

Meeting Date: March 22, 2018

Agenda Item No. 5

Agenda Item: Second Deer Tags Analysis

Bureau Chief Approval:

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Background:

Nonresident Tag Quota: The Idaho Fish and Game Commission establishes a nonresident tag quota through Rule (IDAPA 13.01.04.600) that limits the number of nonresident elk and deer tags sold in Idaho each year (excluding controlled hunt tags). This quota has remained at approximately 15,500 nonresident deer tags available for purchase since 1990.

Historically, the Department sold most if not all the NR tags available in the quota (Table 1). In 2009 NR tag sales began a decline which continued through 2012 when 40% of the NR quota remained unsold at the end of the hunting season.

Table 1. Number of unsold nonresident deer tags and sell-out dates since 2003.

Year	Unsold Nonresident Deer Tags*	Date Sold Out
2003	1717	
2004	810	
2005	0	11/18/2005
2006	0	10/25/2006
2007	0	10/10/2007
2008	0	11/10/2008
2009	4,047	
2010	6,031	
2011	6,543	
2012	6,653	
2013	5,773	
2014	2,315	
2015	151	
2016	0	11/22/2016
2017	0	11/07/2017

*Deer tags include Regular & White-tailed Deer tags. Sellout dates are approximate. NR deer tag price was \$258.50 in 2008 and increased to \$301.75 in 2009.

Nonresident/Resident Second Deer Tags: Any nonresident deer tags remaining in the statewide quota after August 1 may be sold to residents and nonresidents at the nonresident deer tag price for use as a second tag.

Table 2. Number of nonresident deer tags purchased by residents and nonresidents as a second tag since 2003.

Year	2nd Deer Tags Sold to Residents	2nd Deer Tags Sold to NR	Total 2nd Deer Tags Sold*
2003	425	105	530
2004	507	208	715
2005	601	233	834
2006	634	168	802
2007	769	280	1,049
2008	1,109	497	1,606
2009	706	259	965
2010	617	193	810
2011	588	174	762
2012	685	206	891
2013	728	236	964
2014	2,048(d)	1,338(d)	3,386(d)
2015	2,224: 1,539(d) 685(f)	1,527: 681(d) 846(f)	3,751: 2,220(d) 1,531(f)
2016	1,441(f)	1,445(f)	2,886(f)
2017	1,119 (f)	1,022 (f)	2,141 (f)

*Deer tags include Regular & White-tailed Deer tags.

(d) = discount price

(f) = full price

Second deer tag sales and harvest information is summarized below:

Second Deer Tag Sales 2015-2017

- Second deer tags were not discounted in 2017. Sale of full-priced second tags generated \$642,300. With no discount in 2016, second tag sales in 2016 generated \$865,800, compared to \$901,100 in 2015 when second tags were discounted during August. However, more tags sold as first tags in 2017 and in 2016, reducing the amount available to be sold as a second tag compared to 2015.
- 52% of second deer tags were purchased by residents in 2017, compared to 50% in 2016, and 45% for residents in 2015.

2017 Second Deer Tag Distribution and Harvest

- An estimated 1,129 deer were harvested with second deer tags.
- Harvest with second deer tags accounts for <3% of statewide deer harvest.
- An estimated 52% of second deer tag buyers used the tag to hunt primarily mule deer vs. 48% hunted primarily whitetails.
- Whitetails comprised 57% of the second deer tag harvest vs. 43% mule deer (641 whitetails, 488 mule deer).
- Nonresident hunters accounted for 53% of the second deer tag harvest (255 mule deer, 346 whitetails) vs. 47% residents (233 mule deer, 295 whitetails).
- Second deer tags were used to pursue mule deer most commonly in Units 39, 43, 76, and 27 (Fig. 1). Most mule deer were harvested in Units 39 and 43 (Fig. 2).

- Second deer tags were used to pursue whitetails most commonly in Units 10A, 1, 6, 8A, and 15 (Fig. 1). Most whitetails were harvested in Units 10A, 1, and 15 (Fig. 2).

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-408 authorizes the Commission to establish a limit annually as to the number of each kind and class of licenses, tags, or permits to be sold or issued. 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). The Commission annually establishes a quota and authorizes sale of 14,000 regular or white-tailed deer tags and 1,500 white-tailed deer tags which are available only upon sell out of the 14,000 regular or white-tailed deer tags (IDAPA 13.01.04.600.01). IDAPA 13.01.04.600.04 authorizes that any unsold nonresident deer or elk tags may be sold to residents and nonresidents as a second tag, at the nonresident deer or elk tag price, beginning August 1.

Public Involvement Process:

The Commission and Department staff have received public input directly from sportsmen year-round and during Commission hearings.

Justification:

This review of second deer tag sales and information on use of these tags is provided for Commission information.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A. This agenda item is provided for Commission information.

Action Requested:

None.