



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
SENATE BILL 2155
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
January 23, 2025**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers asks for a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2155.

Currently, North Dakota Century Code dictates that the first 50 tags in each unit are required to go to gratis tags, with remaining tags allocated as 50/50 split. In some units, this has resulted in 95% of the “any pronghorn” tags being allocated as gratis tags. Several other units can see 60-70% or more of those same tags go to gratis.

This is purely a function of the number of tags available. If pronghorn numbers were significantly higher, then this entire conversation would be irrelevant. However, pronghorn numbers are down significantly across the entire country due to many factors. With that being said, it is our stance that the current tag allocation system is not representative of a fair distribution of tags for North Dakota’s pronghorn resource.

Senate Bill 2155 seeks to balance the scales of Pronghorn tag allocation by codifying a straight 50/50 split for the tag type “any pronghorn”. In 2024, this bill would’ve meant that 172 “any pronghorn” tags went into the hands of the resident North Dakotans who have waited, in most cases, over a decade for that hunting opportunity. North Dakota resident hunters, who all own an equal share of North Dakota’s wildlife, deserve a fair distribution of tags on a limited public resource.

After all, it is written in North Dakota Century code Section 20.1-03-03,
“The ownership of and title to all wildlife within this state is in the state for the purpose of regulating the enjoyment, use, possession, disposition, and conservation thereof...” and “The state has a property interest in all protected wildlife.”

We support the amendments and urge a “Do Pass” to the committee.

Brock Wahl
Chairman
Board of Directors
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



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2024									
Unit	Any license	doe fawn	Gratis	public	public doe fawn	Total Tags	gratis percentage of buck	50/50 split additive to public draw	SB 2155 - 50/50 split
1A	120	25	62	58	25	145	52%	2	60
1D	150	25	38	112	25	175	25%	No Change	75
2A	60		33	27		60	55%	3	30
2B	50		19	31		50	38%	No Change	25
3A	25		4	21		25	16%	No Change	12.5
3B	70	15	42	28	15	85	60%	7	35
4A	75		53	22		75	71%	15.5	37.5
4C	55		18	37		55	33%	No Change	27.5
5A	60		48	12		60	80%	18	30
6A	100		75	25		100	75%	25	50
7A	85		67	18		85	79%	24.5	42.5
8A	55		52	3		55	95%	24.5	27.5
9A	40		24	16		40	60%	4	20
9C	55		52	3		55	95%	24.5	27.5
10A	60		22	38		60	37%	No Change	30
11A	75		62	13		75	83%	24.5	37.5
13A	60		29	31		60	48%	No Change	30
Totals	1195	65	700	495	65	1260	59%	172.5	
								30% increase to public draw	
						50-70% of tags			
						71-90% of tags			
						over 91% of tags			

2023									
Unit	Any license	doe fawn	Gratis	public	public doe fawn	total tags	gratis percentage of total buck	50/50 split additive to public	SB 2155 - 50/50 split
1A						0		0	0
1D						0		0	0
2A	50		39	11		50	78%	14	25
2B	30		15	15		30	50%	0	15
3A	15					15	0%	7.5	7.5
3B	70		42	28		70	60%	7	35
4A	75		51	24		75	68%	13.5	37.5
4C	50		24	26		50	48%	-1	25
5A	60		43	17		60	72%	13	30
6A						0		0	0
7A	65		57	8		65	88%	24.5	32.5
8A						0		0	0
9A						0		0	0
9C						0		0	0
10A						0		0	0
11A						0		0	0
13A						0		0	0
Totals	415	0	271	129	0	415	65%	78.5	
								60% increase to public draw	
						50-70% of tags			
						71-90% of tags			
						over 91% of tags			



Population change from 2021-2023

