

# COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION TO RE-ALIGN WYOMING'S HUNTING TAG ALLOCATION



# ABOUT MOUNTAIN PURSUIT

---



## **Rob Shaul**

- Founder/President
- 5th Generation Wyomingite (Sublette/Teton Counties)
- Full Time Strength & Conditioning Coach

- New Western-States Hunting Nonprofit - started August, 2018.
- 501(c)(3) in Spring, 2019
- Partner 501(c)(4) "Mountain Pursuit Action Fund"
- All Volunteers ... no paid staff.

## **Issues:**

- Stand Strong for Resident Hunter Preference
- Forcefully Advocate for Fair Chase
- Forcefully Advocate for Wildlife & Wildlife Conservation
- Fight for the future of big game hunting in the West
- Research/Thought Leadership in the Hunting Space

*Mountain Pursuit aspires to represent subsistence-based, Western-State resident hunters.*

## WHAT WE WANT ....

---



- This Committee to Sponsor Legislation which will Comprehensively Re-Align Wyoming's Hunting Tag Allocation System between Residents and Nonresidents
- We believe it's possible to write legislation which brings Wyoming Resident Hunter Tag Allocation in alignment with surrounding states, is revenue neutral to the WGFD, and benefits outfitters

## WHY IS WYOMING GIVING 25% OF ITS BIG HORN SHEEP TAGS TO NON-RESIDENTS?

	Elk	Deer	Moose	Mtn Goat	Bighorn Sheep	Antelope
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>16% for Limited Quota Units, 7,250 Cap for all initial draw tags</b>	<b>20% for Limited Quota Units</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	6% DYI 10% if using a Guide	6% DYI 10% if using a Guide	6% DYI 10% if using a Guide	N/A	6% DYI 10% if using a Guide	6% DYI 10% if using a Guide
<b>Nevada</b>	10%	16% or 400, whichever is greater	10%	10%	10%	
<b>Montana</b>	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw	10% for limited quota units, but if fewer than 10 tags are offered, non-residents can't draw
<b>Idaho</b>	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents	Max 10% of Units with Controlled Hunts. If less than 10 tags offered, no more than 1 for non-residents
<b>Colorado</b>	35%, but if 6 or more preference points are needed, non-residents can only draw 20% of the tags	35%, but if 6 or more preference points are needed, non-residents can only draw 20% of the tags	10%	10%	10%	Unclear
<b>Arizona</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	Very Complicated	
<b>Utah</b>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

# ACTUAL NONRESIDENT HUNTING PRESSURE IN WYOMING IS MUCH GREATER

TABLE I  
ELK  
HARVEST STATEWIDE  
BY TOTAL HUNTERS  
2018

	LICENSES SOLD	NUMBER ACTIVE HUNTERS	HARVEST				TOTAL	RECREATION DAYS	TOTAL HUNTER SUCCESS	DAYS/HARVEST
			BULL	SPIKE	COW	CALF				
STATE TOTAL	70,608	55,978	10,590	1,183	11,142	2,176	25,091	446,017	44.8%	17.8
RESIDENT	57,697	44,298	7,595	1,025	8,631	1,769	19,020	376,190	42.9%	19.8
NONRESIDENT	12,911	11,680	2,995	158	2,511	407	6,071	69,827	52.0%	11.5

Nonresidents  
Purchased 18.2% of  
2018 Elk Tags

12,911 Tags Purchased  
- 7,250 Statute Cap

5,661 Tags - Purchased as  
leftovers

TABLE I  
TOTAL DEER  
HARVEST STATEWIDE  
BY TOTAL HUNTERS  
2018

	LICENSES SOLD	NUMBER ACTIVE HUNTERS	HARVEST			TOTAL	TOTAL RECREATION DAYS	HUNTER SUCCESS	DAYS/HARVEST
			BUCK	DOE	FAWN				
STATE TOTAL	82,580	64,127	32,076	11,512	1,691	45,279	344,424	70.6%	7.6
RESIDENT	56,781	42,935	20,169	6,818	1,043	28,030	254,146	65.3%	9.1
NONRESIDENT	25,799	21,192	11,907	4,694	648	17,249	90,278	81.4%	5.2

