



Idaho Family Survival Package

Hunting and Fishing: The Idaho Way of Life

Historically, many Idahoans have used hunting and fishing not only to enjoy the beauty of Idaho's outdoors, but also to feed their families. However, the cost of tags and licenses for hunting and fishing are often prohibitive for low-income families.

To ensure that Idaho's fields and streams remain an affordable source of food for low-income families, Idaho needs to create a low-income hunting and fishing program. Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN) is proposing the creation of a **Family Survival Package**, a low-cost package that includes licenses and tags for deer, elk, wild turkey, salmon, and steelhead. This package will cost \$50. Only those resident families whose yearly income is below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line will be eligible.

The Family Survival Package will help preserve the rural way of life in Idaho. In areas where wages are low and unemployment is high, the package will also help low-income families put food on the table. By using Idaho's bountiful fish and wildlife resources, we can help hungry families meet their food needs.

FACTS:

66% of Idaho's current population lives in rural, non-metro areas.

10.1% of Idaho's population suffers from hunger and food insecurity.

13.5% of Idaho residents officially live in poverty.

Low-income Idaho families need a Family Survival Package

A summer 2001 survey by ICAN of 30 low-income families in Northern Idaho found that low-income families would hunt and fish more often if it was more affordable.

- Of those interviewed, over half had at least one family member who hunted or fished because the family needed food and two-thirds said they ate meat from hunting at least once a week.
- Almost all of those interviewed who fished or hunted because the family needed food said it was necessary to meet their family's basic food needs.
- Seventeen percent said they would like to hunt or fish for food, but could not afford to purchase the necessary licenses and permits.
- Almost all of those interviewed said that they would they would hunt and fish more to provide food for their family if the price of hunting and fishing was reduced.

"By creating this package, Fish and Game would be doing two things: preserving Idaho's rural tradition in areas of high unemployment and low wages, and promoting self sufficiency rather than reliance on public assistance." — Sonny Montgomery, ICAN Member, Lewiston, Idaho.

Who would be eligible for the Family Survival Package?

To be eligible to receive the Family Survival Package, a family's yearly income must be equal to or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (\$21,945 per year for a family of 3) and be an Idaho resident. According to Census data, in 2001 there were 190,000 people over the age of 15 in Idaho who lived in families with income at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.¹ This equals 19 percent of Idaho's population.

According to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 118,125 Idaho residents purchased combination hunting and fishing licenses or the Sportsman's Package in 2001.² Assuming that 19 percent of these licenses were purchased by individuals living in families with yearly income at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line, approximately 22,445 hunters would be eligible for the Family Survival Package. This estimate does not take into account the people who are not hunting now, but who might buy the Family Survival Package because of its more affordable price.

150% of Federal Poverty Line	
Family Size	Yearly Income
2	\$17,415
4	\$26,475
6	\$35,535
8	\$44,595

It is safe to assume that there are low-income families in Idaho who are not hunting or fishing for food because the hunting tags, permits, and licenses are too expensive. The above analysis excludes the potential new hunters that would purchase the Family Survival Package due to a more affordable cost. ICAN's survey of low-income families in Idaho found that 17 percent of those interviewed didn't hunt or fish for food because the tags, permits and licenses were too expensive.

Currently, there is no statewide, scientifically collected data regarding the number of families who do not hunt or fish for food because they cannot afford the current hunting and fishing fees. This population, however, represents a new source of revenue for the Department of Fish and Game if these families start purchasing the more affordable Family Survival Package versus the standard combination license.

This potential for new revenue is important for Idaho's Department of Fish and Game, especially due to the decade-long decline in resident fishing and hunting license purchases. Sales of combination hunting and fishing licenses and Sportsman's Packages have fallen from 12 percent of the population in 1990 to 9 percent of the population in 2000.

Sportsmans Package	
Cost:	\$107.00
Includes:	Combo hunt/fish li- cense, tags for deer, elk, mountain lion, bear, turkey, salmon, and stealhead, validations for archery and muzzleloader.
Eligibility Requirement:	None

Family Survival Package	
Cost:	\$50.00
Includes:	Combo hunt/fish li- cense, tags for deer, elk, turkey, salmon, and stealhead.
Eligibility Requirement:	Family income equal to or below 150% of the Fed- eral Poverty Line.

How would the Family Survival Package be administered?

In instituting the Family Survival Package, Idaho should follow the example of Alaska. Alaska's Department of Fish and Game administers a program similar to the Family Survival Package. Alaska's program provides a low-cost hunting and fishing license to low-income Alaska families for only \$5.00.¹ To apply for the license, low-income families simply fill out a simple two-question questionnaire. The individual has to meet two major requirements:

1. The individual has to be the head of a family, a dependent member of a family, or solely dependent on themselves for support.
2. The individual must be receiving assistance under a state or federal welfare program (for at least six months immediately preceding the application) or their family's gross income must have been less than \$8,200 for the year immediately preceding the application.

