known as uncapped units and zones) to advance to the Commission for consideration.

J) Failed Recommendations

- a) The below recommendations failed to receive a super majority of present members in order to advance to the Commission for consideration.

Recommendation	BB	NB	JC	BC	MF	MH	AL	JP	TS	MV	Notes
The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will notify successful non-resident general season deer and elk draw applicants with failed credit card transactions that they have a short window to successfully purchase the awarded tag, otherwise the tag is returned to the Department to be reissued.	n	n	y	n	y	n	abs	y	n	n	Motion: BC Second: JC Recommendation fails to advance to the Commission for consideration. The recommendation failed to advance because of three main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased administrative burden on IDFG - A belief that it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure their credit or debit



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											card is valid before the draw - Other states do not offer such a grace period.
Use of an outfitter by Idaho residents with non-allocated tags will not count towards historical use for establishing outfitter tag allocation for capped elk zones.	y	y	y	n	ab	n	n	ab	y	y	Motion: MV Second: NB Recommendation fails to advance to the Commission for consideration. The recommendation failed to advance because of a lack of robust group discussion, outfitter representation, historical reference, and knowledge relative to the potential impacts to the outfitting industry.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Public Involvement Process:

Members of the public had the opportunity to submit comments directly to the NRTIAG through the online public feedback form.

Justification:

In 2024, the Commission directed IDFG to formulate a working group to review current processes for how the Department issues general season deer and elk tags to nonresidents, and to develop recommendations to the Commission on potential changes and improvements. The recommendations contained in this document fulfill that directive.

Staff Recommendation:

Suggested Motion:



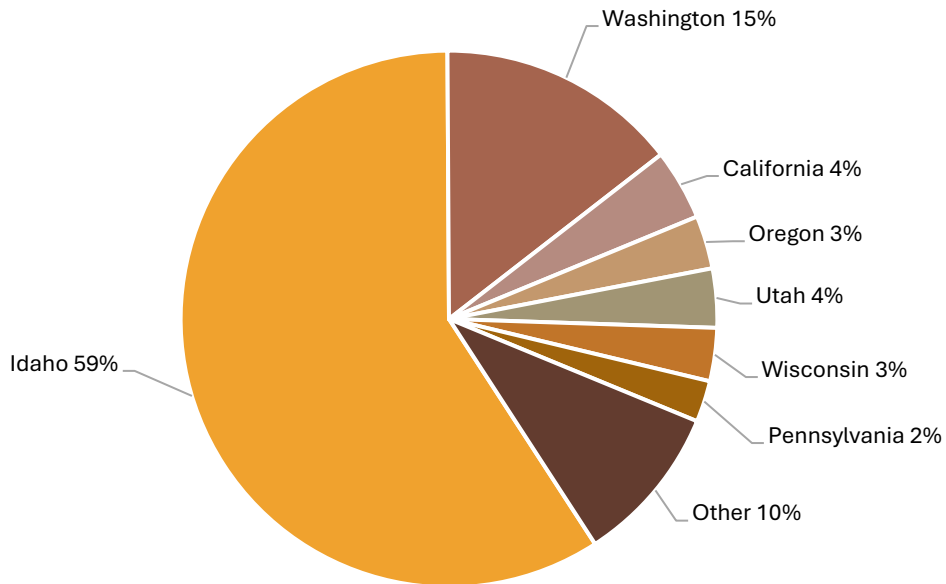
Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group

Final Public Comment Summary

1/2/2025

At the closing of public comments there were 281 unique responses received through the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group’s feedback form on the IDFG website. The majority of respondents are resident hunters from Idaho (59%), and 41% are nonresidents from other states. The largest number of nonresident responses come from Washington (15%), Utah (4%) and California (4%). Oregon and Wisconsin comprised 3% of responses, and Pennsylvania was 2%. Other state comprised less than 1%: Kentucky, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, Alaska, Colorado, New York, Indiana, Missouri, Georgia, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan, Wyoming, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa, and Ohio. There were also comments from Idaho outfitters including Robson Outfitters, Shattuck Creek Outfitters, and Hamilton Outfitter.

