



Newsletter

Summer Issue **June 2023**

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



If you are not aware, new rule changes went into affect on April 6, 2023. Below is a brief summary of these changes, and on page 2 you will find more details on key changes. We encourage all outfitters and guides take time to read not only this but also the new rules themselves which can be found on the OGLB website.

Summary of changes made in redline draft:

24.35.01 – Rules of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board

Pages 1-3, rule 003, definitions: Removed terms that are no longer used, defined elsewhere (OGLB statute or IDFG statute/rule), or are used just once in the rule.

Pages 4-6, license-related sections were combined into new sections 100 and 101 and simplified (restrictions, renewal, new application, outfitter/DA responsibilities).

Pages 8-10 contain the complete rework of Guide licensure and qualifications for the various activities.

Most importantly, the guide licenses are independent from the Outfitter licenses, and the outfitters no longer obtain the licenses for the guides. This provides the guides control over their own license and the ability to work for multiple outfitters.

Instead of pages 14-22 listing detailed requirements of training and experience for a guide in every major type of activity (hunting, boating, snow, mountaineering, etc.), this was simplified and condensed to less than 3 pages.

The guide license is valid as long as the guide has an employment agreement with an outfitter.

The guide’s qualifications and training for area-specific activities are the responsibility of the hiring outfitter. Training logs will be up to the outfitter and the guide to work out as part of their em-



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ployment arrangement.

Page 10, Rule 201—Third Party Agreements section was simplified to a simple definition and examples were removed.

Pages 10-11, Rule 202, Standards for Non-Use was boiled down to the basic requirement and necessary definitions. The process and required documentation will be moved to the website.

Pages 12-13, Rule 203, Operating Area consolidated a number of smaller sections into this one rule containing any special considerations for an outfitter's operating area, such as Hot Pursuit, safety/conflict/environmental considerations, predator overlap, and controlled hunts outside of operating area.

Page 14, Rule 204, Business Items: The Board is working to leave business considerations to the business owners rather than having them managed by the Board.

Pages 22-25, Rule 257, Designation of Hunting Tags:

Updated to match changes in allocation made by IDFG (use reporting, season setting, etc.),
Generally cleaned up

Clarified tag calculations that were confusing or did not work (ex: averaging 2 years of use when the hunt was new and had only one year of use)

Changed "outfitter" to "outfitting operation"

Updated the tiebreaker process to be more equitable, and

Updated the hardship section to remove specific dates and examples of good cause.

Pages 25-36, Rule 259, River Sections: There are minor updates regarding descriptions of a few river sections that came from the US Forest Service, along with changes in numbers of outfitters to be licensed on certain sections.

Pages 37-38, removed Executive Director authorizations as those now rest with the Division.

Page 38, Rule 300, the board removed discipline language that duplicated the statute.

Note these important changes:

101.04 License Expired and Reinstatement

If licenses expire and are not reinstated within 6 months, the operating area and activities may become an available opportunity.

103. Guide License Application Requirements

Guides will be responsible for their own licenses. This will be implemented with the new Licensing System in Mid-2024. At this time, the renewal process will proceed the same as last year except that the updated training requirements outlined in the new rules are in effect.

103.02 Activity-Specific Qualifications

These will include updated training requirements.

a. Hunting.

Has specified training for both the activity and the outfitter's operating area.



- b. Float or Power Boating on Unclassified Water.
Changed to at least one (1) complete commercial float or power boat trip on each of the sections or lakes applied for.
 - e. ATV-UTV-Snowmobiling
Now includes at least ten (10) days of experience in the outfitter's operating area.
 - f. Snow-Based Non-Motorized Travel in Avalanche Terrain
Added language to clarify what is required.
 - g. Rock Climbing/Mountaineering
Specified requirements were added to eliminate the need for an appearance before the Board.
 - h. Equestrian Activities
Newly added subsection.
- 103.03 Validity
A Guide's license will only be valid while in the service of an outfitter.
200. License Production
When engaged in licensed activities guides will need a copy of the license available that identifies a guide's employing outfitter.
207. Boat Transport of Hunting Clients
Unless licensed or in an agreement with a licensed outfitter, a boatman licensee must not transport big game hunters to any hunting area.
259. River, Lake, and Reservoir Power and Float Outfitter Limits
BL1, updated language and description.
BO2, increased from 2 to 4 outfitters with a maximum of two (2) outfitters who may be licensed for fishing in addition to float boating.
SH2, updated description.
SS1, updated description.
SN2, updated language and description.
SN3, updated language and description.

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



CHANGES AND WHAT TO EXPECT

With the new rules, you will note one of the biggest changes is that guides will be responsible for their own license and will no longer go through the outfitters to become licensed. A guide will still need to work for an outfitter for their license to be valid, and outfitters will still have to sign off on area specific training as required under the revised rules.

This change provides many challenges for staff, and as such, will not be implemented until later in 2024. We will do our best to prepare you for this change once we are ready to roll it out with a new online licensing system. In the meantime, outfitters and guides will still go through the standard process for licensure; please be aware of the changes made to the training requirements as this is already in effect.

