

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2021

**Agenda Item No.** 11

**Agenda Item:** Children with special needs big game tag program, Disabled Veterans special big game tag program, Commission Community Challenge Grant Program -  
- (informational updates)

**Bureau Chief Approval:** ES

**Prepared by:** Paul Kline

**Background:**

The Fish and Game Commission is authorized to issue free permits or tags for specific programs and to prescribe by rule the manner and conditions for issuing such permits or tags.

1. Children with Special Needs Big Game Tag Program. Each year, the Department makes five game tags available for children with life-threatening medical conditions. Children 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 5 tags offered. The application window is January 2 through January 31 and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This year's drawing was held April 13, 2021. Applications for seven children were received from three sponsoring organizations (Hunt of a Lifetime, Hunting Dreams and Outfitters 4 Hope). Tags were issued to four resident and one nonresident children.

2. Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Tag Program. The Department also makes five game tags available 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 5 tags offered. The application window is January 2 through January 31 and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Department works cooperatively with Division of Veterans Services staff to plan and conduct this drawing. The drawing for the coming hunt year has been scheduled for April 28, 2021.

3. Commission Community Challenge Grant Program. Applications for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Challenge Grants were accepted between March 1 and April 15, 2021. The Department received the following number of applications:

Region	Applications
Panhandle Region	2
Clearwater Region	2
Southwest Region	3
Magic Valley Region	5
Southeast Region	2
Upper Snake Region	1
Salmon Region	2
Statewide	4

Regional teams, and the statewide team, will be forming to review and rank applications. Recommendations for funding will come before the Commission for their consideration at their July, 2021, 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.

**Justification:**

Timely update on Commission/Department programs

**Staff Recommendation:**

Informational only