Permission Form

Permission given to (print name):
__________________________________

Dates permission is valid:
from: ___________________
to: ___________________

General Description of Property:
__________________________________
__________________________________
__________________________________

Landowner Name (print):
__________________________________

Owner or Agent Signature:
__________________________________

A property owner may revoke permission at any time.
DIRECTOR SCHRIEVER’S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO

It’s my honor to be the director of Idaho Fish and Game, and my priority is to maintain Idaho’s high quality hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. The department and the Fish and Game Commission work cooperatively to use biological and social science to manage big game populations and hunting opportunities.

Within this brochure are literally hundreds of hunts where you can simply buy a tag and go big game hunting, or apply for the chance at a controlled hunt. For many, like myself, hunting in Idaho provides us with an opportunity to enjoy one of the outdoor activities we are most passionate about with friends and family. Big game hunting provides some of our most memorable lifetime experiences. Hunting is also the foundation of many family traditions that often span multiple generations.

I want to assure you we at Fish and Game understand how important big game hunting is to you, and we are committed to providing professional wildlife management and sustainable hunting. Idaho’s big game populations produce a wide diversity of hunting opportunities, and regulated hunting results in sustainable use of some of Idaho’s most precious natural resources.

We don’t overlook that harvesting healthy, organic meat is an important part of hunting, and a reason many new hunters are starting to hunt. Idaho hunters sustainably harvest well over 10 million pounds of wild game meat each year. Processing game meat and enjoying great meals from the animals we harvest allows hunters, their families and friends to continue to enjoy the benefits of the hunt long after the trip to the field is over.

Idaho’s big game populations are in good shape, and in some cases, near historic levels. Our elk hunting in many areas is excellent with statewide harvest exceeding 20,000 animals for five straight years, which has happened only once before. Statewide elk hunter success was 24 percent in 2018, and we see no signs of a dramatic change in 2019.

However, that’s not to say everything is exactly how Fish and Game, or hunters, want it. Our elk herds are still struggling in some of our backcountry and wilderness areas, and we’re experiencing herds that are growing so large in some areas that they are pushing the boundaries of social tolerance.

Fish and Game is increasing elk hunting opportunity in some areas — including general, either-sex elk hunts, “over-the-counter” cow tags and generous antlerless controlled hunts — to reduce private land conflicts. These hunts are being done in conjunction with prevention measures aimed to reduce crop depredation caused by deer and elk on private lands.

Idaho’s deer herds are also healthy and abundant, and checking in with deer hunters about deer management is one of my top priorities. Fish and Game is in the process of updating its long-term management plans for mule deer and whitetails, and as always, we need your input to determine how best to manage deer hunting in the future.

White-tailed deer herds remain abundant and annual harvest levels have only slightly decreased since producing a record harvest of 30,568 whitetails in 2015.

Mule deer are rebounding from the tough winter in 2016-17, and we are increasing antlerless hunts for youth in some areas to reflect those gains while maintaining antlered-only hunts in other areas to hopefully grow those herds.

The Commission also approved more opportunities for wolf hunters and trappers. By incrementally adding more opportunity for wolf hunting and trapping, the Fish and Game Commission and Department strive to better manage a wolf population at a level that balances long-term persistence with reduced conflicts with livestock, and also maintain big game herds at levels that provide ample hunting opportunities.

Thank you for supporting Idaho Fish and Game and wildlife conservation in Idaho, and I wish you happy hunting, fishing and trapping in 2019 and beyond.

Ed Schriever, Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Wildlife Policy

“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.”

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Brad Corkill, Panhandle
Daniel Blanco, Clearwater
Tim Murphy, Southwest
Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
Lane Clezie, Southeast
Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
Jerry Meyers, Salmon

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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208-334-3700 • idfg.idaho.gov

Ed Schriever, Director
Scott Reinecker, Deputy Director
Paul Kline, Deputy Director

Regional Offices

Panhandle Region ..............................................208-769-1414
2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d’Alene ID 83815

Clearwater Region .............................................208-799-5010
3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501

Southwest Region .............................................208-465-8465
3101 S. Powerline Rd., Nampa ID 83686
15950 N. Gate Blvd., Nampa ID 83687* *(new address effective June 2019)

McCall Subregion .............................................208-634-8137
555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638

Magic Valley Region ...........................................208-324-4359
324 S 417 E.; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338

Southeast Region ..............................................208-232-4703
1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204

Upper Snake Region ..........................................208-525-7290
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401

Salmon Region ..................................................208-756-2271
99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

• In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
• By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
• From your computer or mobile device, go to idfg.idaho.gov. A service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.
• Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.
Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.

Other Information Numbers

Rules booklets, nonresident license applications: 208-334-3700
U. S. Forest Service:
Southern Idaho .............................................fs.usda.gov/r4
Northern Idaho .............................................fs.usda.gov/r1

Bureau of Land Management: blm.gov/idaho
Idaho Relay Service (TDD) ................................1-800-377-3529

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife. The official rules are available at adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current or from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran’s status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

2019 Big Game-1st Edition/BOC/pca 41918/4-2019/325,000 ROP/GG
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GETTING STARTED

To use this brochure:
This brochure covers only seasons and rules for hunting deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion and gray wolf. Separate brochures contain information about hunting upland game, turkey, furbearer and falconry; waterfowl, crow, dove and sandhill crane; and moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat.