Some may have already seen that the website has also changed. If you have not, please go check it out and remember to regularly check back for more updates. All the information from this newsletter will also be readily available on the website.

The website change is in part due to the Outfitters and Guide Licensing Board (OGLB) coming under the umbrella of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL). DOPL was created by the governor in 2020 and now houses over 48 boards and commissions. You can think of us as the administrators for the Board, performing all of the administrative work, such as these newsletters and license renewals. When you see a letter or your license coming from a DOPL email, just know it's still from OGLB. All Board meeting notices are posted on the DOPL website so be sure to follow them both. Another link to the calendar will be found on OGLB's main website, as well.

OGLB main page: [OGLB Portal Home \(idaho.gov\)](https://www.idaho.gov/ogl)

DOPL main page: [Welcome to Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses \(idaho.gov\)](https://www.idaho.gov/do)

We mentioned that there will be a new licensing system soon. This is still in early development and is not expected to roll out until later in 2024. This new system will be standard across all boards under the Division's umbrella. With it, we hope to make the user experience more streamlined and easier. This new system is also needed to assist staff in tracking the changes for the Guide licensure updates. We will provide more information and updates regarding the implementation of this new system as we get closer to release. This information will be provided in letters such as this and posted on our website. For now, we ask that you hold any questions you may have about the system until we have more information. Thank you for your patience as we work through this together, as it will be a new system for us as well.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can outfitters still renew licenses for their guides?

A. Yes. Outfitters will still be able to renew a guide's license, however, guides will be required to have their own account with the new system as they are ultimately responsible for their own license.

Outfitters should ensure their guides review any applications on their behalf for approval, as any disciplinary actions regarding the license will reflect on the guide.

Q. What is the difference between allocation and designation?

A. Allocation is done by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to set the number of outfitter set-aside tags for outfitter use. Tags are allocated by elk zone or deer unit. Designation is done by the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board to determine the number of tags each outfitter gets from the pool of outfitter set-aside tags (allocation or allocated tags). Tags are designated to individual outfitters.

Allocation is done first and determined through a separate process done by IDFG staff. Designation comes after Allocation is set and is done through calculations that consider an outfitter's historical use, and is performed by board staff.

Q. What is the difference between certified use and verified use when reporting use for tags?

A. Certified use of a tag is when use is reported for a tag that was allocated for Outfitters, and then designated to you. Certified use reports are \$5.00.

Verified use of a tag is when use is reported for a non-allocated tag, meaning a hunter you contracted with that used their own personal tag for hunting. Verified use reports are \$20.

Reminder: There is an updated form for certifying and verifying use. [Link here.](#)

Q. Why do I have to pay to report the verified use of a tag if it does not increase my designation?

A. You are not required to report the use of any tags outside of your designation. If you choose not to report use of a non-allocated tags it cannot count as historical use, meaning that if the IDFG Commission ever does increase allocation for a hunt you will not be credited for any non-allocated use that you did not report.

At the same time, verifying the use of a non-allocated tag does not guarantee an increase in allocation during the next season. There are other factors that go into allocation outside of outfitter use, but it **may** result in an increase.

You are also not required to utilize all of your designated tags if you do not wish to do so. Keep in mind this can result in a decrease in your future designations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the difference between limited, capped, and controlled hunt tags?

A. Limited tags are general season deer and elk tags, limited for nonresidents but unlimited for residents. Capped zone tags are general-season elk tags in elk zones where a maximum number of tags are made available, or capped, and applies to both nonresidents and residents. Controlled hunt tags are limited tags (except for unlimited controlled hunts) issued through a lottery system. Controlled hunts generally offer specialized hunt areas and opportunities that differ from general season hunts, such as mature buck and bull opportunities or antlerless opportunities.

Q. Why is my use of a landowner tag not shown on my Use Verification Letter?

A. Landowner Permission Hunt tags and Landowner Appreciation tags are both types of depredation hunts. Under current Idaho Statute title [36-408\(4\)](#), it states; *Those tags not qualified for allocated tag use history include emergency depredation, landowner appreciation program hunts, or meat packing without an outfitted allocated deer or elk tag.* Landowner Permission Hunts found in the controlled hunt sections of the Idaho Big Game Regulations fall under the same category as a depredation hunt.

Q. What will be the new process for guides to get licensed?

A. With our new licensing system still on the horizon, we unfortunately do not have the answer just yet. Stay tuned for more information as we work through building a new system to facilitate all of the process needed to support the new rule updates, such as biennial renewals, area specific training, and other new training requirements that may require new forms.



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Visit our Website at:

[OGLB Portal Home \(idaho.gov\)](https://www.idaho.gov/oglportal)



Board Members

Brad Compton (Chair)

Louise Stark (Vice Chair)

Tammy Overacker (Member)

Erik Weiseth (Member)

Dennis Skinner (Public Member)

Upcoming Meetings

July 6—Quarterly Meeting

September 29—Quarterly Meeting

November 28—Quarterly Meeting