No verification or documentation of this information is required from the applicant, unless a Department of Fish and Game official decides to verify the accuracy of the applicant's information. Allowing for self-verification of information allows the Department to quickly determine eligibility and provide the license in a relatively short amount of time. This saves valuable time and energy for the Department and eliminates potential bureaucratic barriers for the applicant. According to Alaska's Department of Fish and Game, approximately 15,000 low-income families participated in this program in 2001.

In administering the Family Survival Package, Idaho can follow Alaska's example and keep administration costs low. This fast and easy verification process will get the licenses, tags, and permits into the hands of low-income families quickly, making it much easier for families to overcome the strains and pressures of hunger.

For more information:

Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)
1311 W. Jefferson
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 385-9146

Endnotes

¹Census CPS data (a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics) provided to author by Matt Broaddus, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, on January, 10, 2002.

²The combination hunting and fishing license does not include tags or permits. The Sportsman's Package includes the combination hunting and fishing license, tags for deer, elk, mountain, lion, bear, turkey, salmon, steelhead, and validations for archery and muzzleloader.

³Alaska's program also includes a trapping license. This program also does not include any needed tags or permits.

The following is an example of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game application for a low-income hunting, fishing, and trapping license. This license costs \$5.00 per year for eligible Alaskan residents. Applicants for the low-income license only need to fill out the box in the upper-left hand corner.

Department of Fish and Game Licensing Section Box 25525 Juneau, Alaska 99802-5525		AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SPORT FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING																										
<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CLASS 5A FIVE DOLLAR LICENSE</div> <p>This license class applies only to residents of the State of Alaska who are non-military. It is not now nor has it ever been the intent of the Legislature to include military personnel in the Class 5A Hunting, Sport Fishing and Trapping License for a fee of \$5.00.</p> <p>I am not a member of the United States armed services stationed in Alaska on active duty, and I am entitled to a Resident Hunting, Sport Fishing, and Trapping License for a fee of \$5.00 for the following reasons:</p> <p>CHECK AT LEAST ONE STATEMENT IN BOTH SECTIONS THAT APPLIES TO THE APPLICANT.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am the head of a family, or a dependant member of a family; or <input type="checkbox"/> 2. I am solely dependent on my self for support. AND <input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am obtaining or have obtained during the immediate preceding six months, assistance under a state or federal welfare program to aid the indigent, or <input type="checkbox"/> 2. My family's gross annual income has been less than \$8,200.00 for the year immediately preceding application. </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MILITARY CLASSES 12, 13, 14</div> <p>I am entitled to a special nonresident Military Sport Fishing and Small Game Hunting licenses for the following reason:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska; or <input type="checkbox"/> 2. I am a dependent of a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska. </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Branch of Military Service Rank and Serial Number Assigned Duty Station If a Dependent, Show Relationship </div> </div> </div> </div> <p>NOTE: I authorize the release of information by the Division of Public Assistance to the Department of Fish and Game necessary to verify my participation in any need-based program which qualifies me for this special category license and to the Department of Public Safety as necessary to investigate false claims for this license.</p> <p>Signature of Licensee _____</p>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Date</td> <td style="width: 30%;">License Number</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Vendor I.D.</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Vendor</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Location</td> </tr> </table>			Date	License Number	Vendor I.D.										Vendor						Location					
Date	License Number	Vendor I.D.																										
Vendor																												
Location																												
DUPLICATE SPORT LICENSE, BIG GAME TAG, AND/OR KING SALMON STAMP																												
Note: A separate duplicate license must be issued for each class of license and/or tag lost. See Vendor Manual for instructions.																												
I hereby report the loss of my current Sport License and/or Tag issued to me in accordance with the Fish and Game Code of Alaska as follows:																												
License Class and Type																												
Number of License, if Known		Date of Birth	Sex	Social Security Number																								
Type of Tag or Stamp	Number of Tag or Stamp	Height		Weight																								
Issued by (Name of License Officer)		Color of Eyes		Color of Hair																								
Place of Issuance	Date of Issuance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident Years _____ Months _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Nonresident																										
I have personally reviewed the information on this application and hereby certify that all of the information on this application is true and correct and that I understand this information is subject to public disclosure. My right to obtain or exercise the privileges granted by a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license is not suspended or revoked in another state. (Note: Providing false information is subject to a maximum penalty of either a \$5000 fine or 1 year imprisonment, or both as per AS 11.56.210)																												
Name of Applicant		Date																										
Street Address or P.O. Box Number		Signature of Applicant																										
City, State, and Zip Code		Signature of License Officer																										