

# Purchasing Licenses and Permits

## To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor throughout the state.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685, 1-800-824-3729. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail. A service fee of 3% plus \$5.50 of the total sale is added for this transaction.
- On the Internet, go online to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>. A service fee of 3% plus \$3.50 of the total sale is added for this transaction.
- Commercial licenses, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

When buying licenses by telephone, the buyer, on request, will be assigned a validation number that may be used in lieu of the actual license for 14 days from the date of issue. When this number is used, the person must carry their driver's license or identification card. A validation number may not be used in lieu of a tag. Purchasers must wait until tags or permits arrive.

Any license, tag or permit that is defaced or altered is invalid from the date and time of issue. It is unlawful to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced or altered.

**Sale Dates:** Licenses and tags go on sale December 1 of each year. All licenses are valid only for the calendar year for which they are issued.

## Hunter and Bowhunter Education

- To buy a hunting license, all hunters must show proof that they have completed a hunter education course if they were born on or after January 1, 1975, unless they have held a hunting license from Idaho or another state.
- To buy an archery permit, all bowhunters must show proof they have completed an approved bowhunter education course or show evidence of having been licensed for an archery-only hunt in Idaho or another state, or complete an affidavit to that effect.
- The Hunter Education Course includes 15-17 class hours plus a two- to four-hour range and live-fire exercise. The curriculum includes training in firearms safety, basic archery safety, hunting ethics, wildlife management, conservation, survival, regulations and a final written exam.
- The Bowhunter Education Course averages 12 class hours plus a field exercise. Subjects include bowhunting equipment, techniques, safety, shot placement, ethics, treestand safety, outdoor preparedness and the state final exam.
- Independent study courses include a Workbook Option and an Internet-based course for hunter

education and internet-based course for bowhunter education as alternatives to the traditional classroom courses for students 10 years or older. There is a small additional cost for the Internet courses that is paid directly to the course provider. All independent study courses require the successful completion of an additional six- to seven-hour scheduled field day. Course and registration information can be found on the Hunter Education Program page of the Idaho Fish and Game website at [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/hunter\\_ed/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/hunter_ed/) or obtained from a regional Fish and Game office. Individuals planning to participate in fall hunts are urged to register for a course early in the year and before June 30. **The number of classes and independent study course field days available becomes limited because of a decrease in instructor availability close to and during the hunting season.** Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations or obtain additional information by contacting the Fish and Game State Hunter Education Coordinator's office, 600 S. Walnut St. Boise, ID 83707, phone 208-334-3746, or through the Idaho Relay Service at 1-800-377-2529 (TDD) or email: [ron.fritz@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:ron.fritz@idfg.idaho.gov).

**Your Social Security Number is Safe:** The 1998 Idaho Legislature required that all applicants for licenses issued by the state, including hunting or fishing licenses, tags and permits, must give their Social Security number for a license or permit to be issued. The Idaho Privacy Law protects your Social Security number. It is considered confidential, **will not** be printed on your license and **will not** be given to any private person or organization.

# Residency Requirements

**Residents and Nonresidents:** To buy hunting and fishing licenses with a VISA or MasterCard, call 1-800-55HUNT5, 1-800-824-3729 or go to the Fish and Game Website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>, 24 hours a day. Residents must have an Idaho driver's license to verify residency. The information must be read exactly as it appears on the license. Most licenses will be valid for use immediately. Some tags and permits are also available from these sources. The charge for processing phone-in applications is 3 percent of the transaction plus \$5.50; the charge for Internet applications is 3 percent of the transaction plus \$3.50. Call 208-334-3700 for more information.

## Resident:

Proof of residency is required to buy any resident license. A resident is anyone who has lived in Idaho with the intent of making it their permanent residence, for at least six months immediately preceding the date of application for any license, tag or permit. A senior resident is anyone over 65 who has lived in the state at least five years immediately preceding the date of application for a senior license or tag.

A driver must prove residency with a valid Idaho driver's license. Nondrivers may use other suitable proof of residency, such as an Idaho Identification Card issued by the Department of Transportation, or two documents bearing his or her name and address, not issued by himself or herself, such as rent receipts or mortgage statements for the previous six months, home utility bills for the previous six months, a notarized statement from an employer on business letterhead, or proof

of voter registration dated six months prior, or in the case of a child under 18, identification from a parent. A previous year's hunting, fishing or trapping license is not proof of residency.

A member of the military of the United States or of a foreign country, or a member of the Idaho National or Air National Guard, together with spouse and children under 18 residing in his or her household, on active duty and permanently stationed in Idaho for 30 days preceding application shall be eligible to buy a resident license, as long as such assignment continues.

Idaho residents, who are in the U.S. military and maintain Idaho as their official state of residence, together with spouse and children under 18 residing in his or her household, shall be eligible to buy a resident license. The service person himself or herself is eligible to buy a furlough license from any vendor while on leave. Other permits and validations must be attached as required.

## Nonresident:

You are considered a nonresident if you:

- File income taxes as a resident in another state.
- File a homeowner's exemption in another state.
- Have a driver's license in another state.
- Register to vote in another state.

Owning real property or paying property taxes within the state of Idaho is not a qualification for residency. No one can claim Idaho resident privileges while claiming resident privileges in another state, except military personnel.



Photo courtesy Robert Goad

Calling the birds in on the banks of the Kootenai River in Boundary County.

**Quiz Answer:** Just one Ross' goose, the second from the right. Notice how thick its head and neck are in proportion to the bill. It has a short, stubby bill with no black "grinning" patch. All other geese are snow geese.