Nonresidents  
Purchased 31.2%  
of 2018 Deer Tags

25,799 Tags Purchased  
- 16,561 Statute Cap (20%)

9,238 Tags - Purchased as  
leftovers

# ACTUAL NONRESIDENT HUNTING PRESSURE IN WYOMING IS MUCH GREATER

TABLE I  
ANTELOPE  
HARVEST STATEWIDE  
BY TOTAL HUNTERS  
2018

	LICENSES SOLD	NUMBER ACTIVE HUNTERS	HARVEST				TOTAL RECREATION DAYS	HUNTER SUCCESS	DAYS/HARVEST
			BUCK	DOE	FAWN	TOTAL			
STATE TOTAL	61,512	48,612	28,012	16,884	1,780	46,676	149,948	96.0%	3.2
RESIDENT	29,213	22,472	14,444	6,121	416	20,981	72,917	93.4%	3.5
NONRESIDENT	32,299	26,140	13,568	10,763	1,364	25,695	77,031	98.3%	3.0



Nonresidents  
Purchased 52.5% of  
2018 Antelope Tags!

32,299 Tags Purchased  
-12,302 Statute Cap (20%)

19,998 Tags purchased as  
leftovers

## 2018 WDGf Harvest Report Data

	Total Tags Sold	Resident	Nonresident	Percent Nonresident
Bighorn Sheep	206	147	59	28.6% (5 Governor Tags)
Moose	315	248	67	21.2% (5 Governor Tags)
Bison	199	155	44	22.1% (5 Governor Tags)
Mtn Goat	41	30	11	26.8%

# HUNTING INDUSTRY MARKETING OF WYOMING HUNTING TO NONRESIDENTS IS FORMIDABLE ....

hunting in wyoming strategy

All News Images Videos Shopping More Settings Tools

About 2,530,000 results (0.61 seconds)

### Videos



Hunt Elk Every Year: Wyoming and the goHUNT INSIDER

Randy Newberg, Hunter  
YouTube - Jan 23, 2019



2018 Wyoming Elk Application with Randy Newberg Using ...

Randy Newberg, Hunter  
YouTube - Jan 13, 2018



Applying for an Elk Tag in Wyoming - Corey's Application ...

Elk101.com  
YouTube - Jan 21, 2019

### Articles

Application Strategy 2019: Wyoming Deer and Antelope, [gohunt.com](http://gohunt.com)  
DIY Wyoming Public Land Antelope, [sportsmennation.com](http://sportsmennation.com)  
Guide to Nonresident Applications - Wyoming, [rmef.org](http://rmef.org)  
Hunt Elk in Wyoming in 2019 With OTC Tags, [backcountrychronicles.com](http://backcountrychronicles.com)  
Wyoming Preference Points Explained, [wyoga.org](http://wyoga.org)  
Wyoming Hunt Application Strategy, [tradbowsafaries.com](http://tradbowsafaries.com)  
How to Get an Elk Tag (or Two!) Every Year, [exomtngear.com](http://exomtngear.com)  
Your Basic Timeline for A Wyoming Antelope Hunt, [wideopenspaces.com](http://wideopenspaces.com)  
Big Game Tags - Understanding Wyoming, [meateater.com](http://meateater.com)  
Wyoming Big Game Hunting Application Information, [outsideanalytics.com](http://outsideanalytics.com)  
World Class Elk Hunting in Southwest Wyoming, [worldwidetrophyadventures.com](http://worldwidetrophyadventures.com)  
Wyoming NR Elk Draw Change - Hallelulah!, [bowsite.com](http://bowsite.com)  
Global Travel: Hunting in Wyoming, [realtree.com](http://realtree.com)  
Wyoming - Draw and Application Info, [huntaddicts.com](http://huntaddicts.com)  
Wyoming's Top Limited Entry Deer and Antelope Units, [monstermuleys.com](http://monstermuleys.com)  
Wyoming Elk Hunt Draw Strategies, [ifish.net](http://ifish.net)  
The Three Most Welcoming Western States for Eastern Hunters, [realtree.com](http://realtree.com)

