Meeting Date: August 22, 2019           Agenda Item No. 4E
Agenda Item: Wild Turkey Tag discounts (Action)           Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Jeffrey M. Knetter

Background:

Turkey tags
There are three types of Turkey tags: General tags, Extra tags, and Special Unit tags. A General tag is valid for spring and fall general seasons and may also be used during spring or fall controlled hunts in combination with a controlled hunt permit. If the general tag is not used to harvest a Turkey during the spring season, it may be used in the fall season. The Extra tag is a second tag available for use in spring or fall general hunt seasons; it may also be used for controlled hunts in combination with a controlled hunt permit. A Special Unit tag is valid for the fall season in Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, or 5, and also for any designated turkey depredation hunt in the state.

In 2004, the Commission discounted the price of resident Extra Turkey tags from $19.75 to $12.25 (including vendor fee) with the intent to increase hunting opportunity, reduce turkey populations, and eliminate spring Controlled Hunt Turkey tags. In 2017, the Commission reauthorized these discounts.

In 2008, the Commission discounted the price of Special Unit Turkey tags from $19.75 to $5.00 for residents, and from $80.00 to $5.00 for nonresidents, with the intent to reduce turkey populations in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5, and in designated depredation hunts statewide. In 2017, the Commission reauthorized these discounts.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:
The Commission is authorized to order a discount in tag fees under the authority of Idaho Code Section 36-415, based on a finding of biological and public need to encourage participation in hunting.

Public Involvement Process:
The Department has not directly engaged the public on these topics but this Commission action item was publicly noticed.

Justification:
Turkey populations remain strong in north Idaho. Special Unit tags are a valuable and effective tool for managers to use in areas where turkey populations have exceeded social tolerance.

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends continuing the current discounts for resident Extra Turkey tags. Staff proposes to continue the existing discounts for resident and nonresident Special Unit Turkey tags.
Staff recommendations for 2020 season prices for resident and nonresident General, Extra, and Special Unit Turkey tags (all prices include $1.75 vendor fee):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nondiscounted statutory tag price</th>
<th>General Tag</th>
<th>Extra Tag</th>
<th>Special Unit Tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident w/ Pricelock</td>
<td>$19.75</td>
<td>$19.75</td>
<td>$12.25</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident w/out Pricelock</td>
<td>$22.75</td>
<td>$22.75</td>
<td>$12.25</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested Motions:
- Commission adopt staff recommendations to continue the discount for resident Extra Turkey tags beginning in 2020 and to continue the discount price of $5.00 for both resident and nonresident Special Unit Turkey tags.