Idaho Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board



Newsletter

Fall Issue October 2023

Board Mission:
Safeguarding the health,
safety, and welfare of the
public, and to assist with
conservation efforts



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As a reminder, the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB) is now administered under the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, or DOPL for short. Recently, the OGLB website was updated as part of this change. The websites of all Boards and Commissions served by DOPL are being updated to provide a uniform format that simplifies and streamlines the licensing process for individuals licensed in multiple occupations.

The recently updated OGLB website has a new link, so please be sure to update your bookmarked tabs with the current website: dopl.idaho.gov/oglb.

The updated website has a lot of useful information and links. You can find newsletters such as this and more time-sensitive information at the top of the webpage. Below that is a link to "Apply for or Renew a License" which provides a few options depending on what you need.

- If you are a new applicant or an outfitter looking to enter a buy/ sell agreement with another outfitter, the "New Outfitters & New Outfitters Purchasing a Business" and "Existing Outfitters Purchasing or Selling a Business" tabs respectively will have all the information and paperwork you need to get started.
- If you are looking to become a guide or are an active guide that needs to add an activity, the "Guide Applications and Amendments" tab has the necessary paperwork.

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• The "Outfitter Amendments" tab is a catch-all for all other paperwork needed to add a new area or activity to an active license.

If you are looking to simply renew, then please follow the directions on the "Renewal" tab.

Back on the home page, you will find tabs for other useful information such as;

- The Board's current Statutes and Rules. If you are looking for pending rules, then head to the DOPL website, click the "Rulemaking" tab, and then the "Occupational Licenses" tab, and scroll down to Outfitters and Guides.
- "Outfitters and Designated Agents" has important information regarding current rules and useful links for outfitters and designated agents to be aware of.
- "Search for a License" allows you to look up active outfitters and guides to verify licensure.
- The "Guides" tab has important information and links for guides to be aware of as we go through the new rules change that make a Guide responsible for their own license.
- "File a Complaint Against a Licensee" takes you to an online complaint form for reporting violations. The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board does not have jurisdiction over criminal offenses. Unlicensed outfitting and guiding is a crime (IC § 36-2104). Please report wildlife crime to IDFG online at idfg.idaho.gov/tipline or call: 800-632-5999. You can also report a crime to the applicable law enforcement agency.
- "Amendments" has the same information and forms for outfitter amendments, along with the forms for:

Bear Cougar Wolf Overlaps One-time Controlled Hunts Hazardous Excursions

Hot Pursuit Agreements

Clearwater Sticker Requests

• Lastly, the "Tag Designation" tab has information on the current tag allocation and designations timeline, calculations, and forms related to hunting tags.

You can also find other sections for Board News and the Board Meeting Calendar at the bottom of the home page. Just above is additional information such as current board members, meeting minutes, and general information for links to other state agency websites and fire information.

The website will continue to see updates with more helpful information and links. Check back frequently to stay in the loop on various rule proposals, tag designations, process changes, and more.

Continue on for the Enforcement Corner News »



Enforcement Corner

Unlicensed outfitting and guiding are a crime (IC § 36-2104). Please remember that safety should always be your first priority when acting as a witness to a crime.

• Report a wildlife crime online to Idaho Fish & Game: idfg.idaho.gov/tipline or call: 800-632-5999;

or

• Report a crime to the applicable law enforcement agency (i.e., Sheriff's Department, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management).

The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board does not have jurisdiction over criminal offenses.

On behalf of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, there were 22 complaints investigated in fiscal year 2023 (July 2022—June 2023).

Common complaints that were investigated include the following:

- Failing to disclose a conviction on a renewal application
- Willfully operating in an area for which the licensee is not licensed
- Willfully engaging in any activity for which the licensee is not licensed
- Fraudulent, untruthful or misleading advertising
- Substantial breach of any contract with a person utilizing the licensee's services
- Employment of an unlicensed guide by an outfitter
- Guiding without a current license
- Failure of an outfitter to serve the public by non-use of license privileges
- Harassment of the public in their use of Idaho's outdoor recreational opportunities
- Failure to display Clearwater stickers while guiding
- Failure to meet the minimum qualifications of a guide
- Outfitter is responsible for maintaining the standards set forth in their Operating Plan and for the actions of all guides and other employees while in the scope of their employment

To file a complaint on a licensed outfitter or guide, please visit <u>dopl.idaho.gov</u>. Anonymous complaints are not accepted. Once a complaint is investigated, it is presented to the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board for potential disciplinary action.

