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BEFORE THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF FEE DISCOUNTS)
FOR SAGE GROUSE TAGS FOR USE IN) ORDER 21-67
FALCONRY SEASON ENDING)
MARCH 15, 2022)

At its July 2021 meeting, acting under 2021 legislation enacting a requirement for game tags for sage grouse, the Commission adopted a new sage grouse season framework in which it set tag limits by zones based on spring 2021 biological data, with a requirement that hunters purchase tags specific to the single zone they choose to hunt. The Commission intends to use this framework again for season setting after it reviews population data based on spring 2022 biological data.

The Commission previously adopted falconry seasons for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, which included seasons for falconry hunting of sage grouse from August 15, 2020–March 15- 2021 and August 15, 2021–March 15, 2022. The requirement for game tags for sage grouse became effective July 1, 2021, applicable to seasons in the second half of calendar year 2021 and subsequent years.

Under Idaho Code Section 36-403(a), all game tags are valid only during the time that the corresponding annual license for the tag is valid. As such, 2021 sage grouse tags expire on December 31, 2021. The Commission has considered input from falconers relative to the seasons set previously and biological information provided by the Department for the setting of 2021 tag limits. The Commission has determined that a discount is appropriate under Idaho Code Section 36-415 as a matter of transition from the permit framework to a tag framework in 2021, with the issue subject to review in conjunction with future season setting.

Therefore, under the authority of Idaho Code Section 36-415, based on a finding of biological and public need to support the continuation of previously set falconry seasons, while ensuring consistency with tag limits set based on 2021 biological information, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission hereby ORDERS a discount of 2022 sage grouse tags for use in falconry to the amount of zero dollars (\$0.00), with discounted tags to expire March 15, 2022.

The Commission further ORDERS that eligibility for tags discounted under this order is limited to individuals who: (1) have a license and falconry permit valid for hunting in 2022; (2) purchased a sage grouse tag for the fall 2021 season and have not killed a bird with use of said tag, and (3) surrender to the Department the unused 2021 tag.

To ensure the smooth administration of issuing tags to a small number of individuals, the Commission further ORDERS that tags discounted under this order are only available from Department offices.

A falconry hunter who has a license and falconry permit valid for hunting in 2022, but who did not purchase a sage grouse tag for fall 2021, or who does not surrender an unused 2021 sage grouse tag, is eligible to purchase an undiscounted sage grouse tag valid through March 15, 2022, subject to the 2021 tag limits and other tag requirements.



Ed Schriever
Secretary of the Commission