### Podcasts

How to Hunt Wyoming, Rich Outdoors Podcasts  
Wyoming - Hunters' Gem of the West, Hunt Talk Radio  
Wyoming Elk Application Strategy, Elk 101 Podcast  
Wyoming Elk Hunting - How and Wy, Randy Newberg Podcast  
Wyoming Application Strategy, Epic Outdoors Podcast  
Wyoming Pronghorn Antelope Hunting, East West Hunt Podcast

# FOR MOOSE AND SHEEP - THE PIE IS SHRINKING ...

---



In 1998, the WDGf Issued 1,032 Resident Moose Tags.

In 2018, the WDGf Issued 248 Resident Moose Tags.

This is a 76% decline available tags for resident hunters in just 20 years.



In 1998, the WDGf Issued 186 Resident Sheep Tags.

In 2018, the WDGf Issued 147 Resident Sheep Tags.

This is a 21% decline available tags for resident hunters in just 20 years.

# PROPOSED WYOMING TAG ALLOCATION RE-ALIGNMENT

---

- 10% Nonresident Tag Allocation for all Limited Quota Hunts regardless of species: Deer, Elk, Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Mountain Goat, Moose
- If fewer than 10 tags are offered for a specific hunt area, non-residents can't draw
- Keep the 7,250 Cap on Initial Draw Nonresident Elk Tags. Nonresidents can still purchase leftover tags above this quota
- Set up Nonresident Elk General Tag Regions and Quotas to spread out pressure, and help outfitters
- Create a Resident “head start” for leftover tags (New Mexico Model)

# HOW THIS RE-ALIGNMENT WOULD HAVE AFFECTED 2018 RESIDENT TAGS FOR SHEEP, MOOSE, BISON & GOAT

	2018 Resident Tag Allocation	Re-Aligned Resident Tag Allocation	Net Increase in Tags for Wyoming Resident Hunters
<b>Bighorn Sheep</b>	147	196	49
<b>Moose</b>	248	293	45
<b>Bison</b>	155	180	25
<b>Goat</b>	30	41	11
<b>Elk Type 1, 2, &amp; 9</b>	9,304	9,969	665
			<b>Total - 795</b>



# MAJOR ISSUES

---

- Loss in Nonresident tag revenue to the WDGF. Senator Hicks has asked the Department to run the numbers. Mountain Pursuit Estimate - \$3.1 mill.
- Loss in Revenue Nonresident Preference Point Sales (unkown)
- Impact to Outfitters, Outfitter Opposition
- Hospitality Industry Opposition

## ADDRESSING THE LOSS IN WDGf REVENUE - MOUNTAIN PURSUIT'S IDEAS

---

- **Across the Board Increase in Nonresident Tag Fees**

2019 Tag Prices - Source G&F Websites\*

	WY	AZ	MT	NM	ID	CO
Antelope	441	725	220	348	465	396
Elk	992	825	929	838	570	661
Deer	489	475	659	433	456	396
Moose	1982		1315		2256	2211
BH Sheep	2320	1975	1315	3238	2256	2211
Mtn Goat	2162		1315		2256	2211

- Not Competing with Other States - Too Much Demand
- 2018 Auctioned Governor Tags give some indication of demand. Average Auction Sale Price of Governor Tags (5 Each) in 2018:
  - Bighorn Sheep - \$92,000
  - Moose - \$36,800
  - Elk - \$22,400
  - Deer - \$27,100

