



Tracking Number: ( 2024-13 )

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission’s authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

**SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Chris Lewis

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:** Division 1, Chapter 2 §200 (Commission’s Power to Regulate Taking Fish and Game) and §203 (Bird and Mammal Regulations) and §1050 (Preparation, Issuance, Displaying and Establishment of Fees)

**3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:** Propose regulation change for big game preference point reinstatement, license, and/or tag fee refunds in the event of death of licensee; illness or injury of licensee which totally disabled the licensee for the entire length of any applicable hunting season; military deployment of licensee due to an armed conflict; or extenuating circumstances. Refund must be substantiated by death certificate, published obituary, written justification by a licensed medical doctor, copy of military orders, or other similar substantiating documents.

**4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:** Currently, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is prohibited from refunding license and tag fees based on circumstance of a licensee’s death, injury or illness, military deployment, or extenuating circumstances. By making changes to current regulations licensee’s or their survivor would enjoy the refund of fees for hunting opportunities not enjoyed by the licensee. The proposed regulation changes would benefit the Department with good will, and reflect fairness by the Department. The states of Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado, have in place refund ability and procedures. For this petition it is contemplated wherein circumstances where the Department issues a tag good for archery and general buck



season, the tag and license can be returned and reviewed for determination of refund with attestation by the licensee that no hunting occurred with the privilege of the license and/or tag and substantiated with documentation from a licensed medical doctor. Attached are the states of Nevada and Idaho return of tag forms for consideration by the Commission. Based on the use of electronic recordation stems, a nominal return processing may be considered. |

## SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** |October 1, 2024. |

6. **Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: |Click here to enter text. |

7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

Amend Title 14 Section(s): |§708.2. and §708.14. |

Add New Title 14 Section(s): |Click here to enter text. |

Repeal Title 14 Section(s): |Click here to enter text. |

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** |Click here to enter text. |

Or  Not applicable.

9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.

If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: |Proposed changes to take effect prior to 2025/2026 hunting seasons. |

10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports, and other documents: |State of Nevada and Idaho return forms. |

11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: |Unknown, but references may be made as a “pony” by reviewing the Commission’s March 4, 2022, decision to refund tag fees and preference points due to land closure due to fire. |

12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

|Click here to enter text. |

## SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: |Click here to enter text. |



FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_ |

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_ |

Tracking Number

- Granted for consideration of regulation change



# IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME NONRESIDENT REFUND REQUEST FORM

- Review the Idaho Administrative Code for refunds: Rule 13.01.04.601 (page 2)
- Complete all information below.
- Attach all licenses, tags, and permits for which you are requesting a refund. Mail this form with the license and tags and supporting documentation to:

**IDFG License Section- Refunds**  
**P.O. Box 25**  
**Boise, ID 83707-0025**

### License Holder's Information:

Name (first, middle, last) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Reason for Refund:

- Illness or Injury that disables the license holder for the entire applicable hunting season.**
  - Include supporting documentation detailing the medical condition, date of occurrence or diagnosis, and expected recovery date.  
 Include completed Hunter Disability Certification Form  
**or**
  - Include a letter from a licensed medical doctor on the doctor's letterhead.
- Military Deployment**, Include a copy of your deployment
- Death**, Include a copy of the death certificate or obituary
- Other**, Explain the reason for your request below or on a separate page.

**Explain the reason for your request or provide additional details:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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I certify that the above information is true and correct.  
 I have read the Idaho Administrative Code for refunds: Rule 13.01.04.601.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### IDAHO FISH AND GAME OFFICE USE ONLY:

Received By: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE FOR REFUNDS**  
**RULE 13.01.04.601**

The Department will not refund any fee for any nonresident license (as defined in Section 36-202(aa), Idaho Code), except as follows, and provided the refund request is in writing, is accompanied by the original license and tag, and is received or postmarked on or before December 31 of the calendar year in which the license was valid.

01. Refund. Nonresident general or controlled hunt deer or elk tag fees and hunting license fees may be refunded due to
- the death of licensee;
  - illness or injury of licensee that totally disable the licensee for the entire length of any applicable hunting season;
  - or military deployment of licensee due to an armed conflict;

As substantiated by death certificate, published obituary, written justification by a medical doctor, copy of military orders, or similar documentation.

The hunting license fee will not be refunded if it was used to apply for any controlled hunt or to purchase a turkey, mountain lion, or bear tag.