Residency Breakdown



Responses:

*RESULTS QUALIFIERS: IDFG **only** marked responses if they specifically indicated that they are **for or against** draws or OTC. Responses that **only** had suggestions for modifying the current OTC **weren't** counted as pro-OTC, and cases where hunters were pro-draw and anti-OTC were marked in **both** categories. Please be aware of the limitations of the data as*



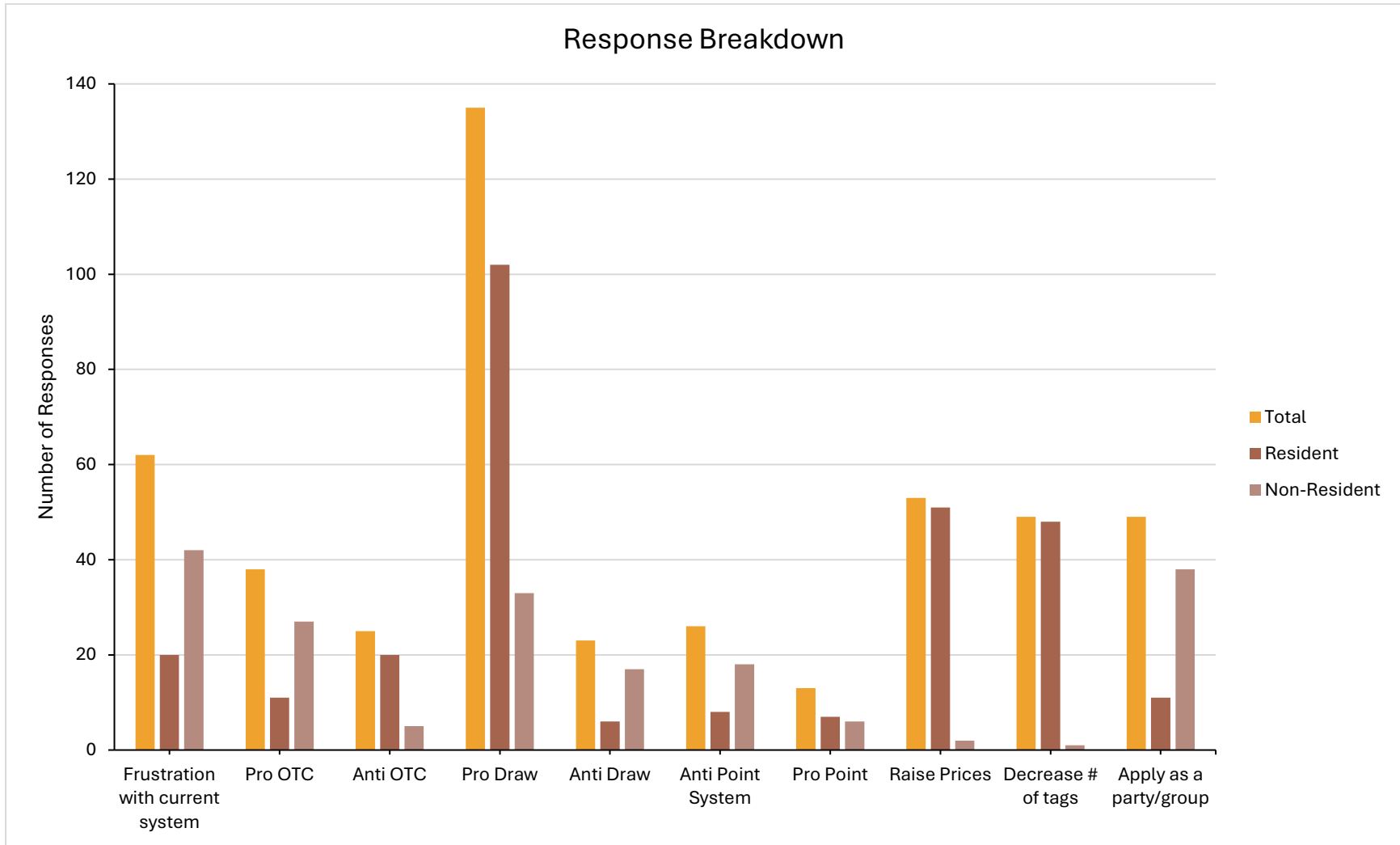
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*it is being represented. In general, the results presented capture the general flavor of responses, but it might not accurately convey the number of people that are happy with the current system **if** there were some modifications. While this is a summation of received public feedback, members of the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group were still strongly encouraged to read the comments submitted by members of the public to fully understand and appreciate the breadth, depth, and nuance of perspectives on this topic.*

