

Emergency Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 700.1, Title 14 CCR, is added to read:

§ 700.1. California Free Hunting Days.

(a) Definitions:

(1) "Free Hunting Day Registration" is a license available only to an authorized unlicensed hunter for use on the two designated free hunting days of the license year for which the registration is issued.

(2) "Authorized Unlicensed Hunter" is a California resident who holds a free hunting day registration.

(3) "Licensed Supervising Hunter" is a hunter accompanying an authorized unlicensed hunter who holds a valid California hunting license and is at least 21 years old.

(b) An authorized unlicensed hunter shall be eligible to participate in free hunting days for only one license year and shall not be eligible to obtain a free hunting day registration for any other license year.

(c) The department shall issue a free hunting day registration to hunt on free hunting days to any California resident who submits to the department all the information required to obtain an annual California hunting license pursuant to sections 700.3 and 700.4 and provides evidence of completing a course in hunter education as required in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Fish and Game Code Section 3050.

(d) Authorized unlicensed hunters must have in their possession while hunting: a free hunting day registration to hunt for the license year issued, any required tags, validations, report cards, federal entitlements and any required entry permits. Authorized unlicensed hunters must have a wild pig tag or wild pig validation in their possession while hunting wild pig.

(e) Authorized unlicensed hunters participating in free hunting days shall take only upland and migratory game birds as defined in sections 300 and 502; resident small game as defined in Section 257; furbearing mammals as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 4000; nongame mammals as defined in Section 472; and wild pigs as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 4650.

(f) Authorized unlicensed hunters hunting pursuant to this section are subject to all requirements, limitations, restrictions, conditions, statutes, rules, and regulations applicable to the holder of a valid hunting license, except the following:

(1) The requirement to possess a valid hunting license pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3031.

(2) The requirement to possess an upland game bird hunting validation pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3682.1.

(3) The requirement to possess a state duck hunting validation pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3700.1.

(g) An authorized unlicensed hunter, 12 years of age or older, in possession of a free hunting day registration may purchase one wild pig tag or wild pig validation pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 4654.

(h) A free hunting day registration, as used by an authorized unlicensed hunter participating in free hunting days, does not authorize the possessor to apply for any drawing for any tag, reservation, or other hunting opportunity where an annual hunting license is required to apply.

(i) An authorized unlicensed hunter must be accompanied by a licensed supervising hunter, with the following conditions:

(1) A licensed supervising hunter must only accompany one authorized unlicensed hunter.

(2) The licensed supervising hunter must remain in close visual and verbal contact with the authorized unlicensed hunter at all times.

(3) The licensed supervising hunter must provide adequate direction to the authorized unlicensed hunter and assume control of a firearm or other legal method of take being used, as specified in Fish and Game Code 3040.

(j) Exact dates of the two free hunting days will be designated by the director and published in annual publications of the department regarding current hunting regulations, as specified in Fish and Game Code 3040.

This section shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

Authority: Fish and Game Code Section 3040

Reference: Fish and Game Code Section 3040