



License Agent News

LICENSE AND REVENUE BRANCH

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VISIT OUR AGENT WEBSITE
✓ **Materials & Forms**
✓ **Newsletters**
✓ **FAQs**
www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Agents



CalTip – Report Poaching & Polluting

Call (24x7): (888) 334-2258
Download the CalTip App



2026/2027 HUNTING ITEMS – ON SALE APRIL 15

Starting April 15, customers may start purchasing 2026/2027 hunting licenses, tags, and big game drawing applications. Please ensure the correct year and items are sold.

- ❖ 2026/2027 hunting items are valid to use from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and customers must purchase to apply in the 2026 Big Game Drawing.
- ❖ Customers hunting before June 30, 2026, must have 2026/2027 hunting items.



BIG GAME DRAWING INFORMATION – DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JUNE 2

Customers participating in the Big Game Drawing for premium deer, elk, pronghorn, and/or bighorn sheep tags must have their applications submitted **before midnight on June 2**.

2026 Deer Tag Classifications Changes

Please refer to the 2026 Deer Tag Classification Chart for the full list of deer hunt tag classifications. Below are highlights of hunt zones that changed classifications for 2026.

Premium Deer Tag Changes: No Changes

Premium Deer Tags are issued through the Big Game Drawing. **Customers applying must use a 1st Deer Tag Drawing Application** and may apply in parties of six with up to three hunt choices. **Drawing applications are located under 2026 Hunting > Drawings** menu on the sales terminal.

- **1st Choice** – Must be a premium hunt or preference point only (PD).
- **2nd and 3rd Choices** – Are optional and may be premium, restricted, or unrestricted hunts.

Apprentice Deer Tags are issued through the Big Game Drawing. To apply, customers must be less than 16 years of age on July 1, 2026, possess a Junior Hunting License, and may apply using either a 1st Deer Tag Drawing Application or 2nd Deer Tag Drawing Application.

Restricted Deer Tag Changes: No Changes

Restricted Deer Tag are available to issue to customer as a 1st Deer Tag or 2nd Deer Tag if the customer does not have a pending draw application or an unrestricted 1st deer tag. **Tags are located under 2026 Hunting > Tags menu on the sales terminal.**

Unrestricted Deer Tag Changes: A19, A22, B, D6, D9 (changed from restricted to unrestricted.) Unrestricted Deer Tags are available to customers as either a 1st Deer Tag or 2nd Deer Tag. If a customer has a pending 1st deer drawing application or a restricted 1st Deer Tag, they can receive an unrestricted hunt tag as a 2nd Deer Tag at any time. **Tags are located under 2026 Hunting > Tags menu on the sales terminal.**

2026/2027 ADDITIONAL DRAWING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year, customers may apply for additional random drawing opportunities through CDFW's Special Hunts and Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) programs. As they become available, these drawing applications can be found under the **2026 Hunting > Drawings** menu on the sales terminal.

SHARE Drawing Applications

SHARE offers a variety of hunting opportunities (e.g., elk, deer, pig, upland game, etc.) on private or landlocked public land. The application periods change throughout the year depending on species and hunt dates. For more information, please visit: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/SHARE.

Special Hunts Drawing Applications

CDFW Special Hunts are specially managed hunting opportunities on public and private lands for upland game birds and game mammals (e.g., dove, chukar, quail, turkey, pheasants, and wild pig). The applications become available throughout the year and the deadline to apply is 21 days prior to the season opener for the species. For more information, please visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Special-Hunts

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 validation that may be used throughout the wild pig hunting season (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

There is no daily bag or possession limit on the number of wild pigs a hunter may take. Hunters are now required to report the number of pigs harvested by month and county of take through the CDFW Online License Sales and Services website within 60 days after the end of the license year.

For more information, please visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig.

HUNTER EDUCATION REMINDER

To purchase a hunting license, a customer must have on file or present a valid (physical or electronic form) of hunter education listed below:

- California Hunter Education Certificate
- Out of State Hunter Education Certificate
- Previous California Hunting License
- Out of State Hunting License (issued within the last two years)

REMINDER! FREE HUNT DAY - APRIL 11, 2026

The last Free Hunt Day for the 2026/2027 season is April 11, 2026. The 2026/2027 free hunt day dates will be announced with the Waterfowl Agent Newsletter in September.

NON-REPORTING FEES

Customers who failed to report their 2025 deer tag(s) will be required to pay a **\$21.60** non-reporting fee when purchasing a 2026 deer tag or drawing application. **The non-reporting fee is automatically added to the transaction.**

License Agents Are Not Authorized To:

- ❖ Waive Non-Reporting Fees
- ❖ Cancel Non-Reporting Fees without also canceling the associated tag/report card

HARVEST REPORTING

Customers are required to report harvest data each year by the reporting deadlines. Harvest reports may be submitted by using the following methods:

1. **Online:** www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/InternetSales/
Customers reporting online receive a confirmation number and **do not** need to mail in the physical report card.
2. **Mail** to the address listed on the report card.

IMPORTANT! License Agents cannot accept from, or mail on behalf of, customers' completed harvest reports.

LICENSE AGENT HANDLING FEES

License Agents earn a 5% handling fee per fee-based item sold. The handling fee is incorporated into the price that prints on all license items and sales receipts.

License Agents cannot charge more than the fee authorized or printed on any document and cannot refuse to issue free or reduced fee items.

CANCELED DOCUMENTS

Documents sold incorrectly (that cannot be corrected by reprinting) should be canceled immediately through the CDFW sales terminal. License Agents have up to four hours after a sale to cancel documents and 30 days to return the canceled documents to avoid paying unreturned canceled document charges.

- ✓ **Do not cancel documents if the customer received and paid for the items.**
- ✓ **Do not cancel documents if the customer received a reprint of the document.**

Mail all canceled documents to one of the addresses listed on the License Agent Document Return Form.