In general, many hunters cited their frustration with the current system for a variety of reasons including the online application process, perceived unfairness with in-person or vendor tag accessibility vs online, the in-person ability to purchase tags for other people, and the inability to apply for tags online as a hunt party. There was also concern with increased demand on the resource leading to overhunting and lower wildlife quality/health, and perceptions that changes to tag sales were primarily to increase the Department revenues. The bulk of responses were pro-draw (n=135), with the majority of those individuals being residents (n=102). Non-residents are mostly split between pro-draw (n=33) and pro-OTC (n=27). Residents also have strong responses towards increasing the price of non-resident tags (n=51) and reducing the overall number of non-resident tags (n=48), many citing a goal of reducing the total number of non-resident hunters. Only one non-resident hunter suggested increasing prices or reducing the number of tags.



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This figure shows some of the most common responses received through the Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group feedback form on the IDFG website. The Resident (orange) and Non-Resident (green) responses sum to the Total (blue)



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Recurring Themes:

The ability to apply as a group/party comes up frequently, both in draw and current OTC comments (n=49). Hunters would like the opportunity to hunt within their own group or with family, either by having the same place in line or adopting a permit process so groups can hunt together. There are some concerns about larger group hunting parties, and most suggest a cap of 4-6 people within a group.

In-person sales and vendors are a sticking point for some, especially with the use of proxy purchasers. Some hunters explicitly say their preference for a draw is in-person hunters purchasing multiple (10+) tags for others. Some suggestions are to limit the number of tags an in-person buyer can purchase, limit the purchases to 1 other hunter or direct dependents/youths, or ensuring the purchaser is part of the hunting party. This is similar to anecdotal comments about Outfitters “gaming” the system by having proxies stand in line to buy additional NR tags to the outfitter tags. There are also concerns about outside (and out of state) vendors, such as Cabela’s, providing an unfair advantage to online sales with a rush on preferred units. Some ask for a delay in vendor sales.

Other reasons hunters are for a draw are to specifically make it more difficult or limit opportunity for non-resident hunters, and also suggest raising prices or decreasing the total number of tags. There is also concern about deer and elk populations not being able to rebound from increased hunting pressure. Resident hunters mention keeping OTC for residents a priority.

There is an overall frustration with the online process. Many cite issues of people logging in from multiple devices or the use of bots that lead to a perceived increase in wait times and incorrect estimates of positions in line. Some suggestions center around requiring hunters to be logged into the portal and requiring the use of their sportsman ID before assigning a waitlist number to avoid multiple logins.

If the tag sale moves to a draw, the majority of hunters have a strong opposition to “preference points” or a point system (n=26). The perception is you will never draw a good unit due to point creep, and point to New Mexico or Alaska as models for a drawing system. Others suggest limiting the number of successful draws for a specific time period, such as only being able to draw a tag once every 1-3 years.

Comments from Outfitters generally center around concern for reducing the total number of outfitter tags and ensuring that outfitters have access to non-resident tags. Some suggestions are to separate the outfitter tags from the non-resident allotment or to



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increase the number of outfitter tags. Outfitters often cite the added economic benefits that the outfitting industry brings to Idaho. Comments from the general public suggest frustration with outfitters accessing non-resident tags and “gaming” the system, and a wish for them to be removed or reduced from the tag sale.

Public Suggestions for a Future System *(copied verbatim from feedback forms):*

- You may only purchase a tag for yourself or for your dependent youth when purchasing from an in-person vendor. Too many people are buying for other people.
- Remove the things that tilt the playing field in favor of outfitters and people with friends in ID, online purchases only, or in person only, not both, and only one tag per person in line, no proxy purchases.
- My recommendation is that any system that is used be tied directly to an individual's sportsman's Id. The current system allows an individual to generate multiple random numbers. This is unfair to those individuals that follow the rules and only enter the queue once. It would also be nice to have some type of group application so that I can hunt with other members of my immediate family.
- A draw system with possible "preference points" accumulated each year nonresidents fail to draw....At least accumulating preference points you might have a chance after a few years.
- If you go to draw put non resident youth in with the resident draw.
- Each account number should only be able to log in on once device online. Multiple devices per hunter seems to bog the system down.
- In-person sales should be limited to 1-2 tags per buyer. One person buying 10 or more tags seems unfair.
- Draw system only for key units (54, 40)
- Minimums on archery experience for archery sale
- The State needs to remove the refund clause or dramatically reduce the percentage that can be refunded for a tag being turned in. People use Idaho as a "plan C" and all it's doing is taking away from others ability to hunt a state that they want to commit to hunting every year. A 25% max refund for returned tags by a specific date, after which, you forfeit the cost of the application/tag/license.
- Permit only for non residents. This would give us the option to apply as a group and then if we draw we all hunt together in the unit we want to hunt in or not at all.
- Stop the authorized sale by vendors to non-resident customers until 24 hours past the opening time. Force all license to be purchased through the department's website for that first 24 hours before it is released to vendors. Residents are purchasing NR tags in person at vendors for friends out of state at high levels based



