



Newsletter

April 2026

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

2026 Legislative Update



On November 19, 2025, the Board approved pending negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 24.35.01 based on feedback from the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) and Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG). The changes below were approved for the 2026 Legislative Session and will become effective July 1, 2026:

Rule 203.04 Hot Pursuit: The reference to “Hot Pursuit” has been removed as it is covered under an existing Predator Overlap Agreement under rule 203.06. Outfitters anticipating a potential need for “Hot Pursuit” scenarios are encouraged to establish an Overlap Agreement with neighboring outfitters in advance.

Rule 257.04.c – New Hunt Allocated Tag Designation: The Board changed language to state, “In any hunt where the average use of the last two years' results in a number ending in .5 and the resulting designation is rounded down, apply the following: If there are sufficient remaining or additional tags in the hunt to round up every outfitter designation that has been rounded down in steps a. or b. above, then designate one additional tag to those outfitters designations. If there are not sufficient tags available, then proceed to 05. below.”

Rule 259.02 – Licensable Waters – River Sections (MF1) Middle Fork Salmon River through (SE2) Selway River – Table: Based on feedback from IDFG and for clarity, the Board changed the boundary description for SA8 to the following: “Hammer Creek to the Idaho/Washington State line near Lewiston.”

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2026 Legislative Updates

Rule 259.03 – Licensable Waters – River Sections (SH1) Henry’s Fork Snake River through (TE3) Teton River – Table: Based on feedback from IDFG and for clarity, the Board changed the boundary description for SN14 to the following: “Pittsburg Landing to the Idaho/Washington State Line near Lewiston. Excludes the mouth of the Salmon River, defined as a straight line perpendicular to flow from the most downstream point of land where the Salmon and Snake rivers merge.”

2026 Legislative Bills Passed

During the 2026 Legislative Session, the following bills were passed that could have an impact on the industry and will become effective July 1, 2026.

H0678a: Trapping, checking wolf traps - The purpose of this legislation is to allow wolf trappers to inspect their trap remotely with transmitting cameras.

H0939: Hunting technology - This legislation regulates the use of thermal imaging, night vision, transmitting trail cameras, and drones for hunting. It provides certain exemptions, including for predators and for agricultural purposes.

S1241a: Protection of Working Animals - The purpose of this legislation is to add a new section to Chapter 35, Title 25, Idaho code, to clarify and protect the lawful use of working animals in commerce and service. The bill affirms the right to utilize working animals for mutual benefit and welfare and prohibits state or local governments from enacting or enforcing ordinance, regulations, or rules that are more restrictive than state law or that effectively prohibit the lawful use of working animals or working animal enterprises. This legislation defines "working animal" for purposes of the new section and clarifies that the provisions do not apply to cockfighting or dog fighting, which remain governed by existing law. An emergency clause is included to ensure the provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

S1300: Agency Directors, Appointment by Governor - Presently, the directors for the Idaho Departments of Transportation, Fish and Game, and Parks and Recreation are neither subject to Senate confirmation nor gubernatorial appointment. This legislation provides for senate advice and consent as well as gubernatorial appointment for the directors of these three agencies consistent with other state agencies.

H0703a: Universal Discipline Procedure - This legislation establishes a unified, Division-wide disciplinary framework for all boards, commissions, committees, and programs administered by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. By consolidating duplicative and inconsistent disciplinary provisions currently scattered across numerous practice acts, the bill creates a single procedural section that standardizes how complaints are processed, how investigations are conducted, what due process protections apply, and how sanctions are imposed. While substantive grounds for discipline will continue to be defined in each profession’s governing statute or standards of practice, this new framework ensures consistency in enforcement processes across all licensed professions regulated by the Division.

The proposal preserves and clarifies key enforcement tools such as subpoenas, injunctions, license suspensions, administrative fines, and confidential informal resolutions while ensuring they are applied consistently. It also affirms DOPL’s jurisdiction over expired licenses, permits action against licensees who fail to cooperate with investigations, and provides mechanisms for referring serious violations for criminal prosecution. Complaint intake and file management procedures are formalized to improve transparency, accuracy, and administrative efficiency. All formal discipline will continue to proceed under the contested case provisions of the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, ensuring due process rights are maintained.

Online Licensing System

New Outfitter and Guide Features

Below are several recent changes to guide roster and activity requests that will positively benefit the alignment of outfitter and guide licenses and coordination moving forward.

