



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA



12.3.651 SMITH RIVER BONUS POINTS

- (1) Smith River bonus points are non-refundable and non-transferable between applicants.
- (2) Smith River bonus points do not apply to hunting permits or licenses.
- (3) A person may purchase only one bonus point per year and may:
 - (a) purchase a bonus point when applying for a Smith River permit by paying the fee established in 23-2-409, MCA; or
 - (b) if the person is otherwise eligible to apply for a Smith River permit and chooses not to apply that year, purchase a bonus point only between July 1 and September 30 of that year.
- (4) The department may only apply accumulated bonus points to a person's chance to obtain a Smith River permit during the lottery if the person purchases a bonus point when applying for the permit.
- (5) The department shall mathematically square the number of bonus points a person has accumulated when conducting the lottery for Smith River permits.
- (6) If an applicant for a Smith River permit has elected to participate in the bonus points program and is unsuccessful in the drawing, they shall retain the bonus points they purchased.
- (7) An applicant's bonus points accumulate until the applicant is successful in drawing a permit.
- (8) If an applicant is successful in drawing a Smith River permit, the applicant's bonus points are reduced to zero for the Smith River.
- (9) If the following special circumstances occur, an applicant who is successful in drawing a Smith River permit may retain their accumulated bonus points if the applicant:
 - (a) is a member of the armed forces and is either deployed outside the continental United States in support of a contingency operation as provided in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) or deployed in response to a state or national emergency; or
 - (b) is affected by a catastrophic or major natural disaster or man-made event that requires the applicant's assistance as a member of a local, state, or federal management agency.
- (10) A qualifying applicant under (9) must notify the department a minimum of 14 days prior to the launch date of their permit.
- (11) The director or designee may authorize exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

Authorizing statute(s): 23-1-102, 23-1-106, 23-1-111, 23-2-408, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 23-2-408, 23-2-409, MCA

History: NEW, 2023 MAR p. 1607, Eff. 11/18/23.