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on first hand talks I've had with hunters in the field describing how they had friends doing this for them.

- Make everyone login to their portal BEFORE being assigned a waiting list number. Everyone knows now that you can have multiple IP addresses waiting in line for you thus, clogging the system and skewing the numbers of actual customers online.
- Authorize party hunts of one other member when purchasing tags. Folks coming from out of state generally don't come alone. Allowing a person to purchase ONLY ONE additional tag for their pre-designated hunting partner would cause less strain on the system and increase hunter satisfaction.
- Consider limiting outfitters ability to buy tags for others if you want more hunters to have more chances to get a tag. Outfitters although already allocated a certain amount of non-resident tags also have people at fish and game division offices purchasing licenses for already booked clients - this should not be allowed.
- NO requirement to purchase a hunting license during the application process
- I recommend opening in person sales several hours before online sales. I'd allow in person sales of the same tags for a hunting party where a member of the hunting party is physically present. I'd require the person buying the tags to be in the hunting party and all members of the party to get the same tags. This would prevent hunters from paying non-hunters to stand in line for them.
- The other option is to break the tags out over 3 days. Day one could be just archery elk, day two any weapon elk and day three would be the deer tags. This way at least you know you are only competing with others looking for the same tag as you and not in the system with everyone.
- One option is to make it so that you can only draw a tag once in a designated timeframe. Don't make it a once in a lifetime hunt but once every 3-5 years.
- To even the playing fields for resident hunters, I think it should be mandatory that all non-residents retain a outfitter/guide to hunt big game in the state of Idaho.
- IDFG should consider at the initial offering of Nonresident Elk and Deer tags, using different sale dates. Possibly a week apart.
- I feel non-residents with lifetime Idaho hunting licenses should be able to pay instate fees but tags should come from the non-resident pool. Since they are no longer citizens of Idaho, I don't think they should draw tags from the same pool as the wildlife is in trust to the citizens of the state, not former citizens. I know of several out of staters that are claiming residency in Idaho to get the lifetime tag. They have a residence on paper in Idaho but don't actually live here.
- Idaho needs to follow suit and delay give residents the advantage of a 3-7 day start on hunting season before non-residents can hunt, they both end the same day, neighboring states like Wyoming are implementing these types of rules and Idaho should follow suit.



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- The telephone Queue for the out of state application process can be frustrating (holding for hour(s) only to find hunts no longer available). Displaying the available tags for those waiting in the queue is value-added.
- If you go to a draw is there any way we can have a non-resident with immediate family resident's category that assures families can hunt together. Alaska has different rules (pertaining to guide requirements) for immediate family non-residents.
- Like the waiting period after drawing a controlled hunt antlered tag, implement a one year waiting period after receiving a nonresident general tag. If the quota isn't filled, have a second draw similar to our current controlled hunt application. If tags are then left over, sell on a first come first serve basis. If demand increases, extend the waiting period to two years.
- Make similar to capped zone tags
- None residents should not be allowed hunting in wilderness areas without a guide. It would help our guides and protect our wilderness areas. None residents should have to draw tags no over the counter tags. Residents should be allowed to purchase none resident tags as they go on sale in December. Less tags better hunting increase fees I think the majority would agree.
- If i had a say on Non Resident tags i would suggest a few things. One, shorten non resident hunting seasons to allow residents to hunt without non resident pressure. Two, make more non resident tags outfitter allocated tags. Three, make all non resident tags draw tags. Four, raise prices of non resident tags a decrease the amount of non resident tags allowed.
- We urge you to explore solutions that ensure outfitters have reliable access to nonresident tags. Such measures would allow us to continue contributing to Idaho's economy, preserve our hunting heritage, and expand our businesses responsibly.

