

**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2017

**Agenda Item No. 2.A.**

**Agenda Item:** Resolution of Tag Rain Check Request      **Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Sharon W. Kiefer

**Background:** In 2015, the Commission clarified their delegation of authority to the Director for responding to individual requests for rain checks, refunds, and other customer service accommodations for licenses, tags, and permits. The Delegation of Authority is attached.

The Director's Office has been contacted by a hunter who drew a controlled hunt tag for antlered deer in Unit 69 (Hunt No. 1052). The hunter failed to purchase the controlled hunt tag by the August 1 deadline. The unclaimed tag was subsequently drawn and purchased by through the second controlled hunt draw. The hunter claimed to not be aware of the August 1 deadline and has requested via letter and phone call to still be issued a tag for 2017 or to receive a rain check for this tag in 2018. The Director's Office has pointed out to the hunter that page 106 of the big game season proclamation clearly identifies August 1 as the purchase date for controlled hunt tags and that the controlled hunt application states it is the responsibility of the hunter to determine whether he/she was successful in drawing a controlled hunt tag.

As required, the rain check request was made prior to the start of the hunting season. This is a hunt that has drawing odds less than 5% calculated by the total number of tags divided by the total number of first choice applicants. There are 20 tags for this hunt which runs October 10 through November 30. The 2017 draw odds were 3%.

As noted in the Delegation of Authority, resolving any request for a raincheck or refund for a controlled hunt tag for a hunt with less than 5 % draw odds is not an authority delegated to the Director; such consideration remains with the Commission. A copy of the request letter and the Director's Office response is attached.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** The Commission has sole authority to consider requests for issuance or raincheck for tags that do not fall within the delegation of authority to the Director.

**Public Involvement Process:** As a commission action item, the public is notified of possible action and can provide written input.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff notes the August 1 deadline to purchase controlled hunt tags is well-publicized and has been in place for several years. This individual previously applied and drew a unit 69 tag as a nonresident in 2010.

Staff recommends the following motion should the Commission determine to issue the 2017 tag or a rain check for 2017 to Mr. Geoffrion:

*I move we approve the request by Steve Geoffrion for (Controlled Hunt 1052 tag issuance) or (a rain check in 2018 for a controlled hunt tag in Unit 69 for antlered deer).*

**Justification:** Commission has authority to act on a valid request.