



Landowner Compensation Tag Program

Update on Public Process

Issue

- When annual counts are conducted to determine the number of tags a cooperators may qualify for, the total number statewide can exceed that allowed in statute.
- Was 1.5% prior to statutory change in 2017 legislative session, now 2.5% of total deer and antelope tags authorized by Commission.

Steps Since August

- Discuss process with Nevada Farm Bureau
- Schedule stakeholder meetings in Elko, Ely, and Winnemucca
- Letter sent to 105 cooperators on November 22, 2017

Letter as Distributed



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
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Reno, Nevada 89511
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TONY WASLEY
Director
LIZ O'BRIEN
Deputy Director
JACK ROBB
Deputy Director

November 22, 2017

RE: Compensation Tag Process

Dear Compensation Tag Cooperator,

During the past year, we successfully increased the statutory limit on the number of deer and antelope compensation tags that may be legally authorized annually. Based on this increase, the Department of Wildlife foresees no immediate challenges to our ability to authorize compensation tags. The statutory change allows the Department to authorize more tags than before as long as the other aspects of the existing agreements are met.

If interest in the program continues to increase, the Department may be faced with a dilemma sometime in the future to equitably reduce compensation tags under should we reach the new statutory limit. I would like your assistance in helping to define a process we could use should it become necessary at some time in the future.

The Department of Wildlife will host three stakeholder meetings in mid-December to seek input. You can attend one of these meetings to share your thoughts.

- December 12, 2017, 6-8p – Nevada Department of Wildlife Regional Office, 60 Youth Center Rd., Elko, NV 89801
- December 13, 2017, 6-8p – White Pine County Library, 950 Campton St., Ely, NV 89301
- December 14, 2017, 6-8p – Winnemucca Inn, 741 West Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445

Alternatively, if you have ideas and cannot attend, please feel free to forward your ideas to me at bwakeling@ndow.org or drop me a note at 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120, Reno, NV 89511.

The ideas obtained from the stakeholders at this meeting will be shared with the County Advisory Boards and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at meetings later this winter. I welcome your input!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Wakeling".

Brian Wakeling
Administrator, Game Division

Steps Since August

- o Distributed letter electronically to:
 - o Nevada Farm Bureau
 - o Cattleman's Association
 - o Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
 - o Carson Valley Chukar Club
 - o Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
 - o Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (Fallon, Reno, and Midas)
 - o Nevada Bowhunters Association
 - o Nevada Chukar Foundation
 - o Nevada Muleys
 - o Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association

Steps Since August

- o December 12 – Elko – 6 attendees
- o December 13 – Ely – 9 attendees
- o December 14 – Winnemucca – 6 attendees
- o Received 2 emails
- o Compiled list of options, shared with attendees

Steps Since August

- o Only 2 responses with preference (opposing)

Options Identified

1. All cooperators should receive a single compensation tag, and then the cooperators that have more than one compensation tag will be entered into a random drawing to see who will give up a single tag. No cooperator will be required to give up more than one tag (or two tags, if the number is great enough).
2. When reducing tags, reduce tags proportionally more in those areas with greater average tag values to protect the compensation received by those who receive less revenue.
3. Issue tags on a first-come, first-served basis, but ensure any cooperators that were denied a tag during one year are not denied in the following year..
4. Use the first-come, first-served approach, but when you reach 75% allocation of the statutory limit, then change the number of animals you need to count to qualify for a tag to a higher number, perhaps 75..
5. Cooperators with the most damage should receive their tags first; if a reduction must occur, eliminate the tags for those with the fewest first.
6. Increase the minimum count needed to receive a voucher for a tag when the limit is reached.
7. Increase the overall tag quota on mule deer and antelope.

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Urgency

- In 2017, 360 compensation tags were qualified for issuance
- In 2018, 327 compensation tags qualify
- In 2018, statutory limit (2.5% total tags for deer and antelope) is 527
- Despite fewer tags, increasing interest
- Better to identify a method before statutory limit is reached

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO SELECT A REGULATORY OPTION FOR EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTING LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS IF THE STATUTORY LIMIT IS REACHED AND DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO INITIATE RULEMAKING TO IMPLEMENT THE SELECTED OPTION**