Public Feedback Quotes *(copied verbatim from feedback forms):*

- All non-resident tags should be controlled hunt draws only. I strongly oppose OTC tags for non residents. Likewise, all nonresident tag prices should be greatly increased.
- Out of state hunters are ruining hunting in Idaho. Fees need to be increased and draw only. Idaho has grown enough with its own residents it's time to protect our culture. It is also time to reign in out of state hunters paying guides.
- If I am being honest, have no real preference for how the non-resident tag allocation is conducted. UNLESS the 'slippery slope' argument comes to fruition and some time after going to a draw for non-residents, a draw only system is implemented for



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us residents. Because of this concern, I am against a draw system for non-residents.

- I feel the current system is a good one, it just needs some cleaning up.
- [I] would be ok with the way it is if you would just have people log in some how so every person isn't on 5 devices. Once they get their tag or their tag is sold out they just set their phone down, but the problem is it still holds their place in line and then when it goes in to buy there is no one there.
- I would like to see tags stay OTC. I've hunted Idaho since I was 12 years old and hate the thought of losing that opportunity. My suggestion would be to limit "in person" OTC tag purchases to the tag holder and next of kin. This would solve the problem of people buying 10 tags at a time in person as I've witnessed. I truly hope Idaho doesn't go to a draw system. The tag is worth the cost of a plane ticket to buy in person if that's what I have to continue doing.
- If Idaho is going to keep costs that high for NRs, at least open it up to a draw so that people can apply on their own time, rather than forcing everyone into this waiting room at 10:00AM on a certain date. It's already a draw, just without any of the benefits of being able to plan your application and hunts, if successful.
- Idaho will have to change now period due to Colorado (the only other over the counter elk tag state) going to draw for all out of state elk tags. If Idaho does not change, the system will get completely hammered with hunters trying to get a tag.
- With all of the advertised "strategy" businesses like Randy Newberg, OnX, GoHunt, etc., non-residents can compete that way.
- I want to propose a resident sponsor system, where non-residents can get tags by a resident registering them as their hunting partners. A maximum of 2 people could be allocated
- One huge point of concern is the ability of outfitters or proxies to travel to Idaho to purchase tags in person and forego the online "que" ordering that everyone else is subject to. This is a prejudicial practice at worst, an oversight at best, and subjects the online portion of nonresident hunters to stalled electronic lines for fewer tags because they've already been gobbled up by outfitters greedy to take more than their fair share, much like buying 100 milkshakes for your friends in the back of the line at a carnival.
- I don't like limited entry drawings but i feel it would be better in this situation. That way we can apply as a group.
- I'd require the person buying the tags to be in the hunting party and all members of the party to get the same tags. This would prevent hunters from paying non-hunters to stand in line for them.
- There should be a drawing for tags for non-residents, with party applications allowed



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- Somehow, the 437 tags allotted for unit 76 sold out in 18 minutes this year. Yet, according to the website, only 120 customers had been served in that 18 minutes. How does that work? In a randomized system where you have to wait for your number to be called, how is it physically possible for 437 tags in one unit to be found, clicked on and credit card info inputted in 18 minutes, especially when you don't allow group hunting? That means 437 individual hunters supposedly choose unit 76 in 18 minutes. One cannot help but to suspect foul play here as it seems statistically impossible. It makes people think that these 437 tags were all "spoken for" before the drawing even started. What other explanation could there possibly be?
- I have been hunting with my brother for too many years. He is a resident of Idaho, but I am not. This was not a problem in the past, but with the new system, I did not get a low enough number to get a tag last year. As I get older, the number of hunts where I can hike up and down those Idaho hills is getting fewer. There should be a way that a resident could purchase a tag for a non-resident relative to hunt as a party.
- I wasted way to much time on a very poorly run system. I'd rather waste my money trying for a lottery draw.
- Thank you for being one of the only states left with an OTC system for nonresidents and all the support the IDFG has to give to the program. I hope to see it continue and hunt Idaho with my friends and family for many more years.
- Each year I log in to get a place in line in the thousands and call 800 number every 5 minutes with no answer. I hear stories of the long lines at Cabelas Utah locations (how is it fair that Utah residents buy nonresident Idaho license five minutes from where they live).
- The biggest opportunity Idaho has with nonresident hunters is to adopt an approach where applicants feel like they have the same opportunity as everyone else in getting a license.



