

Meeting Date: May 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 6c

Agenda Item: Adjustment to 2009 Outfitter Allocated

Approved by: _____

Tags

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

In March 2009, the Commission implemented new caps on Diamond Creek 'A', Sawtooth 'A', and Sawtooth 'B' elk zone tags (Table 1). The number of outfitted nonresident tags was based on historic use information provided by the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board in March.

The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board has informed us their original calculation of historic use was inaccurate, and they request a modification to the 2009 allocation established in March.

Table 1. Original Commission approved elk tag allocation for the Diamond Creek 'A', Sawtooth 'A', and Sawtooth 'B' elk zone tags.

Elk Zone (Tag)	Units	Total Tags	General Resident Tags	General Nonresident Tags	Outfitter Allocation
Diamond Creek (A)	66A, 76	1837	1017	800	20
Sawtooth (A)	33, 34, 35, 36	1342	1209	107	26
Sawtooth (B)	33, 34, 35, 36	2382	2048	274	59

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

13.01.04.505. DEER AND ELK TAG ALLOCATION.

01. Allocation of Tags. Pursuant to Idaho Code, Section 36-408, the Fish and Game Commission may allocate a number of deer and/or elk tags for use by hunters with signed agreements with licensed outfitters in zones with limited numbers of tags. The allocation will be calculated on a zone basis with reductions or increases in hunting opportunities to be proportionate among resident hunters, nonoutfitted nonresident hunters, and outfitted hunters. When the number of hunters in a general hunt unit or zone becomes restricted, the Department will calculate the initial number of allocated tags for each zone using the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board's records of average historic use during the previous five (5) year period. Where it is biologically feasible, any reductions in the number of tags available within a zone which exceeds twenty percent (20%) will be spread over a three (3) year period with a maximum reduction of fifty percent (50%) taken in the first year and twenty-five percent (25%) in the second year. When an area becomes controlled, hunt application and eligibility rules will apply to allocated tags in controlled hunts. Only those units or zones with licensed outfitted areas with historic use will be considered for tag allocation.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends adjusting the 2009 elk tag allocations for Diamond Creek 'A', Sawtooth 'A', and Sawtooth 'B' zones as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Proposed final 2009 elk tag allocation for the Diamond Creek 'A', Sawtooth 'A', and Sawtooth 'B' elk zone tags.

Elk Zone (Tag)	Units	Total Tags	General Resident Tags	General Nonresident Tags	Outfitter Allocation
Diamond Creek (A)	66A, 76	1837	1017	772	47
Sawtooth (A)	33, 34, 35, 36	1342	1209	106	27
Sawtooth (B)	33, 34, 35, 36	2382	2048	265	69

Justification:

Commission action required to adjust quotas in capped zones, and accommodate Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board request for adjustment to accurately reflect historic use.