

General Wildlife Laws

For complete laws and rules, see Idaho Administrative Procedures Act: <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html>

All hunters must have a valid Idaho hunting license and the appropriate tags in their possession while hunting.

Hunting Hours

Big game animals may be hunted only from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Definition of Hunting

Hunting means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following or on the trail of, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then subsequently captured, killed, taken or wounded.

Age Limit

Only properly licensed youths 10 or older may hunt big game. A youth may buy a license when 9 to apply for a controlled hunt, but he or she must be 10 at the time of their hunt.

Bag and Possession Limits

A hunter may harvest only as many of a big game animal species as he or she has legal tags for in that year. Any animal harvested in a depredation hunt before a controlled hunt in the same unit for which the hunter holds a tag must be included under the limit and tagging rules of the controlled hunt tag. No person may take more than one animal per year during a controlled hunt season by using both a controlled hunt tag and a depredation permit.

Mandatory Harvest Reporting Requirements

Moose, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunters: Hunters must present moose antlers or mountain goat horns at Idaho Fish and Game regional offices, official check point or to a conservation officer within 10 days of the kill. Bighorn sheep horns must be presented to an Idaho Fish and Game regional office where horns will be permanently marked with a metal pin.

Waste of Game

Hunters are required to remove and care for the edible meat of big game animals, except black bears, mountain lions, and gray wolves. This includes the meat from hind quarters as far down as the hock, meat of the front quarters as far down as the knee and meat along the backbone which is the loin and tenderloin. It does not include meat of the head or neck, meat covering or between the ribs, internal organs, or meat on the bones after close trimming.

Wounding and Retrieving

No person shall wound or kill any big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession. It is unlawful to enter private property that is posted, cultivated or in irrigated pasture without landowner permission to retrieve game.

Electronic Calls

No electronic calls may be used to attract big game for the purpose of harvest, except such calls may be used to attract mountain lions, black bears and gray wolves in seasons where approved by Commission proclamation.

It is Unlawful To:

- Hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license and without the required tag in possession.
- Party hunt, or help fill another person's tag.
- Shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- Hunt big game or game birds from or by the use of any motorized vehicle, **except** for holders of a valid handicapped person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit when vehicle is stopped and off public roadways.
- Use any motorized vehicle to molest, stir up, rally or drive any game animal or game bird.
- Operate or use as an aid to hunting a motor vehicle in violation of area, trail, or road restrictions.
- To use aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, to locate game or furbearing animals and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear or game except at established landing fields.
- Make use of any aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, to locate any big game animals for purpose of hunting those animals during the same calendar day those animals were located from the air.
- Fail to stop – with or without fish or wildlife – at any Fish and Game check station encountered, even if your hunting, fishing or trapping activity occurred outside the state of Idaho.
- Fail to produce wildlife for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce Idaho Fish and Game rules.
- To hunt any animal or bird by aid of a spotlight, flashlight or artificial light of any kind; except unprotected or predatory animals on private land after obtaining written permission and on public lands after obtaining the required permit from an Idaho Fish and Game Regional office. It is lawful to hunt raccoons on public lands without a permit if such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, or regulations.

- Hunt Big Game with dogs, **except** for black bear and mountain lion. See Big Game seasons and rules for details. The use of one blood-trailing dog controlled by leash during lawful hunting hours and within 72 hours of hitting a big game animal is allowed to track wounded animals and aid in recovery. A hound hunter permit is not required.
- Transfer any license, tag, or permit or use another's license, tag, or permit.
- Acquire more controlled hunt tags per species than the bag limit for that species.
- Destroy or disturb traps, or remove any wildlife from traps belonging to others.
- Enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- Intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- Hunt any game animal by means of baiting, with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit. See Big Game seasons and rules.