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Western States Hunting Tag Draw Fees

Summary

12/31/2024

State	Application fee	License fee	Additional fees	Total Upfront Cost	Notes
Arizona	\$15 (non-refundable) for each species	\$160 (non-refundable) combo hunting license		\$175 minimum	Additional fees for bonus points
Colorado	\$10 (non-refundable)	\$98.92 - Small game (refundable 30 days or more before opening day)	\$12.50 – Habitat stamp	\$121.42 minimum	Additional fees for preference points
Montana		Deer Combo - \$701.60 Elk Combo - \$995.78 Big Game Combo (deer and elk) - \$1173.52 Sliding scale for refunds.		\$701.60- \$1173.52, depending on species.	All Combination License prices include required Base Hunting License, Conservation License, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass, and Application Fees Additional fees for bonus points and preference points
Nevada	\$14 (non-refundable) for all big game \$19 (non-refundable) for elk	\$156 (non-refundable, if customer wants bonus points.)	\$3 – non-refundable, customer selects, predator management, habitat, or research on non-predatory wildlife	\$173-178 depending on species	
New Mexico	\$13 (non-refundable) per species	\$65 (non-refundable)	\$4 - Habitat Management and Access Validation	\$82 non-refundable	



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				\$365-\$855 total with cost of tag, depending on species. Unsuccessful applicants get refunded for cost of tag	
Oregon	\$8 (non-refundable) per species	\$172 (non-refundable)		\$180 minimum	Additional fees for cost of shipping and handling
Utah	\$16 (non-refundable) for each species	\$120 (non-refundable)		\$136 minimum	Additional fees for bonus points
Washington	\$110.50 (non-refundable) per species	License to be purchased within 15 days of successful draw		\$110.50 minimum	
Wyoming	\$15 (non-refundable) per species	\$49 (doe/fawn)- \$1,965 (elk special) License fee is refunded for unsuccessful applicants	\$21.50 – non-refundable Conservation Stamp	\$85.50-\$2,001.50, depending on species, sex, and unit	Additional fees for preference points plus 2.5% card processing fee

2024 – Idaho Non-Resident Hunting Fees

Idaho Non-Resident Big Game Hunting License - \$185.00

Access/Depredation Fee - \$10

Deer Tag - \$351.75

Elk Tag - \$651.75



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Table 4

2023 Resident Cost to Fish					
Rank	State	License	1 Day	2 Day	3 Day
1	Washington	\$29.50	\$11.35	\$15.75	\$19.05
2	Idaho	\$30.75	\$11.50	\$16.50	\$21.50
3	Montana	\$31.00		\$15.00	
4	Idaho	\$35.50	\$13.50	\$19.50	\$25.50
5	Arizona	\$37.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	
6	New Mexico	\$39.00	\$26.00		
7	Utah	\$40.00			\$19.00
8	Nevada	\$40.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$15.00
9	Oregon	\$44.00	\$23.00	\$42.00	\$59.50
10	Wyoming	\$48.50	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.00
11	Colorado	\$51.21	\$15.55	\$23.05	\$30.55
12	California	\$58.58	\$19.18	\$29.42	
	Average	\$40.42	\$15.01	\$21.52	\$26.01



Highlighted costs are "Price Locked"; un-highlighted Idaho costs are 2023 prices

2023 Non-resident Cost to Fish					
Rank	State	License	1 Day	2 Day	3 Day
1	Arizona	\$55.00	\$20.00	\$40.00	
2	New Mexico	\$70.00	\$26.00		
3	Nevada	\$80.00	\$18.00	\$25.00	\$32.00
4	Washington	\$84.50	\$20.15	\$28.95	\$35.55
5	Utah	\$94.00			\$31.00
6	Oregon	\$110.50	\$23.00	\$42.00	\$59.50
7	Montana	\$117.50		\$45.50	
8	Idaho	\$118.00	\$22.75	\$29.75	\$36.75
9	Colorado	\$122.53	\$19.01	\$26.51	\$34.01
10	Wyoming	\$123.50	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$42.00
11	California	\$158.25	\$19.18	\$29.42	
	Average	\$103.07	\$20.23	\$32.79	\$38.69

