

## 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. The Commission is also granted the authority to promulgate such orders as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the intent of this act.

Section 2. Several definitions have been added, modified or deleted.

- “Full Price License” has been modified to reflect specific license types as designated by the Department.
- “Landowner Applicant” has been renamed “Landowner License Applicant” for clarity.
- New definitions have been added for “Preference Point Drawing”, “Random Drawing” and “Reduced Price License”.
- Several definitions are no longer necessary or are not referred to in Commission regulations. The following definitions have been struck: “Limited Quota Reduced Price Cow or Calf (cow/calf) License”, “Limited Quota Reduced Price Doe or Fawn (doe/fawn) License”, “Limited Quota Reduced Price Ewe or Lamb (ewe/lamb) License”, “One Shot Antelope Hunt”, “Potential to Use License”, “Reduced Price Mountain Lion License”, “Under Care and Supervision of the Residing Facility”, “Unlimited Reduced Price Cow or Calf (cow/calf) License”, “Unlimited Reduced Price Doe or Fawn (doe/fawn) License”, and “Wyoming Women’s Antelope Hunt”.

Section 3. Language has been added or modified to clarify the information required as part of a completed application for a license. Language in this section specifies that licenses that are not limited in number are sold through the ELS, so the phrase “shall be issued through the ELS” has been struck in multiple locations in this chapter where it is duplicative.

Section 4. The previous subsection (d) applies to licenses issued after the initial and leftover drawings. The issuance of these licenses is covered in Commission Regulation Chapter 31, which governs authorized license selling agents and this language is being struck from this chapter. The new subsection (b) explains the process and drawing order for big game licenses. It combines language that was duplicative for the issuance of antelope, deer and elk licenses in the previous Chapter 44. Language referring to preference points for these species has been struck from this section and incorporated in Section 19. The new subsection (b)(vi)(A) adds language requiring Wyoming National Bow Hunt, Inc. to notify the Department of its plans for a hunt by April 15. For mountain goats, language regarding eligibility to apply for certain license types has been struck, as these provisions are covered elsewhere in Commission regulations or, as in the case of Type A licenses, the license types no longer exist. In the new subsection (c), language pertaining

to full price and reduced price mountain lion licenses has been struck, as it is already included in Chapter 42 of Commission regulations.

Section 5. A statement has been added to specify that an organization that fails to comply with the requirements of a special limited fishing permit may have future permits denied. This language is consistent with permits issued for fishing tournaments under Chapter 46 of Commission regulations.

Section 8. Language has been amended to incorporate the definitions of “landowner license applicant” and “random drawing”. Subsection (c) has been reworded for clarity but the intent and requirements of the previous language has not changed.

Section 9. New language includes statutory references to the qualifications for lifetime licenses.

Sections 12 and 14. The Wyoming Legislature passed SF066 during the 2026 session, which removed the age restriction for a person with a life-threatening illness to receive a license issued under Section 12. It also added visual impairment and life-threatening illnesses as qualifying disabilities for a person to receive a donated license issued under Section 14. These sections have been updated to reflect the new enabling legislation and specify the qualifying documentation for donated license recipients. Section 14 also specifies how many donated licenses a qualified person is eligible to receive.

Section 16. Language has been added to clarify how a landowner license applicant may apply as a member of a party application.

Section 18. The procedures for withdrawal or modification of a license application have been moved from their current listing in Section 24.

Section 19. All language referring to licenses issued in a preference point drawing has been moved to this section for clarity. Procedures for the preference point drawing and other provisions related to preference points has not changed from the current regulation. During their April 2026 meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the Department’s chief fiscal officer on the Department’s fiscal picture, as well as options within the Commission’s authority to help offset inflation and other cost increases. Based on this information, the Commission directed the Department to start the rule making process to include a fee increase for nonresident antelope, deer and elk preference points in this chapter. The updated fees are proposed to go into effect January 1, 2027.

Section 21. Section 21 combines the previous Section 21 and language from Section 24 pertaining to the refund of license fees. Previously, there was duplicative language in both sections, as the processes for license refunds and the reservation of full price licenses in certain situations are similarly handled by the Department’s License Review Board (LRB). Language has been combined where possible, without substantially changing how the LRB handles requests for refunds or license reservations.

Section 24. This section has been updated to apply only to the reissuance of certain licenses. Language has been added or deleted for clarity but the meaning of the existing regulations has not changed.

Section 26. Language has been added to clarify that the fishing privileges included with a nonresident elk license expire at the end of the calendar year.

Throughout the chapter, any reference to “statutes” or “regulations” has been clarified to mean Wyoming statutes and Commission regulations. Duplicative language referring to the maximum number of licenses a person may purchase in a year has been struck. These provisions are covered in other chapters of Commission regulations or Wyoming statutes.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated into this regulation which do not change the meaning of existing regulations.