

Idaho Big Game

2021 Seasons & Rules

1st Edition 2021



Mandatory Hunter Reports
are required from all deer, elk,
and pronghorn hunters.
See page 7 for more information.



Controlled Hunt Application Periods

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Fall Black Bear: May 1 - June 5
Spring Black Bear: January 15 - February 15

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn Seasons: August 2021 - February 2022
Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2021 - July 2022
Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2021 - June 2022

Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear

idfg.idaho.gov

ATTENTION RESIDENT ELK HUNTERS



If you apply for a controlled elk hunt in 2021, 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 idfg.idaho.gov/ZZe



IDAHO'S TRESPASS LAW

ASK FIRST

Know before you go!



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.

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: idfg.idaho.gov/askfirst



DIRECTOR SCHRIEVER'S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO

As director of Idaho Fish and Game, my priority is to maintain Idaho's high-quality hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. The department and the Fish and Game Commission work cooperatively through biological and social science to manage big game populations, provide excellent and wide-spread hunting opportunities and quality experiences.

Hunting provides myself, my family and friends an activity that we feel passionate about and provides memorable experiences that form the foundation of traditions that span generations. I assure you that we at Fish and Game understand how important big game hunting is to you as well, and we are committed to providing sustainable use of some of Idaho's most precious natural resources.

We also know harvesting healthy, organic meat is an important part of hunting. Idaho hunters sustainably harvest more than 10 million pounds of wild game meat annually, which allows people to enjoy the benefits of hunting long after the trip is over.

Hunts established in this proclamation represent a balance of the biological potential of our big game populations and the desires of hunters who pursue them. It also represents a balance among the diverse range of opportunities our hunters want. It's usually easier to determine the biological capacity to support hunting than providing all the opportunity the hunting public wants. When hunting demand exceeds game supply, or social capacity, the Commission asks hunters to consider choices and weighs the input of hunters in setting seasons.

The fall 2021 hunting season will be the first where nonresident, general-season deer hunters are required to choose one unit to hunt in, and the number of nonresident deer tags in those units will be limited. Nonresident A and B elk tags in general season elk zones without tag caps are also now limited by zone. These limits will ensure a more even distribution of nonresidents across these general deer and elk hunts. In general-hunt deer units and elk zones, these limits will ensure nonresident participation remain at 10 to 15 percent of the total hunters, and in a limited number of backcountry deer units, not increase more than the average of the last five years.

There are hundreds of hunts listed in this proclamation where you can simply buy a tag and go hunting, or apply for a controlled hunt and hope the drawing odds land in your favor. Before you learn about them, here are some highlights that I would like to share about our big game management as we head into the 2021-22 seasons:

- Herds are healthy and harvests are good. The 2020 Idaho elk and deer harvests were up about 10 percent and 11 percent from 2019, which was expected due to the combination of above-average winter survival and some favorable weather during hunting season.
- The total 2020 elk harvest was up about 12 percent from the 10-year average, whitetail harvest was about even with its 10-year average. We are reducing cow elk harvest opportunity in the Smokey Bennett zone as the previous hunting season successfully returned that population within biological objectives.
- Mule deer harvest was about 11 percent below the 10-year average. That was due in part to Fish and Game offering fewer antlerless permits in an effort to produce and sustain more breeding-age does and help mule deer herds rebound as quickly as possible. Further reductions in antlerless deer hunting have been adopted in this proclamation, primarily in Eastern Idaho, and mule deer buck harvest opportunity has been reduced in the Panhandle region.
- The 2020 elk season marked the seventh straight year that Idaho hunters harvested more than 20,000 animals, due in part to growing elk herds and generous antlerless hunting opportunities.
- The department has partnered with University of Idaho to further survey resident hunters about crowding in an effort to learn resident hunters' preferences and ask their help to shape future seasons and address this topic.
- In 2020, more than 20,000 students graduated Idaho Hunter Education, which ensures the next generation of Idahoans understand the value of wildlife conservation and have the ability to enjoy a valued Idaho tradition and be part of our rich hunting heritage.

Thank you for supporting Idaho Fish and Game and wildlife conservation in Idaho, and I wish you happy hunting, fishing and trapping in 2021 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
- Don Ebert, Clearwater
- Tim Murphy, Southwest
- Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
- Lane Clezie, Southeast
- Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
- Ron Davies, Salmon

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 S. Walnut St., 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 **goutdoorsidaho.com**. 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.

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

Contacts, Regional Offices, Phone Numbers	4
What's New in 2021	6

Chronic Wasting Disease	8
--------------------------------	---

SEASONS

Deer Seasons and Hunts	10 - 32
-------------------------------	---------

Regular Deer Tag	11 - 15
White-tailed Deer Tag	17 - 20
Deer Controlled Hunts	21 - 32

Elk Seasons and Hunts	34 - 65
------------------------------	---------

General Seasons	36 - 49
Controlled Hunts	51 - 65

Pronghorn Seasons and Hunts	66 - 69
------------------------------------	---------

Black Bear Seasons and Hunts	71 - 76
-------------------------------------	---------

General Rules	71 - 72
Resident Second and Discounted Nonresident Tags	71
Bait	71 - 72
General Seasons & Controlled Hunts	72 - 76
Bear Identification	76

Mountain Lion Seasons and Hunts	77 - 79
----------------------------------------	---------

