

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1256

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO FISH AND GAME; AMENDING SECTION 36-408, IDAHO CODE, TO RESTRICT
THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM THE AUCTION OF CERTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP TAGS,
TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL BIG GAME AUCTION TAGS DESIGNATED AS GOVERNOR'S
WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIP TAGS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 36-408, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
amended to read as follows:

36-408. COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY -- TAGS -- PERMITS -- NONRESIDENTS
LIMITED -- OUTFITTERS SET-ASIDE. (1) Tags and Permits -- Method of Use. The
commission is hereby authorized to prescribe the number and kind of wildlife
that may be taken under authority of the several types of tags and permits
provided for in this title, and the manner in which said tags and permits
shall be used and validated.

(2) Limit -- Licenses, Tags or Permits -- Controlled Hunts. The commis-
sion is hereby authorized to establish a limit annually as to the number of
each kind and class of licenses, tags, or permits to be sold or issued and is
further authorized to limit the number or prohibit entirely, the participa-
tion by nonresidents in controlled hunts.

(3) Outfitters Set-aside. When the commission establishes a limit as
to the number of nonresident deer tags and nonresident elk tags, it shall
set aside annually a maximum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the nonresident
deer tag and nonresident elk tag limit. The set-aside tags shall be sold pur-
suant to commission rule, only to persons that have entered into an agreement
for that year to utilize the services of an outfitter licensed pursuant to
chapter 21, title 36, Idaho Code.

In order for a person to purchase any set-aside nonresident deer tag or
nonresident elk tag, that person's outfitter must submit an application with
the proper fees as required by the director. If any nonresident deer tags or
nonresident elk tags set aside pursuant to this subsection are unsold by July
1 of the year in which they were set aside, they may be sold by the department
to the general public who are nonresidents. The commission may promulgate
all necessary rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

(4) Deer and Elk Tag Allocation. If the commission limits the number
of deer or elk tags available for use in any game management area, unit or
zone, the commission may allocate by rule a number of deer or elk tags for
use by hunters that have entered into an agreement for that year to utilize
the services of an outfitter licensed pursuant to chapter 21, title 36, Idaho
Code.

(5) Special Game Tags. The commission is hereby authorized to issue two
(2) special bighorn sheep tags per year.

(a) Auction bighorn sheep tag. One (1) special bighorn sheep tag shall be auctioned off by an incorporated nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, selected by the commission. The tag shall be issued by the department of fish and game to the highest eligible bidder. No more than five percent (5%) of all proceeds for the tag may be retained by the organization. The tag to be issued pursuant to this subsection shall be taken from the nonresident bighorn sheep tag quota. The net proceeds shall be forwarded to the director for deposit in the fish and game expendable trust account and shall be used for bighorn sheep research and management purposes. Moneys raised pursuant to this subsection may not be used to transplant additional bighorn sheep into that portion of southwest Idaho south of the Snake River and west of U.S. highway no. 93, nor for litigation or environmental impact statements involving bighorn sheep. No transplants of bighorn sheep accomplished with moneys raised pursuant to this subsection shall occur in any area until hearings are conducted in the area. Provided however, that none of the proceeds generated from the auction of bighorn sheep tags pursuant to this paragraph be used to purchase or acquire private property or federally managed grazing permits, nor shall any proceeds generated be used for matching funds for the purchase of private property or the retirement or the acquisition of federally managed grazing permits.

(b) Lottery bighorn sheep tag. The commission is also authorized to issue one (1) special bighorn sheep tag which will be disposed of by lottery. The lottery permit can be marketed by the department of fish and game or a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation selected by the commission. The tag will be issued by the department of fish and game to an eligible person drawn from the lottery provided in this subsection. No more than twenty-five percent (25%) of gross revenue can be retained for administrative costs by the organization. All net proceeds for the tag disposed of by lottery pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the department and deposited in the fish and game expendable trust account. Moneys in the account from the lottery bighorn sheep tag shall be utilized by the department in solving problems between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep, solving problems between wildlife and domestic animals or improving relationships between sportsmen and private landowners.

