

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 44

REGULATION FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSES, PERMITS, STAMPS, TAGS, PREFERENCE POINTS AND COMPETITIVE RAFFLE CHANCES

W.S. § 23-1-302 empowers the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to prescribe the requirements and form, including electronic licensing format, for hunting licenses, stamps and tags.

Section 2. A definition has been added for “region general elk licenses” which allows for the creation of nonresident general elk regions to be developed within the state. Currently, nonresident general elk licenses are valid in any hunt area that allows for general license elk hunting. A region general elk license system will combine general license hunt areas into a region designation. A regional licensing system will provide more flexibility in directing elk harvest where needed.

Section 4. Edits have been incorporated into subsection (e)(iv) that would remove the total nonresident elk full price license limit of seven thousand two hundred fifty (7,250). Sixteen percent (16%) of the total available full price limited quota elk licenses would still be available to nonresidents, although the full price general elk licenses would be addressed through nonresident region general elk license allocation as noted in Sections 2 and 28.

Section 5 (i). Personal identifying information, such as name and date of birth, is being removed from a Special Limited Fishing Permit since the permit is issued to an institution, facility or school rather than to an individual. In subsection 5(g) (i), the reference to Glendo Permits for pheasants is being deleted since the permit process has been removed and allows for more pheasant hunting opportunity by the public.

Section 14. The title of this section has been edited to more closely align with statutory language providing for the donation of licenses to a veteran with disabilities or to a permanently disabled person who uses a wheelchair.

Section 18 (e). Edits have been made to the last date applicants may submit an application, modify or withdraw from bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat and wild bison drawings. The final date to apply for, modify or withdraw applications has been moved to April 30, which allows for final hunting seasons to be set by the Commission earlier in April so applicants can make better-informed decisions regarding their application choices. Edits have also been made to the last date to modify or withdraw applications for wild turkey hunting seasons to facilitate getting license drawing results earlier in the year.

Section 26. Edits have been made in this section to clarify that big game and wild bison licenses issued in one calendar year are valid through the closing dates established in the next succeeding calendar year as set forth in Commission regulations.

Section 28. This new section provides the rules governing nonresident region general elk license quotas. Nonresident general elk license regions will be designated and will encompass general elk license hunt areas. To meet herd management objectives, the Commission will set quotas for each nonresident general elk region annually.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of the rules and regulations.