Areas Closed to Big Game Hunting

- All state parks, except Farragut State Park, Farragut Wildlife Management Area, Billingsley Creek Unit of Thousand Springs State Park, Castle Rock State Park, and the City of Rocks National Reserve are open to all hunting.
- Part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and preserve is closed to hunting. For information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/upload/CRMO-Hunting.pdf>.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge.
- That portion of Ada County between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue, and the Boise City limits.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- Any of those portions of state wildlife preserves (Myrtle Creek, David Thompson, and Lewiston), state wildlife management areas, Springfield state bird preserve, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries that have been closed to hunting by legislative or commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, except as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.
- All Snake River islands between Glenns Ferry bridge and Sailor Creek bridge in Elmore County.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County, **except** that portion within an area 50 feet above the high water level of the Snake River. The upslope area is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted downslope to the river.

- Mountain lions and gray wolves may not be hunted or pursued within one-half mile of any active Idaho Fish and Game big game feeding site.
- Black bears may not be hunted or pursued within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump ground or landfill.

Trespass Law

No person may enter private land to hunt fish or trap without permission if the land is:

- Cultivated
- OR Posted with "No Trespassing" or similar signage every 660 feet (1/8th mile) or at all reasonable access points,
- OR Posted with 100 square inches of high visibility orange paint every 660 feet or all reasonable access points,
- OR Posted with high visibility orange paint on the top 18 inches of a metal fence post every 660 feet or all reasonable access points,
- OR Posted with signs where a public road enters and leaves property through or along which the public has a right-of-way.

It is illegal for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses. Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.

Bag and Possession Limits

Moose: No person may harvest more than one antlered and one antlerless moose in Idaho during their lifetime, except Super Hunt tag winners and left-over tag holders may harvest moose regardless of any previous harvest of moose in Idaho.

Bighorn Sheep: No person may harvest more than one Rocky Mountain and one California bighorn sheep in Idaho during their lifetime. Lottery and Auction tag winners are exempt from the once in a lifetime provision.

Mountain Goat: No person who has harvested a mountain goat in Idaho since 1977 may apply for a mountain goat tag in Idaho.

Closed Seasons

There are no open seasons for caribou, bison (buffalo), grizzly bear or lynx. With the exception of bison, these are threatened or endangered species and are protected by state and federal laws. Please report any suspected sightings of lynx to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boise at 208-378-5243.

Furbearers

Bobcats, badgers and red foxes are classified as furbearers and may be hunted or trapped only during the furbearer season. No open season exists for lynx, wolverines or fishers. See current Upland Game, Furbearer & Turkey Seasons and Rules.

Possession and Sale of Wildlife Parts

Lawfully harvested wildlife parts – except edible meat from game animals – may be purchased, bartered or sold when accompanied by a written statement showing said wildlife was lawfully harvested. If black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf parts – excluding tanned or finished rugs or mounts – are sold or bartered, a signed written statement showing the taker’s name, address, license and tag numbers, date and the location of kill must be provided to the buyer. Buyers must submit completed transaction statements to Idaho Fish and Game within 10 days of sale.

Wildlife parts legally harvested outside of Idaho may be possessed and sold in Idaho if such sale is not prohibited in Idaho or the state, province or country where harvested, or by federal law.

It is unlawful to possess any wildlife or parts that were killed, taken or obtained unlawfully.

Possession and Sale of Wildlife Found Dead

Protected species of wildlife that have died of natural causes are considered property of the state and may not be possessed.

However, big game animal parts, such as hides, horns – except horns from bighorn sheep – bones, antlers and teeth, of deer, elk, moose, pronghorn, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion and gray wolves that have died of natural causes, including legally salvaged road kill, may be recovered, possessed, purchased, bartered, sold or transferred. If sold, black bear and mountain lion parts must be accompanied by documentation on how they were obtained.

Legally salvaged road kill may not be used as bait for hunting or trapping, except it may be used as bait for trapping gray wolves statewide. For more information and to complete the required form to legally-salvage road kill please visit our website at <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/species/roadkill> or call a Fish and Game office.

Edible meat from game animals taken from the wild may not be purchased, bartered or sold.

