



State of California - The Resources Agency

California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023 ZONE 6 SURPRISE VALLEY PRONGHORN HUNT HUNT OVERVIEW

Hunt dates

Hunt Code 765 Archery only Buck: August 5–13, 2023

Hunt Code 760 General Methods Buck and **766** Apprentice Either-Sex: August 19–27, 2023

CDFW contact:

Richard Shinn, Modoc Unit Biologist, 530-233-3581, Richard.Shinn@wildlife.ca.gov

Hunters are legally required to know and follow current [hunting regulations](#). Related regulations are listed later in this document.

Geography and maps

The terrain in this hunt zone can be very steep and rugged. The [Bureau of Land Management](#) has maps available, including Alturas and Cedarville. The [Modoc National Forest](#) offers the most comprehensive map. CDFW has an [interactive mapping program](#) that allows you to zoom into 7.5-minute topographical maps, view hunt zones and CDFW owned lands, and access other geographic data. A map of the hunt zone is also provided below.

Access

This zone contains a mixture of both public and private lands. There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access. The primary roadways are State Route 299 (central Zone 6) and County Road 1. Many county, Forest Service, and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands. Hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, and be well prepared. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Contact the [Forest Service](#) or [BLM](#) for information regarding closures, hunting access, fire danger, fire permits, and campgrounds.

Your pronghorn tag does not give you the authority to enter private property nor is it valid on Private Land Management (PLM) areas that harvest pronghorn. Pronghorn in this zone may be found on private property, which is open to pronghorn hunting only with **written permission** ([California FGC 2016](#)) from the landowner. Landowners have sole discretion over access to their property and **substantial access fees are likely**. CDFW **does not** have a list of landowners who offer private-land access.

Weather

The weather in this region is highly variable so **be prepared**. It is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunderstorms are not uncommon. Thunderstorms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.



Where to look for pronghorn

Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Pronghorn run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting pronghorn, keep the sun at your back while it is low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions. Binoculars, spotting scopes, gloves, knee and elbow padding can be great assets for observing pronghorn at long distances. It is possible to hunt them all day, however, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Pace yourself and concentrate hunting in the mornings and evenings. Popular areas to look for pronghorn are Snake Lake and Fee Reservoir. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.

Collared pronghorn

Some pronghorn within the hunt zone have been fitted with GPS collars to help CDFW collect information on pronghorn survival, habitat use, movements, and distributions that helps inform pronghorn conservation and management. If possible, please do **not** harvest collared pronghorn. In the event that you take a collared pronghorn, please contact the unit biologist listed at the top of this document immediately so CDFW can make arrangements to retrieve the collar. **Hunting regulations require collars to be returned to CDFW within 10 days of harvest ([Title 14 CCR §364\(n\)\(3\)](#)).**

Tooth collection

CDFW collects teeth from harvested animals for age determination. Successful hunters should remove only the two front teeth and return them using the provided envelope. **Do not wrap teeth in plastic or enclose in materials other than the provided envelope as this may cause teeth to rot.** Tooth-age results will be posted [online](#) as soon as possible, but may not be available until **2023 or later**.

Return pronghorn teeth samples by mail to:

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch — Elk and Pronghorn Program
PO Box 944029
Sacramento, CA 94244**

Tagging harvested animals, reporting on your hunt, and submitting samples

Successful hunters are required to completely fill out their tag and [tag their animal](#). Pronghorn tags do **not** need to be countersigned.

CDFW implores all pronghorn hunters to provide the most accurate harvest information possible. Information you provide will contribute to conservation and management of California's pronghorn herds, including for their continued recreational use and hunter opportunity. Harvest data are crucial for CDFW personnel to evaluate and modify harvest strategies, assess herd health, track pronghorn distributions, and recommend tag quota changes to the California Fish and Game Commission. For harvest locations, reporting a GPS



location is encouraged. [Online reporting](#) is ideal, but please use any method to report your hunt.

