

# 2026 CALIFORNIA BIG GAME DIGEST

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UPDATED APRIL 1, 2026



# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

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Wade Crowfoot, Secretary

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*On the Cover: Addie B.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REGIONAL OFFICES

**1 - Northern Region**

*Serving Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties*

601 Locust Street,  
Redding 96001  
(530) 225-2300

[AskRegion1@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskRegion1@wildlife.ca.gov)

No public license sales counter. Customer service representatives are available in person to validate hunting tags, answer questions, and provide and receive applications that will be fulfilled by mail.

**Eureka Field Office**

619 Second Street,  
Eureka 95501  
(707) 445-6493

**2 - North Central Region**

*Serving Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties*

1701 Nimbus Road,  
Rancho Cordova 95670  
(916) 358-2900

[R2info@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R2info@wildlife.ca.gov)

**3 - Bay Delta Region**

*Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Sacramento,*

*San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties*

2825 Cordelia Road, Ste. 100,  
Fairfield 94534  
(707) 428-2002

[AskBDR@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskBDR@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Stockton Field Office**

2109 Arch Airport Road, Suite 100,  
Stockton 95206  
(209) 234-3420

**4 - Central Region**

*Serving Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties*

1234 E. Shaw Avenue,  
Fresno 93710  
(559) 243-4005

[Reg4Assistant@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Reg4Assistant@wildlife.ca.gov)

**5 - South Coast Region**

*Serving Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties*

3883 Ruffin Road,  
San Diego 92123  
(858) 467-4201

[AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov)

**6 - Inland Deserts Region**

*Serving Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino counties*

3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Ste. C-220,  
Ontario 91764  
(909) 484-0167

[AskRegion6@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskRegion6@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Licenses are not sold at this office.**

**7 - Marine Region**

*Serving the entire California coast, from border to border and three nautical miles out to sea.*

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Ste. 100,  
Monterey 93940  
(831) 649-2870

[AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Office is closed to the public. Licenses are not sold at this office.**

## Nondiscrimination

Any person excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, on the grounds of age, race, national origin, disability, religious or political affiliation, color, sex, ancestry, marital status, or sexual orientations, should contact the nearest regional office of the Department or its headquarters located at 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-0411. In addition, you may contact the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C. 20506 or a local EEOC office listed in your phone directory under U.S. Government.

Alternate communication format available upon request, call (916) 322-8911. Call the California Relay (telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at 800-735-2929 or 711.

## Participating in the Regulatory Process

The California Fish and Game Commission is composed of five members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. The Commission establishes hunting and sport fishing regulations including seasons, bag and possession limits, methods of take, area descriptions and any special conditions. In addition, the Commission formulates general policies for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Monthly topical meetings are held to hear regulation change proposals. The public may make recommendations in writing before a Commission meeting or present its proposals verbally at the meeting. The Commission's meeting schedule, including specific topics, dates and locations, is posted on their web site [fgc.ca.gov](http://fgc.ca.gov).

Written comments can be directed to the Fish and Game Commission at P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, or by e-mail to [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov). Comments sent by e-mail should include a full name and mailing address. The Commission also has established a list server for information distribution available on their web site [fgc.ca.gov](http://fgc.ca.gov).



# READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



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# [wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement)

## IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DO THE FOLLOWING

### It is the hunter's responsibility to know and follow the law.

The California statutes governing many aspects of hunting, firearms, fishing, and the use of public lands, are found in the California Fish and Game Code (FGC), Hunting and fishing activities are further regulated by the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Natural Resources (T14 CCR), and the California Penal Code (PC). These documents may be accessed through the Department of Fish and Wildlife website: [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov).

Additionally, California counties and cities have adopted local ordinances which regulate and restrict hunting activities within their jurisdiction.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), governs many aspects of hunting and fishing on federal lands, specific species, and other activities under federal jurisdiction.

(These are not complete regulations. Some sections are abbreviated.)

### Licenses

Transfer, use, possess or alter any license, tag, stamp, permit, application or reservation. FGC §1052

Hunt any game bird or mammal without having the required licenses, tags and/or stamps in possession. FGC §1054.2

Fail to exhibit on the demand of a Wildlife Officer, all licenses, tags, fish, or wildlife taken or otherwise dealt with under the Fish and Game Code, and any device or apparatus designed to be, and capable of being, used to take fish or wildlife. FGC §2012

Damage another's property or injure livestock while hunting. FGC §2004

### Prohibited Species

Take spike buck. T14 CCR §351(c)

### Methods of Take

Use an artificial light to assist in taking any game bird or game mammal. FGC 2005(a)

Use of a shotgun larger than 10 gauge for the taking of any game bird or game mammal, or a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. FGC §2010; T14 CCR §311(a) and §353(d)

A rifle or shotgun shall be deemed to be loaded for the purposes of this section when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine. FGC §2006

The provisions of this section shall not apply to peace officers or members of the armed forces of this state or the United States, while on duty or going to or returning from duty. FGC §2006

Take game birds, game mammals or furbearing mammals except as permitted by regulations. T14 CCR §250

Hunt with a crossbow during archery season (except with a Disabled Archer Permit). T14 CCR §354(g)

Possess a firearm while hunting during archery season or while hunting during the general season with an archery-only tag. T14 CCR §354(h)

Hunt with bow or crossbow without a draw weight of at least 30 pounds for a bow or 125 pounds for a cross bow. T14 CCR §354(f)

Pursue, drive, herd, or take any bird or mammal from any type of motor-driven air or land vehicles, motorboat, airboat, sailboat, or snowmobile, except when the motor is off and/or the sails furled and it is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oar or pole. T14 CCR §251

Use dogs for pursuit/take, or for dog training, during the archery seasons for deer or bear. T14 CCR §265(a)(1)

Use dogs to take, bear, bobcat, elk, bighorn sheep and antelope. T14 CCR §265 (a)(2)

Use dogs for pursuit/take of, or for dog training on, mountain lions (except under authority of a depredation permit). T14 CCR §265(a)(3)

Possess in any State Game Refuge any bird or mammal

## STAY CONNECTED TO CDFW

Having your e-mail address and mobile number will enable the CDFW to send you information you can use, such as license renewal and courtesy report card deadline reminders, and California fishing information. When purchasing a license from a license agent or when you log in to the Online License Sales and Services, update your communication preferences and provide your e-mail address and mobile number : licenses. [wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](http://wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/). Fish and Game Code, Section 1050.6, and California Government Code, Section 11015.5, prohibit the CDFW from selling or sharing your personal information with any third party.

## IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DO THE FOLLOWING

or part thereof, or any weapon capable of taking any bird or mammal. FGC §10500

Possession of firearms or bows and arrows by persons traveling through game refuges on a public highway or other public thoroughfare or right of way is permitted when the firearms are taken apart or encased and unloaded, and the bows are unstrung. FGC §10506

National Parks and Monuments have special regulations regarding the possession of weapons, game and the running of hunting dogs. Check with federal officials before entering these areas.

### **Use of Bait**

Knowingly feed big game mammals. T14 CCR §251.3

Take game birds and mammals within 400 yards of any baited area. This does not apply to the taking of game birds and mammals on or over standing crops, croplands, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations or procedures. T14 CCR §257.5

Take bears within 400 yards of any garbage dump or bait. T14 CCR §365(e)

### **Hunting Hours**

Hunt big game from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. T14 CCR §352

### **Firearm Safety**

Possess a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments which is standing on or along or is being driven on or along any public highway or other way open to the public. FGC §2006

Nock or fit the notch in the end of an arrow to a bowstring or crossbow string in a ready-to-fire position while in or on any vehicle. T14 CCR §354(i)

Possess a short barreled shotgun (Barrel less than 18 inches), or a short-barreled rifle (Barrel less than 16 inches). PC §33210



Austin A.

## 2026 HUNTING LICENSE AND TAG FEES

License	Fee
Resident Hunting License	\$64.54
Nonresident Hunting License	\$225.46
Junior Hunting License	\$17.02
Disabled Veteran & Recovering Service Member Hunting License Initial qualification must be done at a CDFW license sales office, see page 10 for more information.	\$10.54
Duplicate Hunting License	\$14.30
2-Day Nonresident Hunting License Valid only for taking resident and migratory game birds, resident small game mammals, fur-bearing mammals, wild pigs, and non-game mammals	\$64.54

Drawing Application, Tag, or Validation	Fee
Resident 1st Deer Tag/Application	\$42.38
Nonresident 1st Deer Tag/Application	\$377.35
Resident 2nd Deer Tag/Application	\$52.92
Nonresident 2nd Deer Tag/Application	\$377.35
Elk Tag Drawing Application	\$8.38
Pronghorn Antelope Tag Drawing Application	\$8.38
Bighorn Sheep Tag Drawing Application	\$8.38
Resident Bear Tag	\$62.90
Resident Junior Bear Tag	\$34.05
Nonresident Bear Tag	\$397.60
Resident Wild Pig Validation	\$28.34
Nonresident Wild Pig Validation	\$101.26
Duplicate Big Game Tag Available at any CDFW license sales office.	\$13.65

### Deer Tag Non-Reporting Fee \$21.60

**Interested in a Lifetime Hunting License?**

Visit [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lifetime](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lifetime) for details!

## FOREWORD

This booklet contains information from both the California Fish and Game Code (FGC) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). For detailed information, refer to the appropriate code or contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department).

These excerpts are provided as a courtesy and are not to be used as legal documents. Since the regulation and FGC sections may be amended at any time, it is the reader's responsibility to be knowledgeable of, and abide by, all laws and regulations in effect at the time they participate in any commercial or recreational fishing or hunting activity. Any discrepancies between this document and the regulation and FGC sections from which they were prepared will be enforced and adjudicated according to the official code sections and regulations in effect on the date the activity takes place.

The official California Code of Regulations may be accessed through Thompson Reuters Westlaw at <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Index>. The official Fish and Game Code may be accessed through California Legislative Information at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>.

### California Fish and Game Commission

The Mission of the California Fish and Game Commission is, on behalf of California citizens, to ensure the long term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by:

- Guiding the ongoing scientific evaluation and assessment of California's fish and wildlife resources;
- Setting California's fish and wildlife resource management policies and ensuring these are implemented by the Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management rules and regulations; and
- Building active fish and wildlife resource management partnerships with individual landowners, the public and interest groups, and federal, state, and local resource management agencies.

### Department of Fish and Wildlife

The mission of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

The Department is charged with the administration and enforcement of the FGC and Title 14. The Department is organized with the Director and headquarters staff in Sacramento, and seven regional managers coordinating the operations in their respective portions of the state. The Director is the appointing power of all Department employees, who are responsible to the Director for the proper performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Most of the revenue for the Department comes from the Fish and Wildlife Preservation Fund, with a limited amount from other sources (General Fund, Sport Fish Restoration Act, Environmental License Plate Fund, and grants). The Fish and Wildlife Preservation Fund is supported by the sale of sport fishing and hunting licenses, commercial licenses, fish landing taxes, and fines and penalties assessed for violation of Fish and Wildlife laws.

All laws or regulations hereunder are either reproduced verbatim from the Fish and Game Code or from Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, as adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission under authority of the Fish and Game Code.

All references to state highway, interstate highway and U.S. highway numbers appearing in regulations are as designated on the current California State Highway map issued by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency at the time such regulations were adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission.

### Accessing Hunting Regulations

- **Mammal Hunting Booklet**  
includes regulations for: hunting small and big game mammals; exotic game mammals; trapping furbearers (fox, badger, beaver and raccoon, etc.); hunting nongame animals (bobcat, coyote, weasel, etc.)
- **Big Game Hunting Digest (this booklet)**  
includes hunt seasons, tag quotas and drawing for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep; bear and wild pig hunting; other related hunting regulations
- **Mammal Hunting Regulations HTML**
- **Waterfowl, Upland Game, and Public Use of Department Lands Regulations Booklet**
- **Upland Game Bird Hunting Regulations HTML**
- **Waterfowl Hunting Regulations HTML**
- **Upland Game Birds Regulations Summary**
- **Waterfowl Regulations Summary**

## WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

### Deer Tag Classification Changes

For the 2026 deer hunting season, the following deer tags have changed classifications. Please refer to the hunt tables beginning on [page 32](#) for more information.

#### From Restricted to Unrestricted deer tag:

- A19 - tag quota filled on 8/27/2025
- A22 - tag quota filled on 8/8/2025
- B - tag quota filled on 8/9/2025
- D6 zone - tag quota filled on 8/13/2025
- D9 zone- tag quota filled on 9/19/2025

### Maximum Preference Points

For the 2026 Big Game Drawing, 24 is the maximum number of preference points for any species a hunter can have. To look up your total preference points log on to your customer profile at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/) and click on 'View My Draw Application/Preference Points' at the top of the page.

### Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zones

- Chronic wasting disease (CWD), an always fatal neurologic disease affecting deer and elk, and has been confirmed in California.
- Where CWD has been detected in California, additional regulations may apply. Hunters must know the CWD and regulatory status of their hunt zone and adhere to any CWD-related requirements.
- CDFW tests lymph nodes from California hunter-harvested deer and elk at no cost to hunters. Learn more about CWD testing, where CWD has been detected, and current CWD management zone requirements at [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).

### Big Game Drawing Application Period

The 2026 Big Game Drawing application period opens on April 15, 2026 and closes at midnight on June 2, 2026.

### Regulations Publications Survey

The CDFW Regulations Unit has prepared a public survey to better understand the needs of California hunters and anglers with respect to regulations and the way that regulations publications are made available for use.

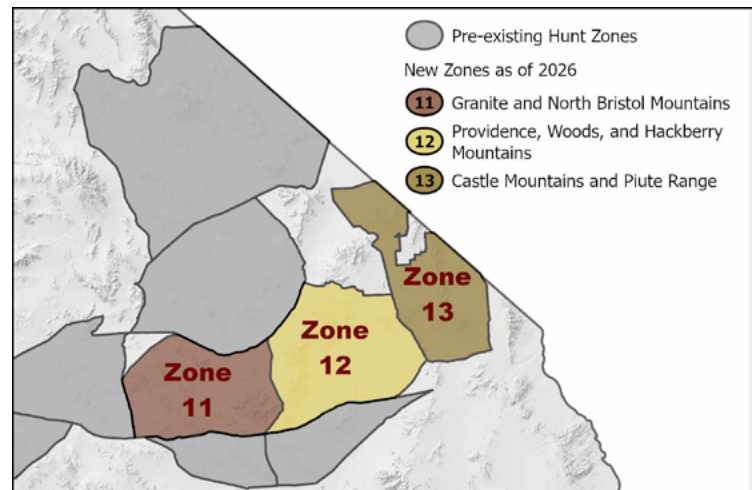
Please visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/notices/regulations/survey> to take the survey.

### Desert Bighorn Sheep - Three New Hunt Zones\*

Three new desert bighorn hunt zones are opening in the central Mojave Desert: Granite and North Bristol Mountains (Zone 11), Providence, Woods, and Hackberry Mountains (Zone 12), and Castle Mountains and Piute Range (Zone 13). Never before hunted, these zones bring fresh opportunity to California's premier desert bighorn hunting.

### Tag Quota Increase for Desert Bighorn Sheep\*

The three new hunt zones add 5 additional tags, in addition tags have increased from 27 in 2025 to 30 in 2026.



### Black Bear-Hunt Zone Expansion\*

The Northeastern California Bear Conservation Region (BCR) as defined Black Bear Conservation and Management Plan for California is being opened to black bear hunting to provide additional hunting opportunity within the existing harvest threshold of 1,700.

### Black Bear-Second Tag\*

Hunters will also have the option to purchase two bear tags at the same time and use them in any order. Take will be limited to one legal bear per day and there will be no change to the existing harvest threshold of 1,700.

\* Pending adoption by the CA Fish and Game Commission at its April 2026 meeting. Pending OAL approval.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Hunting License Requirements

First-time applicants applying for a hunting license through the CDFW's ALDS must present one of the following as evidence of hunter education when applying for a California hunting license:

- An annual California hunting license issued in any prior year;
- A Two-Day Nonresident California Hunting License issued after the 2000 license year;
- A California certificate of hunter education completion or equivalency with a unique number imprinted on it ex: (AA00000) or a California hunter education certificate with no unique number imprinted and a California hunter education validation stamp affixed;
- A certificate of successful completion of a California-approved hunter education course from any state or province; or
- A current hunting license or a hunting license issued in either of the two previous years from any state or province.

Applicants that have previously purchased a hunting license through CDFW's ALDS will already have the required proof of hunter education evidence in their customer profile. To ensure the appropriate customer profile is retrieved at a license agent, the CDFW recommends hunters provide the license agent with a previously issued ALDS license.

### Validation of License

To be valid, every California hunting license shall be signed by the licensee. Proof of identification must be presented at the time of initial purchase. In addition, the license must contain the following information about the licensee: true name, residence address, date of birth, height, weight, color of eyes, color of hair, and sex.

### INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) is an agreement between all 50 states and the District of Columbia, which allows for the reciprocal recognition of hunting, fishing and trapping license suspensions. If your license privileges have been suspended by another state, the suspension may be recognized here in California. For example, if your sport fishing, hunting or trapping privileges have been suspended in Colorado for five years, your privileges may also be suspended for five years in California or any of the states participating in the IWVC. The purchase of licenses or tags during the term of the suspension is a violation of the law and may result in prosecution.

Acceptable proof of identification:

- Any license document or GO ID number previously issued via ALDS
- A valid driver's license or identification card issued to him or her by the Department of Motor Vehicles or by the entity issuing driver's licenses from the licensee's state of domicile
- US Birth Certificate
- US Certificate or Report of Birth Abroad
- Tribal Identification Card, as defined by each sovereign tribal nation
- Birth Certificate or passport issued from a US Territory
- US Passport
- US Military Identification Cards (Active or reserve duty, dependent, retired member, discharged from service, medical/religious personnel)
- Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship
- A foreign government-issued photo identification

Applicants who are less than 18 years of age may provide any form of identification previously described or a guardian's identification (parent or legal guardian identification listed).

### License Provisions

A valid California hunting license is required to take any bird or mammal. Hunters must carry licenses and be prepared to show them upon request to any peace officer. Guns and other equipment used in hunting must be shown upon request.

A 2-Day Nonresident California Hunting License is valid only for taking resident and migratory game birds, resident small game mammals, fur-bearing mammals wild pigs, and non-game mammals. A 2-Day Nonresident California Hunting License is not valid to hunt bighorn sheep, bear, deer, elk, or pronghorn.

### Junior Hunting License Eligibility

To qualify for a junior hunting license, a hunter must be less than 16 years of age as of July 1, of the license year for which they are applying.

### Disabled Veteran and Recovering Service Member Hunting Licenses

CDFW offers reduced fee hunting licenses for Disabled Veterans and Recovering Service Members.

Honorably discharged disabled veterans (resident or nonresident) with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability are eligible for a reduced fee hunting license. Applicants must submit a letter from the

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Veterans' Administration documenting that you were honorably discharged from the US military and have a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

Recovering service members are eligible for a reduced fee hunting license while undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, and are in an outpatient status while recovering from a serious injury or illness related to the member's military service. Applicants must submit a letter from your commanding officer or military medical doctor verifying your eligibility as a recovering service member, including the expected recovery date in your verification letter.

To prequalify, applicants must submit the document of eligibility along with a photocopy of your personal identification and GO ID by fax to (916) 419-7585 or by secure document upload. To upload your documentation, please email your request to [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov) and follow the link provided in the response. You may also apply by mail or in person at any CDFW license sales office. For more information please contact your nearest CDFW license sales offices or visit our web site at [wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/hunting](http://wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/hunting). Hunting tags and validations must be purchased at full price.

### Upland Game Bird and California Duck Validation

Any person (except junior hunters) must have an Upland Game Bird Validation when hunting pheasant, dove, turkey, quail, grouse, ptarmigan, snipe, band-tailed pigeon, partridge or chukar. A California Duck Validation authorizes any person to hunt waterfowl in California (along with the Federal Duck Stamp and free HIP Validation). CDFW knows that many hunters collect the physical stamps. Hunters who purchase these validations can claim their collectible stamp online at the address printed on their 2026-2027 hunting licenses. Stamps will be mailed at the end of the license year (after July 1, 2027).

### Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation Requirement

If you plan to hunt migratory game birds in 2026-2027 (ducks, geese, coots, dove, band-tailed pigeon, snipe, gallinules or black brant) you must complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey. To take the survey you must request a HIP validation at any CDFW license sales office, license agent, or online. There is no charge for the HIP validation. Hunters may be cited for hunting migratory game birds without a HIP validation in their immediate possession.

### Duplicate Licenses

Your customer record contains a history of all your license purchases. If you lose your license or additional validations, you can go to any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online or by telephone sales and purchase a duplicate license and validations.

### Disabled Entitlements

The CDFW offers the following free disabled entitlements to any resident or nonresident hunter that meets the qualifications. These entitlements must be certified by a licensed physician and submitted to the CDFW's License and Revenue Branch. Hunters that qualify for these entitlements must also have a valid California hunting license in possession while hunting.

#### Disabled Archer Permit

A Disabled Archer Permit is available to any hunter who has permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs one or both upper extremities preventing the hunter from drawing and holding of a bow in a firing position. The Disabled Archer Permit authorizes the disabled archer to use a crossbow or device which holds a string and arrow in the firing position, to assist in the taking of birds and mammals under the conditions of an archery tag or during archery season.

Certification from a licensed physician is required. If the physician indicates on the initial application that the disability is permanent, hunters may renew the permit every year at any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online or by telephone sales.

If the disability is temporary, the physician is required to enter the end date of the disability on the application. Temporary permits may be renewed at any CDFW's license sales office, license agent, online or by telephone sales every year until the temporary disability end date; once the end date has passed, re-certification is required.

#### Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit

A Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit is available to any visually impaired hunter having a permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs the vision of a hunter, preventing the hunter from viewing and aligning the sights of a muzzleloader rifle with the target in order to hunt deer. The Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit allows the hunter to use a 1X scope on a muzzleloader rifle while hunting under the conditions of a muzzleloader rifle hunt tag. Hunters must renew the permit each license year, but hunters may provide a copy of their previously issued permit to the CDFW's License and

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Revenue Branch to renew annually.

**Mobility Impaired Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle  
Hunting License**

A Mobility Impaired Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting License is available for any mobility impaired disabled hunter who must use a motor vehicle to pursue game. The Mobility Impaired Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting License allows a hunter to discharge a firearm from a vehicle that is stopped and its engine turned off. To qualify a person must be either permanently or fully confined to a wheelchair, a single or double amputee above the knee or double amputee below the knee, or depend upon the aid of a walker, crutches, etc. to walk. Certification from a licensed physician is required. The license is only available from CDFW's License and Revenue Branch.



**HUNTER EDUCATION**

**Class Options**

Hunter education classes include instruction in firearms safety and handling, sportsmanship and ethics, wildlife management and conservation, archery, black powder, wildlife identification, game care, first aid, and survival. Classes are offered in three formats:

1. Traditional (minimum of 10 hours of classroom, homework, and field instruction) or
2. Online course and follow-up class. For more information or to register for a class, visit [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education).

**Hunter Education Equivalency Exams**

Hunter education equivalency exams are given by appointment only at CDFW regional offices for a fee. In some states, the California equivalency certificate may not be accepted as evidence of hunter education. For more information on the hunter education equivalency exam, contact your nearest CDFW regional office.

**Duplicate Hunter Education Certificates**

Duplicate hunter education certificates can be issued to any person who completed and passed a hunter education class. If the class was completed prior to 1989, CDFW does not have records before this date; the hunter should contact the original instructor, club, or organization where the course was taught to obtain a duplicate. If the hunter is unable to obtain a duplicate through these means, they will have to repeat the course. Visit the hunter education web page at [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education) for more information.

