

**Meeting Date:** November 15, 2022

**Agenda Item No. 5.F. & 5.G.**

**Agenda Item:** Discount Resident Senior Combo Licenses for Lifetime Certificate Holders & Super Hunt Applications

**Bureau Chief Approval:** AW

**Prepared by:** Michael Pearson

**Background:**

***Resident Senior Combo Licenses***--The Department began offering Lifetime Certificates for Hunting, Fishing, and Combination beginning in 1985 with a corresponding price structure for time of purchase and type of privilege. Since at least 1976, the Department has only one type of license for resident seniors – a combination license.

As the population of those with a Lifetime Certificate have aged, the Department has experienced more resident certificate holders with a single privilege that have reached age 65, and desire to “upgrade” and add the opposite privilege.

Current practice has been to sell those resident seniors a combo for \$11.75, which is the same price for a resident senior without a Lifetime Certificate. By issuing this item at full price, Lifetime Certificate Holders are not receiving any recognition of the substantial investment they have made in purchase of their hunting or fishing certificate.

In recognition, the Commission approved a discount for these holders so the price of the Senior Resident Combination License to \$6 in November of 2019. This discount order expires December 31, 2022.

This discount does not apply to nonresident Lifetime Certificate holders, as there are individual privileges available for sale for them to upgrade. This discount would also not apply to resident adult Lifetime Certificate holders under the age of 65.

***Superhunt Applications*** -- Many western state fish and wildlife agencies offer special big game auction and lottery programs to generate revenue for license funded conservation programs. Idaho’s program is the Special Control Hunt Program (“Super Hunt”) established by Commission rule (IDAPA 13.01.08.261) which offers forty (40) big game tags through a random lottery draw process. Lottery applications in Idaho are sold for individual species (Super Hunt tags-10 deer, 10 elk, 10 pronghorn, 2 moose tags) and for combined species (Super Hunt Combo-there are 2 tag packages that bundle 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 pronghorn, and 1 moose tag per package). These tags are good for any open controlled or general hunt for each species. By rule, income from the Super Hunt application fees is used for the sportsman access program. The majority of “first” applications each year are from Idaho resident hunters but many resident and nonresident applicants purchase additional applications for each draw.

In July 2015, the Commission approved a Discount Order that provided a consistent fee of \$6.00 per each Super Hunt application and \$20.00 per each Super Hunt Combo application that incorporated the vendor fee. This approach has demonstrated benefits for both revenue and customer simplicity.

To maintain the current discount that was renewed since then, the Commission must adopt a new Discount Order. Otherwise, the Department will reprogram fees to revert to standard control hunt application fees described below.

For example, without discount order:

Super Hunt elk = \$6.25 resident/\$14.75 nonresident (including vendor fees)

Super Hunt Moose = \$16.75 resident/\$41.75 nonresident (including vendor fees)  
Super Hunt Combo = \$35.50 resident/\$86.00 nonresident (including vendor fees)

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

The Commission is also authorized to discount license, tag, and permit fees to encourage the purchase of licenses in consecutive years and to encourage the purchase of multiple tags and permits (I.C. 36-415).

**Public Involvement Process:**

These discount orders have been previously presented and approved by the Commission in open session.

**Justification:**

Departmental staff have received negative feedback from resident Lifetime Certificate Hunting or Fishing holders that if they want to purchase the opposite privilege, they have to do so at full price without consideration of the investment already made. Idaho Code does not have a price for a “Resident Senior Fishing License” or a “Resident Senior Hunting License”, thus the Department does not offer these items. By discounting the Resident Senior Combo licenses for those who hold a Lifetime Hunting or Lifetime Fishing, the Department can “upgrade” these customers and provide consideration for their existing investment in Idaho’s Wildlife by purchase of a Lifetime Certificate.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt the proposed discount via a Commission Order for a five-year period starting August 11, 2022 through December 31, 2027.

**Action Requested:**

*Staff requests the following motion:*

I move to adopt the Discount Orders as drafted.