



# ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BEAR TAGS AND BEAR TEETH IS CRITICAL TO EVALUATE THE STATUS OF THE STATE'S BEAR POPULATION AND TO INFORM FUTURE HUNTING REGULATIONS. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE MAMMAL HUNTING REGULATIONS AND CAREFULLY COMPLETE ALL PORTIONS OF YOUR BEAR TAG. OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A HEALTHY, HUNTABLE BEAR POPULATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

All bear hunters are required to return their bear tags whether or not they are successful. Please answer the questions on the bear tag to the best of your ability even if you are unsuccessful in taking a bear because information from unsuccessful hunters is just as important as successful hunters. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will close the bear hunting season immediately if it determines that 1,700 bears have been reported taken. This includes bears harvested during the archery season. For your convenience, here is a summary of the 2018 hunting regulations. You should be familiar with all game laws prior to hunting.

## BEAR SEASONS FOR 2018

**ARCHERY:** August 18, 2018 – September 9, 2018

**GENERAL:** General bear season opens concurrently with general deer season in the A, B, C, D, X8, X9A, X9B, X10 and X12 deer hunting zones. See 2018 California Mammal Hunting Regulations for opening dates. In the remaining deer hunting X zones, bear season begins October 13, 2018.

**Bear season will close on December 30, 2018**

**OR EARLIER**

**If the Department determines that 1,700 bears have been reported taken.**

## FOR DAILY UPDATES ON REPORTED BEAR HARVEST, CALL TOLL-FREE

**(888) 277 - 6398 or visit**

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/bear/harvest.html>

## MANDATORY PRESENTATION OF BEAR SKULL

Any person who takes a bear shall present the skull (even if damaged) to a Department office/officer within 10 days of taking the bear. The skull shall become the property of the Department. The portion of the skull not needed for scientific purposes will be returned. (Section 367.5, Title 14 of the CCR) Please see appointment section and office phone numbers below.

**IMPORTANT!** Place a stick or other object in the bear's jaws so that the mouth remains open with the premolar accessible. **Do not** present frozen skulls to have the premolar tooth removed. Premolars break easily when the skull is frozen.

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD BEFORE BRINGING YOUR BEAR SKULL TO A DEPARTMENT OFFICE.**

## BEAR TAG VALIDATION AND TOOTH EXTRACTION

If you kill a bear, you must have the tag countersigned (validated) by a Department of Fish and Wildlife employee or through the online harvest reporting. Bear tags must be validated prior to transporting the bear, except for the purpose of taking the bear to the nearest person authorized to validate the tag en route to your home from the point where the bear was taken. All Department of Fish and Wildlife offices will validate bear tags and extract teeth but tags can also be validated through online harvest reporting. If Department offices are closed, the bear tag shall be validated within one business day of transporting the bear from the point where taken. The report card portion must be returned immediately after tag validation.

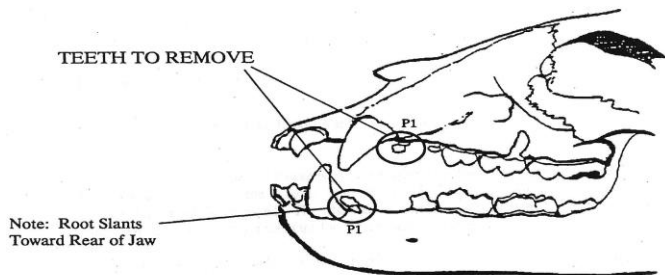
The Department is requiring a premolar tooth be extracted from EVERY bear taken during the hunting season. This will provide wildlife biologists with sufficient information to refine bear management. The premolar tooth will be processed by cutting it in cross section and examining it under a microscope. 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).



## POACHING

**THE ILLEGAL TAKE OF BLACK BEARS AFFECTS ALL CALIFORNIANS.** If you have witnessed a poaching incident or any fish or wildlife violation or have information about such a violation, dial the toll-free Department of Fish and Wildlife phone number **1-(888)-334-2258**. You may call **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**.

- You need not give your name and you won't be asked to testify.
- If your information leads to an arrest, you may receive a reward of up to \$1,000.00.
- Remember, the future of bear hunting in California depends on you.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Whether or not you are successful, all bear tags must be reported online or returned to the Department of Fish and Wildlife no later than February 1, 2019. If you fail to report or return your 2018 bear tag, even if you did not kill a bear, you will be in violation of Section 708.12(d), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

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

## BEAR TAG VALIDATION AND TOOTH EXTRACTION APPOINTMENTS

If you cannot locate a Department employee, please call one of the offices listed below and they will provide assistance.

All Department of Fish and Wildlife offices will validate bear tags.

Please call the following locations for an appointment to have your bear tag validated and/or a tooth pulled. Please leave your bear skull in your vehicle until you check in for your appointment.

License and Revenue Branch (Sacramento) .....	(916) 928-5805
Region 1, Redding .....	(530) 225-2300
Region 2, Rancho Cordova .....	(916) 358-2900
Region 3, Yountville .....	(707) 944-5500
Region 4, Fresno .....	(559) 243-4005 Ext. 132 or Ext. 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) 596-3885
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
Red Bluff Field Office.....	(530) 529-7162
Shasta Valley Wildlife Area.....	(530) 459-3926
Trinity River Hatchery .....	(530) 778-3931
Warm Springs Hatchery.....	(707) 433-6325
Yreka Screen Shop.....	(530) 841-2555

**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 the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