Recovery, Possession and Sale of Bighorn Sheep Horns

Horns from bighorn sheep that have died of natural causes may be recovered and possessed. All bighorn sheep horns must be presented to Fish and Game for marking with a permanent pin within 30 days of recovery. It is unlawful to sell, barter or purchase bighorn sheep horns obtained under these circumstances, or to transfer ownership of recovered bighorn sheep horns without a permit from Fish and Game.

Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife

Coyotes, skunks, weasels, jackrabbits, raccoons and starlings are classified by Idaho law as predatory. Eurasian collared-doves, English sparrows and feral pigeons are unprotected. Predatory and unprotected wildlife may be taken in any number year-round and at any time by holders of the appropriate valid Idaho hunting or trapping licenses, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county or city laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

Protected Nongame and Threatened or Endangered Species

No person shall take or possess wildlife species classified as Protected Nongame or Threatened or Endangered at any time or in any manner, except as provided in Sections 36-106(e)5 and 36-1107, Idaho Code, by Commission Regulation, or IDAPA 13.01.10.100.06b.

Livestock Health Certificate Requirement

Anyone bringing livestock or hunting dogs into the state should call the Idaho Department of Agriculture, 208-332-8540, for health certificate requirements.

Weed-Free Hay Requirement

On Bureau of Land Management public lands, national forest lands or Idaho Fish and Game wildlife management areas, anyone using pack animals or straw in their camp must only use weed-free certified hay, forage or straw to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. To obtain an up-to-date list of local growers and vendors with noxious weed-free certified forage for sale, call the Department of Agriculture at 208-332-8592, or check: <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/nwffs.php>. For more information on the Noxious Weed-Free Forage certification program visit: <http://idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/indexnoxweedmain.php>.

Wildlife Violator Compact

Many states including Idaho have entered into a “Wildlife Violator Compact.” If your hunting, fishing, or trapping license is revoked by any of the member states, all the remaining states will revoke the same license or privilege for the same time period. In addition, any nonresident who does not satisfy the requirements of an Idaho citation will have his or her hunting and fishing license revoked in their home state until those requirements are satisfied. For information on the Compact and a list of member states, go to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Boundary Waters Reciprocal Agreement

The Oregon-Idaho boundary water reciprocal agreement recognizes the legal right to fish, hunt or trap in the waters or on the islands of the Snake River where said river forms the boundary line between the state of Oregon and the state of Idaho by the holder of either a valid Oregon or Idaho license in accordance with the laws and rules of the respective state.

Tagging and Transporting Game

How to Properly Validate a Big Game Tag.

Hunters must completely remove two notches indicating month and day of kill.

Note: Immediately after the kill, the triangles denoting the month and day must be cleanly and completely removed. Tearing, slicing or punching the tag is not legal.



Proper Location of Tag

Attach to the largest portion of the carcass.

Any license, tag or permit that is defaced or altered is invalid from the date and time of issue. It is unlawful to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced or altered.

Transportation Issues

Any person who transports any wildlife for another person or receives any wildlife for cleaning, processing, as a gift, or for storage must have a written proxy statement signed by the person who killed the animal specifying the numbers and kinds of wildlife; date taken; hunter's name and address; and license, tag and permit numbers. The proxy form is provided below for convenience.

Preserving Evidence of Sex

Moose: The antlers of a bull moose must be carried out with the head. The entire head of an antlerless male moose (with antlers less than 6 inches long) killed during an antlerless-only season may be left naturally attached to the whole carcass or to a front quarter until the carcass reaches the final place of storage or consumption. If the head is removed, the sex organs must remain naturally attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or personal consumption. Plus, the antlers must accompany the carcass while in transit.

Bighorn Sheep: Any hunter taking a bighorn sheep ram must leave that portion of the skull plate containing the upper one half of the eye socket naturally attached to both of the horns until after the horns have been pinned by Fish and Game.

Mountain Goat: Hunters must pack out the head and horns. If the head is removed from the carcass, a portion of the sex organs must remain naturally attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or consumption.

