

# The Rendezvous

*The Official Bulletin of the  
Idaho Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board*



STATE OF IDAHO

OUTFITTERS & GUIDES



March 2016

## S. E. IDAHO RIVER RULES

Rules clarifying individual outfitter use areas, and bringing state licensed outfitter boating limits on the South Fork of the Snake River (SS1), a section of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River (SH3), a section of the Snake River above Idaho Falls (SN-1), and a section of the Teton River (TE-3) into sync with federal requirements were adopted by the Idaho State Legislature in January and are now in effect.

These rivers are fully or partly managed and various uses permitted by the Bureau of Land Management or the United States Forest Service. The updated rules are a result of those agencies completing and implementing an updated resource management plan in 2015 done in cooperation with the Board. The Board determined that the process used by these federal agencies exceeded the public involvement process required in the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) and by doing so, this effort supplemented the Board's rule promulgation process, saving both time and industry generated dollars. The Board believes this collaborative effort would be a model for state and federal agency collaboration.

These rules are available on IOGLB's website at [www.oglb.idaho.gov](http://www.oglb.idaho.gov).

## REPORTING CRIMINAL HISTORY

In May 2011, the Board adopted a policy where any licensed applicant who has a felony or misdemeanor conviction must be reviewed by IOGLB Enforcement with their convictions scored using an objective scoring system found in policy 2002 which can be found on IOGLB's website. Those applicants with 50 or more points will have their license application deferred to the Board for review.

IOGLB staff have been working with the state's on line vendor, Access Idaho to clarify the criminal/misdemeanor conviction questions on the on line system as well as to separate requirements for new individual applicants from those individuals who've been previously licensed. The on line system is also being updated to address issues with those Outfitters/Designated Agents whose individual license applicants fail to provide accurate information on criminal/ misdemeanor convictions.

These changes are also being incorporated to hard copy applications and should be fully implemented by mid-March.

## IDFG/IOGLB MOU

At a joint meeting with the Idaho Fish and Game Commission in Hailey, Idaho, the Board and the Commission adopted an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which had expired. The MOU outlines the ongoing working relationship between IOGLB and IDFG. The Board complemented an IDFG working group comprised of headquarters and regional staff who have involvement with a large number of outfitters. The Board felt their effort brought an additional perspective from that agency on improvements to the working relationship outlined in this MOU.

## BIG GAME TAG ALLOCATION

The Board has reorganized and updated its handbook on the administration of Outfitter Allocated Big Game zone tags. The changes involved the administration of capped zone tags for elk and not allocated controlled tags for elk and deer.

The Board determined there were two primary concerns; one was that outfitters who had qualified for allocated tags wanted to protect their historical use. The other was allowing outfitters who had not previously qualified to do so. The Board also determined that the process was not overly complicated as suggested during an earlier Board meeting.

It was decided to allow all outfitters licensed for elk in a zone to have access to surplus pool tags beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> rather than the last week of July as in the past. This will allow tags not previously used to be put to use. By doing this, it will help more outfitters build historical use so they will qualify during future recalculations to receive allocated tags. This will help address the industry concern of these tags being returned to IDFG unused.

Two other important decisions were to simplify use reporting processes by automating them and that it was necessary to verify the use of tags for improved accuracy in historical calculations.

It is important to point out that tag recalculations follow a mathematical formula based on an outfitter's historical use. Consequently, allowing earlier access to pool tags should not affect a previously authorized outfitter's allocation as long they are first using their allocated tags within the frame work of the policy. In fact, doing so could give reason for an increase provided surplus pool tags are available.

IOGLB staff and IDFG are working to determine a way of incorporating big game tag use into IDFG's on-line tag distribution system. This would move use reporting away from outfitters being required to submit IOGLB's use report forms annually thus making use reporting easier and use verifiable.

It is important to understand that improved accuracy in all outfitters' historical use calculation is important in order to justify any decision made by the Board affecting the overall distribution of tags or changes to individual outfitter allocation. It is also important to understand that big game tag allocation was never meant to be an "entitlement program" and participation and distribution of those tags has always been based on the outfitter's historical use.

The Board and Executive Director welcome thoughts and ideas.

Please send to your comments to [licensing@oglb.idaho.gov](mailto:licensing@oglb.idaho.gov)