Source: Idaho Department of Fish and Game Survey

2023 Resident Cost to Hunt					
(Includes licenses, tags, application and vendor fees)					
Rank	Deer	Elk	Sheep	Pronghorn	Antelope
1	\$34.00 MT	\$38.00 MT	\$153.00 MT	\$37.00 MT	\$37.00 MT
2	\$37.50 ID	\$48.50 ID	\$173.50 NV	\$55.25 ID	\$55.25 ID
3	\$44.90 WA	\$50.40 WA	\$178.50 WY	\$56.96 CO	\$56.96 CO
4	\$45.50 ID	\$57.50 ID	\$184.50 OR	\$63.50 WY	\$63.50 WY
5	\$56.96 CO	\$74.22 CO	\$196.00 NM	\$63.50 ID	\$63.50 ID
6	\$63.00 OR	\$83.50 WY	\$201.25 ID	\$94.00 OR	\$94.00 OR
7	\$68.50 WY	\$84.00 OR	\$237.25 ID	\$96.00 NM	\$96.00 NM
8	\$77.00 NM	\$96.00 UT	\$332.00 WA	\$113.00 UT	\$113.00 UT
9	\$83.50 NV	\$126.00 NM	\$350.00 AZ	\$113.50 NV	\$113.50 NV
10	\$86.00 UT	\$178.50 NV	\$366.36 CO	\$140.00 AZ	\$140.00 AZ
11	\$95.00 AZ	\$185.00 AZ	\$599.46 CA	\$253.55 CA	\$253.55 CA
12	\$97.20 CA	\$621.51 CA	\$614.00 UT	NA WA	NA WA
Avg.	\$65.76	\$136.93	\$298.82		\$98.75



Highlighted costs are "Price Locked"; un-highlighted Idaho costs are 2023 prices

2023 Non-Resident Cost to Hunt					
(Includes licenses, tags, application and vendor fees)					
Rank	Deer	Elk	Sheep	Pronghorn	Antelope
1	\$375.00 NM	\$497.00 WA	\$1,325.00 MT	\$230.00 MT	\$230.00 MT
2	\$410.50 NV	\$640.00 NM	\$1,370.50 NV	\$362.50 WY	\$362.50 WY
3	\$410.50 WY	\$728.50 WY	\$1,652.00 WA	\$375.00 NM	\$375.00 NM
4	\$434.30 WA	\$733.00 UT	\$1,693.50 OR	\$467.64 CO	\$467.64 CO
5	\$467.64 CO	\$760.00 OR	\$1,975.00 AZ	\$470.50 NV	\$470.50 NV
6	\$475.00 AZ	\$772.49 CO	\$2,189.87 CA	\$506.00 UT	\$506.00 UT
7	\$538.00 UT	\$825.00 AZ	\$2,356.50 WY	\$555.75 ID	\$555.75 ID
8	\$546.75 ID	\$846.75 ID	\$2,379.00 UT	\$575.50 OR	\$575.50 OR
9	\$547.94 CA	\$1,043.00 MT	\$2,565.54 CO	\$725.00 AZ	\$725.00 AZ
10	\$615.50 OR	\$1,375.50 NV	\$2,867.50 ID	\$784.42 CA	\$784.42 CA
11	\$729.00 MT	\$1,913.17 CA	\$3,265.00 NM	N/A WA	N/A WA
Avg.	\$504.56	\$921.31	\$2,149.04		\$505.23

Source: Idaho Department of Fish and Game Survey



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Western States Outfitter Hunting Tag Allocation Summary

Idaho Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group

08/21/2023

Alaska

- Alaska does not allocate tags to outfitters. Alaska does require someone to secure an outfitter if they receive a tag for grizzly bears, mountain goats, or sheep over safety concerns. A person must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Alaska Statute 16.05.407. But they are responsible for securing their own outfitter.
- A Nonresident Alien (non-resident who is not an American citizen) need a guide if they plan to hunt for brown/grizzly bear, black bear, bison, caribou, deer, elk, goat, moose, muskox, Sheep, Wolf or Wolverine. They must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Alaska Statute 16.05.408. But they are responsible for securing their own outfitter.

Arizona

- Arizona does not allocate tags to outfitters. Hunters are to draw their own tags and then seek the services of an outfitter, if they so choose.
- Arizona does not have a landowner tag program.

Colorado

- Colorado does not allocate tags to outfitters. Hunters are to draw their own tags and then seek the services of an outfitter, if they so choose.
- Colorado does have a landowner tag program where 15% of total tags are allocated to landowners through Landowner Preference Program. Landowners can contract with an outfitter or guide, if they so choose. Tags are non-transferable once designated.
 - o Depending on the tag, they can be restricted to the deeded land of the landowner or be allowed for both deeded private property and public land.