**Advanced Hunter Education**

Advanced Hunter Education Clinics are species-specific or skill-specific. Learn how to field dress a deer, call in a mallard, find your way out of the woods, process and prepare your game for the table, plus much more!

*Upcoming Clinics include:*

- Hunting with Air Guns
- Wild Pig Hunting
- Introduction to Archery/Bowhunting (Family Friendly)
- Long Range Shooting
- Wild Turkey Hunting

For additional information, including clinic dates and locations, visit [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education/Advanced](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education/Advanced).

**Bow Hunter Education Class**

Although bow hunter education training is not required in California, many states do require it for all bow hunters. CDFW's bow hunter education program meets the requirements of all states. For more information or to register for a class, visit [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education).

<b>Hunter Education</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<p>Hunter Education Certificate (Duplicate)</p> <p><i>Customers with CDFW verified Hunter Education Certificates in their ALDS customer record may purchase duplicate hunter education certificates at license agents or online.</i></p>	\$9.21
<p>Hunter Education Equivalency Exam</p> <p><i>Available at regional CDFW license sales offices only by appointment. NOTE: Not recognized as proof of Hunter Education.</i></p>	\$71.50

## BIG GAME DRAWING WORKSHEET



State of California - The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

### 2026 BIG GAME DRAWING WORKSHEET FOR APPLYING AT A LICENSE AGENT

**DO NOT MAIL OR FAX WORKSHEET TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

This worksheet is to assist the salesclerk in entering your hunt choices. Select your hunt choices prior to visiting a license agent. All sales transactions for the Big Game Drawing must be completed before midnight on June 2, 2026. You may apply a CDFW license sales office, license agent, online at [www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](http://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/) or by telephone sales at (800) 565-1458. **Mailed or faxed worksheets will not be accepted at a CDFW office.**

**VERIFY THAT YOUR HUNT CHOICES ARE CORRECT ON YOUR DRAWING RECEIPT BEFORE LEAVING THE LICENSE AGENT.** NOTE: Do not leave this worksheet with the salesclerk.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GO ID \_\_\_\_\_

#### BIG GAME DRAWING

Enter party leader's party identification number only if you are joining an existing party.

##### First-Deer Tag Drawing Application:

To enter the Big Game Drawing for a premium deer hunt tag or preference point only

Party Leader's  
Party Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Choice

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice

##### Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application:

Use only for junior hunters applying for Apprentice Deer Hunts, who did not apply for Apprentice Deer Hunts on their First-Deer Tag Application

Party Leader's  
Party Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Choice

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice

##### Elk Tag Drawing Application:

Party Leader's  
Party Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Hunt Choice

##### Pronghorn Tag Drawing Application:

Party Leader's  
Party Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Hunt Choice

##### Bighorn Sheep Tag Drawing Application:

Party not allowed

Hunt Choice

## DEER

### Deer Tags and General Information

In addition to a valid California hunting license, deer tags are also required and must be in possession when taking deer. Hunters may obtain two deer tags per license year. Applicants for deer tags must be at least 12 years of age on or before July 1 of the license year for which they are applying or at the time of application if they are applying after July 1. A First-Deer Tag Drawing Application or First-Deer Tag must be purchased before or at the same time as a Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application (junior hunters only) or Second-Deer Tag.

### License and Tag Privileges Can Be Revoked

It is illegal to purchase more than one First-Deer Tag Drawing Application/First-Deer Tag and one Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application/Second-Deer Tag in the same license year. Persons convicted of a deer violation during the 2025-26 license year may not apply for deer tags in 2026-27.

The Fish and Game Code provides that the California Fish and Game Commission shall revoke the hunting privileges of any person who is convicted of three violations of the state's hunting laws or regulations within any five-year period. (FGC 12155, CCR T-14 745.5).

### Deer Tag Information

Applicants may purchase deer tags or apply in the annual Big Game Drawing at any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/) or by telephone sales at (800) 565-1458. Allow 15 days to receive license items purchased online or by telephone.

Premium deer tags are issued by drawing. Restricted and unrestricted deer tags are issued upon request until the tag quota for the hunt is filled.

### Hunt Tag Descriptions

#### A, B, and D Zone Hunt Tags

These tags allow hunting during the archery season with archery equipment only and during the general season with a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow, or bow. Tags are valid for a specific zone of issuance except:

A zone deer tag is valid in both A North and A South;

B zone deer tags are valid in any B zone;

D3-5 deer tags are valid in zones D3, D4, and D5; and

D11, D13, or D15 tags may be used in any of these three zones.

### C Zone Hunt Tag

A C zone tag is valid in zones C1, C2, C3, and C4 during the general season only, using a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow, or bow. To hunt with archery equipment only during the archery season in any C zone you must apply in the Big Game Drawing for an A1 Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag.

### X Zone Hunt Tags

These tags allow hunting during the general season only, in a specific zone using a muzzleloading or centerfire rifle, shotgun, authorized pistol or revolver, crossbow, or bow.

### Archery-Only (AO) Hunt Tag

The AO (Archery-Only) tag allows hunting with archery equipment only during the archery and general seasons in A, B, or D zones and Hunt G10 (military only). To hunt during an X zone archery season, you must have an Area-Specific Archery Hunt tag for the appropriate zone. You may not possess a firearm or crossbow when hunting under the authority of an Archery-Only deer tag except as otherwise provided.

### Apprentice Hunt Tags

Applicants must be less than 16 years of age as of July 1, of the license year for which they are applying, and must possess a valid 2026-27 California Junior Hunting License. See [page 36](#) for more information on Apprentice Deer Hunts. Junior hunters receiving Apprentice Deer Hunt tags must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older while hunting.

### Area-Specific Archery Hunt Tags

These tags allow archery hunting in designated areas throughout the state, including X zones.

### Military Lands Hunts

J10 and A33 (Additional Hunt Deer Tags), are held on military installations and offer limited number of tags for the public. Tags are issued through the CDFW's Big Game Drawing. The G8 hunt has been cancelled by the Base Commander for the 2026 hunting season.

Additional Military Lands Hunts, G7 (Beale Air Force Base Either-sex Hunt), G10 (Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base Either-sex Hunt), and G11 (Vandenberg Air Force Base Either-sex Hunt) are for military personnel only. Military personnel must contact the base directly for information on application procedures. Hunters interested in the G7 hunt tag may contact the Beale AFB Natural Resources Office at (530) 634-2738. For information on the G10 hunt tag contact the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base at (760) 725-3360.

## DEER

**Deer Tag Exchanges**

Premium deer tags cannot be exchanged. Non-Premium deer tags may be exchanged if all of the following conditions are met:

The earliest season (either archery or general) for the tag being exchanged has not yet opened;

The tag quota for the tag being exchanged has not filled;

Tags are still available for the zone being requested; and

The exchange fee of \$13.65 for the exchange tag accompanies your request.

Deer tag exchanges are only processed at CDFW license sales offices (T14 CCR §708.4).

**Deer Tag Preference Point Reinstatements**

Tag holders unable to hunt may return their premium first-choice deer tag via mail to the CDFW License and Revenue Branch before the season starts, along with a written request to have their preference points reinstated. The tag and written statement must be postmarked prior to the opening date of the earliest season for the tag.

Tag holders in a party may return their premium first-choice deer tags only if their points are less than or equal to the party's point average. For tag holders with more points than the party's point average to have their points reinstated, all members of the party must return their tags for point reinstatement. If the request is approved, preference points will be reinstated, and one preference point will be awarded for deer for the hunt year (CCR T14-708.14(j)(1)). Premium deer tags are defined as any hunt in which the quota filled on or before the first business day after July 1 of the previous year.

Junior hunters returning their premium deer tags for preference points reinstatement must return all premium first-choice tags. All returned tags must meet eligibility requirements for preference points reinstatement (CCR T14-708.14(l)).

For information about preference point reinstatements, including instructions and deadline dates for returning tags for preference point reinstatements, visit the Exchanges, Returns, Preference Points website: [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting/Big-Game#exchanges](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting/Big-Game#exchanges).

**Deer Tag Refunds**

Deer tag fees are nonrefundable. Deer Tag Drawing Application fees are nonrefundable once the deer tag application has been entered into the Big Game Drawing or a deer tag has been issued regardless of closures of any zone or hunt due to fire, weather or other natural disasters.

**Deer Definitions****Antlerless Deer**

Female deer, fawns of either sex other than spotted fawns, and male deer with an unbranched antler on one or both sides which is not more than three inches in length (T14 CCR §351(b)).

**Either-sex Deer**

Antlerless deer, or legal bucks that have two or more points in the upper two-thirds of either antler (T14 CCR §351(c)).

**Forked-horn Buck**

A male deer having a branched antler on either side with the branch in the upper two-thirds of the antler. Eye-guards or other bony projections on the lower one-third of the antler shall not be considered as points or branches (T14 CCR §351(a)).

Spike Buck Deer: A male deer with unbranched antlers on both sides which are more than 3 inches in length (FGC 200(a)(2)).

**Deer Tag Classifications**

Deer tags are issued for a specific hunt. Each hunt has a tag quota – the total number of tags that can be issued. Deer hunts are categorized into three different classifications (premium, restricted and unrestricted) based on the prior year's demand for the tag. Hunt classification determines tag issuance method and other rules as follows:

**Premium Deer Hunts**

Are any hunt where the quota filled on or before the first business day after July 1, of the previous year. Hunters may only obtain one premium hunt tag per license year. To apply for a premium deer hunt tag, hunters must apply in the Big Game Drawing using a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application. Except junior hunters who may also apply for premium Apprentice Hunts using a Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application.

**Premium Deer Tags for 2026 are:**

**General Zone Hunts: C, D12, D14, and D17;**

**X Zone Hunts: X1, X2, X3A, X3B, X4, X5A, X5B, X6A, X6B, X7A, X7B, X8, X9A, X9B, X9C, X10 and X12;**

**General Methods Hunts: G1, G3, G6, G12, G13, G19, G21, G37, G38, G39 and G40;**

**Muzzleloader Hunts: M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8, M9, M11, MA1 and MA3;**

**Area-Specific Archery Hunts: A1, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8,**

## DEER

**A9, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A20, A21, A24, A25, A26, A27, A30 and A33;**

**Apprentice Hunts: J1, J3, J4, J8, J9, J10, J11, J12, J13, J14, J15, J16, J17, J18, J19, J20 and J21.**

### **Restricted Deer Hunts**

Are any hunt that filled on or before the first business day after August 1 of the previous year. Restricted deer hunt tags may be issued upon the purchase of a First-Deer Tag. Second-Deer Tag applicants may also obtain a restricted deer hunt tag at any time, if you do not have a pending drawing application, have not been issued a premium deer hunt tag or restricted deer hunt tag as a First-Deer Tag. Restricted tags are issued upon request until the tag quota for the hunt is filled.

**Restricted Deer Tags for 2026 are:**

**Area-Specific Archery Hunt: A31**

### **Unrestricted Deer Hunts**

Are any hunt that did not fill on or before the first business day after August 1, in the previous year. Unrestricted deer hunt tags are issued upon the purchase of either a First-Deer Tag or Second-Deer Tag.

**Unrestricted Deer Tags for 2026 are:**

**Archery Only Hunts: AO, A18, A19, A22, and A32**

**General Hunt Zones: A, B, D3-5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11, D13, D15, D16, and D19**

### **First Deer Tag Drawing Application**

A First-Deer Tag Drawing Application may only be used to apply for the following hunts:

First Choice – Premium Deer Hunts or PD (Point Deer) – The preference point code may be used as the first choice to obtain a preference point without competing in the first choice round of the drawing.

Second and Third Choice – Second and third hunt choices are optional and may be a premium deer, restricted deer or unrestricted deer hunt tag.

### **Second Deer Tag Drawing Application**

A Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application may ONLY be used by junior hunters to apply for Apprentice Hunts, and only if they have not applied for Apprentice Deer Hunts on their First-Deer Tag Drawing Application.

Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application hunt choices are limited as follows:

First Choice – Must be an Apprentice Deer Hunt or PD (Point Deer) – The preference point code may be used

as the first choice to obtain a preference point without competing in the first choice round of the drawing.

Second and Third Choice – Second and third choice hunts are optional and may be another Apprentice Deer Hunt or unrestricted deer hunt tag. Junior hunters may select a restricted deer hunt as their second or third tag choice ONLY if they were issued an unrestricted deer tag as their First-Deer Tag or not pending a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application.

### **First Deer Tag**

A First-Deer Tag may be used to obtain the following:

- Restricted Deer Hunt Tags
- Unrestricted Deer Hunt Tags
- Leftover Premium Deer Hunt Tags issued on July 2, 2026.

If any premium deer hunt tags remain after the Big Game Drawing, First-Deer Tag applicants may apply for any leftover premium deer hunt tags starting at 8:00 a.m. on July 2, 2026.

### **Second Deer Tag**

A Second-Deer Tag may be used to obtain the following:

- Unrestricted Deer Hunt Tags

### **Restricted Deer Hunt Tags**

Leftover Premium Deer Hunt Tags issued on August 2, 2026.

Second-Deer Tag applicants may obtain any restricted deer hunt tag at any time if they do not have a pending First-Deer Tag Drawing Application or have not been issued a premium or restricted deer tag as a First-Deer Tag.

Starting at 8:00 a.m. on July 2, 2026 all Second-Deer Tag applicants may apply for any remaining deer tag regardless if you have been issued a premium or restricted deer tag already.

## BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION

All premium deer hunt tags and elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep tags are distributed through the CDFW Big Game Drawing.

See instructions for applying in the 2026 Big Game Drawing for your elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep tags.

For the 2026 Big Game Drawing, 24 is the maximum number of preference points for any species a hunter can have. The CDFW started tracking preference points in 2002. To look up your total preference points, log on to your customer profile at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and click on "View My Drawing Application/Preference Points."

### Applying in the Big Game Drawing

Applicants can apply for the Big Game Drawing at any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) or by telephone sales at (800) 565-1458. The Big Game Drawing application period begins April 15, 2026. All transactions for Big Game Drawing entries must be completed before midnight on June 2, 2026. Applicants applying for preference points

only must also submit their applications by the same date and time.

You will need to purchase a California hunting license and the appropriate Big Game Drawing Tag Applications:

First-Deer Tag Application (junior hunters may apply for Apprentice Deer Hunts on a Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application). See [page 32](#) for deer hunt codes.

Elk Tag Drawing Application, see [page 48](#) for elk hunt codes.

Pronghorn Tag Drawing Application, see [page 57](#) for pronghorn hunt codes.

Bighorn Sheep Tag Drawing Application, see [page 61](#) for bighorn sheep hunt codes.

### Retrieving Your Customer Record

- If applying at a CDFW license sales office or a license agent, provide a previous ALDS issued license for the agent to scan.
- If applying online or by telephone sales, use the GO ID (printed above your 'STATE ID' ) from a previously issued ALDS license to retrieve your customer record. See instructions on [page 19](#) for more information on applying online.

### Applying for Another Person

If you are applying for someone else or party members, bring their previously issued ALDS license or their identification number and date of birth.

### Proof of Hunter Education Requirement

Hunter education information must already be on file in your ALDS profile. For new applicants, please bring your required proof of hunter education with you to the license agent. **NOTE:** Hunters who have purchased hunting items via ALDS already have hunter education on file.

### Items to Purchase

- Purchase your 2026-2027 California hunting license.
- Provide the sales clerk the 2026 hunting items you would like to apply for (see the list of items from the previous column) and the hunt code for each tag application for which you want to apply. **NOTE:** For deer, you should confirm the correct order of your hunt choices.

### Applying as a Party

The maximum number of party members for deer is six (6). For elk and pronghorn, only residents may apply as a party of two. Hunters cannot apply as a party for bighorn sheep. You will receive a different Drawing Receipt and Party Number for each species for which you are applying. Make sure you are giving the correct Party Number from each Drawing Receipt to the correct hunting party.

TIP

### MOST COMMON MISTAKES WHEN APPLYING IN THE DRAWING

- Online applicants forget to click on the "Submit Payment" button to process the transaction. You can double check your purchase by logging back into your profile and view your license sales history at the top of the page.
- Online applicants "Add to Cart" a first deer tag instead of the First Deer Tag Drawing Application located under the "Drawings" list.
- Applicants leave the license sales agent with a deer tag instead of a Deer Drawing Receipt. The drawing receipt shows the hunt choices you applied for in the drawing.
- An applicant who does not retrieve their existing profile, creates a duplicate profile, and is not connected to their preference points or hunter education. Therefore the customer is not able to purchase a hunting license and cannot apply in the drawing.
- Applicants miss the deadline to apply.

## BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION

When applying for a deer, elk, or pronghorn drawing tag application you will be prompted as to whether you are:

- Applying alone or creating a new party (party leader).
- Joining an existing party.

The first member of the party is considered the leader. They will be prompted for their hunt choice(s) and a Party Number will be printed on their Drawing Receipt at the end of the sales transaction. Note: A Party Number is printed on every Drawing Receipt.

The party leader must provide the Party Number to additional members to 'authorize' them to join the party. Note: CDFW license sales staff and license agents do not have access to a party leader's Party Number.

When other party members apply they must tell the sales clerk they are joining an existing party, and provide the Party Number to the sales clerk (or enter it themselves if applying online). Note: If other members of the party are applying in the same sales transaction, they will not need the party number and can just indicate to the sales clerk that they are joining that person's party.

When the Party Number is entered in the drawing application screen it will bring up the hunting party and hunt choice information. The sales clerk should confirm that this is the correct party and hunt choice with the purchaser. If this is not the correct party, the sales clerk can cancel and re-enter the Party Number. If correct, the sales clerk can confirm, and this will link the new member to the party. (Note: If applying online, the confirmation screen will display for the customer with the options to cancel or confirm).

Hunters joining an existing party will be assigned the same tag choices in the same order as the party leader and all party members will be linked in the drawing together.

Party applications can be made up of transactions submitted in the same sales transaction or through several transactions. In addition, hunters can submit their drawing applications at any CDFW license sales offices, license agents, online, or by telephone sales.

**IMPORTANT:** Applicants will receive a Drawing Receipt for each species for which they are applying. If you were issued a first deer tag instead of a Drawing Receipt, at the license agent, you were not entered into the Big Game Drawing. You will not earn a preference point and will not be drawn for a premium deer tag.

### Check Your Drawing Receipt Carefully!

Hunters should verify the information on their Drawing Receipt before leaving the sales counter. The receipt will include the applicant's name, hunt choice(s), accumulated preference points, and a Party Number. If any of the information is incorrect, the sales clerk must cancel the Drawing Receipt document and 're-sell' the application with the correct information.

License agents have only four hours to cancel a sale. If the transaction has exceeded the four-hour limit when the discrepancy is found, the applicant must contact CDFW's License and Revenue Branch prior to the June 2 deadline at [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov) to make any corrections.

### Applying for the Big Game Drawing Online

**Apply early! Don't be left out! License sales open April 15, 2026. The deadline to apply is midnight on June 2, 2026.**

You must have proof of hunter education on file to purchase hunting items online. If you do not have hunter education on file, you must provide proof of hunter education to a license agent or a CDFW license sales office. You may also contact CDFW by fax at (916) 419-7585 or e-mail [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov) and provide proof of hunter education and GO ID, or your personal identification number. After your hunter education is updated in ALDS, you will be able to purchase hunting licenses now and in the future.

### How to Apply Online

Using your last name, date of birth, and ID number (GO ID, CDL, or other ID used to create profile) log into your profile [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and click on the "Purchase Licenses" link at the top of the page.

1. From the Menu box on the left side of the screen, select the 2026 Hunting tab.
2. Add the 2026 hunting license to your cart.
3. Scroll down to the Drawings section.
4. Click on "Add to Cart" to select the desired Drawing Application.

**Note:** Adult hunters MUST use a First Deer Tag Drawing Application when applying for deer in the Big Game Drawing. The item 'First Deer Tag' (in the TAGS section) cannot be used to apply for the Big Game Drawing for deer.

5a. If you are joining an existing hunting party, select "Join Party". You will need the Party Number of the party you wish to join. See [page 18](#) for more information on applying as a party.

5b. If you are applying alone, or if you are the first person in your party to apply, select "Apply Alone or Create New Party."

6. Enter your hunt choices in the boxes provided.
7. Click "Submit" to enter your hunt choice. Then on the confirmation page, review your hunt choices and/or party number and click "Submit" again to complete your hunt choice entry.
8. Repeat step 4, for each species for which you are applying.
9. Add any other items you wish to purchase to the cart.
10. Click "Check Out" from the side shopping cart or click "View Cart" at the top of the page to review the items you've selected and confirm your tag choices.
11. Click on "Check Out" to start the checkout process.

## BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION

Review your mailing address and enter your email address if you want confirmation of your purchase emailed to you.

12. Check the box to certify that you are 18 years of age and authorize the purchase and check the "I am not a robot" reCAPTCHA box. The transaction will not be processed if this box is not checked, which means you will not be entered in the Big Game Drawing.

13. Enter your payment information.

14. Check the box "By checking this box" and click on the "Pay Now" button. The "Transaction Complete" page will appear, stating that your order has been received and processed. Click on "Download Receipt/Licenses" so you may print your drawing receipts for your record.

### Drawing Results

CDFW will conduct the drawing within 10 business days of the application deadline. Applicants may look up their drawing results on or around June 15, 2026 by entering their customer information on CDFW's website at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and click on "View My Draw Application/Preference Points" at the top of the page. Applicants will also see their new preference point totals by clicking on the tab "Preference Point." On the same day, drawing results will be available by phone during regular business hours from CDFW license sales offices.

### Notifying Applicants

Deer tags awarded through the Big Game Drawing will be mailed to successful applicants as soon as possible after the drawing. If you do not receive your tag by July 2, 2026, please contact your nearest CDFW license sales office.

Unsuccessful deer tag applicants will also be mailed unsuccessful deer tag notices by July 2, 2026. Notices will list available deer tags as of the notice date. It is not necessary to have the drawing notice to claim an available tag; hunters may go to any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online or by telephone sales to claim available deer tags. Hunters may use their California hunting license to retrieve their customer record.

Unsuccessful nonresidents may request a refund of the difference between the fees paid for a nonresident and a resident Deer Tag Drawing Application, if the application was submitted and a deer tag was not issued or if a nonresident deer tag is issued, and all of the following conditions are met:

- The deer license tag is not a premium tag.
- The deer license tag is returned prior to the earliest opening date for the hunt.
- The tag quota has not been filled for the hunt.

Refund requests shall be submitted on or before March 1, each year, to CDFW's License and Revenue Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. If the deadline to submit the request for refund falls on a weekend or holiday,

requests will be accepted until the close of business on the first state business day following the deadline to submit the request.

Successful elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep tag winners and alternates should receive their payment notices in the mail by July 2, 2026; unsuccessful applicants will not be notified by mail.

It is not necessary to have the successful tag letter to claim your tag; hunters may go to any CDFW license sales office or online to purchase your elk or pronghorn tag.

### How the Drawing Works

Under a Modified Preference Point System drawing, tag quotas for each hunt are split into two portions: one portion awarded by preference point drawings; the other portion awarded in Draw-By-Choice drawings. Quota splits vary, depending on the species, total number of available tags, and other special criteria (such as those for Apprentice Hunts, elk, pronghorn and Bighorn sheep).