Care of meat

Improper handling of a carcass can lead to meat spoilage. Warm ambient temperatures and steep, rugged terrain within the hunt zone make it critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. Promote cooling by opening the neck area, hip joints, and shoulders of the carcass. You should be physically fit and prepared to skin and quarter or de-bone and pack out your pronghorn **immediately** after it is tagged. Meat should be hung in fly-proof, breathable sacks in the shade while you're still in the field. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need a minimum of four game sacks (six is better for loose cuts of meat), plenty of rope, a game hoist, a knife, a knife sharpener, and a pack frame. A meat saw or hatchet and a tarp also are recommended. Never lay meat directly on the bed of a truck because the exhaust system heats the bed and can lead to spoilage. It is suggested you place a pad or sleeping bag between the bed of the truck and the meat for insulation.

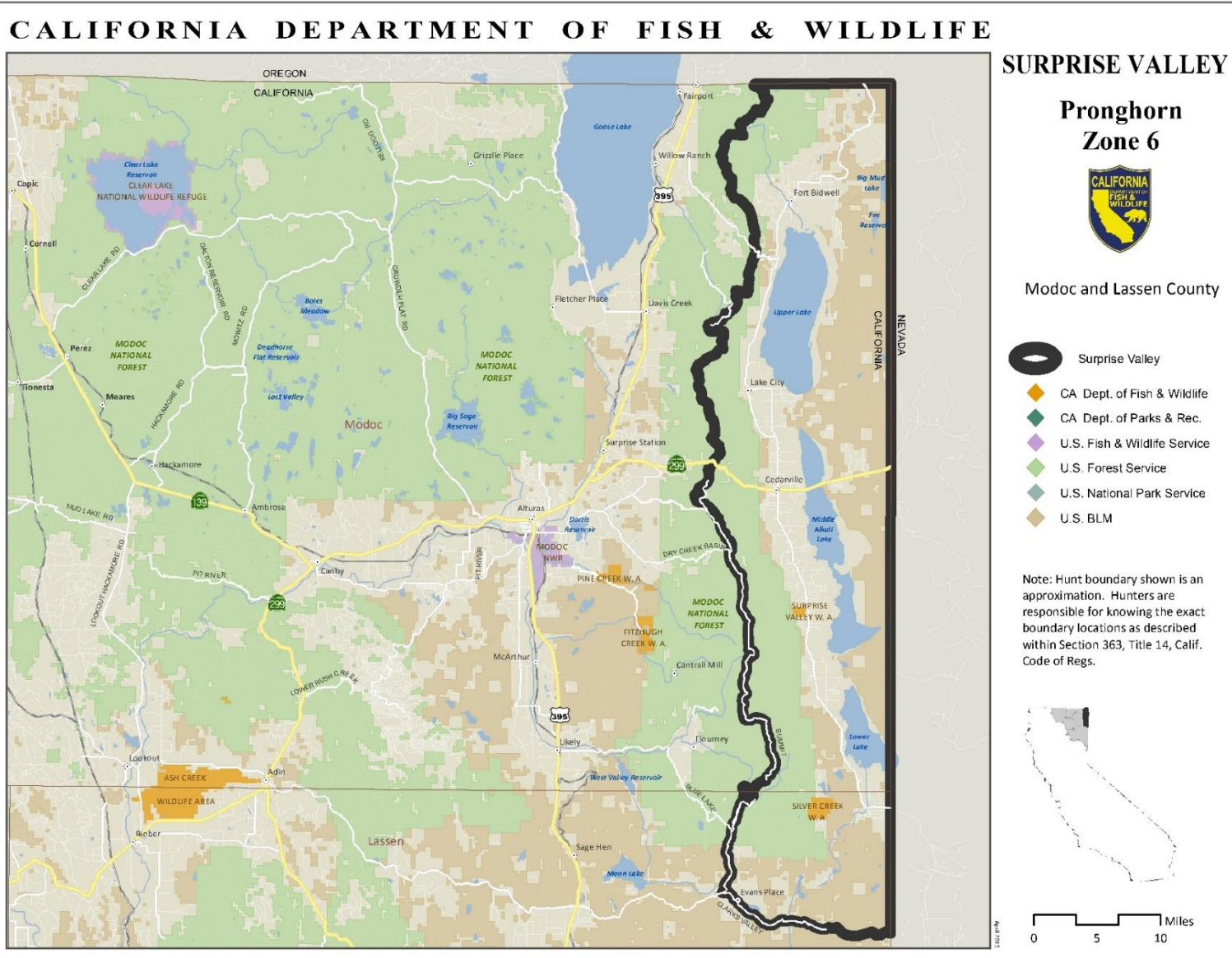
Failure to properly care for or remove all edible portions of a harvested animal can lead to a violation of the [California Fish and Game Code, §4304](#).