Proper Tagging and Transportation of Animals and Meat

Immediately after any moose, bighorn sheep or mountain goat has been killed, the hunter harvesting the animal must comply with the following regulations regarding the proper tagging, transportation and shipment of a carcass:

The appropriate big game tag must be validated and securely attached to the animal **immediately after the kill**. The validated tag must remain attached to the **carcass** until the meat is processed and reaches the final place of storage for personal consumption.

PROXY STATEMENT (To transport wildlife taken by another person)

Species (Circle)	Sex	Description (e.g.: antler points, wrapped, hind quarter, etc.)	Unit/Hunt Area	Kill Location	Days Hunted	Date Killed
Bighorn Sheep						
Black Bear						
Elk						
Gray Wolf						
Moose						
Mtn Lion						
Mtn Goat						
Mule Deer						
Pronghorn						
Whitetail						
Other						

OTHER FISH/GAME:

Species _____ How many _____

Species _____ How many _____

Hunter/Angler's Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

License No. _____ Tag No. _____ Permit No. _____

Guided (circle) YES NO Outfitter Name _____ Method (circle) STILL/STALK INCIDENTAL PRED_CALL

Weapon (circle) RIFLE MUZZLELOADER SHOTGUN HANDGUN OTHER _____ BAIT HOUNDS OTHER _____

Name of person transporting _____ Phone _____

Weapon Restrictions

Rifle and Shotgun

In any hunt, including any-weapon seasons, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- By any means other than approved firearms, muzzleloaders and archery methods.
- With any electronic device attached to, or incorporated on, the firearm or scope; **Except** scopes containing battery powered or tritium lighted reticles are allowed.
- With any firearm that, in combination with a scope, sling and/or any attachments, weighs more than 16 pounds.
- With any fully automatic firearm.
- With any shotgun using shot smaller than #00 buck.
- With any rimfire rifle, rimfire handgun, or muzzleloading handgun, except for mountain lions, or legally-trapped gray wolves.

Short Range Weapons

In big game seasons restricted to short-range weapons, it is unlawful for hunters to use any weapon other than a muzzleloader, archery equipment, crossbow, or a shotgun using slugs or shot of size #00 buck or larger, or handgun using straight-walled cartridges not originally developed for rifles.

Muzzleloader Caliber Requirements

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With any muzzleloading rifle or musket that is less than .45 caliber for deer, pronghorn, mountain lion or gray wolf; or is less than .50 caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat or black bear.

Muzzleloader-Only Season

Any person hunting in a muzzleloader-only season, including controlled hunts, must have in their possession a license with a muzzleloader permit validation. During a muzzleloader-only season, it is illegal to pursue or kill a big game animal with any firearm, muzzleloading pistol, or weapon other than a muzzleloading rifle or musket. In addition, the muzzleloading rifle or musket must be:

- Capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.
- Equipped with only open or peep sights. Scopes and any electronics are prohibited. **Except** hunters with a visual disability may apply for a permit to use nonmagnifying scopes. (Applications are available at Fish and Game offices.)
- Loaded only with loose black powder, loose Pyrodex, or other loose synthetic black powder. Pelletized powders are prohibited.

- Equipped with a single or double-barrel.
- Loaded with a projectile that is within .010 inch of the bore diameter. Sabots are prohibited.
- Loaded with a patched round ball or conical non-jacketed projectile comprised wholly of lead or lead alloy.
- Equipped only with a flint, percussion cap or musket cap. 209 primers are prohibited.
- Equipped with an ignition system, in which any portion of the cap is exposed or visible when the weapon is cocked and ready to fire.

For additional information about muzzleloader equipment visit our website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/hunt/rules/?getPage=299>.