- CDFW will conduct the drawing within 10 business days of the application deadline.
- After the application deadline, when all applicant information has been verified, the computer will:
  - Assign each person (or party) a unique random number. Party members receive the same random number as the party leader.
  - Determine the preference point value for party applications by averaging all party members' preference points (total preference points of the party divided by the number of party members). Preference point averages are not rounded up or down. T14 CCR §708.14(e)

### Steps in the Premium Deer Tag Drawing:

- Sort all applications according to the first choice tag, then preference point totals, and then random number.
- Award tag choices to applicants with the most preference points, in random number order only (starting with the lowest random number to the highest random number). Tags are awarded until the preference quota is met.
- After the preference point round is completed, unsuccessful applicants are resorted by hunt choice and random number order (starting with the lowest random number to the highest random number), and the computer begins awarding tags based on applicant's first-choice without consideration of accumulated preference points, until all draw-by-choice tag quotas fill or until all applicants have been processed.
- All remaining unsuccessful applicants are then sorted by second choice tag, in random number order (starting with the lowest random number to the highest random number) and the computer conducts a second round of drawings for any zones and hunts with tags remaining without consideration

## BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION

of accumulated preference points.

- All remaining unsuccessful applicants are sorted once again by third choice tag, in random number order (starting with the lowest random number to the highest random number), and any remaining tags are awarded without consideration of accumulated points.
- Applicants unsuccessful for any of their hunt choices will be notified of available tags so they may reapply.

Deer tag party applications are not split to meet the tag quota if the number of party members exceeds the number of available tags. T14 CCR §708.15(a)(2) Therefore, when there are fewer tags available than the number of members in a party, the computer bypasses that application and moves on to the next application where party count is equal to or less than the remaining quota.

### Steps in the Elk, Pronghorn and, Bighorn Sheep Tag Drawings:

- The draw-by-choice round of the drawing is conducted first then the preference point round.
- Alternates are selected in the preference point round and parties may be split when awarding the final tag. The party leader will be awarded the tag and the party member will become the first alternate for that hunt. Applicants drawn as alternates will be awarded unclaimed tags on an individual basis, in the order drawn.

### Mandatory Bighorn Sheep Hunter Orientation

Successfully drawn applicants and recipients of fundraising tags must complete the hunter orientation requirement, in-person on July 18, 2026 in Sacramento.

### Tag Quota Splits

Quota splits are established in regulations adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission based on CDFW science-based proposals and public input. Please check the Commission's web site at [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov) for information on how to become involved in the regulation-setting process.

### Premium Deer Hunt Tags

Ninety percent (90%) of the individual zone or hunt tag quota shall be awarded using a Preference Point drawing.

Ten percent (10%) of the individual zone or hunt tag quota shall be awarded using a Draw-by-Choice drawing.

For zones or hunts with quotas less than ten (10) tags, one (1) tag shall be awarded using a Draw-by-Choice drawing.

### Apprentice Deer Hunt Tags

Fifty percent (50%) of the hunt tag quota shall be awarded through a Preference Point drawing. Fifty percent (50%) of the hunt tag quota shall be awarded through a Draw-By-Choice drawing.

### Elk, Pronghorn, and Bighorn Sheep Tags

- For quotas of one (1), the tag shall be awarded using a Draw-By-Choice drawing.
- For quotas of two (2), one (1) tag shall be awarded using a Preference Point drawing, and one (1) tag shall be awarded using a Draw-By-Choice drawing.
- For quotas of three (3), two (2) tags shall be awarded using a Preference Point drawing, and one (1) tag shall be awarded using a Draw-By-Choice drawing.
- For quotas of four (4) or more, seventy-five percent (75%) of the quota shall be awarded using a Preference Point drawing. The remaining portion of the quota shall be awarded using a Draw-by-Choice drawing.



John A.

## HOW TO PROPERLY FILL OUT A TAG (HUNTED, HARVESTED)

**26 DR**  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
**DEER TAG**  
See Regulations for Season Dates

D-0046210494-0

GO ID: 1102941019  
STATE ID: A123\*\*\*\* CA  
JOE HUNT  
123 DEER ST  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
SEX: M HAIR: Brown EYES: Brown  
HT: 5-10 WT: 200 DOB: 01/01/1976  
Resident: I have resided in California continuously for the past 6 months  
Doc No: D-0046210494-0  
Trak: 00000003584043  
015591346  
Outlet No: 302001-001  
3/16/2026 9:25:39 AM  
Item Fee\*  
2nd Deer Tag - Resident \$52.92  
Total: \$52.92

\*Includes any applicable application fees, agent handling fees and license buyer surcharge.  
Deer Tag fees are non-refundable once a deer tag has been issued regardless of closures of any zone or hunt due to fire, weather or other natural disasters (Sec. 708.2, Title 14, CCR).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in California. Know the CWD and regulatory status of your hunt zone. For information on how to get your harvest sampled or to contact the Department, see [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](http://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).

**B**  
**B ZONES ARCHERY AND GENERAL SEASONS - BUCK**  
Valid during the Archery and General Seasons in zones B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and B6  
**"NONLEAD AMMO REQUIRED"**

**TAG MUST BE IN IMMEDIATE POSSESSION WHILE HUNTING**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS:**  
(1) Upon the harvesting of any deer, the hunter shall immediately fill out all information requested on the harvest report card and tag completely, legibly, and permanently and punch out holes for the month and date of the kill.  
(2) The deer license tag shall then be immediately attached to the antlers of an antlered deer or to the ear of any other deer and kept attached during the open season and for 15 days thereafter.  
(3) Hunter must have tag countersigned, pursuant to FGC 4541, by nearest validating officer (CDFW employee, forest ranger, peace officer or others listed in Sec. 708.8, Title 14, CCR).  
(4) Hunter must submit Harvest Report Card within 30 days of taking a deer.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:**  
(1) SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS MUST SUBMIT A HARVEST REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF TAKING THE ANIMAL.  
(2) UNsuccessful HUNTERS AND THOSE WHO DID NOT HUNT MUST ANSWER ALL APPLICABLE QUESTIONS IN THE REPORT CARD SECTION BELOW AND MUST SUBMIT A HARVEST REPORT BY JANUARY 31.

**HARVEST REPORTS CAN BE SUBMITTED ONLINE AT:**  
[wildlife.ca.gov/licensing](http://wildlife.ca.gov/licensing)  
A confirmation number will be provided for online reporting.

hunter must record the number on the Harvest Report Card.  
**ALTERNATIVELY HUNTERS MAY MAIL THEIR HARVEST REPORTS TO:**  
CDFW Wildlife Branch  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**NON-REPORTING PENALTY:**  
Hunters who do not submit a harvest report by January 31 will be assessed a non-reporting penalty fee when purchasing a deer tag or deer tag drawing application in the following license year.

**26 DR**  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
**DEER TAG**

Punch above to attach to animal

**B**  
**B ZONES ARCHERY AND GENERAL SEASONS - BUCK**  
Valid during the Archery and General Seasons in zones B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and B6  
**"NONLEAD AMMO REQUIRED"**  
**IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING DEER**  
COMPLETELY PUNCH THROUGH THE MONTH AND DATE OF KILL. FILL IN INFORMATION REQUESTED AND ATTACH TAG SECURELY TO ANTLER OF ANTLERED DEER OR EAR OF ANY OTHER DEER (SEC. 708.5, TITLE 14, CCR).

Doc No: D-0046210494-0  
GO ID: 1102941019  
STATE ID: A123\*\*\*\* CA

JOE HUNT  
123 DEER ST  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

**HARVEST INFORMATION**

Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

DATE: 8/23/26 TIME: 8:30 AM

ZONE OF KILL:  
 B1  B2  
 B3  B4  
 B5  B6

LOCALITY OF KILL: 3 miles off Big Bar Rd near marker 13  
(Distance and Direction from Nearest Landmark)

COUNTY OF KILL: Trinity

KILLED ON:  PRIVATE LAND  PUBLIC LAND

METHOD OF TAKE: Archery

ANIMAL GENDER:  MALE  FEMALE

NBR. OF ANTLER POINTS: L: 2 R: 2

HARVEST REPORT CONFIRMATION NBR: 12345

COUNTERSIGNED BY: Gary B. Warden  
AGENCY/TITLE: CDFW / Warden  
DATE: 8/23/26

--- End of Document D-0046210494-0 ---

Upon harvesting a deer, cut along the dotted line to separate the Harvest Report Card (the top half) to the antler portion (the bottom half).

Attach to antler portion

Answer ALL harvest info questions

Fully notch/cut out the month and date of kill.

**REPORT CARD QUESTIONS**

DID YOU HUNT DEER:  YES  NO

NUMBER OF DAYS HUNTING DEER: 2

WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL:  YES  NO

**HARVEST INFORMATION**  
Doc No: D-0046210494-0  
DATE: 8/23/26 TIME: 8:30 AM

ZONE OF KILL:  
 B1  B2  
 B3  B4  
 B5  B6

LOCALITY OF KILL: 3 miles off Big Bar Rd near marker 13  
(Distance and Direction from Nearest Landmark)

COUNTY OF KILL: Trinity

KILLED ON:  PRIVATE LAND  PUBLIC LAND

**METHOD OF TAKE**  
 ARCHERY  
 CROSSBOW  
 DISABLED ARCHER PERMIT/ARCHERY-CROSSBOW  
 MUZZLELOADING RIFLE  
 PISTOL/REVOLVER  
 RIFLE  
 SHOTGUN

ANIMAL GENDER:  MALE  FEMALE

NBR. OF ANTLER POINTS: L: 2 R: 2

HARVEST REPORT CONFIRMATION NBR: 12345

Cut Along Line To Separate Tag (below) from Harvest Report Card (above) when Attaching Tag To Animal

Record your harvest report confirmation number here.

A confirmation number is provided if you submit your report online.

If you submit by mail, you will receive a confirmation number by email if you have an email address in your profile.

HOW TO PROPERLY FILL OUT A TAG (HUNTED & NO HARVEST OR NO HUNT)

26 DR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DEER TAG  
See Regulations for Season Dates



D-0046210493-9

GO ID: 1102941019  
STATE ID: A123\*\*\*\* CA  
JOE HUNT  
123 DEER ST  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
SEX: M HAIR: Brown EYES: Brown  
HT: 5-10 WT: 200 DOB: 01/01/1976  
Resident: I have resided in California continuously for the past 6 months  
Doc No: D-0046210493-9  
Trans: 000003394043  
015591346  
Outlet No: 302001-001  
3/16/2025 9:25:39 AM  
Item Fee\*  
1st Deer Tag - Resident \$42.38  
Total: \$42.38

\*Includes any applicable application fees, agent handling fees and license buyer surcharge.  
Deer Tag fees are nonrefundable once a deer tag has been issued regardless of closures of any zone or hunt due to fire, weather or other natural disasters (Sec. 708.2, Title 14, CCR).  
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in California. Know the CWD and regulatory status of your hunt zone. For information on how to get your harvest sampled or to contact the Department, see [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](http://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).

**A**  
ZONE A ARCHERY AND GENERAL SEASONS - BUCK  
\*NONLEAD AMMO REQUIRED\*

TAG MUST BE IN IMMEDIATE POSSESSION WHILE HUNTING

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS:**  
(1) Upon the harvesting of any deer, the hunter shall immediately fill out all information requested on the harvest report card and tag completely, legibly, and permanently and punch out holes for the month and date of the kill.  
(2) The deer license tag shall then be immediately attached to the antlers of an antlered deer or to the ear of any other deer and kept attached during the open season and for 15 days thereafter.  
(3) Hunter must have tag countersigned, pursuant to FCC 4361, by nearest validating officer (CDFW employee, forest ranger, peace officer or others listed in Sec. 708.9, Title 14, CCR).  
(4) Hunter must submit Harvest Report Card within 30 days of taking a deer.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:**  
(1) SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS MUST SUBMIT A HARVEST REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF TAKING THE ANIMAL  
(2) UNSUCCESSFUL HUNTERS AND THOSE WHO DID NOT HUNT MUST ANSWER ALL APPLICABLE QUESTIONS IN THE REPORT CARD SECTION BELOW AND MUST SUBMIT A HARVEST REPORT BY JANUARY 31.

**HARVEST REPORTS CAN BE SUBMITTED ONLINE AT: [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing)**  
A confirmation number will be provided for online reporting. Hunter must record the number on the Harvest Report Card. **ALTERNATIVELY HUNTERS MAY MAIL THEIR HARVEST REPORTS TO:**  
CDFW Wildlife Branch  
P.O. Box 944208  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**NON-REPORTING PENALTY:**  
Hunters who do not submit a harvest report by January 31 will be assessed a non-reporting penalty fee when purchasing a deer tag or deer tag drawing application in the following license years:

REPORT CARD QUESTIONS

DID YOU HUNT DEER:  YES  NO  
NUMBER OF DAYS HUNTING DEER: 2  
WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL:  YES  NO

HARVEST INFORMATION

Doc No: D-0046210493-9

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM  
ZONE OF KILL:  
 A - North Unit  A - South Unit  
LOCALITY OF KILL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Distance and Direction from Nearest Landmark)

COUNTY OF KILL: \_\_\_\_\_  
KILLED ON:  PRIVATE LAND  PUBLIC LAND

METHOD OF TAKE

ARCHERY  
 CROSSBOW  
 DISABLED ARCHER PERMIT/ARCHERY-CROSSBOW  
 MUZZLELOADING RIFLE  
 PISTOL/REVOLVER  
 RIFLE  
 SHOTGUN

ANIMAL GENDER:  MALE  FEMALE

NBR. OF ANTLER POINTS: L: \_\_\_\_\_ R: \_\_\_\_\_  
HARVEST REPORT CONFIRMATION NBR: 978145

Cut Along Line To Separate Tag (below) from Harvest Report Card (above) when Attaching Tag To Animal

26 DR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DEER TAG



Punch above to attach to animal

**A**  
ZONE A ARCHERY AND GENERAL SEASONS - BUCK  
\*NONLEAD AMMO REQUIRED\*

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING DEER**  
COMPLETELY PUNCH THROUGH THE MONTH AND DATE OF KILL. FILL IN INFORMATION REQUESTED AND ATTACH TAG SECURELY TO ANTLER OF ANTLERED DEER OR EAR OF ANY OTHER DEER (SEC. 708.5, TITLE 14, CCR).

Doc No: D-0046210493-9  
GO ID: 1102941019  
STATE ID: A123\*\*\*\* CA

JOE HUNT  
123 DEER ST  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

HARVEST INFORMATION

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM

ZONE OF KILL:  
 A - North Unit  A - South Unit

LOCALITY OF KILL: \_\_\_\_\_

(Distance and Direction from Nearest Landmark)

COUNTY OF KILL: \_\_\_\_\_

KILLED ON:  PRIVATE LAND  PUBLIC LAND

METHOD OF TAKE: \_\_\_\_\_

ANIMAL GENDER:  MALE  FEMALE

NBR. OF ANTLER POINTS: L: \_\_\_\_\_ R: \_\_\_\_\_

HARVEST REPORT CONFIRMATION NBR: 978145

COUNTERSIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY/TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

---- End of Document D-0046210493-9 ----

Answer ALL harvest info questions

Record your harvest report confirmation number here

Record your harvest report confirmation number here.

A confirmation number is provided if you submit your report online.

If you submit by mail, you will receive a confirmation number by email if you have an email address in your profile.

## HARVEST TAG REPORTING

### Mandatory Harvest Reporting for All Deer Tag Holders

Any person who is issued a deer tag must submit a harvest report card. T14 CCR §708.5(b)

- Successful hunters must submit a completed report within 30 days of taking a deer;
- Unsuccessful hunters; and
- Hunters who did not hunt must submit a completed report by answering the applicable questions on the harvest report card and submit the report by January 31.

### Two Ways to Submit Your Harvest Report Online

Log in to your internet sales profile at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and follow the steps below:

- Click the "Harvest Reporting" tab. If you are using a mobile device, the list of menu tabs is the square box (with three lines) in the upper left corner of your screen.
- Click "Start Report" next to the tag you would like to report on. If you have two of the same zone/hunt tag, you are required to key in the Document Number (located below the barcode). This is to ensure you are reporting the correct tag.
- Answer the effort questions in the reporting portion.
- Click "Submit" at the end of the page – this is a two-step process.
- Review your answers and click "Confirm" and then click "Ok" on the pop-up window to confirm that your report is complete and accurate.

The confirmation number will be generated for you to write on your tag. You will still need to retain the tag until March 1. Tags reported online must be surrendered to CDFW upon demand.

### By Mail

Mail your deer tags to the address below:

CDFW Wildlife Branch  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

### Tag Validation and Countersigning Requirements

All tag holders upon the killing of any big game shall immediately fill out all portions of the tag including the harvest report card. The tag shall be completely, legibly, and permanently filled out as listed:

- Fill out the effort questions
- Cut out or punch out notches for the month and date of kill. They must be completely cut out or punched out and removed.

### NON-REPORTING DEER TAG PENALTY

Deer tag holders, whether successful, unsuccessful, or did not hunt, who fail to report by the January 31 deadline are subject to the non-reporting fee of \$21.60 prior to the issuance of a deer tag or deer tag drawing application in the following year.

- Online harvest reporting closes at midnight on January 31.
- The harvest report card returned by mail must be postmarked by the January 31 deadline.
- If the harvest report card is submitted by mail and not received by the CDFW, it is considered not reported and charged the non-reporting fee.
- If the harvest report card is received late (failed to report by the January 31 deadline), the non-reporting fee will be charged.

The antler portion of the license tag must be attached to the antlers of an antlered animal or to the ear of an antlerless animal immediately upon being killed.

Deer and elk tags shall be countersigned before transporting, except for the purpose of taking it to the nearest person authorized to countersign the license tag, on the route being followed from the point where taken.

Bear tags shall only be countersigned by a CDFW employee before transporting, except for the purpose of taking it to the nearest CDFW employee. If CDFW offices are closed, the bear tag shall be validated within one business day of transporting the bear from the point where taken.

## HARVEST TAG REPORTING

SPECIES	REPORTING REQUIREMENT	TAG COUNTERSIGN REQUIREMENT	LENGTH OF TIME TO RETAIN TAG
<b>DEER</b>	Successful hunters must report within 30 days of harvest or by January 31, whichever comes first. Unsuccessful hunters and hunters who did not hunt must report by January 31. Hunters who do not report by the deadline will be charged a non-reporting fee of \$21.60 when purchasing their deer tag drawing application or deer tag in the following license year.	Persons Authorized to Validate (see below)	Keep tag attached for 15 days thereafter the season closes. Retain harvest report cards submitted online until March 1.
<b>BEAR</b>	Successful hunters must return report cards immediately. Hunters who were unsuccessful or did not hunt must return report cards by February 1.	CDFW Staff Only	Retain head and skin for 15 days thereafter season closes.
<b>ELK</b>	Successful and unsuccessful hunters must return report cards within one week of season closure.	Persons Authorized to Validate (see below)	Keep tag attached 15 days thereafter season closes.
<b>PRONGHORN</b>	Successful and unsuccessful hunters must return report cards within one week of season closure.	Not Required	Keep tag attached 15 days thereafter season closes.
<b>BIGHORN SHEEP</b>	Successful hunters must report by phone within 24 hours and meet CDFW staff within 48 hours. Successful and unsuccessful report cards must be returned within 10 days of season closure.	CDFW Staff Only	N/A
<b>WILD PIG</b>	Hunters are required to report take through the <a href="#">Online License Services website</a> within 60 days of the end of the license year. Reporting information will include the number of pigs harvested by month and county (T14 CCR 708.13).	Not Required	N/A

### Persons Authorized to Validate or Countersign Deer and Elk Tags (T14 CCR 708.6(c))

No person may validate or countersign their own deer or elk tag.

#### State

- California Fish and Game Commissioners
- Employees of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, including Certified Hunter Education Instructors
- Employees of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Supervising Plant Quarantine Inspectors
- Junior, Intermediate and Senior Plant Quarantine Inspectors

#### Federal

- Employees of the Bureau of Land Management
- Employees of the United States Forest Service
- Employees of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- All Uniformed Personnel of the National Park Service

- Commanding Officers of any United States military installation or their designated personnel for deer taken on their reservation
- Postmasters & Post Office Station or Branch Manager for deer brought to their post office
- **Miscellaneous**
- County firemen at and above the class of foreman for deer brought into their station
- Judges or Justices of all state and United States courts
- Notaries Public
- Peace Officers (salaried & non-salaried)
- Officers authorized to administer oaths
- Owners, corporate officers, managers or operators of lockers or cold storage plants for deer brought to their place of business



## 2025 PRELIMINARY DEER HARVEST BY ANTLER CLASS

The following table shows the percentage by antler class of forked-horn or better bucks and total reported buck harvest for zones and public hunts as of 1/22/2026 (a). These values may differ from final deer harvest statistics, which will be available at [wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/deer](http://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/deer).

