



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

November 14th, 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: Aaron Lieberman, Benn Brocksome, Brad Compton, James Petzke, Jerry Cloninger, Mark Harris, Michael Fuller, Ned Burns, and Tyrel Stevenson,

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 Headquarters Building, or virtually, through a Zoom meeting link.

Virtual Meeting Ground Rules Reminder:

Ellary TuckerWilliams reiterated the ground rules for the meeting, as established in a prior meeting on July 29th, 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 November 13th, 2024, will be summarized and provided to the advisory group at the next meeting.

Since the last meeting, two additional public comments were received. The first was a request for non-residents to be able to apply as a group for tags. The second was a concern that there were vendor discrepancies and that some vendors may not be requiring people to be in person to purchase tags when tags go on sale.

Review of Staff Assignments from Previous 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.

Open Discussion:

The group engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the potential implications of restricting non-resident hunting licenses to a 10% limit. A primary concern was the potential loss of license and tag revenue for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), which is a dedicated fund agency that receives zero general fund dollars in its budget. Additionally, reducing non-resident licenses could lead to decreased federal Pittman-Robertson funding, further impacting the overall budget.

Furthermore, the group explored the potential economic consequences for local communities, especially those in rural areas dependent on hunting tourism. While limiting non-resident licenses may reduce crowding in popular hunting areas, it could negatively impact businesses catering to hunters.

The group questioned the efficacy of a 10% cap in significantly reducing crowding and weighed the potential drawbacks. They also acknowledged the challenges of enforcing such a limit and the possibility of individuals circumventing it.

Ultimately, the group leaned towards avoiding a strict 10% cap on non-resident hunting licenses. They advocated for further analysis and public input to identify the most suitable course of action.

Rick Ward presented a comparative analysis of reoccurring reallocation using a 5-year average for capped zones versus a 2-year average. He also outlined a hypothetical scenario of outfitter reallocation based on the proposed limited model.

The group recognized the trade-offs between a 2-year and 5-year average. A 2-year average could offer greater flexibility for outfitters, while a 5-year average could provide more stability.

The group acknowledged the need to update the outdated allocation system for capped zones to reflect current demand. They aimed to strike a balance between outfitter allocations and non-outfitted tags, ensuring fair access for all hunters. Additionally, they recognized the potential of outfitter allocations to incentivize responsible land management and conservation efforts.

To address these complex issues, the group considered various potential solutions. These included implementing a moderate cap on allocation growth, adjusting fees for tags in high-demand zones, establishing a separate draw system for outfitted tags, and encouraging voluntary rest periods for specific areas.

The group recognized the need for further deliberation and analysis to arrive at a solution that is equitable for all stakeholders.

Review and Summation:

Ellary TuckerWilliams thanked members of the advisory group for their time. Members set the next in-person meeting, to Friday, November 22nd, 2024.

Adjourn: 4:00 p.m.