

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game considers the following document to be an agency guidance document for purposes of Idaho Executive Order 2020-002. The guidance document is not new law; it is the Department's interpretation or implementation of existing law.

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Tag Exchange Guidelines for General Season Tags and Controlled Hunt Tags

General Season Tag Exchanges:

General season tags may be exchanged at any IDFG office location, or received via mail (not postmarked), before July 31st. As of 2026, general season tags cannot be exchanged after July 31st, per IDAPA 13.01.04, **including exchange to LAP tags**.

General season tags may be exchanged online only during scheduled [Returned Tag Sales](#).

To exchange a tag:

1. Is the exchange requested before July 31st?
 - a. Yes; proceed using the steps outlined below.
 - b. No; do not proceed. As of 2026, general season tags cannot be exchanged after July 31st, per IDAPA 13.01.04, **including LAP tags**.
2. Is the new tag the customer wants in a sold-out elk zone or deer unit?
 - a. Yes; do not proceed. There are no tags available to exchange.
 - b. No; proceed with the tag exchange using the steps outlined below.
3. Ensure customer is aware of the tag exchange fee of \$3.75 (specifically, if mailing in the tag), if they are exchanging between general season tags.
 - a. Note that no fee is charged when exchanging from a general season tag to a controlled hunt tag and the exchange fee should be overridden during checkout.
 - b. If the controlled hunt is issued as a leftover, the hunter must pay the leftover application fee.
4. Process the exchange and ensure the original tag is surrendered by the hunter.

Big Game Seasons and Rule Brochure reference for exchanges:

General season tag exchanges must be completed at any Fish and Game office on or before July 31st. General season tags cannot be exchanged after July 31st, per IDAPA 13.01.04. Exchanges can be processed at a Fish and Game office or via mail, for a fee of \$3.75. Deer hunters may exchange a general season regular deer tag for a white-tailed deer tag or vice versa; and elk hunters may exchange general season elk tags for use in another zone. For elk general seasons with a tag quota, the exchange must be made before the quota has been met.

Controlled Hunt Tag Exchanges:

Controlled hunt tags may be exchanged at any IDFG office location, or received via mail (not postmarked), until the first day of the hunt of the controlled hunt tag season; except, a general season tag may not be exchanged to a controlled hunt tag, **including LAP tags**, after July 31st. As of 2026, general season tags cannot be exchanged after July 31st, per IDAPA 13.01.04.

To exchange a tag:

1. Has the original controlled hunt tag season started?
 - a. Yes; do not proceed. Controlled hunts cannot be exchanged after the first day of the hunt.

- b. No; proceed using the steps outlined below.
- 2. Is the new tag the customer wants a general season tag in a sold-out elk zone or deer unit?
 - a. Yes; do not proceed. There are no tags available to exchange.
 - b. No; proceed with the tag exchange using the steps outlined below.
- 3. Ensure customer is aware of the tag exchange fee of \$3.75 (specifically if mailing in the tag) if they are exchanging between controlled hunt tags.
 - a. Note that no fee is charged when exchanging from a general season tag to a controlled hunt tag and the exchange fee should be overridden during checkout.
 - b. If the controlled hunt is issued as a leftover, the hunter must pay the leftover application fee.
- 4. Process the exchange and ensure the original tag is surrendered by the hunter.

Big Game Seasons and Rule Brochure reference for exchanges:

Controlled hunt tags may be exchanged for general season tags if done before the opening of the controlled hunt for the tag successfully drawn. Exchanges must be completed at a Fish and Game office, or by sending the original tag along with a written request for exchange, with an exchange fee of \$3.75. If there is a waiting period in a succeeding year, the person will be required to wait the specified time period before applying for that hunt again. Written requests should be sent to Idaho Fish and Game, Attention: Licenses, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707.