



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

March 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *Nonresident Tag Draw Updates*

Presented by: *Tara Reichert*

Position/Title: *License Operations Manager*

Agenda Item No.: *7*
Supervisor Approval: *JO*

Background:

This presentation will provide an update on the Nonresident Draw for 2026 nonresident general season deer and elk tags, including data on the number of applications received and tags issued to date.

At the May 2025 meeting, the Commission approved temporary rule to issue nonresident general season deer and elk tags through a draw framework for the 2026 season. This approval was made after having received recommendations at the January 2025 meeting to move to a draw system from the Nonresident Tag Issuance Advisory Group, and after receiving feedback from staff regarding options to develop the draw framework at the March 2025 meeting.

The Nonresident Draw first application period was open from Dec 5 – 15th, and drawing results were announced in early January. Tags from the first application period had to be purchased by January 20th, and any tag not purchased by that deadline were forfeited and made available for the second application period, which is open February 5 – 15. Second application period results are expected to be announced in late February, and those tags must be purchased by March 20th.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Under Idaho Code, Title 36-104 provides the privilege of drawing by lot for a controlled hunt permit or tag authorizing the person to whom issued to hunt, kill, or attempt to kill any species of wild animals or birds designated by the commission under such rules as it shall prescribe.

Idaho Code, Title 36-416 establishes fees for licenses, permits, and tags.

Idaho Administrative Rules, 13.01.04 Rules Governing Licensing and 13.01.08 Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals, establish rules governing licensing, nonresident tag quotas, eligibility for applying for/buying tags, and how leftover/unsold/returned tags are available to residents and nonresidents.

Public Involvement Process:

The 10-member Nonresident Tag Issuance Advisory Group was formed by soliciting applications from the public at large. Other members of the public were welcome to provide their feedback to the group, which was used during the review process and when developing recommendations.



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Public comment opportunities (in-person or written) were available in conjunction with Commission meetings in January 2025, March 2025, May 2025, July 2025, and November 2025.

Justification:

Informational presentation to update the Commission on the implementation of the 2026 Nonresident Draw.

Staff Recommendation:

None.

Suggested Motion:

None – Informational only.