Rule Changes, Updates, and Proposals

As an update to the June newsletter, the new licensing system is still in development with no updates at the moment, but has now been officially named the Occupational Administration and Standardized Information System, or OASIS for short. As mentioned last time it will not launch until mid-2024, if not a little later. Therefore, 2024 renewals will be the same as they were in 2023. Be sure to submit your use reports prior to renewal as you are not able to renew online until you have completed your use reports. Be sure to include all of your use for all areas, as minimal or non-use is reviewed by the Board annually and may lead to the relinquishment of the relative areas.

There have been a few questions regarding the recent rule changes in April 2024. Below is a mini FAQ of a few of these questions:

Q: IDAPA 24.35.01.103.03: What does "a guide license is only valid when in the employment of an Idaho outfitter" mean?

A: Once the new OASIS licensing system is active, Guides will be responsible for maintaining their own license. This means initial application, renewals, amendments, etc. A guide will be able to get their license separate from an outfitter as long as they meet the qualifications, however, the license will not be valid unless the guide is operating under the employ of an outfitter. So, a guide can get a license without an outfitter but cannot operate without working for an outfitter.

Q: IDAPA 24.35.01.200: How are licensees expected to provide proof of licensure and employment while engaged in licensed activities?

A: Currently, and with the new licensing system, a copy of your license is emailed to you in a pdf. You may print off this pdf and carry it on your person out in the field. You can also have a picture of it saved to your phone as long as it can be accessed and is legible.

Currently, a guide's license will show which outfitters they are employed by and this will be similar in the new system as well, but the process to add an outfitter to a guide license may change.

Outfitters and Guides are responsible for knowing and understanding the rules. Please take the time to review all the changes and new language.

Current Proposed Rules

There have been a few public meetings this year regarding four proposed rule changes. These rule changes will be on the table for discussion during the upcoming quarterly Board meeting, scheduled for Oct 5th. The Board will be moving these rules from proposed to pending during this meeting. Once pending, the rule changes will move on to the 2024 Legislative Session. If you wish to comment on any of the changes you will be able to do so during the public comment period of the next meeting and will have more opportunities throughout the upcoming Legislative Session.

To see the current proposals please follow this link <u>Microsoft Word - OGLB rule cleanup - 07-20-2023 (idaho.gov)</u> The following page contains a summary of the proposals.

• IDAPA 24.35.01.257.09.

Subsection c. is added for the undesignated tag pool to clarify that tags designated from the pool will not be considered historical use until all tag transfers and hardships have been resolved. This has been proposed to prevent the artificial growth of tags as a number of tags have been counted twice due to tags reverting to the undesignated tag pools from transfers, and in some cases, hardships.

What this would mean for those who request tags through the waiting list is that if the tag they end up receiving from the undesignated pool was originally a transferred tag or a tag that reverted to the pool but is then later part of a hardship case, the outfitter who used that tag from the pool will not receive the use credit for that tag. The credit will remain with the original outfitter.

We do not anticipate this happening often. Though as it is a rare occurrence, it does occasionally happen and is a situation that the Board must address as artificial growth affects both allocation and designations equally.

• IDAPA 24.35.01.259.01

The CF1 is proposed to change from 4 outfitters to 2 as there is a concern for the amount of activity this river section can sustain during the spring season. This proposal does not affect the current outfitters as there are currently 2 licensed on this river section.

The Board is also proposing that a CF2 be added to the rules with a limit of 2 outfitters. This will have the same boundaries as the CF1 but will have a more limited fishing season in order to assist with preserving the resources the river provides.

The proposed change to PR1 changes the outfitter limit from 5 to 2 as there have been a number of concerns regarding the safety on the river, along with some concerns for the resources the river can offer. This proposal does not affect the current outfitters as there are currently 2 licensed on this river section.

• IDAPA 24.35.01.259.04

Hayden Lake is proposed to be removed from the table, thus increasing the number of outfitters from the current limit of 1 to the standard 2 as outlined in section 05., just below the table.

Thank you for reading and hope you enjoy the fall weather! Stay safe out there!





Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board

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Visit our Website at:

Outfitters and Guides Licensing

Board Members

Brad Compton (Chair)

Louise Stark (Vice Chair)

Tammy Overacker (Member)

Erik Weiseth (Member)

Dennis Skinner (Public Member)

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Upcoming Meetings

October 5—Quarterly Meeting

November 28—Quarterly Meeting