Archery Equipment

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With arrows or bolts having broadheads measuring less than 7/8 inch in width and having a primary cutting edge less than 0.015 inch thick.
- With any bow having a peak draw weight of less than 40 pounds up to or at a draw of 28 inches, or any crossbow having a peak draw weight of less than one hundred-fifty (150) pounds.
- With an arrow or bolt wherein the broadhead does not precede shaft and nock.
- With any chemicals or explosives attached to the arrow or bolt.
- With arrows or bolts having expanding broadheads.
- With arrows or bolts having barbed broadheads, which is a broadhead with any portion of which forms an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft or ferrule.
- With any electronic or tritium-powered device attached to an arrow, bolt or bow. **Except** disabled archery permit holders may use a nonmagnifying sight with battery powered or tritium lighted reticles.
- With any bow capable of shooting more than one arrow at a time.
- With any compound bow set at more than 85 percent let-off.
- With an arrow or bolt, and broadhead with a combined total weight of less than 300 grains.
- With an arrow less than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.
- With a bolt (crossbow) less than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Archery-Only Season

Any person hunting in an archery-only season, including controlled hunts, must have in their possession their license with archery permit validation. During an archery-only season, it is illegal for hunters to use any firearm, crossbow, or implement other than a longbow, compound bow or recurve bow in compliance with general archery equipment requirements, or:

- Any bow equipped with magnifying sights.

- Any device that holds a bow at partial or full draw, **except** hunters possessing a disabled archery permit may use a device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. (Applications for the use of devices holding a bow at partial or full draw by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices.)
- Any crossbow. **Except** disabled hunters possessing a permit may use a crossbow. (Applications for the use of crossbows by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices.)

Roads, Trails, Motor Vehicles and Wildlife

What You Need to Know

Motor vehicles, from pickups and SUVs to motorcycles and ATVs, have changed hunting and some of those changes have created challenges for hunters, land managers and wildlife.

Consider the following:

- Roads that are open to motor vehicles increase access into big game habitat, and, as a result, the number of hunters increases. Generally, the number of hunters in an area is directly related to the number of roads.
- The combination of more hunters and their increased mobility in roaded areas increases the vulnerability of deer and elk to harvest. Deer and elk in a heavily roaded area are more likely to be killed during the hunting season, and for that reason these areas have fewer old bulls or bucks. It also means that hunting seasons have to be shorter to prevent over harvest.
- Research shows that slow moving vehicles on primitive roads and trails are more disturbing to elk than fast moving vehicles on highways. Slow moving vehicles traveling cross-country have the same effect. Deer and elk often flee from the sound of motor vehicles and may leave the area.
- Cross-country travel with motor vehicles can create a network of new travel ways that cause erosion, spread noxious weeds, and damage fish and wildlife habitats. Much of this cross-country travel occurs during the hunting season. To reduce these impacts, Idaho's land and wildlife managers ask all hunters using motorized vehicles to stay on roads and trails and use designated routes where they are established. Do not travel cross-country with a motor vehicle.

Look for Designated Routes on Public Lands

- The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have already established designated routes in several areas of Idaho. Please pay attention to the travel system in the areas you hunt.

For more information about travel management on Idaho's Federal lands, contact these offices or websites:

- U.S. Forest Service 208-373-4007 website: www.fs.fed.us.
- Bureau of Land Management 208-373-4007 website: www.id.blm.gov.

Access management helps wildlife and hunters. Please observe established road closures and access restrictions. Report road closure violations by calling 1-800-632-5999, or any Idaho Fish and Game, BLM or U.S. Forest Service office.

Motor Vehicle Use

Wisely managing roads, trails and motor vehicles will:

- Yield more old bucks and bulls.
- Permit more hunting opportunity.
- Allow longer seasons.
- Decrease erosion.
- Reduce conflicts.
- Reduce damage to habitat and the spread of noxious weeds.

Best of all, it will make hunting better.

Remember!