- When outfitters receive a roster request, they can now see the activities that a guide is licensed to perform from the request before approving or denying the request.
- Guide activities are also visible on the public search and on the physical Guide licenses. Current Guides are sent an updated license via email upon license renewals, and those licenses are then available to print from Online Services.
- Guides now have the option to add new activities to their license through an Activity Change Request. This has been separated from roster requests but can be accessed from the same location, which is displayed as "Roster and Activity Request." Guides can submit both at once if they wish.
- For Guide activity requests, a guide can only request activities which the outfitter is licensed for. Requests to add an activity to a Guide license must be approved by DOPL staff prior to the activity displaying on the Guide's license. Guides will need to print an updated copy of their license when an activity is added.

If there are any questions on these changes, please feel free to reach out to the licensing board staff either by email at oglb-licensing@dopl.idaho.gov or phone (208) 334-3233.

Important Licensure Reminder

Designated Agent Information

The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board has recently seen an increase in expired Designated Agent licenses. Operating without an active designated agent license is considered a violation of IDAPA rules, subject to disciplinary action. To help prevent this, here is a brief overview of key designated agent license requirements from [IDAPA 24.35.01](#).

When is a Designated Agent required? A separate Designated Agent license is required when the outfitter is a corporation, partnership, firm, or other business entity. Individual outfitters do not require a separate Designated Agent.

Role of the Designated Agent: The Designated Agent is a licensed individual who shares responsibility for the outfitter's operations. This includes following the approved operating plan, ensuring guides and staff comply with rules and safety standards, and meeting all outfitter level qualification requirements.

Designated Agent License Requirements: The Designated Agent must file an individual and separate application and must be covered under the outfitter's surety bond and ensure client protection per Board bonding requirements. The Designated Agent can also be the owner of the outfitting business, but it is a separate license from the outfitting license.

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Online Licensing System

REMINDER – Outfitter, Designated Agent, and Guide License Renewals Were Due March 31st, 2026

Renewal Process:

- Reminder to all license holders that Outfitting, Designated Agents and Guide licenses expired March 31, 2026. If you have not already done so, please renew your licensure if you plan to operate through this next year.
- After March 31, 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 or designated agents.

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.

Outfitters' Renewal Process:

- Outfitters who have not renewed by March 31 will also need to reinstate their license.
- There is a penalty fee for outfitter reinstatement, which is \$150 (as per Idaho Code 36-2108(d)).
- Outfitters have six months (according to IDAPA 24.35.01.101.04) to reinstate their license.
- If they don't reinstate within six months, the Board may consider the operating area and activities as available opportunities for others.

In summary: Guides and Designated Agents will see "reinstatement" instead of "renewal" in the system after March 31, but the process remains the same, and there are no extra fees. 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 OGLB 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.

On behalf of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, from June 2025 to March 2026, there have been 37 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.
- Unethical and unprofessional conduct.
- 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 (e.g., Designated Agent Licenses).
- Non-use.
- Participating in Third-Party Agreement.

The following is a list of the locations and rivers we conducted checks on and the number of outfitters, guides, and clients we contacted.

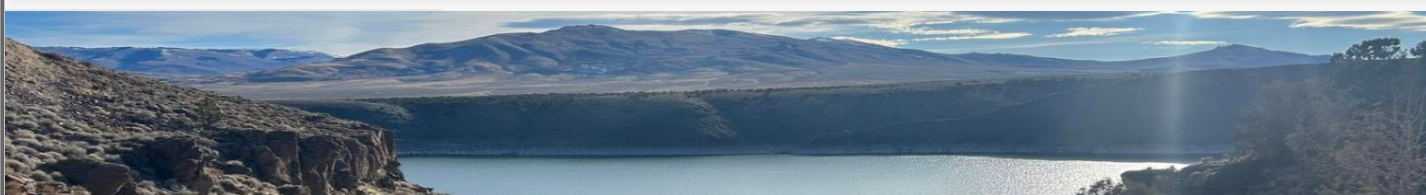
- 6/27– 6/30/2025 OGLB Checks
 - Warm River, Fall River, Henry's Lake, Island Park Reservoir, all three sections of the Teton River, sections one and two of the Snake River, and the first section of Henry's Fork River.
 - Checked twenty-seven different boat ramps (Massacre Rock) and visited nine outfitters.
(9 outfitters, 20 guides, 41 Civilian Boats, 62 members of the public)