Zone/Hunt	2 Point Bucks	3 Point Bucks	4 Point Bucks	5+ Point Bucks	Total
Archery Only Tags <sup>(b)</sup>	48.9%	30.1%	17.4%	3.6%	579
A Zone (South-110)	60.2%	29.0%	9.3%	1.4%	2,390
A Zone (North-160)	52.4%	33.6%	12.6%	1.3%	2,482
Zone B1	34.1%	40.0%	21.7%	4.2%	2,245
Zone B2	41.1%	36.1%	18.5%	4.2%	2,035
Zone B3	47.0%	37.4%	13.6%	2.0%	693
Zone B4	38.7%	40.5%	16.7%	3.6%	168
Zone B5	37.5%	41.2%	19.1%	2.1%	752
Zone B6	37.9%	31.2%	25.8%	5.0%	535
Zone C1	28.0%	39.8%	26.9%	5.4%	186
Zone C2	34.8%	38.0%	22.6%	4.5%	287
Zone C3	32.9%	39.5%	23.6%	4.0%	377
Zone C4	41.8%	34.6%	20.8%	2.8%	720
Zone D3	46.3%	32.5%	17.8%	3.4%	1,400
Zone D4	44.8%	32.5%	18.9%	3.8%	502
Zone D5	39.7%	34.1%	21.6%	4.5%	1,364
Zone D6	49.1%	31.0%	17.0%	2.9%	625
Zone D7	52.1%	26.1%	17.7%	4.1%	747
Zone D8	52.0%	29.1%	16.6%	2.3%	481
Zone D9	51.0%	32.3%	14.1%	2.5%	198
Zone D10	54.0%	31.5%	11.3%	3.2%	124
Zone D11	71.8%	17.5%	9.1%	1.3%	309
Zone D12	29.4%	26.5%	38.2%	5.9%	68
Zone D13	75.9%	16.2%	7.3%	0.5%	191
Zone D14	57.0%	30.7%	9.7%	2.3%	300
Zone D15	72.7%	18.2%	4.5%	4.5%	44
Zone D16	52.5%	40.1%	4.3%	2.5%	162
Zone D17	40.6%	31.3%	25.0%	3.1%	32
Zone D19	58.0%	37.0%	4.9%	0.0%	81
Zone X1	29.7%	31.1%	31.5%	7.8%	219
Zone X2	23.3%	28.3%	45.0%	3.3%	60
Zone X3A	28.2%	35.9%	30.8%	5.1%	156
Zone X3B	29.0%	28.0%	34.6%	8.4%	107
Zone X4	32.2%	36.4%	26.4%	5.0%	121
Zone X5A	32.4%	32.4%	32.4%	2.9%	34
Zone X5B	13.6%	18.2%	63.6%	4.5%	22
Zone X6A	25.0%	27.6%	38.5%	8.9%	192

Zone/Hunt	2 Point Bucks	3 Point Bucks	4 Point Bucks	5+ Point Bucks	Total
Zone X6B	31.5%	21.7%	41.3%	5.4%	92
Zone X7A	29.7%	37.8%	24.3%	8.1%	37
Zone X7B	59.1%	13.6%	22.7%	4.5%	22
Zone X8	40.6%	9.4%	37.5%	12.5%	32
Zone X9A	34.1%	36.5%	27.8%	1.6%	126
Zone X9B	32.6%	46.5%	18.6%	2.3%	43
Zone X9C	48.9%	26.7%	20.0%	4.4%	45
Zone X10	48.5%	27.3%	18.2%	6.1%	33
Zone X12	24.3%	40.4%	28.7%	6.6%	136
Hunt A1 (C1)	56.0%	32.0%	8.0%	4.0%	25
Hunt A1 (C2)	41.0%	46.2%	12.8%	0.0%	39
Hunt A1 (C3)	35.4%	45.8%	10.4%	8.3%	48
Hunt A1 (C4)	53.7%	30.5%	14.1%	1.7%	177
Hunt A3	20.0%	40.0%	28.0%	12.0%	25
Hunt A4	0.0%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%	4
Hunt A5	23.5%	58.8%	17.6%	0.0%	17
Hunt A6	75.0%	8.3%	16.7%	0.0%	12
Hunt A7	31.8%	50.0%	18.2%	0.0%	22
Hunt A8	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	2
Hunt A9	No reported antlered buck harvest.				
Hunt A11	22.7%	31.8%	22.7%	22.7%	22
Hunt A12	47.1%	29.4%	23.5%	0.0%	17
Hunt A13	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%	5
Hunt A14	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5
Hunt A15	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	4
Hunt A16	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	6
Hunt A17	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6
Hunt A18	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%	6
Hunt A19	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6
Hunt A20	55.6%	33.3%	11.1%	0.0%	9
Hunt A21	11.1%	22.2%	44.4%	22.2%	9
Hunt A22	63.6%	27.3%	9.1%	0.0%	11
Hunt A24	69.2%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	13
Hunt A25	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3
Hunt A26	7.7%	7.7%	38.5%	46.2%	13
Hunt A27	0.0%	0.0%	80.0%	20.0%	5
Hunt A30	12.5%	50.0%	25.0%	12.5%	8
Hunt A31	41.3%	23.9%	17.4%	8.7%	46
Hunt A32	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	3
Hunt A33	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4

## 2025 PRELIMINARY DEER HARVEST BY ANTLER CLASS

Zone/Hunt	2 Point Bucks	3 Point Bucks	4 Point Bucks	5+ Point Bucks	Total
Hunt G1	30.5%	39.2%	25.6%	4.7%	637
Hunt G3	12.5%	25.0%	43.8%	18.8%	16
Hunt G6	29.6%	29.6%	37.0%	3.7%	27
Hunt G12	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
Hunt G13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3
Hunt G19	57.1%	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%	7
Hunt G21	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
Hunt G37	9.1%	18.2%	63.6%	9.1%	11
Hunt G38	29.6%	14.8%	40.7%	14.8%	27
Hunt G39	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	2
Hunt G40	15.4%	38.5%	38.5%	7.7%	13
Hunt J1	75.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4
Hunt J3	18.2%	27.3%	45.5%	9.1%	11
Hunt J4	0.0%	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%	8
Hunt J8	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	3
Hunt J9	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
Hunt J10	46.7%	46.7%	0.0%	0.0%	15
Hunt J11	28.6%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	7
Hunt J12	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	5
Hunt J13	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
Hunt J14	57.1%	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	7
Hunt J15	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%	5
Hunt J16	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	25.0%	4
Hunt J17	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
Hunt J18	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
Hunt J19	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3
Hunt J20	No reported antlered buck harvest.				
Hunt J21	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	0.0%	16
Hunt M3	11.1%	44.4%	22.2%	22.2%	9
Hunt M4	33.3%	16.7%	33.3%	16.7%	6
Hunt M5	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	1
Hunt M6	No reported antlered buck harvest.				
Hunt M7	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
Hunt M8	0.0%	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%	8
Hunt M9	0.0%	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%	8
Hunt M11	0.0%	50.0%	41.7%	8.3%	12
Hunt MA1	28.6%	42.9%	28.6%	0.0%	7
Hunt MA3	61.5%	23.1%	15.4%	0.0%	13
Fundraising (b)	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	5
Statewide total	44.8%	33.5%	18.2%	3.4%	20,036

(a) Table does not include percentages for antlerless, unclassified or spike bucks. Percentages may not total 100%.

(b) Archery Only and Fundraising Tags are listed separately and are not included within the individual zone or hunt.

### SHARE (SHARED HABITAT ALLIANCE FOR RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's SHARE program provides public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities on private land.

For property and hunt information please visit the SHARE webpage at: [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/SHARE](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/SHARE)



### DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE BIG GAME DRAWING

The Big Game Drawing opens April 15, 2026. You may apply at any CDFW license sales office, license agent or online at CDFW's website at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](http://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales). Telephone license sales are also available at (800) 565-1458. All applications for the Big Game Drawing must be submitted and the sales transaction completed before midnight on June 2, 2026.

## 2025 DEER TAG DRAWING STATISTICS

Hunt Code	Tag Quota	PREFERENCE DRAWING							RANDOM DRAWING			
		Preference Point Tag Quota	Random Tag Quota Quantity	Total 1st Choice Applicants	1st Choice Max Point (23) Applicants	Total Tags Awarded by Preference Drawing	Highest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Lowest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Total Tags Awarded by Random Drawing	Tags Awarded to 1st Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 2nd Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 3rd Choice Applicants
PD	0	0	0	11,552	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>ZONE HUNTS</b>												
C	8,150	7,335	815	5,965	0	5,965	14	0	2,185	0	2,185	0
D12	950	855	95	1,078	0	855	7	0	95	95	0	0
D14	3,000	2,700	300	2,139	0	2,139	18	0	861	0	861	0
D17	500	450	50	752	0	450	9	0	50	50	0	0
X1	760	684	76	2,884	0	684	11	3	76	76	0	0
X2	189	171	18	1,310	0	171	18	8.6667	18	18	0	0
X3A	354	319	35	1,714	0	319	17	5	35	35	0	0
X3B	499	450	49	1,266	0	450	9.6667	3	49	49	0	0
X4	479	432	47	1,319	0	432	12	2.75	47	47	0	0
X5A	75	68	7	552	0	68	18	7	7	7	0	0
X5B	50	45	5	2,590	1	45	23	19	5	5	0	0
X6A	329	297	32	2,601	0	297	14	6	32	32	0	0
X6B	309	279	30	1,046	0	279	11.5	3	30	30	0	0
X7A	229	207	22	1,059	0	207	12	5	22	22	0	0
X7B	134	121	13	528	0	121	15	4	13	13	0	0
X8	210	189	21	917	0	189	17	4	21	21	0	0
X9A	269	243	26	3,215	0	243	17	9	26	26	0	0
X9B	230	207	23	463	0	207	13	1	23	23	0	0
X9C	325	293	32	521	0	293	8.5	1	32	32	0	0
X10	400	360	40	436	0	360	7	0	40	40	0	0
X12	349	315	34	4,023	1	315	23	8	34	34	0	0
<b>AREA-SPECIFIC ARCHERY HUNTS</b>												
A1	1,945	1,751	194	505	0	505	13	0	1,440	0	1,391	49
A3	100	90	10	289	0	90	10	2	10	10	0	0
A4	10	9	1	40	0	9	8	4	1	1	0	0
A5	40	36	4	110	0	36	9	2.5	4	4	0	0
A6	70	63	7	82	0	63	7	0	7	7	0	0
A7	120	108	12	239	0	108	5	1	12	12	0	0
A8	10	9	1	33	0	9	7	3	1	1	0	0
A9	5	4	1	74	0	4	13	12	1	1	0	0
A11	50	45	5	329	0	45	10	6	5	5	0	0
A12	90	81	9	204	0	81	5	2	9	9	0	0
A13	45	41	4	78	0	41	8	1	4	4	0	0

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2025 DEER TAG DRAWING STATISTICS

Hunt Code	Tag Quota	PREFERENCE DRAWING							RANDOM DRAWING			
		Preference Point Tag Quota	Random Tag Quota Quantity	Total 1st Choice Applicants	1st Choice Max Point (23) Applicants	Total Tags Awarded by Preference Drawing	Highest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Lowest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Total Tags Awarded by Random Drawing	Tags Awarded to 1st Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 2nd Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 3rd Choice Applicants
A14	25	23	2	98	0	23	6	3	2	2	0	0
A15	40	36	4	81	0	36	4	1	4	4	0	0
A16	30	27	3	267	0	27	9.25	7.6667	3	3	0	0
A17	210	189	21	26	0	26	3	0	181	0	145	36
A20	40	36	4	237	0	36	10	6	4	4	0	0
A21	25	23	2	156	0	23	12	7	2	2	0	0
A24	100	90	10	177	0	90	16	1	10	10	0	0
A25	35	32	3	104	0	32	4.5	2	3	3	0	0
A26	30	27	3	509	0	27	19	13	3	3	0	0
A27	10	9	1	175	0	9	18	15	1	1	0	0
A30	40	36	4	299	0	36	15	6	4	4	0	0
A33	50	45	5	148	0	45	5	1	5	5	0	0
<b>GENERAL METHODS HUNTS</b>												
G1	2,710	2,439	271	3,857	0	2,439	9	0	271	271	0	0
G3	25	23	2	3,854	86	23	23	23	2	2	0	0
G6	50	45	5	822	0	45	20	12	5	5	0	0
G12	30	27	3	148	0	27	8	4	3	3	0	0
G13	300	270	30	505	0	270	10	0	30	30	0	0
G19	25	23	2	364	0	23	10	6	2	2	0	0
G21	25	23	2	114	0	23	10	3	2	2	0	0
G37	25	23	2	2,500	1	23	23	21	2	2	0	0
G38	300	270	30	235	0	235	9	0	65	0	65	0
G39	2	1	1	649	18	1	23	23	1	1	0	0
G40	25	23	2	855	0	23	22	15	2	2	0	0
<b>APPRENTICE HUNTS</b>												
J1	25	13	12	68	0	13	2	1	12	12	0	0
J3	15	8	7	393	0	8	3	3	7	7	0	0
J4	15	8	7	397	0	8	3	3	7	7	0	0
J8	15	8	7	104	0	8	3	3	7	7	0	0

## 2025 DEER TAG DRAWING STATISTICS

		PREFERENCE DRAWING							RANDOM DRAWING			
Hunt Code	Tag Quota	Preference Point Tag Quota	Random Tag Quota Quantity	Total 1st Choice Applicants	1st Choice Max Point (23) Applicants	Total Tags Awarded by Preference Drawing	Highest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Lowest Point Value Awarded Tag in Preference Drawing	Total Tags Awarded by Random Drawing	Tags Awarded to 1st Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 2nd Choice Applicants	Tags Awarded to 3rd Choice Applicants
J9	5	3	2	25	0	3	2	1	2	2	0	0
J10	30	15	15	170	0	15	3	3	15	15	0	0
J11	40	20	20	120	0	20	3	1	20	20	0	0
J12	10	5	5	530	0	5	3	3	5	5	0	0
J13	40	20	20	60.	0	20	2	1	20	20	0	0
J14	30	15	15	35	0	15	1	0	15.	15	0	0
J15	10	5	5	306	0	5	3	3	5	5	0	0
J16	75	38	37	84	0	38	2	0	37	37	0	0
J17	25	13	12	25	0	13	2	0	12	12	0	0
J18	75	38	37	102	0	38	3	0	37	37	0	0
J19	25	13	12	56	0	13	3	1	12	12	0	0
J20	20	10	10	48	0	10	3	2	10	10	0	0
J21	50	25	25	146	0	25	3	1	25	25	0	0
MUZZLELOADER HUNTS												
M3	20	18	2	564	1	18	23	19	2	2	0	0
M4	10	9	1	51	0	9	10	7	1	1	0	0
M5	5	4.	1	95	0	4	20	18	1	1	0	0
M6	80	72	8	75	0	72	4	0	8	3	5	0
M7	150	135	15	161	0	135	6	0	15	15	0	0
M8	20	18	2	161	0	18	16	8	2	2	0	0
M9	15	14	1	572	0	14	22	21	1	1	0	0
M11	20	18	2	711	1	18	23	15	2	2	0	0
MA1	150	135	15	108	0	108	4	0	42	0	42	0
MA3	150	135	15	125	0	125	5	0	25	0	25	0

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

Applications for premium deer hunt tags awarded through the Big Game Drawing must be submitted to any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online or telephone sales before midnight on June 2, 2026. You must use your First-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for a premium deer hunt tag. Exception: junior hunters may use a Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for Apprentice Deer Hunts, but only one application may be used to apply for Apprentice Deer Hunts.

◆ – Tag quota filled in the 2025 Big Game Drawing conducted on June 10, 2024.

### PREFERENCE POINT ONLY

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
PD	Preference Point Only - Deer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### GENERAL ZONES

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
C	C1 Zone General Seasons - Buck	31%	8,150	◆	For Archery Deer Seasons in the C Zones See Hunt A-1	Sep 19 - Oct 18
	C2 Zone General Seasons - Buck					Sep 19 - Oct 25
	C3 Zone General Seasons - Buck					Sep 19 - Oct 25
	C4 Zone General Seasons - Buck					Sep 19 - Oct 4
D12	Zone D12 Archery and General Seasons - Buck	14%	950	◆	Oct 3 - Oct 25	Nov 7 - Nov 29
D14	Zone D14 Archery and General Seasons - Buck	18%	3,000	◆	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 10 - Nov 8
D17	Zone D17 Archery and General Seasons - Buck	12%	500	◆	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 10 - Nov 1

**C Tag** is valid in zones **C1**, **C2**, **C3** and **C4** General Seasons only.

**C1** Large areas of private land where access is restricted. Some private land owned by timber companies is open to hunting. Most public land is administered by Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131; fair access. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**C2** Good access, mostly public land administered by the Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500 and private timber companies open to hunting. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**C3** Good access in middle and higher elevations on Lassen National Forest (530) 257-2151, and fair access on private timberlands open to hunting. Lower elevations are largely private property where access is restricted. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**C4** Good access in eastern portion on public lands administered primarily by the Lassen National Forest (530) 257-2151. Fair access on private timber-lands open to public. CDFW contact (530) 225-2300.

**D12** Extremely dry and hot desert deer zone. Wilderness areas severely restrict vehicle access; 4x4 recommended for entire zone.

**D14** Fair access on public lands (909) 484-0167.

**D17** Wilderness Area and Mojave National Preserve restrict vehicle access (909) 484-0167.



# CAL TIP

Californians turn in poachers & polluters

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## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

### X ZONES

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
X1	Zone X1 General Season - Buck	47%	760	♦	For Archery in Zone X-1 See Hunt A-3	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X2	Zone X2 General Season - Buck	47%	190	♦	For Archery in Zone X-2 See Hunt A-4	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X3A	Zone X3a General Season - Buck	64%	355	♦	For Archery in Zone X-3a See Hunt A-5	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X3B	Zone X3b General Season - Buck	35%	500	♦	For Archery in Zone X-3b See Hunt A-6	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X4	Zone X4 General Season - Buck	38%	480	♦	For Archery in Zone X-4 See Hunt A-7	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X5A	Zone X5a General Season - Buck	70%	75	♦	For Archery in Zone X-5a See Hunt A-8	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X5B	Zone X5b General Season - Buck	70%	50	♦	For Archery in Zone X-5b See Hunt A-9	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X6A	Zone X6a General Season - Buck	78%	330	♦	For Archery in Zone X-6a See Hunt A-11	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X6B	Zone X6b General Season - Buck	48%	310	♦	For Archery in Zone X-6b See Hunt A-12	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X7A	Zone X7a General Season - Buck	23%	230	♦	For Archery in Zone X-7a See Hunt A-13	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X7B	Zone X7b General Season - Buck	25%	135	♦	For Archery in Zone X-7b See Hunt A-14	Oct 3 - Oct 18
X8	Zone X8 General Season - Buck	26%	210	♦	For Archery in Zone X-8 See Hunt A-15	Sep 26 - Oct 11
X9A	Zone X9a General Season - Buck	64%	270	♦	For Archery in Zone X-9a See Hunt A-16	Sep 19 - Oct 12
X9B	Zone X9b General Season - Buck	31%	230	♦	For Archery in Zone X-9b See Hunt A-17	Sep 19 - Oct 12

**X1** Good access on public lands administered by the Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131, Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500, Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811; no shooting within two-mile radius of Medicine Lake. Some Forest Service Roads may be closed to vehicles during the hunting season. Refer to National Forest maps or contact the Forest Service for details. CDFW contact (530) 459-3164.

**X2** Good access on public lands administered by the Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131, Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500, Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811; no shooting within two-mile radius of Medicine Lake. Some Forest Service Roads may be closed to vehicles during the hunting season. Refer to National Forest maps or contact the Forest Service for details. CDFW contact (530) 459-3164.

**X3a** Good access on Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811 and Alturas Field Office BLM lands (530) 233-4666. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

**X3b** Good access to public land. Contact the Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811, Alturas Field Office (530) 233-4666, or Surprise Field Office BLM property (530) 279-6101 for information. CDFW contact (530)233-3581.

**X4** Good access on public lands, primarily administered by the Lassen National Forest (530) 257-2151. Most private timberland open for public hunting. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.

**X5a** Good access on public lands administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office BLM (530) 257-0456. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808. Four-wheel drive is needed on some roads.

**X5b** Good access on public lands administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office BLM (530) 257-0456. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808. Four-wheel drive is needed on some roads.

**X6a** CDFW Lassen County contact (530) 340-6808. CDFW Plumas County contact (916) 358-2900.

**X6b** Good access on public lands. CDFW Lassen County contact (530) 340-6808. CDFW Plumas County contact (916) 358-2900.

**X7a** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**X7b** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**X8** Good access on public lands except two wilderness areas (916) 358-2900.

**X9a** Good access on public lands; carry chains and shovel; cold weather late in season (760) 872-1171.

**X9b** Good access on public lands; carry chains and shovel; cold weather late in season (760) 872-1171.

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

## X ZONES, continued

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
X9C	Zone X9c General Season - Buck	26%	325	◆	For Archery in Zone X-9c See Hunt A-18	Oct 17 - Nov 8
X10	Zone X10 General Season - Buck	15%	400	◆	For Archery in Zone X-10 See Hunt A-19	Sep 26 - Oct 11
X12	Zone X12 General Season - Buck	61%	350	◆	For Archery in Zone X-12 See Hunt A-20	Sep 19 - Oct 12

**X9c** Wilderness areas/Death Valley Park expansion restrict vehicle access and open hunting areas (760) 872-1171.

**X10** Adequate access on public lands with steep, rough terrain (559) 243-4005.

**X12** Good access on public lands; carry chains and shovel; cold weather late in season (760) 872-1171.

## GENERAL METHODS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 General Season Dates
G1	Late Season Buck Hunt In Zone C4 - General Methods	36%	2,710	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 1
G3	Goodale Buck - General Methods	91%	25	◆	Dec 5 - Dec 20
G6	Kern River Deer Herd Buck - General Methods	67%	50	◆	Dec 5 - Dec 13
G12	Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-sex	28%	30	◆	Sep 19 - Sep 27
G13	San Diego antlerless - General Methods	16%	300	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 15
G19	Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-sex - Shotgun/Archery/Crossbow	64%	25	◆	Sep 26 - Dec 31
G21	Ventana Wilderness Buck - General Methods	13%	25	◆	Nov 14 - Dec 6
G37	Anderson Flat Buck - General Methods	80%	25	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 6
G38	X-10 Late Season Buck - General Methods	14%	300	◆	Oct 17 - Nov 1
G39	Round Valley Late Season Buck - General Methods	100%	2	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 8
G40	Late Season D7 Buck Hunt	78%	25	-	Nov 28 - Dec 6

**G1** Late season tag, valid in **C4** only. Instructions for how to apply for the G1 Tehama Wildlife Area Access Permit can be found at [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#54774-zones--hunts](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#54774-zones--hunts). CDFW contact (530) 597-2201.

**G3** Good public access; unpredictable weather (760) 872-1171.

**G6** Good access on public lands. Vehicle use may be limited due to seasonal road closures. Contact the National Forest Service for current road closures (559) 243-4005.

**G8** Access fee required; date subject to change (831) 386-2954.

**G12** Gray Lodge Wildlife Area only; shotguns with solid slugs only (916) 358-2900.

**G13** Good access on public lands; rugged terrain at higher elevations (858) 467-4201.

**G19** Archery-crossbow-shotguns with solid slugs only; all portions walk-in only (916) 358-2900.

**G21** Open only on lands designated USFS Ventana Wilderness Area in Monterey County; steep, rugged, brushy; vehicle restrictions (831) 649-2870.

**G37** Good access on National Forest Service lands (559) 243-4005.

**G38** Adequate access on public lands with steep, rough terrain (559) 243-4005.

**G39** Good access; 4 X 4 recommended; carry chains and shovel (760) 872-1171.

**G40** Good public access on National Forest lands (559) 243-4005. G40 hunt boundaries are: that portion of Madera County within the area described as D-7.

## NON-REPORTING OF 2026 DEER TAGS WILL BE ASSESSED A PENALTY

Deer tag holders who fail to submit a harvest report for any 2026 deer tag by January 31, 2027, will be assessed a non-reporting fee when purchasing a deer tag drawing application or deer tag in the 2027 license year.

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

### MUZZLELOADING HUNTS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 General Season Dates
M3	Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	56%	20	◆	Nov 21 - Nov 29
M4	Horse Lake Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	88%	10	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 1
M5	East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	20%	5	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 1
M6	San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-sex	6%	80	◆	Dec 19 - Dec 31
M7	Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-sex	13%	150	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 13
M8	Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	71%	20	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 1
M9	Devil's Garden Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	79%	15	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 8
M11	Northwestern Muzzleloading Rifle Buck	75%	20	◆	Nov 14 - Nov 29
MA1	San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/ Archery Either-sex	14%	150	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 13
MA3	Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/ Archery Buck	15%	150	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 13

**M3** Good access on public lands. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.  
**M4** Good access on public lands administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office BLM (530) 257-0456. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.  
**M5** Good access on public lands administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office BLM (530) 257-0456. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.  
**M6** Good access on public lands; rugged terrain at higher elevations (858) 467-4201.  
**M7** Good access; hunt on public lands (858) 467-4201.  
**M8** Mostly private land in hunt area, but good access on those lands that are public. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.  
**M9** Good access on public lands managed by the Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.  
**M11** Contact CDFW Eureka office (707) 445-6493 or CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.  
**MA1** Open only on that portion of San Luis Obispo County lying within the Los Padres National Forest. Good access on public lands; rugged terrain (831) 649-2870.  
**MA3** Fair access on public lands vehicle use limited (858) 467-4201.



Barbara M.

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

## APPRENTICE HUNTS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 General Season Dates
J1	Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	32%	25	◆	Nov 7 - Nov 8
J3	Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck - General Methods	93%	15	◆	Nov 28 - Nov 29
J4	Shasta-Trinity Apprentice Buck - General Methods	87%	15	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 6
J8	Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	53%	15	◆	Dec 5 - Dec 31
J9	Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Either-sex	80%	5	◆	Sep 19 - Sep 27
J10	Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	87%	30	◆	Oct 3-4 & Oct 10-12
J11	San Bernardino Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	45%	40	◆	Nov 21 - Nov 29
J12	Round Valley Apprentice Buck - General Methods	100%	10	◆	Dec 5 - Dec 20
J13	Los Angeles Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	48%	40	◆	Nov 21 - Nov 29
J14	Riverside Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	47%	30	◆	Nov 21 - Nov 29
J15	Anderson Flat Apprentice Buck - General Methods	100%	10	◆	Nov 28 - Dec 6
J16	Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	45%	75	◆	Sep 26 - Nov 1
J17	Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	32%	25	◆	Sep 26 - Nov 1
J18	Pacific - Grizzly Flat Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	39%	75	◆	Sep 26 - Nov 1
J19	Zone X7a Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	68%	25	◆	Oct 3 - Oct 18
J20	Zone X7b Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	42%	20	◆	Oct 3 - Oct 18
J21	East Tehama Apprentice Either-sex - General Methods	74%	50	◆	Sep 19 - Nov 1

**J1** Rugged oak/grassland habitat with good deer numbers. Boats required in two-thirds of area. No dogs allowed (707) 944-5500.

