

## Idaho Outfitters &amp; Guides Licensing Board



# Newsletter

## April 2025

### Board Mission:

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



## 2025 Legislative Update

The Board, at its September 3, 2024, meeting, approved a final version of edits (Pending Rule Chapter) to several Rules in IDAPA 24.35.01. Below is a summary of the changes that were approved by the legislature, which will go into effect on July 1, 2025:

002.08. Is being simplified as there is duplicative language covered under Idaho Code 36-2102(r). It will define “Hazard” as “potential dangers to the health, safety, or welfare of the outfitted public which are known risks inherent to an outfitted or guided activity.”

100.03. Removal of outfitter and designated agent examination as required by Idaho Code 67-9409(4) which does not allow for jurisprudence examinations.

103.02.b. Has a few changes to clarify the training requirements for float boating on classified water.

b.i. “Three (3) complete float boat trips on each of the classified rivers applied for under the supervision of an outfitter or guide licensed for that river.”

b.ii. is a clarification added after feedback from the industry.

b.iii. is a clarification added after feedback from the industry.

103.05. Clarifies the renewal period for guides and gives the board discretion to waive fees for a reinstatement of a guide license. This brings Rule in line with the statute and adds no reinstatement fees. There are no fees charged for the reinstatement of guides licenses.

205.04. Deleted “including all applicable fees.” Fees will now be collected when the applicant is selected for the opportunity.

257.09. Addresses confusion about what happens to the pool after

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the July 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. To address this, the language in 09.b has been simplified, and the date of July 16<sup>th</sup> has been added to specify what happens before the deadline.

259.01. December 31<sup>st</sup> was an oversight during last year's pending changes. November 30<sup>th</sup> coincides with IDFG's recommendations to not allow outfitted fishing during the catch-and-release rainbow trout season which begins on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

259.02. Addition of the Little Salmon River to rule as a licensable river section for float boating.

259.04. Increases the number of boats per operator on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Lake Pend Oreille, and Priest Lake from one(1) to two(2).

259.05 Adds the word "fishing" for clarification.

## **2025 Legislative Bills Passed**

During the 2025 legislative session, the following bills were passed that will have an impact on the industry beginning July 1, 2025.

H0015 - This legislation establishes that all accredited postsecondary schools in Idaho receive an exception to the requirement of being a licensed outfitter through the Idaho Outfitters and Guides. Under existing law, the provision for state employees creates an exception for this requirement to public postsecondary schools but not private postsecondary schools.

Any schools that meet this standard will continue to require federal/state permits to operate on federal and state lands.

S1013 - This bill brings from rule what must be taught in a hunter and trapping education course while also consolidating the requirements. It adds the requirement that students must receive instruction on trespassing and personal and real property tampering laws.

The bill also allows individuals to trap under the supervision of a certified guide without the individual being certified themselves. This allows the individual to receive hands-on instruction and take the animals trapped without having to take a trapping education course. If that individual ever wishes to trap independently, they will still have to take the trapper education course but will have the additional experience.

## **2025 Rule Change Process**

The Board will be proposing possible Rule changes at the upcoming meeting in May. Proposed rules will be posted on the Board website and the Idaho Administrative Bulletin to allow for public comment and include open meeting opportunities where anyone may comment in person. Dates for all meetings are posted on the bottom of the board's webpage and are available on the DOPL calendar, links below.

Board webpage: [Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board | Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses](#)

DOPL Calendar: [Meeting Calendar | Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses](#)

# Online Licensing System Updates

- **Public Search Update:** The public search now shows an outfitter's operating areas and activities. To find this, search for an outfitter, then click "View Attributes" under the License section. Outfitters can also view the expiration dates of guides and designated agents on their roster in the same area by scrolling to the bottom under "Relationships."
- **Need Help?** Detailed steps and screenshots on how to find this information are available on the board's webpage under "How to Manage Outfitter Rosters and Requests." Look for this guide at the top of the board webpage.
- **Guides Without a 2024 License:** If you did not hold a 2024 license, it was not transferred to the new system, so you'll need to reapply for licensure. During reapplication, make sure to submit your training and first aid information. You do not need to submit the original training form—recent experience is fine. Please note: incomplete applications may cause delays.
- **Linking Your License:** Guides with a 2024 license who are having trouble linking their license to their new online account can check the "How to Associate a License to Your Online Profile" guide on the board's webpage. If you need help, you can also contact us by phone or email, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- **Applying for a New License:** If you decide to apply for a new license, you will lose access to your 2024 license and will not be able to renew it. There is a \$20 application fee, which is non-refundable.
- **SSN Issues for those with multiple professional licenses:** If you hold other professional licenses under the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL), you might see a SSN verification error. This happens because the old system did not collect SSNs, while other boards did. If this happens, do not worry—it is common and can be fixed. Simply reach out to us, and we will take care of it.

