

**Meeting Date:** March 24, 2022

**Agenda Item No. 5.E**

**Agenda Item:** Review of Price Lock License Fee Discount and Consideration of (“Price Lock” Order to Discount License/Tag/Permit fees with Consecutive Year Purchases)

**Bureau Chief Approval:** ES

**Prepared by:** Jim Fredericks

**Background:** Idaho Code 36-415 gives the Commission authority to order a discount in fees within certain parameters as necessary to encourage increased license sales, or encourage hunting, fishing, or trapping, or encourage the purchase of licenses in consecutive years, or to encourage the purchase of multiple tags and permits. Unless there is existing law, the Commission order shall have an effective time period.

The Price Lock discount concept was developed specifically to encourage the purchase of annual licenses in consecutive years by allowing someone to “lock in” current fees by continuing consecutive year license purchase, even when future fees increase. Essentially from a fiscal perspective – more units sold at a lower price can raise more revenue than fewer units sold at a higher price. Price Lock is designed to reduce “churn” in license purchase by providing this financial incentive.

In June of 2017, a Price Lock Discount Order was adopted by the Commission in response to the passage of House Bill 230. The legislation established a resident fee increase effective with the start of 2018 license sales, and included legislative intent that the Commission would issue an order to discount licenses, tags, and permits to eligible persons who purchase any form of annual license for 2017 and continue to purchase any form of annual license for every year thereafter through the duration of the order. The Order is effective through license year 2022.

The 2017 Price Lock Discount Order included a provision for the Department to provide a 5-year evaluation to the Commission no later than the March 2022 meeting to determine if adjustment or renewal is warranted. Staff will provide a summary evaluation of the Price Lock Discount Order and provide a recommendation on renewal.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Idaho Code 36-415

**Public Involvement Process:** There has been extensive public discussion about the Price Lock discount concept since implementation in 2017, including an outreach campaign to encourage license buyers to get “Price Locked”.

**Staff Recommendation:** Extend the Price Lock Discount Order to discount License/Tag/Permit fees with consecutive year purchases of annual licenses and also 1) apply the Price Lock discount to individuals who purchase a lifetime certificate at any time during the effective period of the order and 2) apply the Price Lock discount to any individual who purchases a 3 year license at any time during the effective period of the order.

**Proposed Motion:** I move to adopt the License Fee Discount Order, called the “Price Lock” Discount Order, to extend the discount license/tag/permit fees with consecutive year purchases as proposed by staff through license year 2027.

**Justification:** Commission adoption of a Discount Order for Price Lock is required prior to the sale of 2023 licenses in order to remain in effect.