Additional information is available at the following links

- CDFW pronghorn hunting (zone maps, season dates, harvest success): <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Pronghorn>
- Fish and Game Laws and Hunting Regulations: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current>
- Online reporting: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales>
- CDFW pronghorn management, conservation, and tooth age data: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Pronghorn>
- California Big Game Hunting Digest: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest>
- Interactive map viewers: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/GIS/IMAPS>
- Report poachers and polluters to CalTip: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP>
- List of hunt guides: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/PublicListSearch/SelectPermitType>
- Modoc National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/modoc/>
- Bureau of Land Management Northern California: <https://www.blm.gov/office/northern-california-district-office>
- Bureau of Land Management Maps: <https://www.blm.gov/maps>



ZONE 6 SURPRISE VALLEY HUNT ZONE MAP





TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR)

§363. Pronghorn Antelope

(f) Zone 6 - Surprise Valley:

(1) Area: Those portions of Modoc and Lassen counties within a line beginning at the intersection of the crest of the Warner Mountains and the California-Oregon state line; east along the California-Oregon state line to the California-Nevada state line; south along the California-Nevada state line to the Tuledad-Clarks Valley Road; west and northwest along the Tuledad-Clarks Valley Road to the Clarks Valley-Long Valley Road; north on the Clarks Valley-Long Valley Road to the South Warner Road; east along the South Warner Road to the Summit Trail near Patterson Guard Station; north along the Summit Trail to the crest of the Warner Mountains at Pepperdine Camp; north along the crest of the Warner Mountains to the California-Oregon state line to the point of beginning.

(l) Conditions:

(1) Pronghorn antelope license tags do not give the tagholders the right of entry onto privately-owned lands.

(2) Buck pronghorn antelope are defined as pronghorn antelope with horns longer than the ears. Doe pronghorn antelope are defined as pronghorn antelope with horns shorter than the ears. Either-sex pronghorn antelope are defined as buck or doe pronghorn antelope.

(3) Shooting time shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

(4) Method of take:

(A) The holder of any archery-only pronghorn antelope license tag may only take pronghorn antelope using archery equipment, as defined in [Section 354](#) of these regulations.

(B) The holder of a general season, fund-raising hunt season, or junior hunt season license tag may take pronghorn antelope using legal firearms and archery equipment as described in sections [353](#) and [354](#) of these regulations.

(5) Any person taking any pronghorn antelope shall retain that portion of the head, which bears the horns during the open season and for 15 days thereafter, and shall produce it upon the demand of any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of these regulations.

(6) No person shall at any time capture or destroy any pronghorn antelope and detach or remove from the carcass only the head, hide or horns; nor shall any person at any time leave through carelessness or neglect any pronghorn antelope which is in his possession or any portion of the flesh thereof usually eaten by humans, to go needlessly to waste.

(7) Prior to the acceptance or issuance of a pronghorn antelope license tag, all tagholders shall consent in writing to the terms and conditions set forth on the license tag.



§353. Methods Authorized for Taking Big Game

(a) It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take big game in violation of this section or [Section 250.1](#). The take or attempted take of any big game (as defined by [Section 350](#) of these regulations) with a firearm shall be in accordance with the use of **nonlead projectiles and ammunition pursuant to [Section 250.1](#)**. of these regulations.