## Important Licensure Reminders

### **Renewal Process:**

There have been questions about whether guides must renew their licenses by April 1<sup>st</sup> and what happens if they do not. While there is a new licensing system, the **renewal process has not changed**.

- After March 31<sup>st</sup>, **renewals will be labeled as "reinstatements"** in the system.
- This **reinstatement** process is the same as a renewal and is simply a late renewal. **No additional fees** apply for guides.
- Designated agents will have a reinstatement fee of \$35 per Idaho Code 36-2614.

### **Reinstatements (late renewals):**

- Guides and designated agents can reinstate their license **up to five years after it lapses**.
- Once a license has been lapsed for over five years, it **cannot be reinstated**, and the individual must reapply for licensure.

# Online Licensing System Updates

## Outfitters' Renewal Process:

- o Outfitters who do not renew by March 31<sup>st</sup> will also need to **reinstate** their license.
- o However, there is a **penalty fee** for outfitter reinstatement, which is **\$150** as per Idaho Code 36-2108(d).
- o Outfitters have **six months** (according to IDAPA 24.35.01.101.04) to reinstate their license.
- o If they do not reinstate within six months, the Board may **consider the operating area and activities as available opportunities for others**.

In summary: Guides will see "reinstatement" instead of "renewal" in the system after March 31<sup>st</sup>, but the process remains the same, and there are no extra fees. Designated agents will have a \$35 reinstatement fee. Outfitters will face a penalty fee for late renewals, and they have six months to reinstate before facing potential consequences.

## Enforcement Corner

Unlicensed outfitting and guiding are crimes (IC § 36-2104). The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board does not have jurisdiction over criminal offenses. Criminal activity should be reported as follows:

Wildlife crimes can be reported online to Idaho Fish & Game: [idfg.idaho.gov/tipline](https://idfg.idaho.gov/tipline) or by calling: 800-632-5999;

Other crimes should be reported to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the area (i.e., Sheriff's Office, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management).

*Remember that safety should always be your top priority when acting as a witness to a crime.*

On behalf of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, as of February 2025, 21 investigations have been conducted for the 2025 fiscal year.

Common complaints that were investigated include the following:

- Non-compliance with a USFS Permit
- False advertisement by an outfitter
- Breach of contract by an outfitter
- Willfully operating in an area for which the licensee is not licensed
- Employment of an unlicensed guide by an outfitter
- Harassment of the public in their use of Idaho's outdoor recreational opportunities
- Failure to disclose a conviction on a renewal application
- Conviction of a fish and game violation
- Guiding without a current license

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses investigators have been actively contacting licensees and clients at various locations throughout the state. They are not only there to ensure compliance with the Board's laws and rules but also to answer any questions outfitters or guides may have. If you see them in the field, feel free to stop and ask them any questions that may be on your mind.



# Important News & Updates

**Highlight:** Hunting season setting updates fresh from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. (IDFG)



## Bear Identification and Test Requirements

Starting January 1, 2025, anyone hunting black bears in Idaho must show proof that they have passed a bear identification test to help them differentiate between black bears and grizzly bears. A link to the article by IDFG is available under the Helpful Resources section on the left.

## Hunt Season Changes

The IDFG commission set seasons for the 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons on March 26, 2025. There were changes made to several hunts that outfitters should be aware of. A link to the new regulations can be found in the Helpful Resources section. Along with season-setting, outfitters with allocated tags will see a few changes in their new designations for capped and controlled hunts. Designation letters were sent out on April 18, 2025 via mail and email. Allocated tags will be available for purchase through IDFG offices starting on May 5, 2025.

## Helpful Resources

Bear Identification and Test Requirements

[Link](#)

IDFG Big Game Rules Brochure

[Link](#)

Helpful How-to guides for navigating the new system

[Link](#)

Follow DOPL and OGLB Rulemaking Updates here

[Link](#)

## IDFG Archery Training Procedure Update

Starting this year, IDFG will no longer accept or use Archery Affidavits. If your client plans to participate in an archery-only hunt and has not previously provided documentation for archery hunting, they must submit proof of valid archery education or documentation (such as a license, permit, or tag) that clearly shows they participated in an archery hunt in another state. If the documentation does not explicitly reference archery because the state they hunted in did not require or indicate this on the license, it will not be accepted. In that case, they will need to complete archery education. Below is a link for the online bow hunter education course.

[Hunter Ed Certification | Idaho Fish and Game](#)



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[Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board](#)



## Board Members

Brad Compton (Chair)

Tammy Overacker (Member)

Lonnie Lee Allen (Member)

Erik Weiseth (Member)

Dennis Skinner (Public Member)

## Upcoming Meetings

May 23—Quarterly Meeting

Sep. 4—Quarterly Meeting

Nov. 19—Quarterly Meeting

[Meeting Calendar | Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses](#)