



## ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS

Below is a summary of the 2025 bear hunting regulations. Hunters should be familiar with all game laws and regulations prior to hunting.

### **IMPORTANT: PREMOLAR TOOTH COLLECTION AND TAG VALIDATION ARE REQUIRED FOR 2025.**

Place a stick or other object between the roof of the bear's mouth and lower jaw, so that the mouth remains open with the premolar accessible for removal. Do not present frozen skulls to have the tooth removed. Premolars break easily when the skull is frozen.

If you harvest a bear with a GPS collar, please return the collar to your local CDFW Regional Office or to CDFW Headquarters at 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento. The collar contains important information regarding CDFW's statewide black bear monitoring effort.

### **BEAR SEASONS FOR 2025**

**ARCHERY:** Archery season in all bear zones runs August 16 - September 7, 2025.

**GENERAL:** General bear season opens concurrently with general deer seasons in deer zones A, B, C, D, X8, X9A, X9B, X10, and X12. Please see 2025 California Mammal Hunting Regulations for opening dates. For those portions of zones X1, X2, X3a, X4, X6a, X6b, X7a, and X7b open to bear hunting, the general bear season opens on October 11. Bear season will **close** on December 28, 2025 or **EARLIER** if the Department determines that 1,700 bears have been reported taken. This includes bears harvested during the archery season.

### **DAILY UPDATES ON REPORTED BEAR HARVEST**

For daily count of bears reported taken, please visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear) or call (888) 277- 6398.

### **RETENTION OF BEAR SKIN AND EARS REQUIREMENT**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 4757, any person taking any bear must retain in their possession the skin and portion of the head bearing the ears during the open season thereon, and for 15 days thereafter. The skin and the portion of the head must be produced upon the demand of any authorized CDFW staff/officer.

### **MANDATORY PRESENTATION OF BEAR SKULL**

Pursuant to California Code of Regulation (CCR), Title 14, Section 708.12, successful bear hunters must have the bear tag countersigned by CDFW staff only. Bear tags must be countersigned prior to transporting the bear, except for the purpose of taking the bear to the nearest person authorized to validate the tag on route to your home from the point where the bear was taken. If CDFW offices are closed, the bear tag shall be validated within one business day of transporting the bear from the point where taken.

Pursuant to CCR, Title 14, Section 367.5, any person who takes a bear shall present the skull (even if damaged) to a CDFW office/officer within 10 days of taking the bear.

### **ALL BEAR TAG HOLDERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A HARVEST REPORT.**

Successful bear hunters must report their bear tag immediately after the tag is validated. Harvest reporting may be completed online at [www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales](http://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales) or by mail to the address printed on the bear tag.

Bear tag holders are required to complete and submit a harvest report whether they are successful, unsuccessful or did not hunt. Harvest reporting may be completed online or mailed to the address printed on the bear tag no later than February 1, 2026. If you fail to report or return your 2025 bear tag, even if you did not hunt or harvest a bear, you will be in violation of 708.12(d).

Please provide answers to the hunter effort questions on the bear tag. The information is just as important for unsuccessful hunters as it is for successful hunters.

**Guides:** If you use a guide, the guide must give you his/ her guide license number and describe the services to be performed before the hunting trip. You must write your guide's license number on your bear tag.

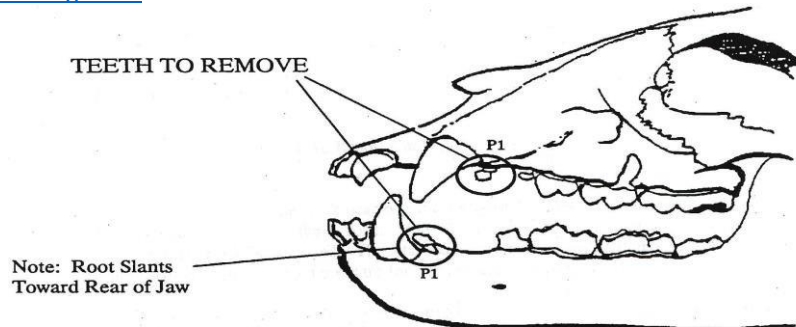
**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE ALL EDIBLE PORTIONS OF YOUR BEAR ARE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD. CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITS THE WASTE OF MEAT. DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR GUIDE (IF APPLICABLE) PRIOR TO HUNTING.**

It is illegal to sell bear parts in California. However, you have the right to retain any and all bear parts of the bear you take, except the skull which becomes the property of CDFW.

## BEAR TOOTH EXTRACTION

All CDFW offices will validate bear tags and extract teeth.

The CDFW is requiring a premolar tooth be extracted from EVERY bear taken during the hunting season. This will provide wildlife biologists with demographic information to inform bear management. The premolar tooth will be processed by cutting it in cross section and examining it under a microscope. The bear's age can then be determined by counting annual growth rings, similar to tree rings. Information on age of harvested bears through tooth aging will be posted online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Bear).



### CALL AHEAD BEFORE BRINGING YOUR TAG AND BEAR SKULL TO A CDFW OFFICE

Please call the following locations for an appointment to have your bear tag validated and tooth pulled. Please leave your bear skull in your vehicle until you check in for your appointment. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, office availability may vary so please be sure to call ahead.**

Region 1, Redding.....	(530) 225-2300
Region 2, Rancho Cordova.....	(916) 358-2900
Region 3, Fairfield .....	(707) 428-2002
Region 4, Fresno .....	(559) 243-4005 Ext. 132 or 133
Region 5, San Diego .....	(858) 467-4201
Region 6, Ontario .....	(909) 484-0167
Region 7, Monterey .....	(831) 649-2870
Bishop .....	(760) 872-1171
Crystal Lake Hatchery .....	(530) 335-4111
Darrah Springs Hatchery .....	(530) 474-3141
Eureka.....	(707) 445-6493
Feather River Hatchery .....	(530) 538-2222
Iron Gate Hatchery .....	(530) 475-3420
Kern River Hatchery .....	(760) 376-2846
La Grange .....	(209) 853-2533 Ext. 6
Los Alamitos.....	(562) 342-7100
Los Banos Wildlife Area .....	(209) 826-0463
Mad River Fish Hatchery .....	(707) 822-0592
Mendota Wildlife Area .....	(559) 655-4645
Merced River Hatchery.....	(209) 563-6410
Moccasin Hatchery .....	(209) 989-2312
Mokelumne River Hatchery .....	(209) 759-3383
Mt. Shasta Hatchery.....	(530) 926-2215
Red Bluff Screen Shop.....	(530) 528-9406
Shasta Valley Wildlife Area .....	(530) 459-3926
Stockton .....	(209) 234-3420
Trinity River Hatchery.....	(530) 778-3931
Warm Springs Hatchery .....	(707) 433-6325
Yreka.....	(530) 598-6820