



**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

600 S Walnut / P.O. Box 25  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Brad Little / Governor  
Jim Fredericks / Director

## **Non-Resident Tag Issuance Advisory Group MEETING MINUTES**

October 1, 2024

Ellary TuckerWilliams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members attending in-person included: Benn Brocksome, Ned Burns, Michael Fuller, Aaron Lieberman, and Representative James Petzke.

Members attending virtually included: Tyrel Stevenson, who was present for portions of the meeting.

IDFG staff in attendance included: Director Jim Fredericks, Ellary TuckerWilliams, Tara Reichert, Rick Ward, and Elizabeth Page

In compliance with open meeting law, members of the public had the opportunity to attend in-person at and Idaho Department of Fish and Game regional office, or virtually, through a Zoom meeting link.

Director Jim Fredericks gave opening comments.

Ellary TuckerWilliams reiterated the ground rules for the meeting, as established in a prior meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Overview of Public Comments Received**

Members of the public had the opportunity to submit public comments, which were summarized and provided to the advisory members prior to the meeting. Public comments received after September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, will be summarized and provided to the advisory group at the next meeting.

Since the last meeting, seventy-six additional public comments were received. Of these comments, 59% came from Idaho residents. Many expressed frustrations and perceived unfairness in the current tag allocation system, citing difficulties in purchasing tags for others and increased demand for wildlife resources. A majority of respondents favored a draw system for non-residents, while residents were divided between a draw and over-the-counter (OTC) system.

### *Director Comments*

The Director provided historical context for the Commission's previous decisions on non-resident tag allocation and informed the group of a proposal for 10% across-the-board maximum tag allocation for non-residents. The Director stated it would be within the advisory group's purview to discuss 10% non-resident hunting participation and provide recommendations to the Commission, so long as IDFG remained fiscally whole.

## **Open Discussion**

### *The General Non-Resident Tag Draw System*

The advisory group discussed the potential implementation of group hunt applications within a draw system. They considered how the current over-the-counter (OTC) system handles group applications and explored the likely changes under a draw system. A sequential draw was proposed, where groups would have lower priority than individuals. Each group application would be treated as a single entry, regardless of the number of members. The group agreed to further investigate the feasibility of group hunts for general hunting seasons, considering the potential benefits and challenges.

The group explored the potential advantages and disadvantages of creating an application period for the draw, suggesting it could lead to more strategic applications and reduce the need for tag resales throughout the year. The draw system application would allow for multiple choices, with the exact number to be determined by the Department.

Advisory members recommended pre-authorization for credit cards and auto-charging for successful draws. Although, concern was brought up for failed credit card authorizations, and the need for a system to address failed attempts. The group agreed that IDFG would notify successful draw applicants of failed credit card pre-authorized transaction and give a brief window for them to rectify the transaction. Otherwise, those tags would go into the second sale opportunity.

The group discussed proxy purchasing, and tag transfers. It was determined that there are no transfers between general non-resident individuals, but Outfitters maintain the ability to transfer.

Post-draw procedures, including tag pick-up requirements, will be discussed in a future meeting.

### *DAV*

While a separate DAV draw was initially considered, the group determined that incorporating DAV applicants into the general draw with specific preferences could achieve the desired outcome without the need for a separate pool. The group also discussed the possibility of group applications involving DAV and non-DAV members. This topic will be further addressed in a future meeting.

### *Outfitter Tag Allocation*

The advisory group discussed outfitter tag allocations, recognizing the need for recalculation. The group discussed various options which included maintaining the status quo, requesting a

one-time recalculation for capped zones, or requesting recurring recalculations in capped zones. They also discussed the importance of identifying the true usage of tags by outfitted clients to inform the allocation process. This will be provided at the next meeting.

*Follow-up*

- Rick Ward will provide a hypothetical outfitter reallocation based on the newly limited model at the next meeting.
- Rick Ward will provide an example of reoccurring reallocation using a 5-year average for capped zones, compared to a 2-year average at the next meeting.
- The group will discuss whether a 2-year cycle for recalculation is appropriate or if it would create excessive variability.
- Ellary TuckerWilliams will identify if the changes the group has discussed will require changing rulemaking, statute, or a combination. This is a good call-out for the Commission but is not within the purview of the groups charter.

**Review and Summation**

Ellary TuckerWilliams thanked members of the advisory group for their time and will be sending a Doodle Poll to advisory members to set the next in-person meeting, which will occur after November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Adjourn 3:00 p.m.**