Montana

- Montana does not allocate tags for the exclusive use of outfitters
- Montana operates on a draw in which 75% of the tags are distributed based off preference points (3 max) and 25% through a regular draw.
 - o Outfitted clients can purchase 2 preference points in a year. Any individual with more than 2 preference points has almost a 100% draw success.
 - i. Outfitters are still required to secure clients and clients draw their own tags but contracting with an outfitter speeds up the timeline of getting a tag.
 - o Outfitters also can work with landowners and secure landowner tags

Nevada

- Nevada does allocate general season mule deer tags to outfitters via rule and statute. Nevada has a separate application period and draw specific to awarding these tags, they call it the non-resident guided hunt. They are awarded through a



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draw and are taken out of the existing pool of the non-resident 10% allocation of mule deer tags.

- The number of outfitters allocated tags is determined by a preset number cap. The allocation must not exceed 16% of the deer tags issued to nonresidents during the previous year or 400, whichever is greater.
- Outfitter use is tracked by the Department, but there are limitations. The guide business must be a registered guide business with our agency. A single guide business cannot be awarded more than 30 clients from this draw and applicants/clients cannot be a relative of the guide they are applying with.
- The leftover tags are added to the general nonresident quotas and offered to nonresidents without the need of a guide. These tags are awarded through our main draw. Tags that are returned are sent through our alternate program and given to customers who selected to receive one of these turned in tags. Guided draw tags reallocated through the alternate program still hold the requirement that the client must work with a guide in the field.

New Mexico

- New Mexico allocates 10% of the total big game draw tags for hunters who are contracted with a legally licensed NM outfitter. Licenses are granted through an algorithm which applies the quota on a hunt code basis. By law at least 84% of all big game licenses in the draw go to resident hunters (algorithm applied per hunt code - 84% of 50 tags to residents, 10% to outfitter pool, and 6% to DIY hunter pool). Tags are given to the hunter, not the outfitter. But hunter is contractually obligated to use that outfitter they applied with.
- By statute, 100% of all public land cow elk permits go to residents only as well as all game permits for NMDGF wildlife management areas.
- New Mexico has a large allocation for permits on private land. There are private land deer, antelope, oryx, elk, and 4 landowner bighorn sheep permits. Deer and antelope are unlimited OTC. Elk and Oryx are restricted in number. Nonresident hunters purchase approximately 40% deer, 35% antelope, 60% elk, 80% oryx, and 100% of the private land bighorn sheep permits. The private land segment is where the NM outfitting industry predominantly operates.
- Outfitter use is not tracked on private land but is tracked on public land.
- There are very few outfitter tags left over. Leftovers are sold during an OTC "fire sale" where residents get first dibs and non-residents can obtain any that remain.

Oregon

- Oregon does allocate deer and elk tags to outfitters via controlled hunts through rule. Outfitter tags are part of existing tag allocation for non-residents. A portion of non-resident tags are available to outfitters instead of directly to non-residents in the draw. Specifically, half of the non-resident tags drawn in the previous year by non-residents. When there is only one tag for non-residents it alternates between outfitters and the regular draw each year.



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- ODFW tracks the name of the outfitter registered with the Oregon Marine Board and the specific customer that is using the tag the outfitter purchased. The tag must be allocated to the customer's licensing account for it to be used.
- Any tags that outfitters do not claim during their draw process go into the regular draw for non-residents. The outfitter draw process starts with applications in November, the draw in December and then they have until the end of March to purchase what they drew. ODFW then has an outfitter leftover sale in April and finally what remains after that is what goes into the June big game draw.
- ODFW also had a landowner tag program

Utah

- Utah does not allocate tags to outfitters. Utah does have Cooperative Wildlife Management Units which incentivize large private landowners to allow some public access and provide habitat for big game. Biologists determine how many tags are to be issued, a small percentage go into a resident draw, and the rest go to the landowner. Landowners then often work with outfitters directly.

Washington

- Washington doesn't allocate any tags/license for outfitters. WA does not license or regulate anything when it comes to hunting outfitters/guide.

Wyoming

- No tags are allocated directly to outfitters. Hunters are to draw their own tags and then seek the services of an outfitter, if they so choose.
- Landowner tags can only go to immediate family and are non-transferable.
- Guides are required for non-residents, if hunting in a wilderness area