**J3** Hunt area is restricted to CDFW's Tehama Wildlife Area. CDFW contact (530) 529-7162.

**J4** Good public access on Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2300 and Redding Field Office BLM lands (530) 224-2100. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**J8** Good access. Wildlife Area only (916) 358-2900. **J9** Good access. Wildlife Area only. Shotguns using slugs only (916) 358-2900.

**J10** Adult chaperones will need a guest permit or hunting permit. A fishing permit is not a valid permit. Tag holders must purchase a hunting permit from the installation. Season dates and hunt areas subject to modification by Base Commander. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to each hunt (see <https://fthunter.isportsman.net/> or call 831-241-1182).

**J11** Within D14 and San Bernardino County only. Fair access on public lands (909) 484-0167.

**J12** Good access; 4 X 4 recommended; carry chains and shovel (760) 872-1171.

**J13** Mostly good access on public land except closures in Angeles National Forest. Call (626) 574-5200 for closure information (858) 467-4201.

**J14** Within zone D19 and Riverside County only. Good access on public lands (909) 484-0167.

**J15** Good public access on National Forest lands (559) 243-4005.

**J16** Good access on National Forest lands; Mostly private at lower elevations (916) 358-2900. Please note: exclusion of Butte, Colusa and Glenn counties.

**J17** Good access on National Forest lands; Mostly private at lower elevations. (916) 358-2900. Please note: exclusion of Colusa County.

**J18** Good access on National Forest lands; mostly private at lower elevations (916) 358-2900. Please note: exclusion of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties.

**J19** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**J20** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**J21** Good access in eastern portion on public lands administered primarily by the Lassen National Forest (530) 257-2151. Tehama Wildlife Area is not open to J21 hunters during the G1 season. CDFW contact (530) 529-7162.

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

### AREA-SPECIFIC ARCHERY HUNTS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates
A1	C Zones Archery Only Hunt (Zone C-1 Season)	25%	1,945	♦	Aug 15 - Aug 30
	C Zones Archery Only Hunt (Zone C-2 Season)				Aug 15 - Sep 6
	C Zones Archery Only Hunt (Zone C-3 Season)				Aug 15 - Sep 6
	C Zones Archery Only Hunt (Zone C-4 Season)				Aug 15 - Aug 30
A3	Archery Hunt In Zone X1 - Buck	40%	100	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A4	Archery Hunt In Zone X2 - Buck	40%	10	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A5	Archery Hunt In Zone X3a - Buck	63%	40	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A6	Archery Hunt In Zone X3b - Buck	26%	70	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A7	Archery Hunt In Zone X4 - Buck	30%	120	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A8	Archery Hunt In Zone X5a - Buck	40%	10	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A9	Archery Hunt In Zone X5b - Buck	0%	5	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A11	Archery Hunt In Zone X6a - Buck	60%	50	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A12	Archery Hunt In Zone X6b - Buck	30%	90	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A13	Archery Hunt In Zone X7a - Buck	20%	45	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A14	Archery Hunt In Zone X7b - Buck	33%	25	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A15	Archery Hunt In Zone X8 - Buck	22%	40	♦	Aug 15 - Sep 6

**A1** tag is valid in zones C1, C2, C3 and C4 during the Archery Season only.

**A1-C1** Fair access. Much private land, some owned by timber companies and open to hunting. Most public land is administered by Klamath National Forest; (530) 842-6131. CDFW contact (530) 459-3164.

**A1-C2** Good access, mostly public land administered by the Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500 and private timber companies open to hunting. CDFW contact (530) 225-2300.

**A1-C3** and C4 Good access at middle and higher elevations on Lassen National Forestland (530) 257-2151. Fair access on private timberlands open to hunting. Sierra Pacific Industries property is restricted to walking only; no motorized vehicle access behind locked gates without Sierra Pacific Industries' prior written permission. Lower elevations are largely private property where access is restricted. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**A3** Good access on public lands administered by Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131, Shasta Trinity N.F. (530) 226-2500, Modoc N.F. (530) 233-5811; no shooting within two-mile radius of Medicine Lake. Road management areas within zone - refer to national forest maps for detail. CDFW contact (530) 459-3164.

**A4** Good access on public lands, primarily administered by Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

**A5** Good access on Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811 and Alturas Field Office BLM lands (530) 233-4666. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

**A6** Good access to public land. Contact the Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811, Alturas Field Office BLM (530) 233-4666, or Surprise Field Office BLM lands (530) 279-6101 for more information. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

**A7** Good access on public lands, primarily administered by the Lassen National Forest (530) 257-2151. Most private timberland open for public hunting. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.

**A8-A9** Good access on public lands administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office BLM (530) 257-0456. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.

**A11** CDFW Lassen County contact (530) 340-6808. CDFW Plumas County contact (916) 358-2900.

**A12** Good access to public lands. CDFW Lassen County contact (530) 340-6808. CDFW Plumas County contact (916) 358-2900.

**A13** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**A14** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

**A15** Good access on public lands (916) 358-2900.

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 PREMIUM DEER HUNTS

## AREA-SPECIFIC ARCHERY HUNTS, continued

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates
A16	Archery Hunt In Zone X9a - Buck	29%	30	◆	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A17	Archery Hunt In Zone X9b - Buck	5%	210	◆	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A20	Archery Hunt In Zone X12 - Buck	38%	40	◆	Aug 15 - Sep 6
A21	Anderson Flat Archery Buck	54%	25	◆	Nov 14 - Nov 27
A24	Monterey Archery Either-sex	31%	100	◆	Oct 10 - Nov 8
A25	Lake Sonoma Archery Either-sex	23%	35	◆	Oct 3 - Oct 26
A26	Bass Hill Archery Buck	59%	30	◆	Nov 21 - Dec 13
A27	Devil's Garden Archery Buck	75%	10	◆	Oct 24 - Nov 8
A30	Covelo Archery Buck	32%	40	◆	Nov 14 - Nov 29
A33	Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-sex	28%	50	◆	Oct 3 - Nov 11

**A16** Good access on public lands (760) 872-1171.

**A17** Good access on public lands (760) 872-1171.

**A20** Good access on public lands (760) 872-1171.

**A21** Good public access on national forest lands (559) 243-4005.

**A24** Fair access on public land; steep terrain; possible fire closures on National Forest lands (831) 649-2870.

**A25** Sat-Sun-Mon only; rugged terrain, oak/grassland and chaparral habitat with good deer numbers (707) 944-5500.

**A26** Mostly private land in hunt area, but good access on those lands that are public. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.

**A27** Good access on public lands managed by the Modoc National Forest (530) 233-5811. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

**A30** Good public access to Mendocino National Forest (530) 934-3316, and Arcata Field Office BLM lands (707) 825-2300. CDFW Eureka office (707) 445-6493, CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**A33** Tag holders must purchase a hunting permit from the installation. Season dates and hunt areas subject to modification by Base Commander. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to each hunt (see <https://fthunter.isportsman.net/> or call 831-241-1182). Access, for the most part, is granted on weekends and holidays.

## 2026 RESTRICTED DEER HUNTS

### Restricted Deer Hunts

Restricted deer hunt tags are issued upon request to hunters applying on a First Deer Tag. Hunters may apply for a restricted deer hunt tag as their Second Deer Tag if they do not have a pending first deer tag drawing application or do not have a premium or restricted deer tag issued as their First Deer Tag. Hunters who have a premium or restricted First Deer Tag will have to wait until August 2, 2026 at 8 a.m. to apply for a restricted deer hunt tag as their Second Deer Tag. The restricted deer hunt tag will be available at CDFW license agents, online and telephone sales until tag quotas fill.

### AREA-SPECIFIC ARCHERY HUNTS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
A31	Los Angeles Archery Either-sex	.16%	1,000	7/30/2025	Sep. 26 - Dec. 31	N/A

**A31** Good access on public land except closures in Angeles National Forest (858) 467-4201. Closure information: (626) 574-5200.



Kendyl R.

## 2026 UNRESTRICTED DEER HUNTS

### Unrestricted Deer Hunts

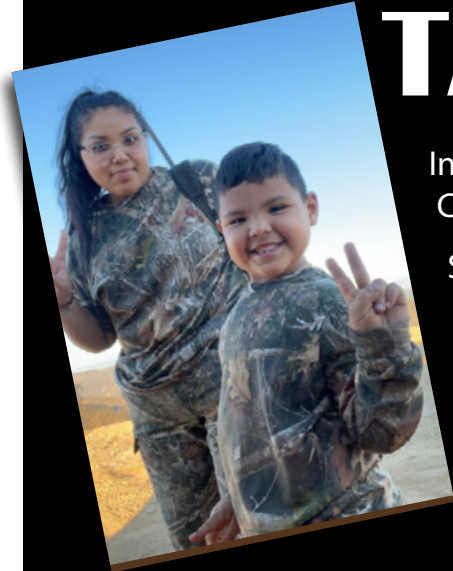
Unrestricted deer hunt tags are issued upon request until tag quotas fill. You may use your First Deer Tag and/or Second Deer Tag to apply for unrestricted deer hunt tags.

### AREA-SPECIFIC ARCHERY HUNTS

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
AO	Archery-Only	19%	100,000	N/A	Valid during the archery and general seasons in the A, B, and D Zones and Hunt G-10 (Archery Methods Only); NOT valid during any C or X Zone season or hunt.	
A18	Archery Hunt in Zone X9c - Buck	5%	350	N/A	Aug 15 - Sep 6	N/A
A19	Archery Hunt in X10 - Buck	12%	100	8/27/2025	Aug 15 - Aug 30	N/A
A22	San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer - Split Season Hunt	6%	1,000	8/8/2025	Sep 5 - Oct 18 Nov 21 - Dec 31	N/A
A32	Ventura/Los Angeles Late Season Archery Either-sex	11%	250	11/13/2025	Nov 14 - Dec 6	N/A

**AO** Archery only (AO) Tags are valid for archery equipment during the archery season in zones A, B, any D zone, hunt G10 (military personnel only).  
**A18** Wilderness areas/Death Valley Park expansion restrict vehicle access and open hunting areas (760) 872-1171.  
**A19** Adequate access on public lands with steep, rough terrain (559) 243-4005  
**A22** Split season. Good access on public lands, rugged at higher elevations (858) 467-4201  
**A32** Mostly good access on public land except closures in Angeles National Forest (858) 467-4201. Closure information (626) 574-5200.

# TAKE YOUR SHOT!



Interested in the chance to be featured in CDFW outreach or publication materials?  
 Submit your photos by scanning this code!



Only photos following CDFW's photo submission guidelines can be considered for use.

## 2026 UNRESTRICTED DEER HUNTS

### GENERAL ZONES

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Estimated Hunter Success	2026 Tag Quota	Date Tag Quota Filled	2026 Archery Season Dates	2026 General Season Dates
A	A Zone - Archery and General - Buck	36%	65,000	N/A	Jul 11 - Aug 2	Aug 8 - Sep 20
B	B1 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	34%	35,000	8/9/2025	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Oct 25
	B2 Zone - Archery and General - Buck				Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Oct 25
	B3 Zone - Archery and General - Buck				Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Oct 25
	B4 Zone - Archery and General - Buck				Jul 25 - Aug 16	Aug 22 - Sep 27
	B5 Zone - Archery and General - Buck				Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Oct 25
	B6 Zone - Archery and General - Buck				Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Oct 18
D3-5	D3-5 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	20%	33,000	N/A	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 26 - Nov 1
D6	D6 Zone - Archery and General Seasons - Buck	12%	10,000	8/13/2025	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Nov 1
D7	D7 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	15%	9,000	8/19/2025	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 19 - Nov 1
D8	D8 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	17%	8,000	N/A	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 26 - Oct 25
D9	D9 Zone - Archery and General Seasons - Buck	18%	2,000	9/9/2025	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 26 - Oct 25
D10	D10 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	40%	700	N/A	Aug 15 - Sep 6	Sep 26 - Oct 25
D11	D11 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	15%	5,500	N/A	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 10 - Nov 8
D13	D13 Zone - Archery and General - Buck	15%	4,000	N/A	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 10 - Nov 8
D15	D15 Zone - Archery and General Seasons - Buck	17%	1,500	N/A	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 10 - Nov 8
D16	D16 Zone - Archery and General Seasons - Buck	12%	3,000	10/8/2025	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 24 - Nov 22
D19	D19 Zone - Archery and General Seasons - Buck	11%	1,500	10/6/2025	Sep 5 - Sep 27	Oct 3 - Nov 1

**A** Mostly private land. Public access on BLM and National Forest lands. For specific information regarding these areas contact the local BLM field office or National Forest at: Ukiah BLM (707) 468-4000, Hollister BLM (831) 630-5000, or Bakersfield BLM, (661) 391-6000; Mendocino NF in Wil- (530) 934-3316, or Los Padres NF in Goleta (805) 968-6640. For additional information contact the nearest Department Regional office.

**B** Zone B Tag is valid in Zones B1 - B6

**B1** Good public access to Mendocino National Forest (530) 934-3316, Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500, Six Rivers National Forest (707) 442-1721, Arcata Field Office BLM lands (707) 825-2300. CDFW Eureka office (707) 445-6493.

**B2** Good public access on Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 934- 3316, Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131, Six Rivers National Forest (707)442-1721, and Redding Field Office BLM lands (530) 224-2100. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**B3** Good public access to Mendocino National Forest lands in western part of hunt area (530) 934-3316 CDFW Rancho Cordova office (916) 358-2900.

**B4** Largely private, limited public access on King Range Conservation area,administered by Arcata Field Office BLM (707) 825-2300. CDFW Eureka office (707) 445-6493.

**B5** In the western portion of the zone, public access is good on Mendocino National Forest (530) 934-3316 and Shasta Trinity National Forest (530) 226-2500. CDFW Redding office (530) 225-2300.

**B6** Public access good in Klamath National Forest (530) 842-6131. Foothills of Scott and Shasta valleys are largely private. CDFW contact (530) 459-3164.

**D3-5** Tag is valid in Zones D3, D4 and D5. Good public access on National Forest lands, mostly private at lower elevations (916) 358-2900.

**D6** Good public access on National Forest lands (559) 243-4005.

**D7** Good public access on National Forest lands (559) 243-4005.

**D8** Good public access on National Forest lands (559) 243-4005.

**D9** Good access on public land (559) 243-4005.

**D10** No public land available; hunting normally restricted to landowners and permittees (559) 243-4005.

**D11** Tag good for D11, D13 and D15, but not Camp Pendleton. Mostly good access on public land except closures in Angeles National Forest. Call (626) 574-5200; for closure information (858) 467-4201.

**D13** Tag good for D11, D13 and D15, but not Camp Pendleton. Good access on public lands; portion of zone on private lands (858) 467-4201.

**D15** Tag good for D11, D13 and D15, but not Camp Pendleton. Good access on public lands (858) 467-4201.

**D16** Good access on public lands; higher elevations rugged (858) 467-4201.

**D19** Good access on public lands; rugged terrain at higher elevations (909) 484-0167.

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## ELK, PRONGHORN & BIGHORN SHEEP

<p><b>Elk Tag Fee:</b> Resident - \$610.20 Nonresident - \$1,871.80</p>	<p><b>Pronghorn Tag Fee:</b> Resident -\$205.77 Nonresident - \$628.85</p>	<p><b>Bighorn Sheep Tag Fee:</b> Resident - \$558.50 Nonresident - \$2,072.75</p>
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### *Elk, Pronghorn & Bighorn Sheep Hunting Information*

For the 2026 Big Game Drawing, 24 is the maximum number of preference points for any species a hunter can have. To look up your total preference points log on to your customer profile at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and click on 'View My Draw Application/Preference Points' at the top of the page.

By law, you may only submit one application for each species. Any person submitting multiple applications for the same species will be rejected from the drawing and may be prosecuted. All applicants must submit the \$8.13 nonrefundable processing fee for their application.

### *Definitions (T14 CCR)*

- Antlerless Elk:** Any elk, with the exception of spotted calves, with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull. §364(l)(3).
- Bull Elk:** Any elk having an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull. §364(l)(1).
- Either-sex Elk:** Bull elk, spike elk, or antlerless elk. §364(l)(4).
- Spike Bull Elk:** A bull elk having no more than one point on each antler. An antler point is a projection of the antler at least one inch long and longer than the width of its base. §364(l)(2).
- Buck Pronghorn:** Pronghorn with horns longer than the ears. §363(l)(2).
- Doe Pronghorn:** Pronghorn with horns shorter than the ears. §363(l)(2).
- Either-sex Pronghorn:** Buck or doe pronghorn. §363(l)(2).

### *Applying as a Party*

Up to two residents may apply as a party. Nonresidents cannot apply as a party for elk or pronghorn tags. See page 17 for instructions on applying as a party.

If your party is drawn for the last available tag, the party leader will be awarded the tag and the party member will become the first alternate for that hunt. Parties drawn as alternates will be awarded unclaimed tags on an individual basis, in the order drawn.

Bighorn sheep applicants may not apply as a party.

### *Elk and Pronghorn Tag Application Restrictions*

Applicants must be 12 years of age or older on or before July 1, 2026, and possess a valid 2026-27 California hunting

license. Only one nonresident may be drawn for an elk or pronghorn tag annually.

### *Apprentice Elk & Pronghorn Hunts*

Applicants must possess a valid 2026-27 California Junior Hunting License. If drawn, junior hunters must be accompanied when hunting, by a licensed adult chaperone at least 18 years of age.

### *Bighorn Sheep Tag Application Restrictions*

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age or older on or before July 1, 2026, and possess a valid 2026-27 California hunting license and must not have drawn a California bighorn sheep tag in any prior year. Not more than 10 percent of the bighorn sheep tags shall be awarded to non-residents each year.

Bighorn sheep applicants may not apply as a party.

### *Check Your Big Game Drawing Receipt Carefully!*

All applicants will receive a Drawing Receipt containing the applicants name, hunt choice, accumulated preference points and a Party Number. Applicants should verify the information on their Drawing Receipt before leaving the sales counter. If any of the information is incorrect, the sales clerk must cancel the Drawing Receipt document and 're-sell' the application with the correct information. License agents have only four hours to cancel a sale. If the transaction has exceeded the four-hour limit when the discrepancy is found, the applicant must contact CDFW's License and Revenue Branch prior to the June 2 deadline at [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov) to make any corrections.

### *Drawing Results*

Applicants may look up their drawing results on or around June 15, 2026 by entering their customer information on CDFW's website at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales) and click on 'View My Draw Application/Preference Points' at the top of the page. On the same day, drawing results will be available by phone during regular business hours from CDFW license sales offices.

Successful elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep applicants and alternates should receive notices in the mail by July 2, 2026. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified by mail.

## ELK, PRONGHORN & BIGHORN SHEEP

### *Tag Fees & Payment Deadline*

Fee payments from successful applicants for elk and pronghorn tags must be received by the designated CDFW license sales office or purchased online by 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2026. Fee payments for bighorn sheep tags must be received by CDFW's License and Revenue Branch in Sacramento by 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2026. Should there be unclaimed tags for any hunt after that date, the alternate list for that hunt shall be used. Tags will be awarded on an individual basis in the order drawn.



**Andrew B.**

## ELK HUNT ZONES

## Northern Region

*Northwestern*

**Hunt codes 355, 374, 483.** Very limited opportunity on public land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. Deer and elk seasons partially overlap. (707) 498-1908 and (707) 502-4078.

*Marble Mountains*

**Hunt codes 301, 302, 303, 408.** Opportunity on public land; limited opportunity on private land with restricted access. Substantial access fees likely on private land. Hunters seeking private land opportunities are recommended to make access arrangements before applying. Difficult terrain requiring hiking and elevation gain. Deer and elk season partially overlap. (530) 598-6011 and (530) 515-1382. High daytime temperatures to be expected, pack animals recommended. Difficult hunt. Elk may be Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain hybrids.

*Siskiyou*

**Hunt codes 300, 401.** Very limited opportunity on public land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. Hunters seeking private land opportunities recommended to make access arrangements before applying. Deer and elk season partially overlap. Elk may be Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain hybrids. (530) 598-6011.

*Northeastern*

**Hunt codes 304, 305, 409, 411.** Opportunity for elk on public land and some private land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. Deer and elk seasons partially overlap. Horse management activities may overlap with elk season; contact USFS for more information on horse management activities at (530) 233-5811. For local hunt information call (530) 598-6011

*Mendocino*

**Hunt code 328.** Elk entirely on private property. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. CDFW does NOT have list of landowners who provide access. Hunters seeking opportunities on private land are recommended to make access arrangements before applying. (707) 445-5363.

## North Central Region

*Lake Pillsbury*

**Hunt codes 331, 332.** Good access to public land. (916) 240-6350.

*East Park Reservoir*

**Hunt codes 461, 463.** Colusa County Ordinance prohibits firearms (including archery equipment) on East Park Reservoir (Bureau of Reclamation, BOR) property. A variance allows the use of muzzleloaders (as defined in CCR T14-353). East Park Reservoir (BOR) property will be open to bull hunting Sep 13-16; and antlerless hunting Sep 20-23 and Sep 27-30. Other restrictions apply. Mandatory orientation prior to hunt day. (916) 240-6350.

*Bear Valley*

**Hunt codes 329, 330.** Elk almost entirely on private property. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. CDFW does NOT have list of landowners who would allow access. Hunters seeking private land opportunities recommended to make previous arrangements before applying. (916) 240-6350.

*Cache Creek*

**Hunt codes 406, 416, 484.** Elk on public and private land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. (916) 240-6350.

## Bay Delta Region

*Grizzly Island*

**Hunt codes 357, 358, 359, 360, 362, 363, 381, 433, 437, 466, 469.** Hunt CDFW land only. Hunters strongly encouraged to bring one non-hunting companion for assistance. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to hunt day. (707) 425-3828.

*Alameda*

**Hunt code 333.**

*Santa Clara*

**Hunt code 334.**

## Central Region

*San Luis Reservoir*

**Hunt code 497.** Very limited opportunity on public land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. State Park property not open to hunting. Public land method restricted to archery. Hunters seeking private land opportunities recommended to make previous arrangements before applying. Low probability of hunter success (209) 668-3170.

*Gabilan*

**Hunt codes 377, 378.** Elk entirely on private property. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees.

## ELK HUNT ZONES

### Central Coast

**Hunt codes 375, 376.** Elk entirely on private property. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees.

Access to Camp Roberts National Guard Post may be available pending authorization. A National Crime and Information Center (NCIC) Interstate Identification Index background check and purchase of an installation hunting pass may be required prior to authorization, and a mandatory hunter orientation may be required prior to each hunt. (805) 238-8156

### Fort Hunter Liggett

**Hunt codes 447, 448, 449, 450, 471, 472.** Tag holders must purchase a hunting permit from the installation. Season dates and hunt areas in Title 14 are subject to modification by Base Commander. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to each hunt .See <https://fthunter.isportsman.net/> or call (831) 241-1182.

### La Panza

**Hunt codes 464, 417, 418, 419, 464.** Elk on public and private land. Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. Access restrictions on CDFW properties. Low probability of hunter success. Off road travel is prohibited on Carrizo Plain National Monument. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to hunt day. Public land access limitations apply to CDFW wildlife areas. (805) 594-6152 and (559) 243-4005.

### Tehachapi

**Hunt codes 379, 380.** Private land access is restricted and may require substantial access fees. There is some public land with few elk.

