

Idaho Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board



Newsletter

November 2025

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

Rulemaking Update Pending Changes

During the last quarterly meeting of the Board, the following changes to IDAPA were discussed and voted upon:

- 100.05. Removing the whole section as it is duplicative of the statute.
- 203.04. Removing the whole section, as Hot Pursuit has become a cumbersome process for the licensee and should be approved through an Overlap Agreement for predators ahead of time.
- 203.06. Adding trapping as an option for overlaps.
- 257.04. Adding subsection c. adds a step to the designation calculations to allow an extra tag to be designated in step one for those that were rounded down when the average use results in a number with .5, if enough tags are available.
- 259.02. Updating language to the SA8 – Salmon River, to better define the boundaries.
- 259.03. Updating language to the SN14 – Snake River, to better define the boundaries.
- 259.03. Removing a typo on the SJ1 – St. Joe River.

These changes will be considered by the Idaho Legislature during the next legislative session in the winter/spring of 2026. A draft of the Rules will be posted in the upcoming December Administrative Bulletin, which you can find by clicking this link: [Current Administrative Bulletins | adminrules.idaho.gov](https://adminrules.idaho.gov)

Draft Rules are also available on the DOPL webpage: [Statutes, Rules and Guidance | Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses](#).

To stay up to date, we recommend subscribing to Townhall Idaho, [Townhall Idaho - Subscriptions](#), or checking the Idaho Legislature website for bill info and meeting times: [Idaho State Legislature – Idaho State Legislature](#).



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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 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.

From June to November 2025, there have been 21 investigations conducted. Common complaints that were investigated include the following:

- Breach of contract.
- Fraudulent, untruthful, or misleading advertising.
- 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.
- Interfering with a land management agency.
- Conviction of a felony or any fish and game violation.
- Failure for an outfitter to have a designated agent.
- Operating in a manner that endangers the health and safety of the public.
- Operating on an expired license.

Important News & Updates

Highlight: Important information on the nonresident deer and elk tag draw for 2026



Dates to help plan your winter and spring:

December 1, 2025 – Renewal period opens for all outfitters, guides, and designated agents. Outfitters, do not forget to submit your use report first before renewal.

December 5-15, 2025 – Application period for the Nonresident Tag Drawing for general deer and elk tags for the 2026 season.

December 19, 2025 – Deadline to verify non-allocated tag use with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

Early January 2025 – Allocated tags will be available for purchase when the Nonresident Draw results are made available from IDFG.

February 4, 2025 – Tag Use Verification letters will be sent verifying use from the 2025 season.

February 18, 2025 – Deadline to submit Hardship requests for allocated tag use for the 2025 season. **Note:** Outfitters may submit requests early and are encouraged to do so.

March 31, 2025 – Deadline to renew licenses for the 2026 season. Outfitters and Designated Agents wishing to reinstate their license after this date will incur a \$150 reinstatement fee for the Outfitter license and a \$35 reinstatement fee for Designated Agent licenses.

Helpful Resources

Drawing for 2026
nonresident deer/elk tags

[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](#)

Nonresident Tag Drawing Information

The application period for the first Nonresident Tag Drawing will open on December 5 and run through December 15. All hunters will be required to purchase a 2026 hunting license valid for big game hunting to apply. Results will be announced in early January 2026. Successful applicants will have until January 20, 2026, to purchase their tags. This is an absolute deadline, and any tags not purchased by that date will be forfeited and available in the second application period in February.

Anyone who successfully draws in the first application period is ineligible to apply in the second application period.

We encourage you to click the links below to see the full article by IDFG to get more information.

[See what's available in the Nonresident Tag Drawing for general season deer/elk tags in 2026 and how to apply | Idaho Fish and Game](#)

For more information, please see the FAQs: [seasons-rules-big-game-supplemental-proclamation-2026-2.pdf](#)

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Biggest takeaways for outfitters:

1. Outfitter allocated tags are not affected by the Nonresident Tag Drawing and have not changed for the 2026 season. Outfitters will still be able to pick up allocated tags for their clients through any of the regional IDFG offices. Tags will be available for purchase in early January.
2. If you have a client or multiple clients who plan to enter the drawing, be sure you get or instruct them to purchase a **2026 license** valid for **big game** hunting. During December, hunting licenses for the 2025 calendar year and the 2026 calendar year will be available for purchase. 2025 licenses are not eligible for the drawing; hunters must have a **2026 license**. IDFG also offers a variety of options for hunting licenses; only licenses valid for **big game** hunting are eligible for the drawing.
3. Applications after **December 15, 2025**, will not be accepted. If a client draws a tag, they have until **January 20, 2026**, to purchase the tag, or it will be forfeited, and they will not be eligible to apply in the second application period.

For outfitters needing more tags, you may be wondering how to get tags outside of your initial designation of allocated tags. The simple answer is to have clients apply for the drawing.

Outfitters and Guides licensing staff cannot make any recommendations on how to go about the drawing process or how to manage your business. It is up to the business to decide how it will run its operations. If you have a client who draws their own tag and you still have remaining allocated tags, you can certify the use of non-allocated tags with IDFG, so that you do not risk a decrease in future designations of allocated tags.

Outfitters can still send in waiting list requests for tags from the Undesignated Tag pool. The number of tags available depends on what other outfitters return to the pool. Requests for 2026 tags can be sent in starting April 10, 2026. We cannot accept requests before that date. **Please note:** In the past, tags have usually not been available in the Undesignated Tag pool before the July 16 deadline to buy initial designated tags.

IDFG will still have returned tag sales throughout the year for any tags not picked up after the second drawing, and for any tags that were returned to the department for one reason or another.

Announcement from Zac Clifford:

After three years of serving as the Program Coordinator for the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, I'm excited to share that I have accepted a new role within DOPL. As part of this transition, I will no longer be the primary contact for tag allocations.

Please direct all future tag allocation requests to OGLB-Allocation@dopl.idaho.gov if you are not already doing so. I will continue to support the transition to ensure everything runs smoothly.

It has been a pleasure getting to know more about this community over the last three years and to meet many of you throughout my time here. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Licensing Board. There has been a great deal of progress and change in recent years, and I am proud to have contributed to it.

Best wishes to you all!

Wishing all Idaho outfitters and guides a safe winter season and a very happy holidays. Thank you for the important work you do throughout the year.

— Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board



Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board

11341 W. Chinden Bldg #4
Boise, ID 87314

Phone: 208-327-7380

E-mail: OGLB-licensing@dopl.idaho.gov

Visit our Website at:

[Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board](#)



Board Members

Brad Compton (Chair)

Tammy Overacker (Member)

Lonnie Lee Allen (Member)

Kenneth Long (Member)

Carl Rey (Public Member)

Upcoming Meetings

2026 meeting dates TBD

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

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[Townhall Idaho - Public Meetings](#)