

Meeting Date: November 14, 2018

Agenda Item No. 12.

Agenda Item: Review Discounted Fee Structure for Seniors, Youth, Disabled, and Military

Bureau Chief Approval: VM

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Background: In 2018, House Bill 529 proposed new Disabled American Veteran archery and muzzleloader permits with a fee of \$2.00 for residents and \$4.00 for nonresidents. The bill did not receive a hearing in committee so it did not advance. Currently, the fee for an archery or muzzleloader permit is \$17.75 for resident individuals who are not “price-locked” and \$16.50 for those who are “price-locked” (excluding the issuance fee). The fee is \$18.25 for nonresidents.

Unlike certain licenses and tags which have different discounted fee structures based on specific eligibility criteria such as age, none of the Sport Permits, such as archery and muzzleloader permits, have distinguishing eligibility criteria so all residents pay the same price for these permits.

Notwithstanding current Commission discount orders, including the “Price-Lock” order, the current IDFG fee structure in Idaho Code 36-416 is provided (Attachment A). As demonstrated, there are discounted license fees associated with resident individuals classified as Sr. (over 65 years of age), Jr. (age 10 to 17), Disabled which provides several criteria of eligibility including service-connected veterans disability benefit with 40% or more disability (Attachment B), and Military Furlough (a resident person engaged in the military service while on temporary furlough or leave). For nonresidents, there is a discounted license fee for those eligible for nonresident Jr. Mentor license (age 10 to 17, requires a mentor to hunt which is not a requirement for resident juniors) and the Disabled American Veteran hunting license, which includes 3 days of fishing; these two discounted nonresident licenses share the same fee structure.

There are discounted tag fees associated with resident Sr./Jr./Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for deer, elk, black bear, and turkey and discounted tag fees for the same species for holders of nonresident Jr. Mentor license and DAV hunting license.

Definition of a “Resident” in Idaho Code 36-202 also allows a member of the military service of the United States or of a foreign country, together with spouse and any children younger than 18, who have been on official active duty in Idaho for a period of at least 30 days are eligible during their assignment to purchase a resident license, which is a discount for individuals who do not maintain Idaho as their official state of residence. There is a similar provision in the resident definition for a member of the state national guard or air national guard domiciled in Idaho for at least 30 days as long as their active residency continues.

A brief review of other states illustrates a diverse array of fee structures for many sectors including active duty military and/or veteran residents. Idaho does not have a specific discounted fee for active duty military or resident veterans except for those previously described.

A summary of discounted fees compared to “full adult fees” is provided below as an illustration of differential fees for the eligible sectors described above.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: The Commission does not have authority to set license fees, but does provide policy advice to the Legislature, who sets IDFG license fees.

Public Involvement Process: The current structure of license fees in Idaho Code 46-416 received substantial public involvement through stakeholder discussions and IDFG legislative fee proposals beginning in 2014 that eventually were integrated into House Bill 230 which passed the Legislature in 2017 and increased resident license fees, created the access/depredation fee, authorized “Price Lock”, and revised several provisions of statute dealing with depredation prevention and depredation compensation.

Staff Recommendation: This briefing is to help inform the Commission about fee issues that may arise during the 2019 session.

Justification: As the Fish and Game policy body, the Commission may take positions on legislation, including fee proposals.

Table 1: Comparison of statutory discounted fees for certain residents compared to “full price” adult residents. Excludes “Price Lock” and issuance fees.

	Adult	Sr.	Jr.	Military Furlough	Disabled (includes 40% or more service disability-DAV)
Combination License	\$37.00	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$18.75	\$4.00
Hunting License	\$14.00	N/A	\$6.50	N/A	N/A
Fishing License	\$28.75	N/A	\$14.25	\$18.75	\$4.00
Deer Tag	\$23.00	\$10.75	\$10.75	\$23.00	\$23.00 \$10.75 DAV
Elk Tag	\$35.00	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$35.00	\$35.00 \$17.00 DAV

Table 2: Comparison of statutory discounted fees for certain nonresidents compared to “full price” adult nonresidents. Excludes issuance fees.

	Adult	Sr.	Jr.	DAV (40% or more service disability)
Combination License	\$238.25	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hunting License	\$153.00	N/A	\$30.00	\$30.00
Fishing License	\$96.50	N/A	\$20.00	N/A
Deer Tag	\$300.00	N/A	\$22.00	\$22.00
Elk Tag	\$415.00	N/A	\$38.00	\$38.00

Table 3: Comparison of the minimum fee for sectors of resident and nonresidents to hunt deer in a general season compared to “full price” adult resident and nonresidents. Excludes “Price Lock” and issuance fees.

	Resident	Nonresident
Adult (full fee)	\$37.00 (100%)	\$453.00 (100%)
Senior	\$22.75 (61.5% of adult fee)	N/A
Junior	\$17.25 (46.6% of adult fee)	\$52.00 (11.5% of adult fee)
Disabled	\$27.00 (73% of adult fee)	N/A
Disabled American Veteran (40% or more service disability)	\$14.75 (40% of adult fee)	\$52.00 (11.5% of adult fee)

Table 4: Comparison of statutory discounted fees for certain resident and nonresidents to hunt deer in a general archery/muzzleloader season compared to “full price” adult resident and nonresidents. Excludes “Price Lock” and issuance fees.

	Resident	Nonresident
Adult (full fee)	\$54.75 (100%)	\$471.25 (100%)
Senior	\$40.50 (74% of adult fee)	N/A
Junior	\$35.00 (63.9% of adult fee)	\$70.25 (14.9% of adult fee)
Disabled	\$44.75 (81.7% of adult fee)	N/A
Disabled American Veteran (40% or more service disability)	\$32.50 (59.4% of adult fee)	\$70.25 (14.9% of adult fee)