### Inland Deserts Region/ Owens Valley Hunts

#### Bishop

#### Tinemaha Mountain

#### West Tinemaha

**Hunt code 315.** Good access to public land. (760) 872-1171.

#### Independence

**Hunt codes 367, 368, 369, 370, 371.** Good access to public land. (760) 872-1171.

#### Goodale

**Hunt codes 365, 366, 373.** Good access to public land. (760) 872-1171.

#### Whitney

**Hunt codes 323, 324.** Good access to public land. (760) 872-1171.

#### Lone Pine

**Hunt codes 337, 486.**



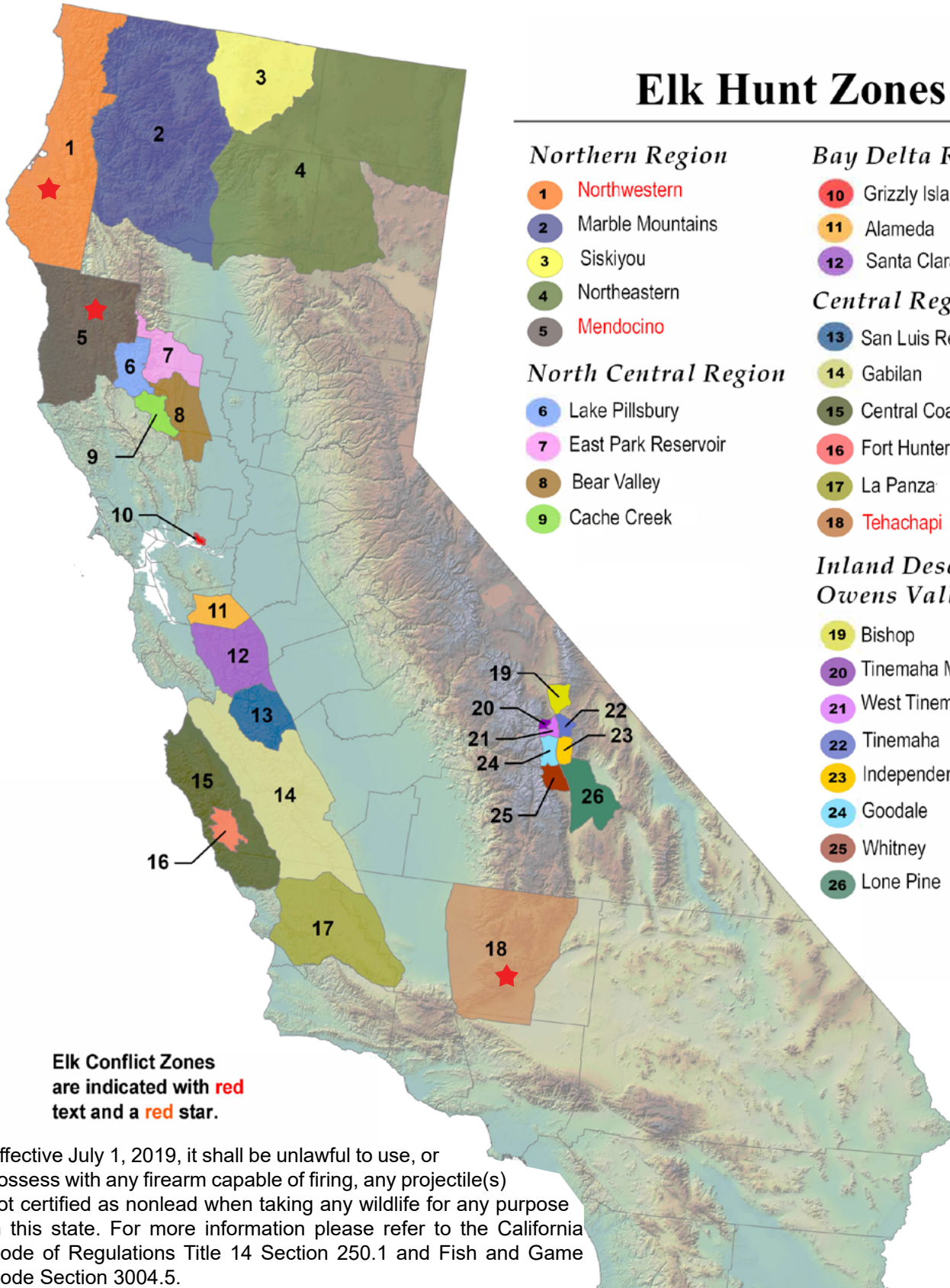
Bella W.

## ELK HUNT ZONES

# ELK

Information on these elk hunts can be found at [wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/elk](http://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/elk)

### Elk Hunt Zones



#### Northern Region

- 1 Northwestern
- 2 Marble Mountains
- 3 Siskiyou
- 4 Northeastern
- 5 Mendocino

#### North Central Region

- 6 Lake Pillsbury
- 7 East Park Reservoir
- 8 Bear Valley
- 9 Cache Creek

#### Bay Delta Region

- 10 Grizzly Island
- 11 Alameda
- 12 Santa Clara

#### Central Region

- 13 San Luis Reservoir
- 14 Gabilan
- 15 Central Coast
- 16 Fort Hunter Liggett
- 17 La Panza
- 18 Tehachapi

#### Inland Deserts Region Owens Valley Hunts

- 19 Bishop
- 20 Tinemaha Mountain
- 21 West Tinemaha
- 22 Tinemaha
- 23 Independence
- 24 Goodale
- 25 Whitney
- 26 Lone Pine

**Elk Conflict Zones** are indicated with **red** text and a **red star**.

Effective July 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to use, or possess with any firearm capable of firing, any projectile(s) not certified as nonlead when taking any wildlife for any purpose in this state. For more information please refer to the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 250.1 and Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5.

*Get your*  
**2026 WARDEN STAMP**  
*for only \$5!*

**SUPPORT CALIFORNIA  
WILDLIFE OFFICERS**



[wildlife.ca.gov/Warden-Stamp](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Warden-Stamp)

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

### Preference Point Only

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
499	Preference Point Only - Elk	0	0	0	9,677	317			Enter this hunt code to earn a point only, applications must be submitted before midnight on June 2, 2026.

### Apprentice Hunts - Applicants must be under 16 years of age and possess a Junior Hunting License. Licensed adult chaperone required (T14 CCR §708.11(b)(2)). Three is the maximum preference points an apprentice hunter could have and be eligible for an apprentice hunt.

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (3) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
396	Bishop Period 2 Apprentice – General – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct 03 - Oct 11
484	Cache Creek Apprentice - Bull (Tule)	1	0	1	186	0	100	1	Oct 10 - Oct 25
471	Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice - Antlerless (Tule)	1	0	1	82	0	-	1	Dec 22 - Jan 03
472	Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice - Bull (Tule)	1	0	1	339	0	-	1	Dec 22 - Jan 03
466	Grizzly Island Apprentice - Period 1 - Antlerless (Tule)	2	1	1	129	0	100	2	Aug 11 - Aug 14
469	Grizzly Island Apprentice - Period 2 - Spike Bull (Tule)	2	1	1	144	0	100	2	Aug 13 - Aug 16
464	La Panza Apprentice Period 1 - Spike Bull (Tule)	1	0	1	40	0	-	1	Oct 10 - Nov 01
408	Marble Mountains Apprentice - Either-sex (Roosevelt)	4	3	1	266	0	100	4	Sep 09 - Sep 20
409	Northeastern Apprentice - Either-sex (Rocky Mountain)	2	1	1	287	0	100	2	Sep 16 - Sep 27

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

## Archery Hunts

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
383	Central Coast Archery Bull (Tule)	5	4	1	154	1	100	5	Sep 01 - Sep 30
382	Central Coast Archery Antlerless (Tule)	5	4	1	30	0	100	5	Sep 01 - Sep 30
450	Fort Hunter Liggett Archery Antlerless (Tule)	8	6	2	103	0	16.7	8	Nov 07 - Nov 15
449	Fort Hunter Liggett Archery Either-sex (Tule)	6	5	1	538	9	100	6	Aug 01-Aug 09
385	La Panza Archery Bull (Tule)	5	4	1	98	0	100	5	Sep 01 - Sep 30
386	La Panza Archery Antlerless (Tule)	5	4	1	16	0	75	5	Sep 01 - Sep 30
337	Lone Pine Period 1 Archery Antlerless (Tule)	1	0	1	56	0	0	2	Sep 12 - Sep 27
311	Lone Pine Period 1 Archery - Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Sep 12 - Sep 27
411	Northeastern Archery - Either-sex (Rocky Mountain)	10	8	2	515	6	20	10	Sep 02 - Sep 13
422	Owens Valley Multiple Zone Archery - Bull (Tule)	3	2	1	735	71	66.7	5	Aug 08 - Aug 16
384	Siskiyou Archery Bull	10	8	2	153	0	25	10	Aug 26 - Sep 08
312	Tinemaha Period 1 – Archery – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Sep 12 - Sep 27
343	Whitney Period 1 – Archery Only – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Sep 12 - Sep 27

**411** Archery season typically not during the rut. (530) 598-6011.

**422** Tag is valid in Bishop, Independence, Goodale, and Lone Pine. See Tule hunts for zone-specific dates. Good access to public land. (760) 872-1171.

## Muzzleloader/Archery Hunts - Roosevelt Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
303	Marble Mountains - Muzzleloader/Archery - Either-sex	10	8	2	334	0	40	10	Oct 31- Nov 08

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

### Muzzleloader Hunts - Tule Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
487	Bishop Period 1 – Muzzleloader – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Sept 12 - Sept 27
367	Independence Period 1 Muzzleloader Bull	1	0	1	211	12	0	1	Sep 12 - Sep 27

### General Methods Hunts - Roosevelt Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
301	Marble Mountains General Methods - Antlerless	8	6	2	210	0	66.7	8	Sep 09 - Sep 20
302	Marble Mountains General Methods - Bull	34	26	8	2,685	12	84.2	34	Sep 09 - Sep 20
374	Northwestern General Methods - Antlerless	15	12	3	166	0	60.8	15	Sep 02 - Sep 24
355	Northwestern General Methods - Bull	25	19	6	1,139	10	90.3	25	Sep 02 - Sep 24
483	Northwestern General Methods - Either-sex	3	2	1	327	1	100	3	Sep 02 - Sep 24
401	Siskiyou General Methods - Antlerless	30	23	7	392	1	92.3	30	Sep 09 - Sep 20
300	Siskiyou General Methods Bull	20	15	5	839	4	69.6	20	Oct 07 - Oct 18

### General Methods Hunts- Roosevelt/Tule Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
328	Mendocino General Methods - Bull	2	1	1	329	12	75	2	Sep 23 - Oct 04

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

## General Methods Hunts- Rocky Mountain Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
304	Northeastern General Methods - Antlerless	10	8	2	343	1	50	10	Nov 11 - Nov 22
305	Northeastern General Methods - Bull	15	12	3	3,463	244	86.7	15	Sep 16 - Sep 27
379	Tehachapi General Methods - Antlerless	10	8	2	97	0	55.6	10	Sep 05 - Oct 04
380	Tehachapi General Methods - Bull	10	8	2	368	12	88.9	10	Sep 05 - Oct 04

## General Methods Hunts - Tule Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
329	Bear Valley General Methods - Antlerless	1	0	1	62	1	-	1	Oct 10 - Oct 18
330	Bear Valley General Methods - Bull	2	1	1	352	10	100	2	Oct 10 - Oct 18
348	Bishop Period 4 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Nov 07 - Nov 15
490	Bishop Period 3 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Oct 17 - Oct 25
406	Cache Creek Period 1 General Methods - Bull	2	1	1	799	13	100	2	Oct 10 - Oct 25
416	Cache Creek Period 2 General Methods - Antlerless	2	1	1	176	0	0	2	Oct 17 - Nov 01
375	Central Coast General Methods - Antlerless	10	8	2	83	0	75	10	Oct 03 - Dec 01
376	Central Coast General Methods Bull	10	8	2	526	33	100	10	Oct 03 - Dec 01
463	East Park Reservoir General Methods Antlerless	2	1	1	102	0	100	2	Sep 05 - Oct 01
461	East Park Reservoir General Methods Bull	2	1	1	812	76	100	2	Sep 05 - Oct 01
448	Fort Hunter Liggett Period 2 General Methods Antlerless	6	5	1	288	0	33.3	6	Nov 21 - Nov 29
447	Fort Hunter Liggett Period 3 General Methods Bull	8	6	2	1,533	73	100	8	Dec 22 - Jan 03

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

## General Methods Hunts - Tule Elk

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
377	Gabilan General Methods Antlerless	6	5	1	62	0	100	6	Nov 14 - Dec 06
378	Gabilan General Methods Bull	10	8	2	320	9	100	10	Nov 14 - Dec 06
373	Goodale Period 1 General Methods Bull	1	0	1	337	9	100	1	Sep 12 - Sep 27
365	Goodale Period 2 General Methods Antlerless	1	0	1	61	0	0	1	Oct 03 - Oct 11
366	Goodale Period 3 General Methods Antlerless	1	0	1	59	0	100	1	Oct 17 - Oct 25
433	Grizzly Island Period 1 General Methods Antlerless	2	1	1	300	0	100	2	Aug 11 - Aug 14
437	Grizzly Island Period 2 General Methods Spike Bull	2	1	1	176	0	100	2	Aug 13 - Aug 16
357	Grizzly Island Period 8 General Methods Spike Bull	6	5	1	255	2	100	6	Sep 03 - Sep 06
358	Grizzly Island Period 9 General Methods Antlerless	4	3	1	307	2	100	4	Sep 08 - Sep 11
359	Grizzly Island Period 10 General Methods Bull	4	3	1	2,402	270	100	4	Sep 10 - Sep 13
360	Grizzly Island Period 11 General Methods Antlerless	4	3	1	237	0	100	4	Sep 15 - Sep 18
362	Grizzly Island Period 12 General Methods Bull	4	3	1	711	55	100	4	Sep 17 - Sep 20
363	Grizzly Island Period 13 General Methods Antlerless	4	3	1	185	0	100	4	Sep 22 - Sep 25
381	Grizzly Island Period 13 General Methods Bull	3	2	1	703	47	100	3	Sep 22 - Sep 25
368	Independence Period 2 General Methods Antlerless	1	0	1	94	0	0	1	Oct 03 - Oct 11
369	Independence Period 2 General Methods Bull	1	0	1	533	19	100	2	Oct 03 - Oct 11
370	Independence Period 3 General Methods Antlerless	1	0	1	105	0	0	1	Oct 17 - Oct 25
371	Independence Period 3 General Methods Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct 17 - Oct 25
417	La Panza Period 1 General Methods Antlerless	5	4	1	91	0	100	5	Oct 10 - Nov 01
419	La Panza Period 1 General Methods Bull	6	5	1	485	32	100	6	Oct 10 - Nov 01

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 ELK HUNTS

General Methods Hunts - Tule Elk									
Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
418	La Panza Period 2 General Methods Antlerless	6	5	1	145	0	100	6	Nov 14 - Dec 06
420	La Panza Period 2 General Methods Bull	6	5	1	371	5	83.3	6	Nov 14 - Dec 06
387	Lake Pillsbury Period 1 General Methods Antlerless	4	3	1	107	0	100	4	Aug 29 - Sep 04
388	Lake Pillsbury Period 2 General Methods Antlerless	2	1	1	33	0	100	2	Sep 05 - Sep 11
389	Lake Pillsbury Period 3 General Methods Antlerless	2	1	1	73	0	100	2	Sep 12 - Sep 18
390	Lake Pillsbury Period 4 General Methods Bull	2	1	1	643	30	100	2	Sep 26 - Oct 02
391	Lake Pillsbury Period 5 General Methods Bull	2	1	1	386	16	100	2	Oct 03 - Oct 09
486	Lone Pine Period 2 General Methods Bull	1	0	1	598	29	100	2	Oct 03 - Oct 11
496	Lone Pine Period 3 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct 17 - Oct 25
497	San Luis Reservoir General Methods Either-sex-	5	4	1	958	10	100	5	Oct 03 - Oct 25
426	Tinemaha Period 2 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct 03 - Oct 11
392	Tinemaha Mountain Period 1 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Sept 12 - Sept 27
393	Tinemaha Mountain Period 2 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct 03 - Oct 11
315	West Tinemaha Period 1 General Methods Bull	1	0	1	230	7	0	2	Sep 12 - Sep 27
317	West Tinemaha Period 2 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Oct 03 - Oct 11
394	West Tinemaha Period 3 – General Methods – Bull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Oct 17 - Oct 25
323	Whitney Period 2 General Methods Bull	1	0	1	239	9	100	2	Oct 03 - Oct 11
324	Whitney Period 3 General Methods Antlerless	1	0	1	84	0	100	1	Oct 17 - Oct 25

## CAMP ROBERTS GARRISON TRAINING CENTER

### Information from Camp Roberts Garrison Training Center (CRGTC) Regarding Hunting on the Garrison

Please note that this information has been provided to CDFW by CRGTC and included in the Big Game Hunting Digest as a courtesy reference.

#### CRGTC Contact Information

##### Hunting

CRGTC Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC)  
(805) 238-8438  
[don.r.seibert.civ@army.mil](mailto:don.r.seibert.civ@army.mil)

##### Lodging

CRGTC Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Office (MWR)  
(805) 238-8312

#### Hunting Permits

- A CRGTC Annual Hunting Permit (\$150) is required for any hunters or hunter guests hunting or accompanying hunters on Camp Roberts Garrison Training Center.
- Elk hunting fees on Camp Roberts Garrison Training Center are \$1000 for antlered tule elk and \$700 for antlerless tule elk.
- Purchasing passes and permits is relatively easy and takes only a few minutes on the phone or online with the CRGTC Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) to identify and select specific dates for their elk hunts. This is done at the time of CRGTC Elk pass and permit purchases.

#### Lodging and Services

- CRGTC has lodging available for hunters. Reservations and Coordination can be made by contacting the CRGTC Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Office (MWR) for additional information about lodging on Garrison.
- CRGTC has a small shoppette/store open during most normal business hours. Food trucks are generally available for food and drinks. San Miguel is nearby with basic necessities, gas, diesel, restaurants, and general items. Contact the CRGTC ORC for additional information about basic necessity availability.

#### Pre-Elk Hunt Tours

- Pre-Elk hunt tours may be arranged through the CRGTC ORC July through September for Elk tag holders and their guests. Tours must be coordinated, scheduled, and purchased through the CRGTC ORC. Pre-Elk hunt tours are \$75 per person and all persons must pass a background check before admittance to the Federal property. Background checks are conducted at the Security Forces Office (SECFOR) at the main gate and take about 15 minutes per person.
- Hunting on CRGTC may be cancelled at any time and

for any reason. However, CRGTC will make every effort to ensure 100% of our elk hunting guests are 100% successful in filling their elk tags.

#### Background Check

- All CRGTC hunters must pass a National Crime and Information Center background check before entering the Camp Roberts Federal Garrison. This background check is conducted at the main gate SECFOR and takes approximately 15 minutes per person.

#### Planning Your Hunt

- CRGTC elk hunting escorts decide where hunting will occur. Escorts will make decisions based on the Garrison Commander's directives which prioritize the needs of the military mission and the garrison. The only areas consistently and strictly off limits to hunting are the dud-producing impact areas, restricted military sites, and known endangered species habitat. All other areas are subject to elk hunting if approved by escorts.
- Guides and guide services are not allowed on the Garrison. Any and all outside business for any type of compensation monetary or otherwise, must be coordinated and approved via contract between the U.S. Government and the business. Any guide service must have a standing business license with CRGTC. To date, there are no licensed and contracted guide services associated with CRGTC.
- CRGTC **will not** close or restrict training or normal operations for any hunters. However, CRGTC elk hunting escorts may coordinate to get elk hunters into areas where normal operations and training are taking place.
- Only one elk hunting party is scheduled at a time, with no overlapping bookings. The date you select with ORC is your date. You do not compete for elk with other hunting parties during your booking.

#### Mandatory Hunter Orientation

All tag holders and guests are required to attend a mandatory hunter orientation given the day before the hunt. Hunter orientation covers (but is not limited to) guides and guide services, restrictions, escorts, and shooting proficiency.

#### Elk Hunting

##### Hunt Escorts

- Elk hunters are escorted by CRGTC staff or volunteers who are trained and authorized to accompany hunters to any area cleared and authorized specifically for elk hunting.
- The CRGTC escorts are the authority and make the decisions on when and where to hunt.
- All hunters and guests must always be escorted.

##### Shooting Proficiency

- Hunters may be required to demonstrate shooting proficiency on a 200-meter range before hunting.

**CAMP ROBERTS GARRISON TRAINING CENTER**

- If hunters shoot at an elk and miss or shoot at an elk and wound the animal with poor shot placement, the hunt may be discontinued until the hunter can demonstrate adequate marksmanship proficiency on a 200-meter range.
- Acceptable marksmanship proficiency is considered bullet placement (impact) within 6" of point of aim at 200 meters using the same or similar rest or shooting position the hunter intends to employ when hunting/shooting. The CRGTC Elk hunting escort is the approving authority in determining if the hunter is proficient and qualified to hunt live/big game on CRGTC.
- If an elk hunter injures an elk via poorly placed shot, the hunter, their guests, and the CRGTC escort will make every effort to track and re-engage the animal and dispatch the same animal via clean/ethical kill. No other elk will be pursued or engaged without the approval, concurrence, and authorization of the CRGTC Elk hunt escort. If the escort decides the wounded animal is lost and/or unrecoverable (for any reason) the escort is the decision maker in authorizing continuing the hunt for a different animal. The escort will inform the CRGTC environmental office, the CRGTC Range Control Office, and the California Fish and Wildlife Officer on Duty of the wounded animal

and intent to cancel search and pursue a different animal.

**Harvested Elk**

- CRGTC will attempt to assist to get a trailer to your harvested elk and will solicit additional manpower (help) with loading your harvested elk.
- CRGTC will offer cold storage for your harvested elk.
- CRGTC will offer carcass removal and disposal.
- CRGTC will offer hoist and gambrel services, water, and cleaning stations for your elk.

**Tag Validation and Data Collection**

- All successful tag holders are required to bring elk in to the CRGTC Wildlife Check Station/Cleaning Station for biological data collection and tag validation prior to leaving CRGTC.
- All unsuccessful tag holders may coordinate with CRGTC MWR office for additional dates and hunts at no extra cost. However, if the CRGTC Elk hunt escort determines that the hunter had ample opportunity to harvest the type elk (antlered or non-antlered) indicated on the hunters' tag, the CRGTC MWR office may decline requests for additional hunt dates or may schedule on a space-available basis based on the needs and requirements of the garrison.

**SHARE**



Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



**SHARE PROGRAM HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES**

**ELK OPPORTUNITIES**

SHARE elk hunts will be offered in Colusa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.

Property and application information will be posted on the SHARE webpage on May 15 2026. Preference points will not be utilized (gained or lost) for SHARE elk hunts.