(6) Issuance of ~~f~~Free ~~p~~Permit or ~~t~~Tag to ~~m~~Minor ~~e~~Children with ~~l~~Life-~~t~~Threatening ~~m~~Medical ~~e~~Conditions. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission may issue free big game permits or tags to minor children who have life-threatening medical conditions that have been certified eligible by a qualified organization. The commission may prescribe by rule the manner and conditions of issuing and using the permits or tags authorized under this subsection (6). For purposes of this subsection (6) a "qualified organization" means a nonprofit organization that is qualified under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that affords opportunities and experiences to minor children with life-threatening medical conditions.

(7) Issuance of ~~f~~Free ~~p~~Permit or ~~t~~Tag to ~~m~~Military ~~v~~Veterans with ~~d~~Disabilities. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission may issue free big game permits or tags to disabled military veterans who have been certified eligible by a qualified organization. The commission

1 may prescribe by rule the manner and conditions of issuing and using the
2 permits or tags authorized under this subsection (7). For purposes of this
3 subsection (7), a "qualified organization" means a governmental agency that
4 assists veterans or a nonprofit organization that is qualified under section
5 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that affords opportunities, expe-
6 riences and assistance to disabled veterans.

7 (8) Special Wolf Tags. The commission is hereby authorized to issue up
8 to ten (10) special auction or lottery tags for hunting wolves. Special wolf
9 tags will be auctioned off or made available through lottery by incorporated
10 nonprofit organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation and selected by
11 the director. No more than five percent (5%) of all proceeds for each tag
12 may be retained by the nonprofit organization for administrative costs in-
13 volved. Each wolf tag shall be issued by the department of fish and game and
14 awarded to the highest eligible bidder or winner of a lottery. Each tag will
15 be good for the harvest of one (1) wolf pursuant to commission rule. The pro-
16 ceeds from each tag will be sent to the director to be placed in the depart-
17 ment general license fund.

18 (9) Special Big Game Auction Tags -- Governor's Wildlife Partnership
19 Tags. The commission is hereby authorized to issue special big game auc-
20 tion tags hereafter named and referred to as "Governor's wildlife partner-
21 ship tags" for hunting designated species on dates and in areas designated by
22 the commission. To enhance and sustain the value of Idaho's wildlife, up to
23 three (3) tags per species per year will be issued for deer, elk and pronghorn
24 antelope, one (1) tag per year will be issued for moose, and one (1) tag per
25 species per year may be issued for mountain goat and bighorn sheep. Each tag
26 will be signed by the governor of Idaho prior to auction to the public and be
27 available to either residents or nonresidents of Idaho. Governor's wildlife
28 partnership tags issued for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and moose pursuant
29 to this subsection shall be taken from the nonresident controlled hunt pro-
30 grams for these species adopted by the fish and game commission. Governor's
31 wildlife partnership tags issued for mountain goat and bighorn sheep shall
32 be taken from the nonresident mountain goat and bighorn sheep quota. Gover-
33 nor's wildlife partnership tags shall be auctioned off by incorporated non-
34 profit organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation and selected by the
35 director. No more than five percent (5%) of all proceeds from each tag sale
36 may be retained by the nonprofit organization for administrative costs in-
37 volved, including in the event a tag is redonated and reauctioned. Each tag
38 shall be issued by the department of fish and game and awarded to the high-
39 est eligible bidder. Each tag shall be good for the harvest of one (1) big
40 game animal pursuant to commission rule consistent with the provisions of
41 this subsection. The proceeds from each tag shall be sent to the director to
42 be allocated up to thirty percent (30%) for sportsmen access programs, such
43 as access yes, and the balance for wildlife habitat projects, wildlife man-
44 agement projects to increase the quantity and quality of big game herds, and
45 research and planning activities approved by the commission to assist the
46 department and land management agencies in facilitating habitat solutions.
47 Provided however, that none of the proceeds generated from the auctions pur-
48 suant to the provisions of this subsection shall be used to purchase or ac-
49 quire private property or federally managed grazing permits, nor shall any
50 proceeds generated be used for matching funds for the purchase of private

1 property or the retirement or the acquisition of federally managed grazing
2 permits.