

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 44

REGULATION FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSES, PERMITS, STAMPS, TAGS,

PREFERENCE POINTS AND COMPETITIVE RAFFLE CHANCES

During the 2021 General Session, the Wyoming Legislature passed and the Governor signed two acts affecting the issuance of licenses and stamps. The Commission is amending this chapter to conform to the new requirements in those acts.

House Enrolled Act No. 48 (HEA 48) sets the minimum age to take any big or trophy game animal at twelve (12) years, except that a person may take a big or trophy game animal at eleven (11) years of age if that person will attain twelve (12) years of age by the end of that calendar year. In Section 3, the definition of “youth license” has been modified to reflect this change. An Emergency Rule was promulgated in early July, 2021, to address HEA 48 and is being finalized through the regular rule making process.

House Enrolled Act No. 51 (HEA 51) makes provisions for a Pioneer Resident Trapping License for furbearing animals. HEA 51 sets the specific requirements for a person to qualify for this license and also provides the fee to purchase such a license. In Section 14 (g) language has been added to address Pioneer Resident Trapping Licenses and identifies where that may be purchased.

In Sections 8 and 28, edits have been incorporated to clarify that conservation stamps shall only be sold through the ELS system as a Conservation Stamp Authorization, and will no longer be sold manually as an actual printed stamp. Reference to the Wildlife Damage Management Stamp is being removed since these stamps are no longer available for sale. The Sixty-Fifth Legislature of the State of Wyoming 2020 Budget Session Senate Enrolled Act 11 (SEA 11) repealed W.S. 11-6-305 (a) and (b) effective January 1, 2021, which provided for wildlife management damage stamps.

In Section 22 (d) and (e), edits have been made to remove provisions allowing for landowner license application dates separate from non-landowner application dates. The Department has moved to an electronic format for landowner license applications and is proposing to use the same application dates for both landowner application and non-landowner applications beginning with the 2022 big game hunting seasons. Competitive raffle chance application dates for Super Tag Licenses and Super Tag Trifecta Licenses are being modified so that all licenses may be issued early in the year to address spring and fall black bear hunting seasons and year-long mountain lion hunting seasons. Section 29 (d) also incorporates an edit addressing the sale of Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta license competitive raffle chance sales.

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