General Rules	77
Resident Second and Discounted Nonresident Tags	77
Seasons	78 - 79

Gray Wolf Seasons and Hunts	80 - 84
------------------------------------	---------

General Rules	80 - 82
Hunting & Trapping Seasons	82 - 83

Big Game Unit Map	86 - 87
--------------------------	---------

Unit Boundary Descriptions	88 - 96
-----------------------------------	---------

BIG GAME RULES

General Wildlife Laws	97 - 99
------------------------------	---------

Hunting Hours	97
Bag and Possession Limit	97
Mandatory Report Requirements	97
Waste of Game	97
Wounding and Retrieving	97
Electronic Calls	97
It is Unlawful	97 - 98
Areas Closed to Big Game Hunting	98
Trespass Law	98
Using Blinds on Public Land- BLM	98
Possession and Sale of Wildlife Parts	99
Possession and Sale of Wildlife Found Dead	99
Recovery, Possession and Sale of Bighorn Sheep Horns	99
Furbearers	99
Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife	99
Protected Nongame, Threatened or Endangered Species	99
Livestock Health Certificate Requirement	99

Weed-Free Hay Requirements	99
Wildlife Violator Compact	99
Boundary Waters Reciprocal Agreement	99

Weapon Restrictions	100 - 101
----------------------------	-----------

Rifle, Shotgun and Airgun	100
Short Range Weapons	100
Muzzleloader Only Season, Caliber Requirement	100
Archery Equipment, Archery Only Season	100 - 101
Airguns	101

Hound Hunting Rules	101
----------------------------	-----

Dogs	101
Hound Hunter Permits	101

Tagging and Transporting Game	102
--------------------------------------	-----

How to Properly Validate a Tag	102
Proper Tagging and Transportation	102
Transportation by Another, by Proxy	102
Preserving Evidence of Sex and Species	102

Roads, Trails, Motor Vehicles and Wildlife	104 - 107
---------------------------------------------------	-----------

What You Need to Know	104
Motorized Hunting Rules and Restrictions	104 - 106
Highway Rights-of-Way	107

Controlled Hunts, Special Hunts and Permits	108 - 112
----------------------------------------------------	-----------

Ways to Apply, Eligibility	108
Controlled Hunt Application	109
Refunds and Overpayment	110
Drawing Results	110
Purchasing Deadline	110
Leftover Controlled Hunts	110
Extra and Unlimited Controlled Hunts	110
Tag Designation to Youth	111

Youth Only, Depredation, and Landowner	111
-----------------------------------------------	-----

Youth Only Hunts	111
Depredation Hunts	111
Landowner Permission Hunts	111
Idaho National Laboratory Elk and Pronghorn Permit	111
Landowner Appreciation Program Tags	111

Other Tag Information	112
------------------------------	-----

Exchanging Deer or Elk Tags	112
Junior Resident General Elk Tag	112
Nonresident Deer or Elk Tag for Black Bear, Mountain Lion or Gray Wolf	112
Resident Purchase of Nonresident Deer or Elk Tag	112
Nonresident Tag Quotas	112

LICENSE, TAG AND PERMIT FEES

Licenses, Tags and Permits	114 - 115
Resident License, Tag and Permit Fees	116 - 117
Nonresident License, Tag and Permit Fees	118 - 119
Depredation Hunt Application	119

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 86 and 87 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 86 and 87.

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 35.

General hunting and trapping seasons for gray wolf are located on pages 80 - 83.

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.

2021 HUNTING SEASON

WHAT'S NEW?

Mule Deer

Antlerless seasons have changed in west-central and eastern Idaho, particularly for youth-only general seasons, see pages 11-27.

Pronghorn

All unlimited controlled archery pronghorn hunts are now first choice only. Hunters may only apply for these controlled hunts as their first choice and will no longer be able to draw this tag as a second choice.

Beginning July 1, 2021 any person drawn for a controlled pronghorn hunt (including either sex and doe and fawn) is not eligible to apply the following year for any controlled pronghorn hunt. See page 108 for more information and exceptions.

Black Bear

Black bear controlled hunt seasons have changed in west-central Idaho. Portions of units 22, 31, and 32A now include a general hunting season and allow for the use of bait and hounds, see pages 71-75.

Mountain Lion

Male and female mountain lion quotas have been removed statewide. Mandatory check of all harvested mountain lions remains.

Electronic calls may be used statewide, except the use of calls are limited in units 1, 60, 60A, 61, 62, and 62A to avoid potential conflicts with grizzly bears, see pages 77-79.

Gray Wolf

Wolf hunting seasons are now year-round in many units, see page 82.

Wolf trapping season in many units now begins Sept 10 and includes year-round trapping on private land, see page 83.

2021 Nonresident General Hunt Tag Limit

Idaho Fish & Game Commission has established a system to limit general tags available to nonresidents, see page 9.

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 2021 Seasons and Rules 1st Edition
July 2021- June 2022



Key Dates

- **May 1 - June 5:** First controlled hunt application period. Results posted at gooutdoorsidaho.com 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 25, 2021:** Leftover tags from second drawing go on sale at 10 a.m. Mountain Time.
- **June 30:** Deadline for depredation hunt application, see page 111.
- 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.



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 8 and visit idfg.idaho.gov/cwd.



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.



2021 Nonresident General Hunt Tag Limit

New system to limit general tags available to nonresidents. See page 9.



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 79.



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.