

Meeting Date: March 22, 2018

Agenda Item No. 6E

Agenda Item: Set 2018 Landowner Appreciation
Program hunts

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Sal Palazzolo

Background:

Idaho's Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) was established as a mechanism for rewarding private landowners for their contribution to Idaho's wildlife.

The Department holds a separate drawing for people who own qualifying land within controlled hunt units. The number of LAP tags is based on a percentage of the number of tags allowed in the general public controlled hunt.

The Department has worked to improve consistency in implementing the LAP program. The Department will recommend issuance of LAP tags for all controlled hunts that currently lack LAP tags except those with less than ten (10) tags, youth only hunts, hunts that rotate among different Game Management Units each season-setting cycle, and hunts with no private land within the hunt area.

This agenda item will provide an overview of the proposed LAP hunts the Department is recommending adding and the rationale behind this effort.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code §36-104 grants authority that the Commission, under rules or proclamations as it may prescribe, authorize the director to issue additional controlled hunt tags and collect fees therefore authorizing landowners of property valuable for habitat or propagation purposes of deer, elk, antelope, bear or turkey, or the landowner's designated agent(s) to hunt deer, elk, antelope, bear or turkey in controlled hunts containing the eligible property owned by those landowners in units where any tags for deer, elk, antelope, bear or turkey are limited.

IDAPA 13.01.04.400 Landowner Appreciation Program prescribes the rules for landowner property registration, eligibility, hunt applications, and the controlled hunt drawing for LAP tags. Under IDAPA 13.01.04.400.07(a), *Once the Department has determined the number of controlled hunt tags to be issued in any controlled hunt unit, an additional ten percent (10%) of the number of controlled hunt tags MAY be issued as Landowner Appreciation Program tags. In subsequent years up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of controlled hunt tags MAY be issued only if the hunt is over-subscribed by eligible Landowner Appreciation Program applicants.*

Public Involvement Process:

The public is involved in the Department's biennial season setting process, in which the Fish and Game Commission sets controlled hunt numbers. The Department has not directly engaged the public on adjustments to LAP tag numbers.

Justification:

The Commission set big game seasons for 2017 and 2018, including LAP hunt tag numbers, at their March 2017 meeting. Commission action is required to adopt changes to the 2018-2019 season LAP hunts for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn and black bears.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends LAP hunts and tag levels be adjusted consistent with, and proportionate to, Commission-adopted changes in regular controlled hunts and tag levels.

Action Requested:

Approve the LAP seasons and tag numbers for the 2018-2019 hunting seasons.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopt staff recommendations for the Landowner Appreciation Program seasons and tag numbers for the 2018-2019 hunting seasons.