

Meeting Date: November 17, 2016

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: Informational Review of Access Yes Program

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

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Background:

The Access Yes! program improves sportsmen's access to private land or through private land to public land by compensating willing landowners who provide recreational access.

In 2016, the *Access Yes!* Program has 87 agreements opening 360,618 acres of private land and providing access through private land to 480,655 acres of public land.

Funding for the program comes from 2 major sources: 1) License (\$238,263), 2) PR (\$180,000). The majority of license funding is generated through the lottery of 40 Super Hunt Tags. The vast majority (>83%) of the annual budget is committed to leases with landowners, with the remaining budget (<17%) used for limited personnel time, advertising costs, signs, and printed guides.

Regional implementation of the *Access Yes!* Program is primarily through 7 regional Landowner/Sportsman Coordinators. Allocation of program funds among the regions is largely based on private land availability and demand by landowners and sportsmen.

Sportsmen review committees provide recommendations to the Regions on access needs, and individual landowner bids to secure the highest priority needs and greatest value for sportsmen.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code §36-104 grants authority to the Commission to enter into lease agreements with private landowners. IDAPA 13.01.08.261 provides rules for the implementation of a special controlled hunt drawing to fund sportsmen's access.

Public Involvement Process:

None. Informational presentation.

Justification:

Commission request for a briefing.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A

Action Requested:

N/A