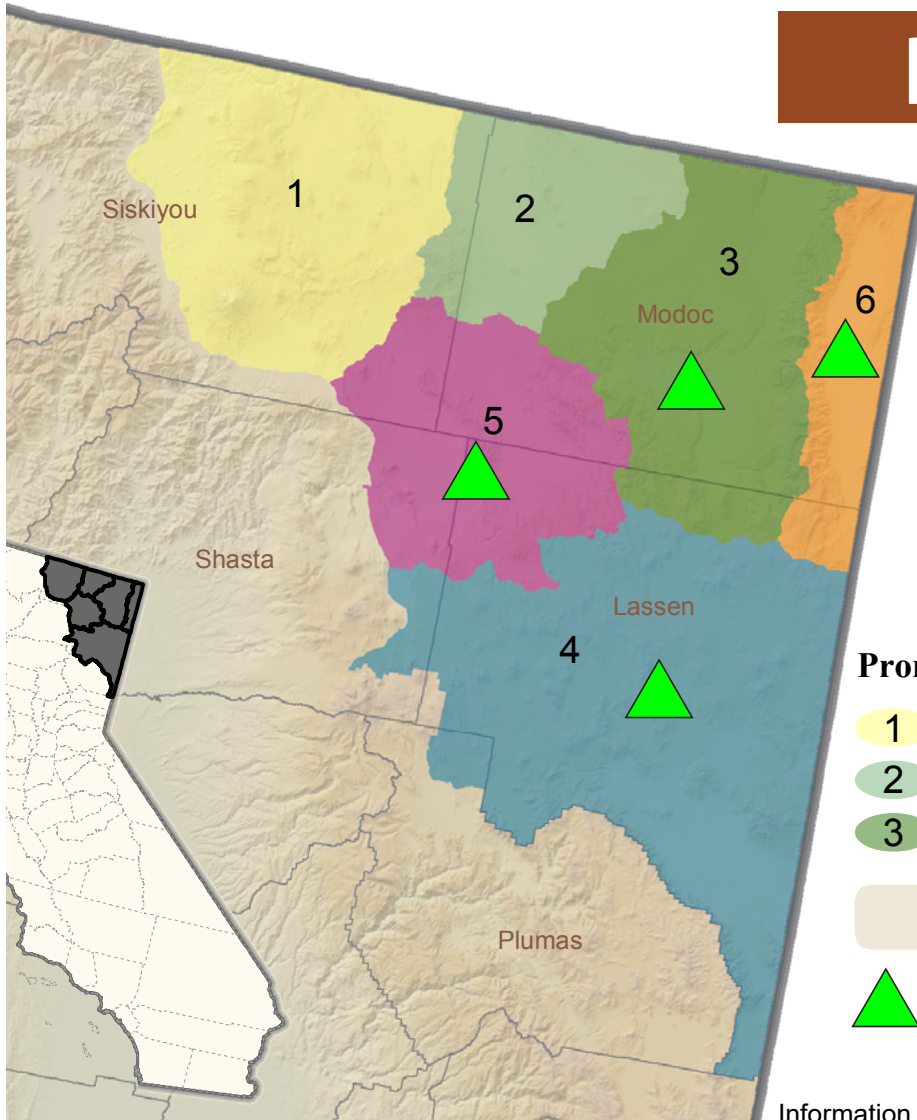
**OTHER SHARE HUNTS**

- Colusa and Solano counties - wild pig
- Santa Barbara County - deer (D13 and A zone), bear, wild pig, turkey, dove, and quail
- Siskiyou County - B6 deer hunt
- Merced County - waterfowl, dove, pheasant
- Tulare County - bear, turkey, dove, quail
- Nevada County - turkey and pig

For more information about these hunts or the SHARE Program, please visit the website at: [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/SHARE](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/SHARE)

## PRONGHORN HUNT ZONES

# PRONGHORN



Effective July 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to use, or possess with any firearm capable of firing, any projectile(s) not certified as nonlead when taking any wildlife for any purpose in this state. For more information please refer to the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 250.1 and Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5.

### Pronghorn Hunt Zones

- 1 Mount Dome
- 2 Clear Lake
- 3 Likely Tables
- 4 Lassen
- 5 Big Valley
- 6 Surprise Valley
- Closed To Pronghorn Hunting
- ▲ Lassen Apprentice, Surprise Valley Apprentice, Big Valley Apprentice Hunt and Likely Tables Apprentice

Information on these pronghorn hunts can be found at [wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn](http://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn)

## PRONGHORN HUNT ZONES

### **Zone 1 Mount Dome**

**Hunt code 710.** Pronghorn on public (Klamath NF (530) 863-3092; Shasta Trinity NF (530) 226-2500; & BLM (530) 224-2100) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or sub-stantial fee required. CDFW contact (530) 340-5977.

### **Zone 2 Clear Lake**

**Hunt codes 720, 728, 730.** Pronghorn on public (Modoc NF (530) 233-5811; BLM (530) 233-4666) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or substantial fee required. Tag holders may submit an application for hunting access to Peninsula "U" portion of Clear Lake NWR. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

### **Zone 3 Likely Tables**

**Hunt codes 730, 732, 734, 738, 790.** Pronghorn on public (Modoc NF (530) 233-5811; BLM (530) 233-4666) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or

substantial fee required. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581. Horse management activities may overlap with pronghorn season. Contact USFS for more info. (530) 233-3581.

### **Zone 4 Lassen**

**Hunt codes 740, 742, 745, 790.** Pronghorn on public (Lassen NF (530) 257-2151; BLM (530) 257-0456) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or substantial fee required. CDFW contact (530) 340-6808.

### **Zone 5 Big Valley**

**Hunt codes 750, 755, 780.** Pronghorn on Public (Modoc NF (530) 233-5811; Lassen NF (530) 257-2151; BLM (530) 233-4666) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or substantial fee required. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

### **Zone 6 Surprise**

**Hunt codes 760, 765, 766.** Pronghorn on public (Modoc NF (530) 233-5811; BLM (530) 224-2100) and private land. Private-lands access may be restricted or substantial fee required. CDFW contact (530) 233-3581.

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 PRONGHORN HUNTS

Preference Point Only									
Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
799	Preference Point Only - Pronghorn	0	0	0	9,792	200	-		Enter this hunt code to earn a point only, applications must be submitted before midnight on June 2, 2026.

**Apprentice Hunts - Applicants must be under 16 years of age and possess a Junior Hunting License. Licensed adult chaperone required (T14 CCR §708.11(b)(2)). Three is the maximum preference points an apprentice hunter could have and be eligible for an apprentice hunt.**

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (3) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
790	Zone 4 Lassen Either-sex Apprentice	5	4	1	695	0	80	5	Aug 22 - Aug 30
780	Zone 5 Big Valley Either-sex Apprentice	1	0	1	102	0	100	1	Aug 22 - Aug 30
766	Zone 6 Surprise Valley Either-sex Apprentice	4	3	1	279	0	75	4	Aug 22 - Aug 30

**780** To hunt Ash Creek Wildlife Area call (530) 294-5824. To hunt the wildlife area, a mandatory hunter orientation prior to hunt day is required.

## Archery Hunts

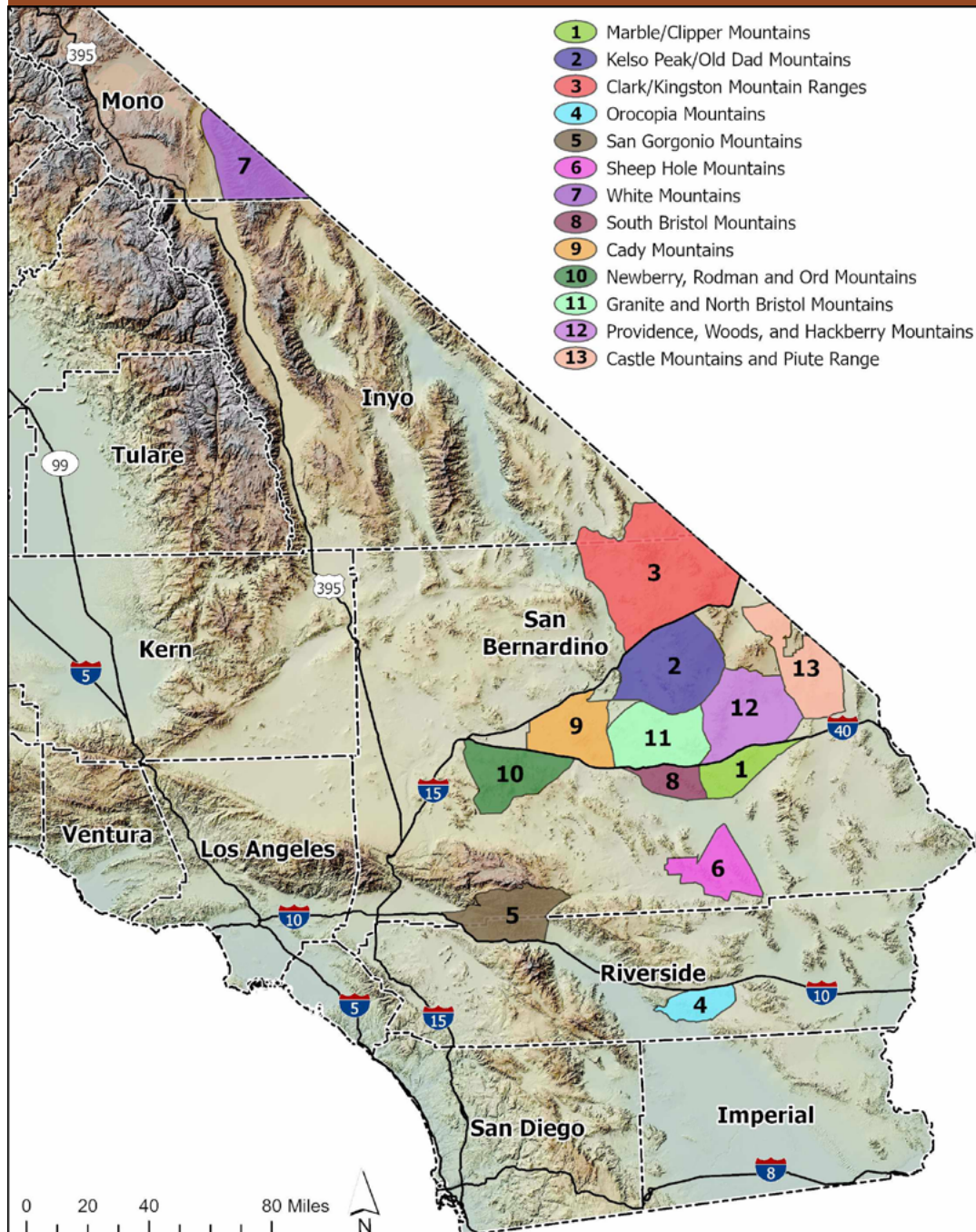
Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
728	Zone 2 Clear Lake Archery Buck	1	0	1	105	0	0	1	Aug 08 - Aug 16
745	Zone 4 Lassen Archery Buck	5	4	1	558	0	75	5	Aug 08 - Aug 16
755	Zone 5 Big Valley Archery Buck	1	0	1	63	0	0	1	Aug 08 - Aug 16
765	Zone 6 Surprise Valley Archery Buck	1	0	1	121	0	100	1	Aug 08 - Aug 16

## 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 PRONGHORN HUNTS

General Methods Hunts									
Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
710	Zone 1 Mount Dome General Methods Buck	2	1	1	439	1	100	2	Aug 22 - Aug 30
720	Zone 2 Clear Lake General Methods Buck	6	5	1	1,224	0	50	6	Aug 22 - Aug 30
730	Zone 3 Likely Tables Period 1 General Methods Buck	5	4	1	2,773	4	100	5	Aug 22 - Aug 30
740	Zone 4 Lassen Period 1 General Methods Buck	35	27	8	5,610	51	90.6	35	Aug 22 - Aug 30
742	Zone 4 Lassen Period 2 General Methods Buck	35	27	8	4,020	6	89.7	35	Sep 05 - Sep 13
790	Zone 4 Lassen Apprentice General Methods Either-sex	5	4	1	695	0	100	5	Aug 22 - Aug 30
750	Zone 5 Big Valley General Methods Buck	5	4	1	758	0	50	5	Aug 22 - Aug 30
780	Zone 5 Big Valley Apprentice General Methods Either-sex	1	0	1	102	0	100	1	Aug 22 - Aug 30
760	Zone 6 Surprise Valley General Methods Buck	10	8	2	1,385	3	80	10	Aug 22 - Aug 30
766	Zone 6 Surprise Valley Apprentice General Methods Either-sex	4	3	1	279	0	75	4	Aug 22 - Aug 30

## BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT ZONES



### All Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zones

Steep and rugged terrain, vehicle access is limited and restricted to designated routes.

### Zone 5 San Gorgonio Mountains

Travel by horseback is recommended.

### Zone 7 White Mountains

Extremely steep and rugged terrain, navigating this unit is immensely physically strenuous as most bighorn sheep occur between 10,000 and 14,000 feet. Extreme safety and caution when preparing for and hunting in this unit is advised. Altitude sickness has affected previous hunters. Hunters should be in top physical condition. Vehicle access limited to none. For questions, call (760) 895-0114.

### Mandatory Hunter Orientation

A mandatory hunter orientation will be held in-person on July 19, 2025 in Sacramento. Per Fish and Game Code Subsection 4902(e), a desert bighorn tag will not be issued unless the hunter completes this orientation.

Information on bighorn sheep hunts can be found at [wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/bighorn-sheep](http://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/bighorn-sheep)

Effective July 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to use, or possess with any firearm capable of firing, any projectile(s) not certified as nonlead when taking any wildlife for any purpose in this state. For more information please refer to the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 250.1 and Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5.

The proposed addition of Zones 11, 12, and 13 as displayed on the map are pending adoption by the CA Fish and Game Commission at its April 2026 meeting. Pending OAL approval.

# 2026 BIG GAME HUNTING DIGEST

## 2026 BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTS

### Preference Point Only

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
599	Preference Point Only - Bighorn Sheep	0	0	0	6,432	210	Enter this hunt code to earn a point only, applications must be submitted before midnight on June 2, 2026		

### General Methods Hunts

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2025 Tag Quota	Preference Point Quota	Random Quota	Total Applicants	Maximum Point (23) Applicants	2025 Hunter Success (%)	2026 Tag Quota	2026 Hunt Dates
501	Zone 1 Marble/Clipper Mountains	1	0	1	1,515	48	100	1	Dec 5 - Feb 7
502	Zone 2 Old Dad/Kelso Peak Mountains	3	2	1	971	116	100	3	Dec 5 - Feb 7
503	Zone 3 Clark and Kingston Mountain Ranges	4	3	1	1,535	203	100	4	Dec 5 - Feb 7
504	Zone 4 Orocopia Mountains	1	0	1	799	32	100	1	Dec 5 - Feb 7
505	Zone 5 San Gorgonio Mountains	1	0	1	793	24	100	1	Dec 19 - Feb 21
506	Zone 6 Sheep Hole Mountains	1	0	1	569	8	100	1	Dec 5 - Feb 7
507	Zone 7 White Mountains Period 1	3	2	1	1,419	37	100	2	Aug 15 - Sep 27
511	Zone 7 White Mountains Period 2	2	1	1	469	16	100	1	Jan 2 - Feb 7
508	Zone 8 South Bristol Mountains	1	0	1	380	13	100	1	Dec 5 - Feb 7
509	Zone 9 Cady Mountains	2	1	1	754	64	100	2	Dec 5 - Feb 7
512	Zone 10 Newberry, Rodman, Ord Period 1	4	3	1	1,297	252	100	4	Dec 6 - Jan 2
513	Zone 10 Newberry, Rodman, Ord Period 2	4	3	1	1,091	216	100	4	Jan 3 - Feb 7
514	Zone 11 -- Granite and North Bristol Mountains	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Dec 5 - Feb 7
515	Zone 12 -- Providence, Woods, and Hackberry Mountains	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Dec 5 - Feb 7
516	Zone 13 -- Castle Mountains and Piute Range	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Dec 5 - Feb 7

**WILD PIG HUNTING**

**Wild Pig Validation**

Resident and nonresident hunters, 12 years of age and older, with a valid annual or two-day California hunting license may purchase a wild pig hunting validation. There is no limit on the number of wild pigs one person may harvest with a validation; fees are nonrefundable and cannot be transferred from one person to another. Wild pigs no longer need to be tagged; however, the hunter is required to have their license and validation on their person while with a harvested pig.

**Reporting Requirements**

Hunters are required to report pig harvest at the end of the season in the Automated License and Data System. Reporting requirements include the number of pigs harvested by month and by county (T14 CCR 708.13). Hunters may complete their report at the end of the season by logging into Online Sales and Services and navigating to "Harvest Reporting".

**Top 15 Counties for Wild Pig Hunting:**

COUNTY	3-year average reported take (LY2022- LY2024)
Monterey	671
San Luis Obispo	439
Kern	290
Tehama	206
Mendocino	163
Santa Clara	123
Colusa	110
San Benito	108
Fresno	74
Sonoma	71
Santa Barbara	67
Glenn	66
Napa	66
Alameda	65
Merced	64

**Wild Pig Hunting Season**

Wild pig validations may be used throughout the hunting year, commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 the following year. There is no daily bag or possession limit for wild pig (T14 CCR 378). For more information on pig hunting and regulations, please go to CDFW's website at [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig).

**Legal Methods of Take**

Generally, wild pigs may only be taken using archery equipment, rifles, .40 caliber or greater muzzleloaders, shotguns and pistols, or revolvers. Knives and spears are not legal methods of take for wild pigs in California. Please see the California Hunting Regulations for Methods Authorized for Taking Exotic Game Mammals (T14 CCR §377) for detailed information.

**Wild Pig Hunting Opportunities**

**Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve**

CDFW provides limited-permit apprentice pig hunting opportunities at Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve near Gilroy. The hunts are conducted in coordination with volunteers from the California Deer Association (CDA) who operate the program.

Hunts are scheduled in the spring and fall, and applicants may only apply online by visiting [wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/3/Hunts/CDLO](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/3/Hunts/CDLO). Due to the high demand, hunters who are unable to attend the hunt for which they are drawn must notify our office within 5 days of being notified that they were successfully drawn. Please only apply for hunt dates you can attend.

Successful applicants will be assigned a volunteer from the CDA who will act as their guide for the duration of the hunt. Cañada de los Osos falls within the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Area and non-lead ammunition is required for all big game hunts.

Additional information about these hunts and others may be obtained by visiting CDFW's special pig hunts webpage [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig#194443-hunts](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig#194443-hunts). The CDFW continues to work with resource conservation partners to provide these special pig hunts. Additional special opportunities will be announced on this webpage as they become available.

## BEAR HUNTING

### Bear Tags

To hunt bear in California, all residents and nonresidents must be age 12 or older and have both a valid hunting license and a bear tag. Bear tags can be purchased from any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online, or by telephone sales. Hunters may purchase only one bear tag per hunting license year.

### Bag and Possession Limits

The daily bag limit is one legal bear per day. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.\*

### Bear Hunting Seasons

Archery bear season in all bear zones opens August 15, 2026, and runs through September 6, 2026.

The general season for black bears opens with the general deer hunting seasons in deer zones A, B, C, D, X8, X9A, X9B, X10 and X12 and extends through December 27, 2026. In the remaining deer X zones, the season opens October 10, 2026, and extends through December 27, 2026. CDFW shall close the season earlier if 1,700 bears have been reported taken. For daily updates on reported bear harvest, visit our website: [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear) or call toll-free (888) 277-6398.

### GPS Collars

The CDFW Black Bear Program is deploying GPS collars on black bears to collect data to inform their conservation and management across the state. When you harvest a black bear, there is a chance it may have a GPS collar around its neck. If this is the case, please remove the collar. When removing the collar, do not cut through its belting as this damages the wiring within the collar and renders the collar unusable. Instead, use a tool such as a driver to loosen the nuts and detach the collar's double bolt and plating with CDFW contact information from the collar's battery pack housing at the bottom. You can then remove the collar from the harvested bear.

### Summary of Bear Regulations

It is unlawful to take a cub or a sow accompanied by one or more cubs.

It is unlawful to feed or bait bears for the purpose of hunting them. It is unlawful to hunt bear over bait, or within a 400-yard radius of a garbage dump or bait.

Only CDFW employees may validate bear tags. Bear tags must be validated before the bear can be transported except for the purpose of taking it directly to the nearest person authorized to validate the tag. If Department

offices are closed, the bear tag shall be validated within one (1) business day of transporting the bear from the point where taken.

Every licensed bear hunter who takes a bear must immediately return the validated report card portion of the bear tag. The tag may be presented to a CDFW office/officer, returned via mail, or reported online at [wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting](http://wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting).

Any bear hunter who utilizes the services of a guide must verify that the guide has a valid guide's license and must write the guide's license number on the bear tag in the space provided. Every licensed bear hunter who is unsuccessful in taking bear must return the report card portion of the bear tag by February 1 of the current license year. The tag may be presented to a CDFW office/officer, returned via mail, or reported online at [wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting](http://wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting).

It is illegal to sell parts of any bear in California, including portions of legally-taken bears imported from other states. However, you have the right to retain any and all parts of the bear you take, except the skull, which becomes the property of CDFW.

Possession of more than one bear gall bladder is prima facie evidence that bear gall bladders are possessed for sale, as defined in subdivision (b) of §4758.

### Mandatory Presentation of Bear Skull

Any person who takes a bear shall present the skull (even if damaged) to a CDFW office/officer within 10 days of taking the bear. The skull shall become the property of CDFW. The portion of the skull not needed for scientific purposes will be returned (T14 CCR §367.5). Please see appointment section and office phone numbers on the next page.

**IMPORTANT!** Place a stick or other object in the bear's jaws so that the mouth remains open. Do not present frozen skulls to have the premolar tooth removed. Premolars break easily when the skull is frozen.

Whether or not you are successful, all bear tags must be returned to the CDFW no later than February 1, 2027. If you fail to return your 2026 bear tag, even if you did not kill a bear, you will be in violation of (T14 CCR §708.12(d)).

Please call ahead before bringing your bear skull to a CDFW office.

Additional information regarding black bear tag reporting and premolar tooth extraction is available in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4lQVpGvbo0>

\* Pending adoption by the CA Fish and Game Commission at its April 2026 meeting. Pending OAL approval.

## BEAR HUNTING

### Bear Tag Validation

If you kill a bear, you must have the tag countersigned (validated) by a CDFW employee. Bear tags must be validated prior to transporting the bear, except for the purpose of taking the bear to the nearest person authorized to validate the tag en route to your home from the point where the bear was taken. All CDFW offices will validate bear tags. The report card portion must be returned immediately after tag validation.

### Bear Tooth Extraction

Premolar tooth collection is critical for CDFW's black bear population monitoring and provides essential age-at-harvest data necessary to conserve and manage black bears in California. A premolar tooth is required to be extracted from EVERY bear taken during the hunting season. Place a stick or other object between the roof of the bear's mouth and lower jaw so that the mouth remains open for ease of premolar removal. Do not present frozen skulls to have the tooth removed. For additional information, please see the [Bear Hunting Flyer](#).

### Bear Tag Validation and Tooth Extraction Appointments

If you cannot locate a CDFW employee, please call one of the offices listed below and they will provide assistance.

All CDFW offices will validate bear tags.

Please call the following locations for an appointment to have your bear tag validated and/or a tooth pulled. Please leave your bear skull in your vehicle until you check in for your appointment

Location	Phone Number
Region 1, Redding	(530) 225-2300
Region 2, Rancho Cordova	(916) 358-2900
Region 3, Fairfield	(707) 428-2002
Region 4, Fresno	(559) 243-4009 Ext.132 or Ext.133
Region 5, San Diego	(858) 467-4201
Region 6, Ontario	(909) 484-0167
Region 7, Monterey	(831) 649-2870
Bishop	(760) 872-1171
Crystal Lake Hatchery	(530) 335-4111
Darrah Springs Hatchery	(530) 474-3141
Eureka	(707) 445-6493
Feather River Hatchery	(530) 538-2222
Fillmore Fish Hatchery	(805) 524-0962
Iron Gate Hatchery	(530) 475-3420
Kern River Hatchery	(760) 376-2846

Location	Phone Number
La Grange	(209) 853-2533 Ext. 6
Los Alamitos	(562) 342-7100
Los Banos Wildlife Area	(209) 826-0463
Mendota Wildlife Area	(559) 655-4645
Merced River Hatchery	(209) 563-6410
Moccasin Hatchery	(209) 989-2312
Mokelumne River Hatchery	(209) 759-3383
Mt. Shasta Hatchery	(530) 926-2215
Red Bluff Screen Shop	(530) 528-9406
Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	(530) 459-3926
Stockton	(209) 234-3420
Trinity River Hatchery	(530) 778-3931
Warm Springs Hatchery	(707) 433-6325
Yreka	(530) 841-2555

### Definitions

#### *Bear cub*

A bear less than one year old or weighing less than 50 lbs. T14 CCR §365(c).