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Enforcement Corner

- 7/21-7/23/2025 OGLB check of Outfitters
 - Conducted checks of Coeur d'Alene River, St. Maries River, and St. Joe River.
- 9/19/2025 River boat patrol with USFS through Hells Canyon.
(16 guides, 35 members of the public)
- 9/28-9/30/2025 OGLB checks in Northern Idaho
 - Conducted checks of twenty-five boat ramps on Priest Lake, Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, Priest River, the Clark Fork River, Kootenai River, and the Moyie River.
(4 outfitters, 3 guides, 35 members of the public)

Important News & Updates



New Open Opportunity

A vacated State of Idaho outfitter operating area in the Salmon-Challis National Forest (Game Unit 20A), commonly referred to as the “Stan Potts Area,” was opened to accept new outfitting and guided hunting trips and services through March 30, 2026. Currently, there are no United States Forest Service (USFS) permits or OGLB licensed outfitters authorized for this operating area. One or more Special Use Permits by the USFS, along with one or more state licenses issued by IOGLB, may be authorized. The board and the USFS will coordinate on evaluation of potential applicants based on the information submitted by the applicants.

Undesignated Tag Pool Waiting List—Started April 10

Hunting Outfitters can start submitting waiting list requests for tags from the undesignated tag pool, beginning April 10 at 12:01 AM preceding the hunt, an outfitting operation may submit a request for an allocated tag from the pool. The request must be on a Board-approved form. Beginning April 20 preceding the hunt or the next business day, an allocated tag will be designated from the pool on a first-come, first-served basis to an outfitting operation without any designated allocated tags or which has utilized all of its designated allocated tags, using a waiting list when necessary. A maximum of two (2) allocated tags will be designated to each requesting outfitting operation until all other requesting outfitting operations have been served, then a requesting outfitting operation is eligible to receive a maximum of two (2) additional allocated tags from the pool, repeated until all requesting outfitting operations are served or until no tags remain.

[Unused Tag\(s\) Waiting List Form](#)

| Helpful Resources | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Unused Tags Waiting List Form | <u>Link</u> |
| IDFG Big Game Rules Brochure | <u>Link</u> |
| Helpful How-to guides for navigating the new system | <u>Link</u> |
| Follow DOPL and OGLB Rulemaking Updates here | <u>Link</u> |

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Important News and Updates

Outfitter Area Non-Use Review (May 2026)

The Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board will be conducting its annual review of outfitter use reports in May to determine whether any licensed activities or operating areas fall within “non-use” as defined in IDAPA 24.35.01.202.

The below is intended to clarify the standards the Board will apply during this review and to remind outfitters of required documentation.

Non-Use Review Process - Each year, the Board will examine use reports submitted for the preceding three years. If the review indicates that any major licensed activity or operating area meets the standard for non-use, the Board may issue a Notice of Non-Use to the outfitter.

Definition of Non-Use - Occurs when an outfitter has made zero or negligible use of any major licensed activity during any two of the previous three years. Lack of use may be excused when caused by:

- ⇒ Acts of nature; or
- ⇒ State or federal agency restrictions on hunting or fishing that limit the ability to seek and accommodate clients.

Non-Use Categories -

- Zero Use - means no recorded use of the relevant licensed area or activity.
- Negligible Use - defined as an unreasonable lack of use as determined by the Board.

Determinations may involve comparing use levels to similar activities in comparable operating areas.

Required Records - All outfitters must maintain records sufficient to demonstrate use of each licensed activity and operating area. These records should be complete, accurate, and available for review upon Board request.

Next Steps - If your operation has experienced limited use in recent years, please ensure that all records are up to date and that any factors outside your control affecting use are well documented. Should the Board’s review indicate non-use, you will receive a Notice of Non-Use outlining the next steps in the process.

If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to the licensing board staff either by email at oglb-licensing@dopl.idaho.gov or phone (208) 334-3233.

Idaho Fish and Game Nonresident Deer and Elk Tag Draw Update

The first application period for the Nonresident Draw ran from December 5–15, with results released in early January. Applicants who drew a tag were required to purchase it by January 20. For the first draw, 86% of these tags were purchased. Any tags not bought by that deadline were forfeited and added to the second application period, which was open February 5–15, and those tags were purchased by March 20. In total, 97.5% of the draw tags were purchased. Those tags not sold in the draw will be available for over-the-counter purchase on April 23, 2026 @ 10 AM.



Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board

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[Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board](#)



Board Members

- Vacant (Chair)
- Tammy Overacker (Acting Chair & Member)
- Lonnie Lee Allen (Member)
- Kenneth Long (Member)
- Carl Rey (Public Member)

Upcoming Meetings

- May 28—Quarterly Meeting
- Sep. 2—Quarterly Meeting
- Nov. 4—Quarterly Meeting

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