

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5D

Agenda Item: Wild Turkey Tag Discount Order
Renewal (**Action**)

Bureau Chief Approval: mw

Prepared by: Jeffrey M. Knetter

Background:

There are two types of turkey tags: general hunt tags and controlled hunt tags. General hunt tags are valid for spring and fall general seasons. If a general hunt tag is not used to harvest a turkey during the spring season, it may be used in a fall season. Controlled hunt tags are valid in the controlled hunt for which a hunter was drawn or in any open general hunt during the calendar year for which the tag is valid.

Commission Order 21-17 continued fee discounts for certain types of turkey tags through calendar year 2021. These discounted general hunt tags are referred to as “special unit” tags and “discounted” tags.

- “Special Unit” Tag - For use in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, and 9 in fall general seasons, and in designated depredation hunts. Fees are \$5, including the vendor issuance fee.
- “Discounted” Tag - Tag fees are discounted for the second or subsequent resident tags purchased in a calendar year following purchase of the first full-price general or controlled hunt tag purchase. These are available for use in spring and fall general seasons throughout the state. Fees are \$12.25, including the vendor issuance fee.

Staff proposes to continue the discount for both resident and nonresident “special unit” tags. Staff also proposes to continue “discounted” tags for the purchase of the second or subsequent resident tags purchased in a calendar year following the first full-price general or controlled hunt tag purchase.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission is authorized to order a discount in tag fees under the authority of Idaho Code Section 36-415, based on a finding of biological and public need to encourage participation in hunting.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department has not directly engaged the public on these topics but this Commission action item was publicly noticed.

Justification:

Turkey populations remain strong in north Idaho. Special unit tags are a valuable and effective tool for managers to use in areas where turkey populations have exceeded social tolerance. The Department also believes a discount to the second or subsequent tag(s) purchased in a calendar year following the first full-price general or controlled hunt tag purchase is necessary to increase hunting opportunity and encourage participation in wild turkey hunting.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends continuing existing discounts for resident and nonresident special unit tags, and for the purchase of the second or subsequent resident tags purchased in a

calendar year following the first full-price general or controlled hunt tag purchase, as follows (all prices include \$1.75 vendor fee):

	First tag (general or controlled hunt)	Discounted tags (up to 2)	Discounted general “special unit” tags (up to 3)
Resident w/ Pricelock	\$19.75	\$12.25	\$5.00
Resident w/out Pricelock	\$22.75	\$12.25	\$5.00
Nonresident	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$5.00

Suggested Motion: I move the Commission adopt the turkey tag discount order as presented by staff.

BEFORE THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF FEE DISCOUNTS)
FOR RESIDENT and NONRESIDENT) ORDER 21-XX
WILD TURKEY TAGS)

The Commission previously adopted Order 21-17 to continue fee discounts for certain types of turkey tags through calendar year 2021 in conjunction with adoption of omnibus rules simplifying the categories for turkey tags.

Commission Order 21-17 continued discounts for “Special Unit” Tags for resident and nonresident use in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, and 9, and in designated depredation hunts, to facilitate hunting opportunity as an effective management tool in areas where turkey populations exceed social tolerance. Similarly, Commission Order 21-17 continued discounts for purchases of second or subsequent resident turkey tags (including tags previously referred to as “Extra Tags”) to support population management in other units.

The Commission has received the Wildlife Bureau Chief’s recommendation to continue discounts for resident and nonresident turkey tags for use in the aforementioned “Special Units” and depredation hunts to facilitate hunting opportunity as an effective management tool in areas where turkey populations exceed social tolerance. The Commission also received the Wildlife Bureau Chief’s recommendation to continue discounts for the purchase of second and subsequent resident tags to facilitate hunting opportunity to support turkey population management in other units.

Therefore, under the authority of Idaho Code Section 36-415, based on a finding of biological and public need to encourage participation in the hunting of wild turkeys, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission hereby ORDERS the discount of resident and nonresident general tag fees for wild turkey, to \$5.00, inclusive of vendor issuance fee, with tag use limited to the following locations and times (which discounted tags may be referred to as “Special Unit Tags”):

- Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7 and 9, for use during fall general seasons, and in any designated depredation hunt during the calendar year.

The Commission further ORDERS the continuation of the discount to \$12.25, inclusive of vendor issuance fee, of resident fees for wild turkey, applicable to the second or subsequent tag purchased in a calendar year following the first full-priced general or controlled hunt tag purchase.

This Order is effective from January 1, 2022 – though January 31, 2024.

In setting an expiration date of January 31, 2024 for this Order, the Commission intends these discounts be reviewed no later than the setting of 2024-2025 biennial turkey seasons, expected to occur at the Commission’s January meeting in 2024.

Ed Schriever
Secretary of the Commission