

ATTENTION RESIDENT ELK HUNTERS



If you apply for a controlled elk hunt in 2020, you cannot buy a capped elk zone tag until five (5) days after they go on sale **regardless of whether you draw a controlled hunt elk tag.**

Elk controlled hunts exempt from the waiting period:

- Super Hunts
- Extra antlerless hunts
- Depredation hunts

For more information please visit <https://idfg.idaho.gov/ZZe>



IDAHO'S TRESPASS LAW

ASK FIRST

Know before you go!



Note - if private property adjoins or is contained within public lands, the fence line adjacent to public land should be posted with "no trespassing signs" or bright orange/fluorescent paint at the corners of the fence adjoining public land and at all navigable streams, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the private land from public land and posted in a way that people can see the postings.

It is illegal for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease.

Private posting at navigable streams shall not prohibit access to navigable streams below the high-water mark as allowed by Idaho law.

A property owner may revoke permission at any time. Any person must leave private property when asked to do so by the owner or agent.

A first conviction of trespass on private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses in addition to misdemeanor fine and seizure of animals taken on private property. Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.

Refer to Idaho Code 36-1603 and I.C. 18-7008.

Please visit: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/askfirst>

Permission Form

Permission given to (print):

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.

All persons must have written permission or other lawful form of permission to enter or remain on private land to shoot any weapon or hunt, fish, trap or retrieve game.

A person should know land is private and they are not allowed without permission because:

- The property is associated with a residence or business;
- OR cultivated;
- OR fenced or enclosed in a way that delineates the private property;
- OR unfenced and uncultivated, but is posted with conspicuous "no trespassing" signs or bright orange/fluorescent paint at all property corners and boundaries where the property intersects navigable streams, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land and posted in a way that people can see the postings.



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 a controlled hunt. For many, like myself, hunting in Idaho provides the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor activity with friends and family that we are all passionate about. Hunting also provides some of our most memorable experiences and is the foundation of many family traditions that span generations.

I want to assure you that we at Fish and Game understand how important big game hunting is to you, and we are committed to providing professional wildlife management and quality hunting. Idaho's big game hunting provides sustainable use of some of Idaho's most precious natural resources.

Fish and Game continues to innovate at managing Idaho's wildlife, most recently through new survey methods based on game cameras. Cameras placed throughout the state took more than 11 million photos last year, allowing researchers and biologists to make the first comprehensive and statewide wolf population estimate. This ground-breaking methodology will also allow population estimates for difficult-to-survey animals, such as moose, and deer and elk herds in areas with dense forests and thick brush where traditional aerial surveys have not been feasible.

We know harvesting healthy, organic meat is an important part of hunting, and why many new hunters are joining our ranks. Idaho hunters sustainably harvest well over 10 million pounds of wild game meat annually. Processing game meat and enjoying great meals from the animals we harvest allows people to enjoy the benefits of hunting long after the trip is over.

Idaho's big game populations are in good shape, and in some cases, near historic levels. Our statewide elk harvest in 2019 exceeded 20,000 animals for sixth straight year, which is second only to a nine-year streak above 20,000 elk that occurred from 1988 to 1996.

However, that's not to say everything is exactly how Fish and Game, or hunters, want it. Our elk herds still struggle in some of our backcountry and wilderness areas, and we're also seeing elk herds expanding so much in some areas that they are pushing the boundaries of social tolerance.

Fish and Game is increasing elk hunting opportunity in some of those areas — including general, either-sex elk hunts, “over-the-counter” cow tags and generous antlerless controlled hunts. This is an ongoing effort to bring expanding elk herds back to population objectives called for in the statewide elk plan, and to reduce private-land conflicts. These hunts are being done in conjunction with preventative measures aimed at reducing crop damage.

Overall, Idaho's deer herds are healthy and abundant. White-tailed deer herds remain strong and annual harvest levels have only slightly decreased since setting a record harvest of 30,568 whitetails in 2015.

Mule deer are rebounding from a tough winter in 2016-17, and wildlife managers have resumed antlerless hunts for youth in some areas to reflect those gains while maintaining antlered-only hunts in other areas to grow herds.

The Fish and Game Commission has also approved more opportunities for wolf hunters and trappers. By incrementally adding more wolf hunting and trapping, the Commission and department strive to better manage Idaho's 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.

To address concerns from Idaho resident hunters, the Fish and Game Commission and the department will take actions to reduce crowding in some popular big game hunting areas by reducing nonresident opportunities for deer and elk. The Idaho Legislature in early 2020 also approved the first nonresident fee increase in more than a decade, which will take effect for the 2021 hunting season.

Thank you for supporting Idaho Fish and Game and wildlife conservation in Idaho, and I wish you happy hunting, fishing and trapping in 2020 and beyond.

Ed Schriever, Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game



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
Vacant, Clearwater
- Tim Murphy, Southwest
- Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
- Lane Clezie, Southeast
- Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
- Jerry Meyers, Salmon

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

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
15950 N. Gate Blvd., Nampa ID 83687
- 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

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.

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/buy**. 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.

Other Information

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

To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



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.

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.

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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.

2020 HUNTING SEASON

WHAT'S NEW?

Attention Resident Elk Hunters

If you apply for a controlled elk hunt in 2020, you cannot buy a capped elk zone tag until five (5) days after they go on sale regardless of whether you draw a controlled hunt elk tag. See page 2 for more details.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

No person may import any deer, elk or moose carcass from another state or Canadian province that has any documented case of CWD. See page 31 for processed meat and other exceptions.

Visit our website at idfg.idaho.gov/cwd to find status updates on CWD and the most up-to-date information and resources

Gray Wolf

Statewide hunter harvest limit for wolves increased to 15 wolves for calendar year. The statewide trapping harvest limit for wolves increased to 15 wolves per trapping season.

Many gray wolf hunting and trapping seasons have changed, see pages 78 - 82.

Use of diverters is no longer required but is recommended.

2021 Nonresident General Hunt Tag Limit May Change

Idaho Fish & Game Commission **may** establish a system to limit general tags available to nonresidents to not less than ten percent (10%) of the previous five (5) year average participation. See idfg.idaho.gov for most up-to-date information.

Nonresident Returned Tags

The process for designating a buyer for returned nonresident tag has been revised, see page 112.

Stay Up-to-Date

Stay up-to-date on important information by subscribing to our email updates. Go to idfg.idaho.gov, type in your email address under Stay Connected, and select the topics that interest you!

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Big Game 2020 Seasons and Rules 2nd Edition
July 2020– June 2021



Key Dates

- **May 1 - June 5:** First controlled hunt application period. Results posted at idfg.huntfishidaho.net 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, 2020:** 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/changes.



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.