

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27202 / S1237

Current Idaho law limits the permit requirement for hunting stocked upland game birds to state wildlife management areas (WMAs), and identifies the permit required to hunt stocked birds as a WMA Upland Game Bird Permit. This bill expands the permit's applicability to cover hunting in additional areas with stocked upland games birds as designated by the Commission, and deletes the WMA reference from the name of the permit to reflect this change. The expansion of permit applicability will support stocking at locations in addition to WMAs as circumstance and bird availability allows.

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulates the hunting of tundra swan and other waterfowl and migratory birds. With federal approval, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission may join neighboring states to authorize limited tundra swan hunting. This bill establishes a swan tag and related tag cost.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. This legislation does not revise the existing fee for an upland game bird permit. Creating new authority for the Commission to designate locations, in addition to WMAs, where an upland game bird permit is required for hunting stocked pheasants is estimated to increase the fish and game dedicated fund by less than \$10,500 if stocking new locations increases permit sales up to five percent higher than FY 2019 sales to residents and nonresidents. This increased dedicated fund revenue would be offset by increased costs for purchasing additional stocked pheasants.

Creating a swan tag is estimated to increase the fish and game dedicated fund by less than \$10,500 annually because of expected limits on the number of tags (no more than 50 for the initial three years of hunting).

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).