- **Observe road closures and access restrictions.**
- **Say no to cross-country travel.**
- **Stay on roads and trails open to motorized travel.**
- **Use designated routes where they're established.**
- **Follow Idaho's *Motorized Hunting Rule*.**

Motorized Hunting Rule

To resolve many hunters' concerns about off-road travel, the Fish and Game Commission adopted restrictions on motor vehicle use while hunting big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats in designated units. The rule only applies from August 30 through December 31. The rule no longer applies to hunting of upland game birds or upland game animals.

Motorized Hunting Restrictions

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game animals is restricted in certain areas. This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders; including, but not limited to, any motorized vehicle licensing, registration, and permitting requirements and traffic laws. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

Use Restriction. In designated units from August 30 through December 31, big game hunters may use motorized vehicles only on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles.

Exceptions. This use restriction rule shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses by hunters off of an established roadway:

- a. Holders of a valid Handicapped Person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the land owner or manager.
- b. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager.
- c. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager, but hunters may not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- d. Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land, but they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle.

Restricted Units

The motorized hunting use restrictions applies to units **29, 30, 30A, 32, 32A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 56, 58, 59, 59A, 66, 66A, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, and 78.**

Defined Terms

- a. A full-sized automobile is any motorized vehicle with a gross weight in excess of 1,500 pounds.
- b. An established roadway is defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any government entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the tracks.
- c. A hunter is a person engaged in the activity of hunting as defined in Idaho Code Section 36-202(j). *"Hunting" means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for, any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken, or wounded. Such term does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait for, any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching wildlife or taking pictures thereof.*

Owyhee Wilderness

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 designated 517,000 acres of public lands in Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho as Wilderness. Please be aware of the wilderness boundaries and regulations. For more information see: <http://www.id.blm.gov>.

Highway rights-of-way

The entire width between the boundary lines of every highway publicly maintained when any part is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel, with jurisdiction extending to the adjacent property line, including sidewalks, shoulders, berms and rights-of-way not intended for motorized traffic. No person shall shoot from a public highway or discharge any firearm from or across a public highway.

Special Vehicle Restrictions

State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: MOTORIZED HUNTING RULE

What changes were made to the Motorized Vehicle Use Rule?

- The name changed to Motorized Hunting Rule to make it clear that this rule applies to hunters using motorized vehicles as an aid to hunting. The rule is now specific only to hunting of big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat, in designated units, and only applies from August 30 through December 31.
- Between these dates and in the designated units, specific to all big game hunting, hunters may use motorized vehicles only on established roadways that are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles.
- The rule no longer applies to hunting of upland game birds or upland game animals.

What is an “established roadway?”

- An established roadway is any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any governmental entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the wheel tracks.

Where can I find out which are established roads open to use by full-sized vehicles and which are trails on national forest or BLM land?

- For questions about the status of a road or trail in the area you plan to hunt, please contact the appropriate land management agency. National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps and BLM Travel Maps list road, trail and other allowable uses. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation’s Statewide Online Map, available at <http://www.trails.idaho.gov/>, also lists what type of motorized use is allowed on Forest Service and BLM lands statewide, as well as local land management agency contact information.

Does the new rule apply to all hunting statewide?

- No. The rule now applies only to hunting of big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat, in designated units from August 30 through December 31. The rule does not apply to upland game animals or birds in hunts within designated units.

As a hunter, can I use a motorized vehicle on USFS or BLM designated trails in Big Game Units covered by the motorized hunting rule?

- Only if the use is permissible in the exceptions in the motorized hunting rule. For example, if motorized travel is allowed by the USFS or BLM, you may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game or pack in or out your camping equipment. However, you may not hunt while packing camping equipment. It’s important that you know what specific type of motorized use is allowed for the area you are hunting.
- Hunt Units with Motorized Hunting Rule: See map below.

What can I do to stay out of trouble or to avoid conflicts with other hunters?

- When in doubt, stay on the road. Know and follow the vehicle use restrictions for the area you are hunting, have applicable maps, and review tips on the Stay on Trails website at stayontrails.com

Dates: August 30 - December 31

Applies ONLY to hunting big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat. Affected units are listed below and are displayed in orange on the map.

