Meeting Date: November 15, 2022 Agenda Item No. 5B

Agenda Item: Discount Order for Nonresident Black bear, mountain lion, and wolf tags (Action)

Approval: JR

Prepared by: Jon Rachael, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Background:

The Commission has discounted nonresident black bear, mountain lion, and gray wolf tags in certain units for years to encourage additional harvest of these species where predation is a factor limiting elk populations or is causing livestock depredations or other conflicts. Many sportsmen, livestock operators, and landowners have requested the Commission take action to reduce the impacts of predation throughout the state. Reducing the price of these tags has resulted in increased nonresident participation and harvest of these species in the desired units.

Current Discount Order 20-65 was enacted by the Commission on October 8, 2020 and is set to expire December 31, 2022.

Based on a finding of biological and public need to encourage continued participation in the hunting of mountain lion and black bear in certain units, and in the hunting and trapping of wolves statewide, Department staff are recommending continuing the discount of non-resident tag fees as specified below.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code §36-415 authorizes the Commission to discount tags for specific species, units, areas, zones or gender to encourage licensed sales or to encourage hunting, fishing or trapping.

Public Involvement Process:

Public comment opportunity has been provided for this agenda item at past meetings when the Commission has previously addressed discounted these tags. Additional opportunity to comment will be provided on the evening prior to the Commission meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the discount of nonresident tag fees for mountain lion and black bear to \$41.75 and the discount of non-resident tag fees for gray wolf to \$31.75, each inclusive of vendor issuance fee, for the following species and units:

- Discounted nonresident tag fees for mountain lion (either sex) and black bear (either sex) will apply only for units 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, and those portions of units 21 and 28 within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.
- Discounted nonresident tag fees for gray wolf (either sex) will apply statewide.

<u>Suggested Motion</u>: That the Commission discount nonresident tag fees for mountain lion and black bear to \$41.75 in specified units as recommended by staff, and for gray wolf to \$31.75 for use statewide.