The amount refunded will be the amount applicable deer or elk tag and hunting license fees, less all issuance fees and a fifty dollar (\$50) processing fee.

02. Partial Refund. Nonresident general and controlled hunt deer or elk tag fee may be partially refunded for a reason other than those in the preceding subsection based on the postmark date in the below table. The hunting license fee will not be refunded.

Postmark Date	Refund Percentage
Before April 1	75 percent refund
April 1 - June 30	50 percent refund
July 1 - August 31	25 percent refund
September 1 - December 31	No refund

**Additional Information About the Refund Process:**

- Once IDFG receives your request and supporting information it will go through an administrative review process
- Failure to include all requested information will delay the review process. If the information is missing you will receive a letter requesting the missing information,
- You will receive a written response in about 4 weeks from the date IDFG receives your request.



# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CLIENT RETURN OF GAME TAG

Game tags may be returned to the Department under conditions illustrated in NAC 502. For reasons of **death, medical disability, Armed Forces transfer, or extenuating circumstances**, adequate documentation **MUST** be provided when the tag is returned to the Department before the tag return can be accepted. Tags may be returned for **“any reason”** as defined in NAC 502.422.

**Mail or return physical tag, supporting documentation and completed form to:**

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Data and Technology Services Division – Tag Return  
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy Ste 120  
Reno, NV 89511

<b>TAG INFO:</b>	
TAG HOLDER: _____	CLIENT ID: _____
SPECIES _____	WEAPON: _____
UNIT(S): _____	SEASON: _____

Pursuant to NAC 502.422, I acknowledge that a game tag must be **RECEIVED** by the Department 1 business day before the opening day of the season for which the tag is issued to qualify for an any reason return. Pursuant to NAC 502.385, I acknowledge that a game tag must be **RECEIVED** by the Department no later than fourteen (14) business days into the earliest season for which the tag was issued to qualify for all other return options. If a tag is returned to the Department after legal shooting hours for the tag’s season and is denied eligibility by the Department, the tag will be considered used, and no return options will be available to the tag holder. This request will be processed according to NAC 502.385 and Department approved standard operating procedures.

Client initials \_\_\_\_\_

1.  YES.  NO. Tag return is due to an Armed Forces location transfer. If yes, continue to section **A & D**.
2.  YES.  NO. Tag return is due to the tag holder being diagnosed as terminally ill. If yes, continue to section **B & D**.
3.  YES.  NO. Tag return is due to a death of a family member OR an unanticipated injury or illness of the tag holder or family member of the tag holder that prevents the holder from hunting. If yes, continue to section **C & D**.
4. If all above have been answered “NO”, continue to section **D**.

<p>A. If an Armed Forces transfer makes it impractical for the holder to hunt in the area for which the tag was issued, the holder may choose to return their tag for a restoration of bonus points or defer their tag to the next applicable hunting season with the verification of a copy of his or her mobilized and/or deployed orders or other proof satisfactory to the Department. Choose one and continue to section D:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BONUS POINT RESTORATION    <b>OR</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERANCE</p>
<p>B. If the tag holder is diagnosed as terminally ill before the start of their tag’s season, the holder may return their tag for a restoration of bonus points, defer their tag to the next application hunting season or transfer their tag to another person who is otherwise eligible to hunt big game in Nevada. “Terminally ill,” as defined in NRS 449A.081, means a medical diagnosis made by a physician that a person has an anticipated life expectancy of not more than 12 months. Choose one and continue to section D: <b>Section B. continued on next page.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BONUS POINT RESTORATION    <b>OR</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERANCE    <b>OR</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFER</p>

**B. Continued**

Complete for transfer only. Transfer recipient and signature information:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLIENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP TO TAG HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Transfer Recipient)

**Waiting periods and bonus point cost will be applied to BOTH parties.**

C. If a death of a family member, unanticipated injury or illness to the tag holder or family member of the tag holder occurs after the last day that the holder is entitled to return the tag but before the hunting hours begin on the opening day of the season for which the tag was issued, a certificate of death or medical documentation detailing the unanticipated injury or illness as verified by a physician can be provided to the Department for the restoration of any bonus points or the choice to defer the tag to the next year's identical hunting season. Choose one and continue to section D:

BONUS POINT RESTORATION    OR     DEFERANCE

D. Please document the reason for the tag return. If the return is for an injury or illness of a family member, describe the relationship to the family member. A tag holder may return their tag to the Department for a restoration of bonus points for any reason. Tag returns falling within this category must be **RECEIVED** by the Department at least one (1) business day before the opening day of the tag's season. **Party tag returns will not receive a bonus point refund unless all members of the party return their tag (excluding medical, military, or death exemptions) NAC 502.422 Subsection 5 (CGR 490, approved by the Leg Commission in 2020).** Transfers and deferrals will be denied if this section is left blank. Reason for tag return:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* By signing this form, all parties attest that all information provided is correct and the tag being returned was in no way utilized to pursue game in the field with the intention to harvest. In the case of a death to a family member of the tag holder, the holder attests that their relationship falls within the definition of family provided in NRS 502.103. In the case of a tag transfer, both the original holder of the tag and the new recipient of the tag acknowledge that BOTH parties will be treated as if he/she drew the tag with respect to any applicable waiting periods and bonus points. If a tag is returned to the Department after legal shooting hours for the tag's season and is denied eligibility by the Department, the tag will be considered used, and no return options will be available to the tag holder. Approved deferral customers agree to an account suspension preventing the issuance of alternate, FCFS, or landowner tags for the remainder of the hunt year. Deferrals are subject to approved quotas set by the Board of Wildlife Commission and will be issued by lowest draw number. Deferrals with no available quota or no identical hunt for the next hunt year will be treated as a general tag return.

Signature of tag holder/representative returning the tag:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Department employee receiving the returned tag:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**NRS 502.103** – Authorizes the Commission to establish a program allowing for the transfer, deferral or return of a big game tag.

**NAC 502.385 Section 2** – Establishes the tag transfer and deferral program. Extenuating circumstances are defined in NAC as:

- (a) The death of a family member of the holder of the tag, as verified by a certificate of death;
- (b) The holder of the tag or a family member of the holder incurs a severe and unanticipated injury or illness which prevents the holder from hunting during the season for which the tag was issued, as verified in writing by a physician; or
- (c) The holder of the tag is serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is transferred to a location which makes it impracticable for the holder to hunt in the area for which the tag was issued, as verified by a copy of his or her orders or other proof satisfactory to the Department.

To ensure program consistency and fairness to deferral participants, the Department will utilize NRS 232.4854 as a guide for extenuating circumstance qualifications. Each deferral request will be vetted on an individual basis by the Director or Deputy Director of the agency in a timely manner.

**NRS 232.4854** – “Serious illness” means a medical illness, physical injury or condition that substantially affects the quality of life of a person for more than a short period of time.

Examples of qualifying extenuating circumstances include but are not limited to:

- Motor vehicle accidents resulting in severe personal injury
- Unplanned surgeries resulting from unanticipated accidents or illnesses
- Blood clot
- Broken bones
- Death of a family member, as defined in NRS 502.103

Examples of extenuating circumstances that **DO NOT** qualify:

- Cold and flu
- Return to work notes depicting “light duty”
- Elective or planned surgeries such as knee or hip replacements
- Chronic medical conditions, including but not limited to, hypertension, obesity, high cholesterol, fibromyalgia, arthritis, asthma, COPD, multiple sclerosis, etc.
- Seizures and similar chronic medical conditions that encompass a range of neurological disorders characterized by abnormal electrical activity in the brain
- Injury or death of another member of the tag holder’s hunting party, unless the member is also kindred to the tag holder within the first degree of consanguinity

Examples of events that do not meet the definition of an extenuating circumstance include but are not limited to:

- Natural disasters or property damage such as wildland fires
- Weather related events
- Government closures and shutdowns
- Jury summons
- Biological impacts on herd health or numbers

As used in this section, “family member” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 502.103. “Family member” means:

- (1) A spouse of the big game hunter;
- (2) A person who is related to the big game hunter within the first degree of consanguinity (spouse, parent, child); or
- (3) A stepchild of the big game hunter

“Terminally ill” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449A.081. “Terminally ill” means a medical diagnosis made by a physician that a person has an anticipated life expectancy of not more than 12 months.

Tags may also be transferred to a qualifying organization who would facilitate the tag transfer to an individual with a disability or life-threatening medical condition or a youth 16 years of age or younger, whose household income signifies poverty. For more information on this tag transfer program, contact the Department at 775-688-1500.

**NAC 502.422** – Outlines the ability of a tag holder to return their tag to the Department for the restoration of their bonus points. Tag holders selecting this option will be treated as if the tag had not been issued and the applicant was unsuccessful in obtaining the tag. **Per regulation, no tag fees will be returned for this option.**