# ADDRESSING THE LOSS IN WDGf REVENUE - MOUNTAIN PURSUIT IDEAS

---

- Increase in Nonresident Antelope and Deer Doe/Fawn, and Elk Cow/Calf fees to 50% of the Buck or Bull Tag Price.
  - *Currently just \$34 for a nonresident doe/fawn Antelope and Deer tag and \$288 for a nonresident cow/calf elk tag!*
  - *For 2018 leftover tags alone, at 2018 tag prices, this change would have generated \$394,361 in revenue.*
- Eliminate Complimentary Governor & Commissioner Tags, and have the department direct auction the tags. These generated \$1.73 Million in 2018
- Afraid to take on the Governor & Commissioners? Take 5 tags each from the 10% NR allotment for sheep, moose, bison, deer and elk, and direct auction them via the G&F website .... should raise \$600K to \$1 mill in revenue
- Charge companies using Wyoming harvest data and hunt area coordinates for commercial profit: [gohunt.com](http://gohunt.com), [huntingfool.com](http://huntingfool.com), [onxmaps.com](http://onxmaps.com), etc.
- Sen. Hicks - Collapse/Combine the two tiered non-resident tag application system (special, regular) to 1 tier

# ADDRESSING THE IMPACT TO OUTFITTERS

## Outfitter-Client Yearly Statistics

Wyoming State Board of Outfitters & Professional Guides

Year End Statistics: 2018      Outfitters: 316 

SPECIES	# OF CLIENTS	SUCCESSFUL	%
Deer	2643	2235	85%
Antelope	3254	3051	94%
Elk	3195	2050	64%
Black Bear	136	79	58%
Moose	39	37	95%
Sheep	95	78	82%
Mountain Goat	12	12	100%
Mountain Lion	84	51	61%
Wolf	30	0	0%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9488</b> 	<b>7593</b>	<b>80%</b>

\*The actual number of individuals utilizing the services of licensed outfitters may be slightly less than the totals reflected above due to some clients hunting more than one species.

# ADDRESSING THE IMPACT TO OUTFITTERS - OPTIONS/TOOLS

---

## Resident hunters and outfitters share a common goal ... Decrease the number of DIY Nonresident Hunters in Wyoming

- 9 of 12 Western States have some type of Outfitter set-aside
- Outfitter Set Aside Methods
  1. Land Type Set Aside (Wyoming's Wilderness Restriction)
  2. Animal-Type Set Aside (Alaska - Bear, Goat, Sheep)
  3. Transferable Landowner Tags
  4. Specific Outfitter Tag Set-asides (% of NR tags)
    - Idaho can set aside 25% of nonresident tags for all general and controlled hunts for outfitters.
    - New Mexico has a special 10% special nonresident tag pool set aside for outfitters for controlled hunts. NR's applying for tags in this pool must have a signed contract with outfitters.
    - Oregon sets aside up to 50% controlled deer and elk tags for outfitters - which they can purchase and market to clients.

# QUESTIONS I'D HAVE IF I WERE YOU ...

<b>Are you Open to increasing Resident Tag Fees?</b>	<p>Not unless we need to ... Wyoming Hunters have been very generous already to Nonresidents via the current overly-liberal tag allocation.</p> <p>We'd consider increases to Elk Type 1, 2 and 9 Resident Tag Prices.</p>
<b>Have You Reached out to the Outfitters</b>	<p>Yes .... Two members of the WYOGA Board.</p> <p>Traded Emails with one in the late Winter. Emailed both in August - and haven't heard back. - It's their busy season ...</p>
<b>Are you concerned about out-pricing middle class nonresident hunters from hunting in Wyoming</b>	<p>We're more concerned about hunting opportunities and cost for Wyoming Residents.</p> <p>Also - the proposal we're suggesting is not beyond what other Western states are doing in terms of NR tag allocation.</p>
<b>You haven't provided many specifics on how to address the WDGF funding deficit - Why?</b>	<p>We're waiting on a solid number back from the Department - so we can all be aiming toward the same goal.</p> <p>The one unknown will be loss in revenue from NR's who stop applying for preference points. This impact could be lessened by a 2 year implementation.</p>
<b>What about Hospitality Industry opposition?</b>	<p>Our guess is elk/deer/antelope nonresident hunters provide the bulk of the Fall hunting business to Wyoming's motels/restaurants, and because so many nonresidents receive tags via leftovers, we're not sure the impact would be significant.</p>
<b>Next Steps?</b>	<p>We'd ask the Committee to consider sponsoring a Bill, and we will will work with you, Sen. Hicks and others on the details</p>