

ADF&G Hunting & Trapping License Fee Increase Proposal

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is reviewing resident and non-resident license and tag fees to address a major funding shortfall it faces and generate new funds to expand hunting and trapping opportunities in Alaska.

The division's shortfall has already resulted in major cuts to wildlife management programs, including the elimination this year of sheep population surveys in Southcentral and Interior Alaska, deer research in Southeast Alaska, and trapper education in the Interior, and a significant reduction in caribou management in northern and western Alaska. Ultimately the inability to closely monitor game populations will force managers to recommend shorter seasons and bag limits to ensure that populations are not over-harvested. Alaskans say they want more hunting opportunity, not less!

The \$3.8 million generated by the fee increases suggested below would enable the department to expand hunting and trapping opportunity in Alaska through predator management programs, improved wildlife habitat and hunter access, and more hunter and trapper clinics, as well as by restoring wildlife management capability the division has been forced to cut.

License or Fee	Current Fee	Suggested Fee	New Revenue ¹
Resident Hunting License ²	\$25	\$ 50	\$ 457,663
Resident Trapping License ³	\$15	\$ 30	\$ 10,388
Resident Hunt/Trap License	\$39	\$ 79	\$ 32,946
Resident Hunt/Fish License	\$39	\$ 69	\$1,045,068
Resident Hunt/Fish/Trap License	\$53	\$ 99	\$ 235,138
Resident Small Game ⁴	New	\$ 25	Unknown
Nonresident Hunting License ⁵	\$85	\$ 100	\$ 138,325
Nonresident Hunt/Fish	\$185	\$ 225	\$ 9,020
Nonresident Hunt/Trap ⁵	\$250	\$ 300	\$ 1,615
Nonresident Hunt/7-day Fish	\$115	\$ 150	\$ 21,347
Nonresident Alien Hunting License	\$300	\$ 375	\$ 13,538
Nonresident Small Game ⁶	\$20	\$ 50	\$ 42,921
Nonresident Big Game Tag Fees ⁷	See below	See below	\$1,285,008
Nonresident Alien Big Game Tag Fees same as NR ⁸	See below	See below	\$ 2,708
Waterfowl Stamp ⁹	\$5	\$ 10	\$ 44,869
Drawing Permit Application Fee ¹⁰	\$5-\$10	\$ 10 -\$ 15	\$ 266,500
Tier 2 Application Fee ¹¹	\$0	\$ 10	\$ 125,150
Registration Permit Stamp ¹²	\$0	\$ 10	\$ 120,000
Estimated Total increase			\$3,852,204

Notes:

- ¹ All revenue projections assume sales remain stable with fee increases, as was the case after the last increase in 1993. During that increase, resident fees increased 108% from \$12 to \$25. Projections are for revenue that would accrue to the Division of Wildlife Conservation only.
- ² Increase resident hunting license fee from \$25 to \$50 to provide needed funding for core wildlife management programs, such as population surveys, predator management, habitat improvement, better hunting access, and additional hunter and trapper clinics. Alaska's resident hunting fees are significantly lower than any other western state and have not been raised since 1993. The current rate is about half of what residents paid at statehood in constant dollar terms.
- ³ Increase resident trapping license fee from \$15 to \$30. The average fee for a trapping license in other western states is \$34.
- ⁴ Provide a new option for residents to purchase a \$25 small game license for those who only want to hunt waterfowl, upland game birds, and small mammals.
- ⁵ Increase the nonresident hunting license fee from \$85 to \$100 and hunting/trapping license fee from \$250 to \$300. These proposed fees keep us competitive with other western states, which is important because about 75% of our license and tag fee revenue comes from non-residents.
- ⁶ Increase nonresident small game licenses from \$20 to \$50. The average fee for other western states is \$57.
- ⁷ Increase non-resident big game tag fees as follows: black bear (\$225 to \$275), brown bear (\$500 to \$650), bison (\$450 to \$1,000), caribou (\$325 to \$425), sheep (\$425 to \$700), deer (\$150 to \$200), elk (\$300 to \$400), moose (\$400 to \$500), goat (\$300 to \$500), muskox (\$1,100 to \$1,500), wolf (\$30 to \$50), wolverine (\$175 to \$250). Factors considered include inflation, tag fees in other western states, uniqueness of Alaska hunt, and demand. (Non-resident military tag fees would remain half the cost of regular non-resident tags.)
- ⁸ Simplify the fee schedule by charging non-resident aliens the same tag fees proposed for "domestic" non-residents.
- ⁹ Increase the cost of state waterfowl stamps from \$5 to \$10. The State of Washington charges \$11; Oregon charges \$9; and California charges \$14, so this suggested fee keeps Alaska's fees slightly lower than the average of other coastal western states.
- ¹⁰ Increase fee for applying for drawing hunts from \$5 to \$10 and \$10 to \$15 to cover administrative costs and provide increased revenue.
- ¹¹ Charge Tier II applicants \$10 each to recoup cost of administering this system. Low income license holders would be exempt from this requirement.
- ¹² Require the roughly 12,000 big game hunters who participate in registration permit hunts to buy a \$10 Registration Permit Hunt Stamp to cover the cost of permit issuance and registration hunt administration. Low income license holders would be exempt from this requirement.