



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FROM NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

FOR THE AUCTION OR SALE OF

BIG GAME FUNDRAISING LICENSE TAGS

September 2023

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Big Game Fundraising License Tags

September 8, 2023

You are invited to review and respond to this Call for Applications, entitled "Big Game Fundraising License Tags". In submitting your application, you must comply with these instructions.

The State of California (State), Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) will accept applications from qualified nonprofit organizations to auction or sell big game fundraising hunting license tags for the 2024-2025 hunting season. By law, revenue from sales of fundraising tags is deposited in the Department's Big Game Management Account.

To be eligible, nonprofit organizations must complete and submit an application package consisting of the following:

- **A completed and signed application** – available on-line at the following Internet site: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting/Fundraising>. If you do not have Internet access, a hard copy can be provided by contacting the person listed below.
- **Written proof of federal nonprofit status including the current Section 501(c)(3) number.**

Complete instructions for eligibility, submission of application, evaluation criteria, and award/protest procedures are included in this Call for Applications. In the opinion of the Department, this Call for Applications is complete and without need of explanation. However, if you have questions, or should you need any clarifying information, the contact person is:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
E-mail: BigGame@wildlife.ca.gov

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➤ Application (6 pages)	
➤ Written proof of federal nonprofit status including the current Section 501(c)(3) number (<i>provided by applicant</i>)	

A. KEY ACTION DATES

Event	Date
Call for Applications Released to Interested Parties	September 8, 2023
Final Date to Submit Applications; due no later than 3:00 p.m.	October 16, 2023
Applications Evaluated and Ranked	October 17-31, 2023
Notice of Intent to Award	November 1, 2023
Last Day to Appeal	November 8, 2023
Proposed Award Date of Agreements	November 8, 2023

B. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The State of California (State), Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is soliciting applications from qualified nonprofit organizations to auction or sell big game hunting license tags (deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) for the 2024-2025 hunting season to raise funds for programs and projects benefiting these big game species.

The Department expects to offer a up to 18 fundraising tags, which could include the following:

- 10 deer tags: 5 Golden Opportunity deer tags and 5 Open Zone deer tags
- 3 elk tags: 1 Multi-zone elk tag, 1 Owens Valley elk tag, and 1 Grizzly Island elk tag
- 2 pronghorn antelope tags: 2 Multi-zone pronghorn tags (valid in zones 1-6)
- 3 bighorn sheep tags: 1 Open Zone tag, 1 Cady Mountains tag, and 1 Marble, Clipper and South Bristol Mountains tag.

Each applicant may apply for up to three (3) tags but, if selected, will receive no more than two (2) fundraising tags to be sold at any one event. By law, revenue from sales of fundraising tags is deposited in the Department's Big Game Management Account.

This Call for Applications, evaluation of the applications, and award of any resultant contracts will be made in conformance with current procedures and applicable State policy. Applicants are responsible for reviewing policies, guidelines, and statutes to ensure compliance with all relevant requirements.

C. GENERAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) ***Applications must be complete in all aspects as required by this Call for Applications.*** An application may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete or if it contains any alterations of form or other irregularities of any kind.
- 2) The Department may waive any immaterial deviation of an application; however, the waiver of an immaterial deviation shall in no way modify the Call for Applications document or excuse the applicant from full compliance with the agreement requirements if the applicant wins the award.
- 3) The application must be signed by an officer of the nonprofit organization or chapter thereof who has authority to sign agreements binding upon the organization. ***An unsigned application will be rejected.***

- 4) An application which contains false or misleading statements, or which provides references which do not support an attribute or condition claimed by the applicant, may be rejected. If, in the opinion of the Department, such information was intended to mislead the State in its evaluation of the application and the attribute, condition, or capability is a requirement of this Call for Applications, it will be the basis for rejection of the application. If the information submitted by the application is insufficient to satisfy the Department as to the applicant's responsibility, the Department may review additional information or reject the application. The Department's determination of the applicant's responsibility, for the purposes of this Call for Applications, shall be final.
- 5) No officer or employee of the Department (or former officer or employee for the two-year period from the date he or she left Department employment) shall assist an applicant in preparing an application to auction or sell fundraising license tags unless the activity is a condition of regular State employment. This is considered a conflict of interest and may result in rejection of the application.
- 6) **An applicant's official submittal must consist of the following items:**
 - Application, complete in all aspects with respect to the general and specific conditions and evaluation criteria **(must be initialed and signed)**;
 - Written proof of federal nonprofit status at the time of application. The 501(c)(3) determination letter (or IRS determination letter) is proof of your organization's tax-exempt status.

D. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) The applicant is a nonprofit organization or chapter thereof as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The applicant must provide written proof of federal nonprofit status and his or her Section 501(c)(3) number as part of the application package.
- 2) The applicant agrees that the auction or sale event will be conducted under terms and conditions that comply with all California state laws. If the sale event is held outside of California, the parties agree that California law will control in the event of any dispute.
- 3) The applicant will conduct the auction or sale event after January 1 and prior to **June 13** of the year in which the tag is valid.
- 4) The applicant agrees that the auction or sale event will be conducted under standards of good faith and commercial reasonableness, and the applicant will use its best effort to obtain maximum return. The organization may opt to auction or sell the tag at an in-person event, a live-streamed event, or another method in a manner accommodating similar public participation as in-person or live-streamed events.
- 5) Revenue generated by the auction or sale of fundraising tags must be transferred to the Department **within 30 calendar days of the event or by June 12, 2024**, whichever comes first. When tags are sold by auction, auctioneers shall accept only a full bid amount consistent with commercial auction practices.
- 6) Nonprofit organizations auctioning or selling fundraising license tags shall clearly indicate in all advertisements and to potential tag recipients that such tags are subject to all existing conditions required by the authorization and issuance of the license tags and for the take of the species, including any required hunting license and hunter orientation programs identified in Title 14,

California Code of Regulations. Tags shall be nontransferable.

- 7) The organization may independently offer items to be sold or auctioned immediately prior or subsequent to auction or sale of the fundraising license tags. However, the organization will clearly distinguish between the beneficiary of the sale of such items and the beneficiary of the sale of the fundraising license tags, which shall be the Department. All advertising shall make this distinction.
- 8) Organizations must bear all costs associated with the auction or sale of the fundraising license tags.
- 9) The applicant understands and will disclose in all advertisements and at the time of the sale that the tags will be authorized only after final adoption of the annual mammal hunting and trapping regulations by the California Fish and Game Commission. For fundraising tags, the full amount bid will be reimbursed to the high bidder should a hunting season not be implemented for the species and/or location advertised.
- 10) Multiple chapters of an organization are encouraged to apply. However, the information provided on the application must be specific to the chapter that is applying for the tag and not to the broader organization.

E. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- 1) The application must be submitted in a **sealed** envelope plainly marked “**Application for the Auction or Sale of Big Game Fundraising License Tags**”. The application shall be sent to the Department by the date and time shown in Section A, Key Action Dates. **An application received after this date and time will not be considered.** Applicants are cautioned that departmental processing of United States mail may add up to 48 hours to the delivery time within the Department. The submission of an application shall be deemed evidence that the applicant has taken steps to familiarize himself or herself with the pertinent factors and features of submission.
- 2) Mail applications to the following address. **FAXES & E-MAILS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch
P.O. BOX 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Attn: Big Game Unit

Applications may be hand delivered to the following address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch c/o: Big Game Unit
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
- 3) Applications must be legibly printed in ink or typewritten or printed directly from the on-line application form. Erasures are not permitted. Errors may be crossed out, and corrections printed in ink or typewritten adjacent to the error. All errors and corrections must be initialed in ink by the person signing the application.
- 4) The application must be signed by an officer of the nonprofit organization or chapter thereof who has authority to sign agreements binding upon the organization. An unsigned application will be rejected.

- 5) Before submitting an application, applicants should review, correct all errors and confirm compliance with the requirements identified in this Call for Applications.

F. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

- 1) Each applicant may apply for up to three (3) tags for an event. Each applicant will identify a first-choice tag and, if desired, second and third choice tags, in the manner specified on the application. Regardless of the number of tags applied for, each applicant will receive no more than two (2) fundraising tags to be sold at any one event. Organizations that wish to optimize their chances of selection are encouraged to identify first, second and third choices on the application.
- 2) Each application will be logged as it is received and verified that it is properly sealed. Applications will remain sealed until the designated time for opening.
- 3) Applications will first be reviewed for completeness by a Department administrative committee to determine if applications meet the administrative requirements of the solicitation. Applications deemed to be inconsistent with the submittal requirements will not be considered for further evaluation or scoring and will be deemed ineligible.
- 4) Applications will be scored based on the criteria below in Section G. A Department evaluation committee will review the applications and score them based on the criteria. Upon final scoring by the evaluation committee, the list of recommendations will be submitted to the Department leadership for review and approval.
- 5) If an application is deemed non-responsive to ANY conditions as described in this Call for Application the Department will notify the applicant after the "Notice of Intent to Award" is posted on **November 1, 2023**.
- 6) Notice of Intent to Award is not necessarily final. Fundraising license tags are not available at time of award and will be issued only after final adoption of the annual mammal hunting and trapping regulations by the Fish and Game Commission (usually in early May).
- 7) The Department reserves the right to reject any or all applications at any time.

G. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Department has established criteria to identify eligible applicants and provide an objective means of determining which applicants can be expected to generate maximum revenue from sales of the various fundraising license tags. Applicants are expected to provide detailed information in the application on how they plan to maximize revenue from the sale of each tag for which they are applying. This detailed information is related to specific criteria identified below.

- 1) Factors to be evaluated are outlined below. All responsive applications will be assigned a score based upon a maximum of 102 possible points (after multiplying a raw score of 85 by a 1.2 preference factor). Nonprofit organizations or chapters thereof interested in assisting with the auction or sale of fundraising license tags must provide detailed information specifically related to these criteria.

Evaluation Criteria and Point Value:

- (1) Event Date and Location5 points
- (2) Method of Sale5 points

(3) Expected Revenue	10 points
(4) Previous Experience with Fundraising Events and/or Sale of Fundraising Tags	40 points
(5) Marketing/Promoting the Sale of the Tag	25 points
RAW TOTAL	85 points

2) Final scores will be determined by multiplying raw totals (see above) by a preference factor. Preference factors are specified as follows:

- For first-choice tags, the preference factor is 1.2
- For second-choice tags, the preference factor is 1.1
- For third-choice tags, the preference factor is 1.0.

H. AWARD AND PROTEST

- 1) A committee composed of Department personnel will evaluate and rank eligible applications. Upon selection of qualified applicants, a Notice of Intent to Award will be posted for five (5) working days at the Department’s office receiving applications (1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA). Written or e-mailed notification of the Department’s Notice of Intent to Award will be made to all applicants.
- 2) If an applicant has submitted an application which he or she believes to be responsive to the requirements of this Call for Applications and qualifies according to the evaluation criteria and believes the Department has incorrectly selected another applicant for award, he or she may submit an appeal as described below.
- 3) All appeals must be made in writing, signed by an individual authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant, and contain a statement of the reason(s) for appeal, citing the law, rule, regulation, or procedure on which the appeal is based. The organization must provide facts and evidence to support its claim. All appeals must be received by the Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814, telephone (916) 653-4899, fax (916) 653-5040, by 5:00 p.m. on **November 8, 2023**. The Department will provide the Commission with its assessment and recommendation on the issue. The Commission will then take steps to resolve the appeal.

I. DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS

- 1) Upon opening applications, all documents submitted in response to this Call for Applications will become the property of the State of California and will be regarded as public records under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.) and subject to review by the public.
- 2) Application packages may be returned only at the applicant’s expense.

J. AGREEMENT EXECUTION

- 1) Organizations selected to sell a fundraising tag will be required to enter into a signed agreement with the State.
- 2) The organization’s event must take place on or before June 12, 2024.

K. REQUIRED FORMS

- 1) A completed and signed application
- 2) Written proof of federal nonprofit status including the current Section 501(c)(3) number (*provided by applicant*). The 501(c)(3) determination letter (or IRS determination letter) is proof of your organization's tax-exempt status.