

Meeting Date: Nov 15, 2022

Agenda Item No. 7b

Agenda Item: Review of 2021 Refunds Unit 11 A

Bureau Chief Approval: ES

Prepared by: Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director

Background:

The Commission has provided the Director delegation of authority for rainchecks and refunds in the interest of efficiency and customer service due to the frequency and fact specific nature of these requests. The delegation *excludes* rainchecks or refunds for antlered Moose, Bighorn Sheep, or Mountain Goat tags, including the affiliated license; any controlled hunt tags awarded via auction or lottery, including Superhunt; and any controlled hunt tags for big game hunts that have drawing odds less than 5% as calculated by the total number of tags divided by the total number of first choice applicants.

In November, 2021, in response to a significant loss of deer in Unit 11A due to the severe outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) during the summer and fall, the Director authorized a refund to Nonresidents who had purchased 11A deer tags. Although the Commission was notified at the November 16, 2021 meeting in Lewiston that 11A refunds were pending, the number of refunds was not available at the time because those nonresident hunters had until December 1, 2021 to return their tags to Fish and Game. Staff will update the Commission on the results of the refund opportunity.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 36-408, the Commission has authority to prescribe the number and kind of wildlife that may be taken under authority of the several types of tags and permits provided for in Title 36, and the manner in which said tags and permits shall be used and validated. Consideration of requests for refunds, rain checks, and other customer service accommodations regarding license, tags and permits, is within the Commission's statutory discretionary authority.

Public Involvement Process:

The Commission delegation of authority to the Director was an action item for public comment to the Commission in January of 2015.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A, update only.

Suggested Motion:

N/A