#### *Bait Related to Bears*

Any material capable of attracting a bear. T14 CCR §365(e).

#### *Baited Area*

Any area where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grains, salt, or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting, or enticing such birds or mammals is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, and such area shall remain a

baited area for ten days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grains, salt, or other feed. T14 CCR §257.5.

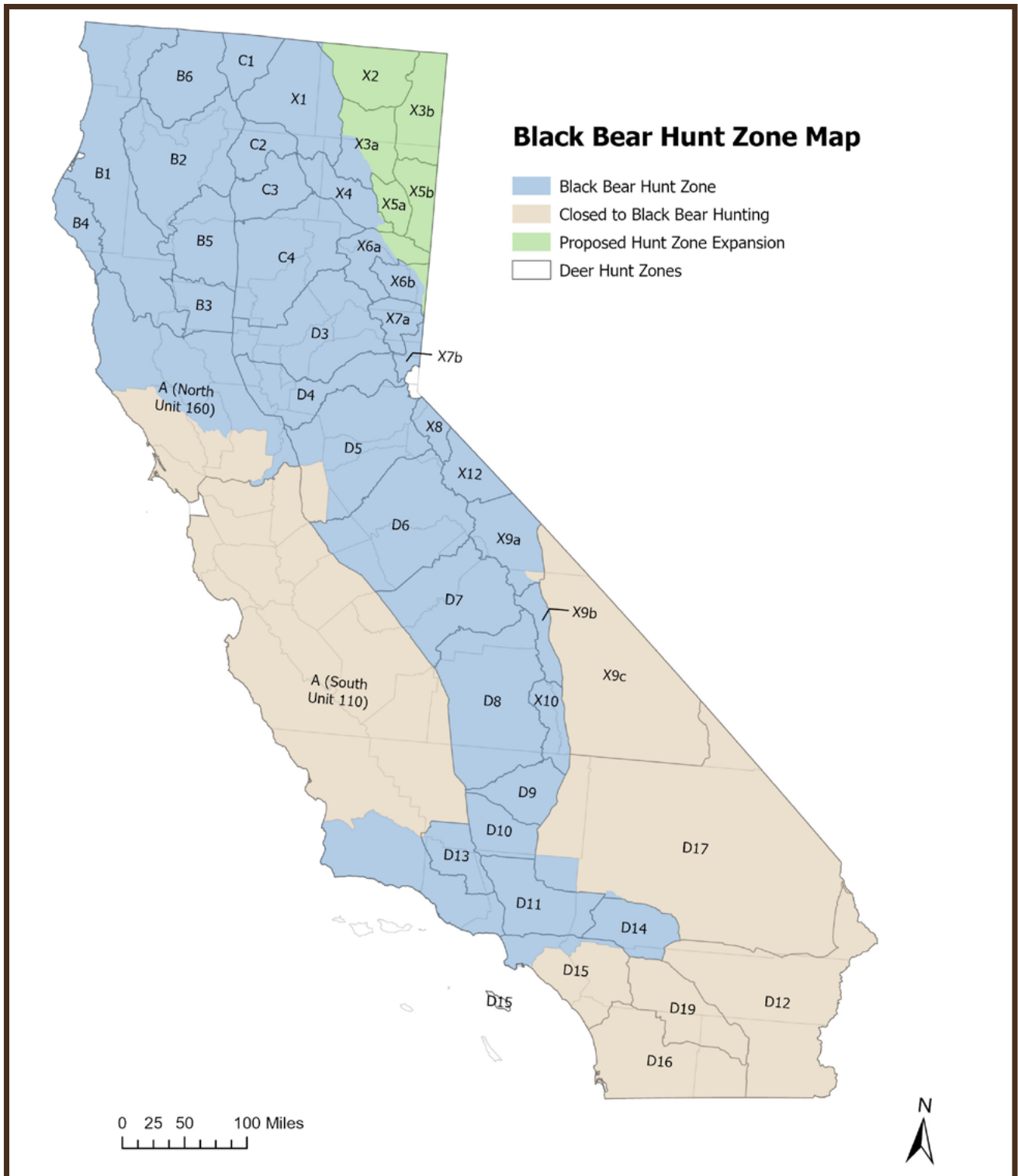
Note: Scents sprayed into the air and allowed to disperse over a wide area in the wind generally do not fall within the definition of bait. Scent products that have to be applied directly to a surface such as a rock, tree or bush generally cause the game to come to that specific place, and if they feed on it, it is bait.

### Use of Dogs for Pursuit/Take

Effective January 1, 2013, the use of dogs to pursue/take bears is unlawful for sport-hunting purposes.

## BEAR HUNTING

The proposed hunt zone expansion as displayed in the map below is pending adoption by the CA Fish and Game Commission at its April 2026 meeting. Pending OAL approval.



Effective July 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to use, or possess with any firearm capable of firing, any projectile(s) not certified as nonlead when taking any wildlife for any purpose in this state. For more information please refer to the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 250.1 and Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### License Requirements

#### **Q. Why do I need to show identification when purchasing a license?**

A. When you purchase a license you are required to provide identification or a previously issued ALDS license. This ensures CDFW will have an accurate record of your license history and help CDFW serve you better in:

- Tracking customer preference points for CDFW's annual Big Game Drawing.
- Purchasing duplicate licenses.
- Wildlife management efforts, such as harvest reporting.

CDFW does not share or sell customers' personal information.

#### **Q. I tried to purchase my hunting license online, but the online sales system says 'Evidence of Hunter Education Required'. I have purchased a hunting license through the ALDS before, so why is it not on file?**

A. You have created a second customer profile (another GO ID) that is not connected to your license history and hunter education record. Log out of the online license sales system and find a previously issued ALDS hunting license or drawing receipt and log in again. Enter the last name, GO ID, and date of birth as it is printed on your license document. Once you have logged into the account that has your hunter education, you will be able to purchase a hunting license and enter the drawing. If you are unable to resolve this issue yourself, contact the Department's Internet Sales Help Desk at (916) 928-6882 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) for assistance.

Important: To be included in the Big Game Drawing, submit your application by midnight on June 2. If it is June 2 and you are unable to resolve this issue, go to a license sales agent. Provide your proof of hunter education and customer information for the license sales agent and apply for the Big Game Drawing there.

#### **Q. What can I hunt for with a 2-Day Nonresident California Hunting License?**

A. The 2-Day Nonresident California Hunting License is only valid for taking resident and migratory game birds, resident small game mammals, wild pigs, fur-bearing mammals and non-game mammals. A 2-Day Nonresident California Hunting License is not valid to hunt bighorn sheep, bear, deer, elk, or pronghorn.

#### **Q. Do I still need to have my license in possession when hunting or fishing?**

A. Under California law you are required to carry your license, validation, report card, or tag with you when you are hunting or fishing.

#### **Q. What will happen if I do not report my deer tag(s) or report my tag(s) late?**

All deer tag holders who do not report their deer tag(s) by the regulatory deadline of January 31 or report them late will be assessed a non-reporting penalty of \$21.60 when purchasing their deer tag drawing application or deer tag the following license year.

NOTE: Mandatory reporting applies to all deer tags issued. Hunters who are issued two deer tags and report one but not the other will still be assessed the non-reporting penalty.

### Big Game Drawing

#### **Q. Why did I get drawn for a premium deer tag when I only wanted to apply for a preference point?**

A. To apply for a deer preference point, you must tell the license sales clerk that you want to apply for the code PD (Point Deer). You do not need to indicate a hunt code when applying for a preference point only. Preference points are earned for the species and not a particular zone or hunt.

#### **Q. I want to apply for a deer preference point in the Big Game Drawing, but I was issued my first deer tag at the license agent. Will I still earn a preference point?**

A. No. If you were issued a first deer tag at the license agent then you were not entered into the Big Game Drawing. You will need to go back to the license agent and tell the sales clerk to cancel the transaction and resell you a First Deer Tag Drawing Application with the code PD (Point Deer). The license agent only has four hours to cancel any sales transaction. If it has been more than four hours, contact CDFW's License and Revenue Branch prior to the June 2 deadline at [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov).

#### **Q. How can I apply for a deer preference point and get an unrestricted or restricted deer hunt tag?**

A. Submit a First Deer Tag Drawing Application with a first choice of PD (Point Deer); and a second choice of an unrestricted or restricted deer tag. If your second choice deer tag is available when the Big Game Drawing is conducted, it will be processed in the second round of the drawing. Please see 'How the Drawing Works' on [page 20](#) for more information on the second choice tags.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q. How can I apply for a deer preference point and get an unrestricted or restricted deer hunt tag?**

A. Submit a First Deer Tag Drawing Application with a first choice of PD (Point Deer); and a second choice of an unrestricted or restricted deer tag. If your second choice deer tag is available when the Big Game Drawing is conducted, it will be processed in the second round of the drawing. Please see 'How the Drawing Works' on page 19 for more information on the second choice tags.

### **Q. How can we apply as a party for drawing tags?**

A. There are two ways to apply as a party. Members of a party can apply in the same sales transaction or in separate transactions at any CDFW license sales office, license agent, online or by telephone sales. See page 17 for details on the party application process.

### **Q. I am the party leader, where can I find my Party Number to give to members of my hunting party so they can join me?**

A. The Party Number is located above your hunt choice(s) on your Drawing Receipt for each species for which you applied. Make sure you give the correct Party Number to the correct party members of each species.

### **Q. I don't have my party leader's Party Number. Will the license agent be able to join us together?**

A. No. You must have the Party Number to join another hunter's party. This is done to ensure that only hunters the party leader allows may join his/her party. CDFW license sales offices and license agents cannot provide you with another hunter's Party Number, only the party leader or members of the party can provide you with their Party Number.

### **Q. Can a junior hunter apply for a premium deer zone and an Apprentice Hunt on the same application?**

A. Yes. Junior hunters who wish to apply for an Apprentice Hunt and a premium deer hunt on the same application must use a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application. Either the Apprentice Hunt or Premium deer hunt will be your first choice (which ever you want the most) and the other as your second choice. You will be issued a preference point if you are unsuccessful in receiving your first choice and your second choice tag will be processed in the second round of the drawing (if the hunt you chose has not filled by the second round of the drawing). If the junior hunter applies for an Apprentice Hunt on the First-Deer Tag Drawing Application, they cannot submit a

Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application.

### **Q. My daughter is a junior hunter. We want to apply together for an X zone tag. Can she apply with me for an X zone tag and still apply for an Apprentice Hunt?**

A. Yes. You both can apply as a party for the X zone tag using your First-Deer Tag Drawing Application. Your daughter can apply for the Apprentice Hunts using her Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application.

### **Q. Will a junior hunter earn two deer preference points if he/she is unsuccessful for both deer tag applications for a premium deer hunt and an Apprentice Hunt tag?**

A. No. Hunters may only earn one preference point per species (T14 CCR §708.14(c)). Junior hunters submitting two applications in the drawing will earn one preference point if they are unsuccessful in their first choice tag on both applications. If they are successful in their first choice tag on either application their preference points will be reset to zero.

### **Q. If a junior hunter applies for a premium deer hunt on a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application and an Apprentice Hunt on a Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application, how are the tag choices processed in the drawing? Which application has a higher priority?**

A. Neither deer tag application has a priority. The computer assigns each deer tag application a unique random number. The preference point value for each application is calculated the same way, the success or non-success of one application does not affect the other application.

### **Q. How will I know that my tag choices for the drawing were entered correctly?**

A. Verify that your tag choices are printed correctly on your Drawing Receipt. You may also verify your tag choices and view all your license items by accessing your customer profile online at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/). Once you are signed in, you will select the 'View My Drawing Applications/Preference Points' link at the top of the page.

### **Q. When do I lose preference points?**

A. You lose all accumulated preference points for a species, as follows:

- Deer - You lose all accumulated preference points when you are drawn for a premium tag as your first

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

choice.

- Elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep - You lose all accumulated preference points for a species if you are drawn for and pay for the tag.
- You also lose all accumulated preference points for any species if you do not participate in the drawing for that species for five (5) consecutive years.

**Q. I did not apply in the Big Game Drawing and it is now past the deadline; will I still be able to earn a preference point for this year?**

A. No. You will not earn a preference point for this year and you will not lose your previously accrued preference points. However, a hunter's points are reduced to zero when they have not applied for five (5) consecutive years. A missed application deadline is considered as not applying.

If it is after midnight on June 2, the drawing applications for deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep will not be available in the "Drawings" list to purchase and apply for the drawing.

**Q. I cannot hunt this year. How can I earn a preference point for deer, elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep?**

A. At a license agent, CDFW license sales office or by telephone sales at (800) 565-1458, you will need to purchase a California hunting license and inform the sales clerk you are applying in the Big Game Drawing. You will need to indicate to the sales clerk, which drawing application(s) you want to apply for; such as: deer, elk, pronghorn or bighorn sheep. To earn a preference point for deer the code is PD, elk is 499, pronghorn is 799 and bighorn sheep is 599.

If applying online, select the "2026 Hunting" tab and "add to the cart" a California hunting license and in the "Drawing" menu, "add to the cart" the drawing applications you want to apply for and enter the corresponding preference point code as indicated above.

To earn the preference point(s), the transaction must be completed before midnight on June 2, 2026.

**Q. What if my premium deer, elk, pronghorn, or bighorn sheep hunt was impacted by public land closures due to wildfire?**

A. Eligible tag holders may return their unfilled premium deer, elk, pronghorn, and/or bighorn sheep tags and appeal for their preference points reinstatement and may also earn a preference point for the species for the affected season. In addition, eligible elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep tag holders may request a refund of their tag fees. For more information, visit

[licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales).

**Q. How can I check my preference point totals in ALDS?**

A. Your preference point totals are printed on your Drawing Receipt(s). The receipt will include the applicant's name, hunt choice(s), and accumulated preference points. You can also check your preference points by logging on to your customer profile at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/) and click on the link "View My Draw Application/Preference Points" at the top of the page.

**Q. How will CDFW track my preference points?**

A. CDFW tracks preference points for current and future drawings using your Get Outdoor (GO) ID. To accurately track your preference points, you must use the same GO ID number to apply in the drawing each year. If you have changes or corrections to your mailing address, you may log into your customer profile and update at [licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales](https://licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales). If you have changes or corrections to your name, identification number, such as a driver's license number or date of birth, you must notify CDFW in writing at:

License and Revenue Branch  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
or email: [LRB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRB@wildlife.ca.gov)

## Obtaining Hunting Maps

**Q. Where can I obtain hunting maps for deer zones?**

A. General maps detailing individual zone or deer hunt boundaries can be found at CDFW's website: [wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer).

Additional maps are also available from:

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) online at [www.fs.fed.us/visit/maps/](https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/maps/);

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825, by phone at (916) 978-4400 or online at [www.blm.gov/california](https://www.blm.gov/california);

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or by contacting the Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225, by phone at 888-ASK-USGS or online at [www.usgs.gov/products/maps/overview](https://www.usgs.gov/products/maps/overview).

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## DECLARATION OF IMPORTATION

To declare importation of dead fish and wildlife, please print and complete the form on the following page, or complete the [online form](#).



State of California – Department of Fish and Wildlife

### DECLARATION OF IMPORTATION OF DEAD FISH AND WILDLIFE

DFW 901 (NEW 01/01/22)

You can submit online at [wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form](https://wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form)

### Form Instructions

**BEFORE COMPLETING:** Pursuant to Title 14, Section 712.5, California Code of Regulations (CCR) and Fish and Game Code Section 2353, notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is unlawful to import (or bring into the state of California) any dead birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibia legally taken and legally possessed from outside of California, unless a declaration is submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) at or immediately prior to the time of entry. The importation of live animals is regulated under separate laws and regulations, therefore this form is not required for importation of live wildlife. Situations by which this form would be used include dead wildlife imported into California from out of state (including out of the country in accordance with that country's export requirements):

- Legally hunted or fished for personal consumption;
- Legally taken for trophy or taxidermy;
- Legally taken specimens for scientific or other research, notwithstanding other laws for their possession and/ or importation; and
- Other legal uses.

**Section 1 – Original Permitholder Information.** For importation of dead wildlife and/or parts thereof, indicate the Importer's first name, last name, Government-Issued ID or Driver's License #, birthdate, physical (mailing) address, and optional email address.

**Section 2 – Dead Wildlife and/or Parts Thereof Information.** Provide a description of the wildlife imported, including species, quantity, sex and antler points when applicable, etc. State or Federal permits under which authority the take and/or possession (collection) of the salvaged animals, and/or parts thereof occurred. For categories that don't apply, indicate N/A.

**Section 3 – CERTIFICATION** The importer signs here certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct and that the fish or wildlife described are legally possessed/imported by the signer.

## DECLARATION OF IMPORTATION



State of California – Department of Fish and Wildlife

### DECLARATION OF IMPORTATION OF DEAD FISH AND WILDLIFE

DFW 901 (NEW 01/01/22)

You can submit online at [wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form](http://wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form)

SAVE

PRINT

CLEAR

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2353 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 712.5, this declaration form shall be completed by the person importing dead birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians, prior to or upon entry (within 24 hours) into the State of California. This declaration form shall be submitted online at [wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form](http://wildlife.ca.gov/qr/declaration-form) or postmarked to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Law Enforcement Division, PO Box 944209, Sacramento CA 94244-2090. A copy of this completed declaration form, or a confirmation number if completed online, shall be retained with the dead fish or wildlife.

**SECTION 1. IMPORTER INFORMATION**

FIRST NAME	M.I.	LAST NAME		
GOVERNMENT ISSUED ID or DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	PREFERRED TELEPHONE		
PHYSICAL ADDRESS				
CITY	STATE	ZIP	EMAIL ADDRESS (Voluntary)	
IMPORTATION VEHICLE LICENSE #		LOCATION AND DATE OF IMPORTATION		

**SECTION 2. DEAD WILDLIFE, AND/ OR PARTS THEREOF INFORMATION**

Description of Fish or Wildlife (species, quantity, sex, antler points when applicable, etc.)	Carcass or Part type <sup>A</sup>	Out of State Fishing or Hunting License #, or permit #	Out of State Hunting Tag #	Harvest Location (County, State, or country)

**SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION**

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information above is true and correct and that the fish or wildlife described above are legally possessed/imported by the undersigned.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Information regarding Chronic Wasting Disease:** The California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 712 governs the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk (cervid) into California. Only some parts of a harvested deer or elk can be imported, and no portions of the brain or spinal cord may be imported. For more information go to:  
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/CWD>

<sup>A</sup> Carcass or Part Type codes: **WC** = whole fresh/frozen carcass; **MC** = meat cuts (processed); **MQ** = meat cuts (quarter); **TS** = tissue samples; **TA** = taxidermy/ trophy mount; **H** = hide; **S** = scientific specimens; **O** = other

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

### CWD is in California

CWD was detected in California for the first time in 2024. Check out our website and CWD Dashboard at [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD) for detailed information about positive detections and testing throughout the state. Working with hunters, landowners, meat processors, and taxidermists, CDFW is determining where the disease has spread in California and taking actions to prevent the further spread of disease.

### What is CWD?

CWD is a fatal neurologic disease of cervids (e.g., deer, elk, moose, reindeer). It is caused by a misfolded form of a normal protein, known as a prion. The misfolded proteins build up in tissues, particularly the brain, causing progressive damage.

Find out more on the CWD website: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).



**Most CWD-positive animals do not appear to be sick until a year after contracting the disease. Only testing can confirm whether an animal has CWD.**

### How does CWD spread?

CWD spreads through direct contact with prions from infected individuals or contaminated environments. Infectious prions can be excreted in urine, feces, and saliva of infected animals before they show any signs of the disease. Prions persist in animal carcasses and tissues, especially in the brain, spinal cord, and lymph nodes. Infected carcasses can contaminate the environment and spread the disease if left out on the landscape, as prions can persist for ten or more years in soils and be taken up by plants.

### What is CDFW doing about CWD?

**CWD Management Plan** – The Department finalized a statewide **CWD Surveillance, Response, and Management Plan** in 2024. CDFW also publishes annual surveillance reports.

**CWD Management Zones (CMZ)** – CMZs can have mandatory sampling and carcass handling requirements. The CWD website is kept up to date with any requirements for hunters: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).

**Free Testing for Hunters** – CDFW provides free CWD testing of retropharyngeal lymph nodes from deer and elk harvested in California.

### How to have your Deer or Elk tested for CWD

CDFW tests retropharyngeal lymph nodes (deer and elk) and obex (elk).

- Bring the deer or elk, or head with 4-6 inches of neck attached, to a CDFW operated sampling station or office: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Sampling-Station](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Sampling-Station). Call to schedule an appointment at a CDFW office.
- Bring the deer or elk, or head with 4-6 inches of neck attached, to a participating meat processor or taxidermist: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Meat-Processors-Taxidermists](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Meat-Processors-Taxidermists).
- Collect and submit samples yourself by following these instructions: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Collect-Submit-Samples](https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Collect-Submit-Samples).



### How can hunters help?

- Hunters provide approximately 70% of CDFW's CWD samples.
- Get your harvest tested for free!
- Field process your harvest. Leave the guts, backbone, and brains behind to prevent spreading CWD to new locations.
- Follow import restrictions. Do not import deer or elk brain or spinal cord into California—only bring in clean skull plates or completed taxidermy mounts.

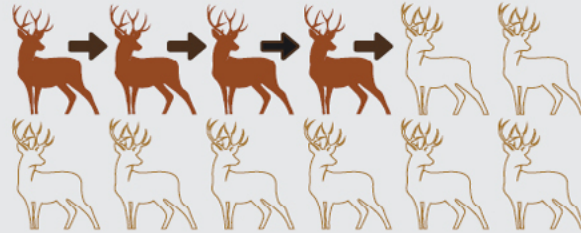
# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): What you need to know

## WHAT IS CWD?

CWD is a **fatal neurological disease** of cervids (i.e., deer, elk, moose and reindeer).



## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?



CWD spreads to cervids through contact with infected animals, tissues and environments.



## HOW CAN WE HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CWD?

Testing deer samples helps us know if CWD is present and allows us to better respond and manage the disease.

## WHICH U.S. STATES HAVE DETECTED CWD?



■ States with detected cases of CWD

(Non-positive CWD states are OR, NV, AZ, SC, GA, ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NJ, AK and HI.)



Hunters can bring their harvested deer or elk to a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) sampling station or regional office to be sampled for CWD. Alternatively, the head can be brought to a meat processor or taxidermist participating in CDFW's CWD Sampling Program. CDFW will collect paired lymph nodes, dime to quarter-sized tissues, located behind the jaw along the spine.



## OUT-OF-STATE HUNTING & HARVEST IMPORT



The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 712 governs the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk (cervid) into California. Only some parts of a harvested deer or elk can be imported, and no portions of the brain or spinal cord may be imported. Visit [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](http://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD) to learn more.

For more information on keeping California's deer and elk herds safe and free from CWD, please visit CDFW's CWD web page: [wildlife.ca.gov/CWD](http://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD).



**NO TIME  
TO WASTE**  
LIMIT CWD'S SPREAD

