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BEFORE THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

IN THE MATIER OF FEE DISCOUNTS }
FOR SAGE GROUSE TAGS FOR USE IN) ORDER 22-64
2022-2023 and 2023-2024 FALCONRY)
SEASONS)

At its July 2022 meeting, the Commission set sage grouse tag limits by zones based on spring 2022 biological data, with a requirement that hunters purchase tags specific to the zone(s) they choose to hunt. The Commission intends to set tag limits by zone for 2023 hunts after it reviews population data based on spring 2023 biological data.

The Commission previously adopted falconry seasons for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, which included seasons for falconry hunting of sage grouse from August 15, 2022-March 15- 2023 and August 15, 2023-March 15, 2024.

Under Idaho Code Section 36-403(a), all game tags are valid only during the time that the corresponding annual license for the tag is valid. As such, 2022 sage grouse tags expire on December 31, 2022 and 2023 sage-grouse tag expire December 31, 2023. The requirement for game tags for sage grouse became effective July 1, 2021, applicable to seasons in the second half of calendar year 2021 and subsequent years. The Commission adopted a tag discount order (Order No. 21-67) applicable to 2021-2022 falconry season for sage grouse, with discounted tags issued to falconers in the first quarter of calendar year 2022 expiring on March 15, 2022.

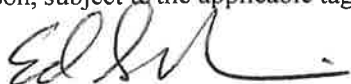
The Commission has considered input from falconers relative to the seasons set previously and biological information provided by the Department for the setting of sage grouse tag limits. The Commission has determined that a discount is appropriate under Idaho Code Section 36-415, with the issue subject to review in conjunction with future falconry and sage grouse season setting.

Therefore, under the authority of Idaho Code Section 36-415, based on a finding of biological and public need to support the continuation of previously set falconry seasons, while ensuring consistency with tag limits set based on 2022 and 2023 biological information, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission hereby ORDERS a discount of 2023 and 2024 sage grouse tags for use in falconry to the amount of zero dollars (\$0.00), with discounted tags to expire March 15, 2023 and March 15, 2024.

The Commission further ORDERS that eligibility for tags discounted under this order is limited to individuals who: (1) have a valid license and falconry permit; (2) purchased a sage grouse tag for the fall portion of the applicable 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 falconry season and have not killed a bird with use of said tag, and (3) surrender to the Department the unused tag for the applicable fall portion of the season.

To ensure the smooth administration of issuing tags to a small number of individuals, the Commission further ORDERS that tags discounted under this order are only available from Department offices.

A falconry hunter who has a license and falconry permit valid for hunting in 2023 or 2024 but who did not purchase a sage grouse tag for the fall portion of the applicable 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 falconry season, or who does not surrender an unused sage grouse tag, is eligible to purchase an undiscounted sage grouse tag valid through March 15 of the applicable winter portion of the 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 falconry season, subject to the applicable tag limits set for the season and other applicable requirements.



Ed Schriever
Secretary of the Commission