- Pick the species you want to hunt, then refer to the section on that animal.
- Refer to the map on pages 84 and 85 to find an area to hunt.
- Find the unit numbers on the map and look up the seasons and restrictions for those units.

Big game hunting in Idaho is regulated by numbered game management units. For a map of Fish and Game regions and game management units see pages 84 and 85

General seasons for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer and white-tailed deer are arranged by units. Some seasons labeled regular deer include mule deer and white-tailed deer, other seasons are labeled white-tailed deer only or mule deer only.

General seasons for elk are arranged by larger areas called elk management zones, which are made up of one or more game management units. For a map of elk zones see page 33.

General hunting and trapping seasons for gray wolf are located on pages 78 - 81.

Controlled hunts are listed by hunt numbers for controlled hunt areas, which consist of parts of one or more game management units.

Controlled hunt areas are different for each species. For example deer are not the same as controlled hunt areas for elk, pronghorn or black bear.

For an explanation of controlled hunts and how to apply, see pages 108 - 112. When picking a controlled hunt, make sure to use the hunt number from the current year’s rule book.

Detailed big game hunting rules and restrictions begin on page 97. License requirements and fees begin on page 114.

Notes on licenses and tags:
A hunting license is required to hunt. A trapping license is required to trap gray wolf. In addition, a tag is required for all big game species.

Got questions?
We are here to help. Call your nearest Fish and Game Office or visit us online at: idfg.idaho.gov.

WHAT’S NEW?

Hunt boundaries near agricultural lands: Definition changed to better focus harvest to address depredations on agricultural fields in some deer and elk hunts.
Remember to get permission before hunting on private land! See page 2.

Mule Deer
Unit 73: A nonresident tag limit of 240 tags was set in the unlimited controlled antlered hunt.

White-tailed Deer
Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19 and 20: Nonresident tags used as second tags cannot be used for the general deer hunts.

Units 16A, 17, 19 and 20: General white-tailed deer hunts were reduced and will now run from Oct 10 through Nov 18.

Elk
Elk City Zone: A cap was established on A Tags with 628 tags first-come, first-served, and the B tag cap was reduced 20 percent to 1,432 tags available.
Pioneer, Smoky- Bennett, South Hills and Snake River Zone: In all or a portion of these elk zones, general capped B Tags have been put in place to provide antlerless hunting opportunity.
Snake River Zone: Removed general hunting opportunity in Unit 63 and replaced with two unlimited controlled hunts, an either sex hunt Aug 1 to Aug 30 and an antlerless only hunt Sep 1 to Dec 31.

Black Bear
Southwest Region: Controlled hunts will continue in units where they have traditionally been while increasing season lengths, youth hunting opportunity and tag numbers.

Mountain Lion
Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5 and 6 seasons were lengthened.
Southeast Region: Female quotas were increased and new male lion harvest quotas were created.

Gray Wolf
Units 22, 24, 31, and all units in the Salmon Region: Beginning July 1, 2019, wolf hunting was opened year-round on private land.
Units 8, 8A, 11, 11A, 31, 32, 34 and 35: New wolf trapping seasons were added.
Various Units in Southern Idaho: New private land-only trapping seasons were opened from Oct 10 to March 31.
Key Dates

- **May 1 - June 5:** First controlled hunt application period. Results posted at idfg.idaho.gov by July 10 and successful applicants will be notified by July 10.
- **August 1:** Deadline to buy controlled hunt tags (excluding unlimited tags), or those tags will be forfeited.
- **August 5 - 15:** Second controlled hunt application period: Successful applicants will be notified by August 25.
- **August 26, 2019:** Leftover tags from second drawing go on sale at 10 a.m. Mountain Time.
- **June 30:** Deadline for depredation hunt application, see page 112.
- For other important dates, see page 108.

Hunter Responsibilities

Seasons and rules may change after a booklet is printed. Changes or corrections are posted online at idfg.idaho.gov/rules.

Price Lock

In 2018 a fee increase went into effect. If you have purchased a license every year since 2017, you still pay 2017 prices. If not, you can still pay 2017 prices if you buy a 3-year license or a lifetime license. For more information, please visit: idfg.idaho.gov/pricelock.

Hunter Report

If you purchase a deer, elk, or pronghorn tag, you are required to file a Hunter Report for each tag you purchase - even if you did not hunt or did not harvest an animal. Reports must be filed within 10 days of harvest, or 10 days after the season. Report online at idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/report or call toll free 24 hours a day/7 days a week 1-877-268-9365 to speak to a live operator.

Citizens Against Poaching (CAP)

Call 1-800-632-5999 to report wildlife violators. Callers may remain anonymous and rewards are available.

Helicopter Surveys and Big Game Capture Operations

Hunters may encounter biologists conducting helicopter surveys and capture operations during late season hunts December through March. They will try to avoid flying where hunters are observed.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease has not been detected in Idaho, but Idaho Fish and Game actively monitors for the disease. For new rules and more information see page 31 and visit idfg.idaho.gov/cwd.

Motorized Hunt Rule

Know before you go. Avoid conflicts by following all travel management restrictions on lands where you hunt. See Pages 104 - 106.

Super Hunt

Buy a chance at a Super Hunt Tag, and help pay for more access to hunting and fishing. See page 120.

Hunt Planner

Pick a species, date and hunt unit to see all that you can hunt. Links to maps, apps and more. See page 101.

Ask First!

Idaho's trespass law changed in 2018 and now requires written permission or other lawful form of permission from landowners to access private property. See page 2 for ‘Permission Form’ and page 98 for more details.