(b) Definition. For purposes of this section, a projectile is any bullet, ball, sabot, slug, buckshot or other device which is expelled from a firearm through a barrel by force. The following definitions shall apply:

(1) A softnose or expanding projectile is a bullet designed to increase from its original diameter, commonly referred to as "mushrooming", and retain a significant part of its original weight upon impact with, or when passing through the tissues of an animal.

(2) Projectiles commonly referred to as "frangible" bullets, designed to disintegrate upon impact with, or when passing through the tissues of an animal are not softnose or expanding projectiles.

(c) Except for the provisions of the following subsections (d) through (j), big game may only be taken by rifles using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles; bow and arrow (see [Section 354](#) of these regulations for archery equipment regulations); or wheellock, matchlock, flintlock or percussion type, including "in-line" muzzleloading rifles using black powder or equivalent black powder substitute, including pellets, with a single projectile loaded from the muzzle and at least .40 caliber in designation

(d) Shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing single slugs may be used for the taking of deer, bear and wild pigs. In areas where the discharge of rifles or shotguns with slugs is prohibited by county ordinance, shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing size 0 or 00 buckshot may be used for the taking of deer only.

(e) Pistols and revolvers using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles may be used to take deer, bear, and wild pigs.

(f) Pistols and revolvers with minimum barrel lengths of 4 inches, using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles may be used to take elk and bighorn sheep.

(g) Except as provided in [subsection 354\(j\)](#), crossbows may be used to take deer and wild pigs only during the regular seasons.

(h) Under the provisions of a muzzleloading rifle only tag, hunters may only possess muzzleloading rifles as described in [subsection 353\(a\)](#) equipped with open or "peep" type sights only except as described in [subsection 353\(k\)](#).

(i) Under the provisions of a muzzleloading rifle/archery tag, hunters may only possess muzzleloading rifles with sights as described in [subsection 353\(f\)](#); archery equipment as described in [Section 354](#); or both. For purposes of this subsection, archery equipment does not include crossbows, except as provided in [subsection 354\(j\)](#).

(j) Except as otherwise provided, while taking or attempting to take big game under the provisions of this section or [Section 354](#) of these regulations, it is unlawful to use any device or devices which: 1) throw, cast or project an artificial light or electronically alter or intensify a light source for the purpose of visibly enhancing an animal; or 2) throw, cast or project an artificial light or electronically alter or intensify a light source for the purpose of providing a



visible point of aim directly on an animal. Devices commonly referred to as "sniperscopes", night vision scopes or binoculars, or those utilizing infra-red, heat sensing or other non-visible spectrum light technology used for the purpose of visibly enhancing an animal or providing a visible point of aim directly on an animal are prohibited and may not be possessed while taking or attempting to take big game. Devices commonly referred to as laser rangefinders, "red-dot" scopes with self-illuminating reticles, and fiberoptic sights with self-illuminating sight or pins which do not throw, cast or project a visible light onto an animal are permitted.

(k) Unless provided in these regulations or any other law, it is unlawful to possess a loaded muzzleloading firearm in any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments which is standing on or along or is being driven on or along any public road or highway or other way open to the public. For the purposes of this section, a muzzleloading firearm shall be deemed to be loaded when it is capped or primed or has an electronic or other ignition device attached and has a powder charge and projectile or shot in the barrel or cylinder.

(l) Upon application to the department, the department may issue a Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit, free of any charge or fee, to any person with a physical disability, as defined in subsection (m), which prevents him/her from being able to focus on the target utilizing muzzleloading rifles equipped with open or "peep" sights. The Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit authorizes the disabled hunter to use a 1X scope on a muzzleloading rifle, as described in subsection (h), with a muzzleloading rifle only tag.

(1) Applications for a Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit, as specified in [Section 702](#) of these regulations shall be submitted to the department at the address specified on the application and shall include:

- (A) Applicant's name
- (B) Applicant's physical address
- (C) Applicant's date of birth
- (D) Applicant's Driver's License or DMV Number
- (E) Applicant's telephone number
- (F) Applicant's signature
- (G) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's name
- (H) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's business address
- (I) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's business telephone number
- (J) Medical Physician's State medical license number or Optometrist's State license number
- (K) A description of the visual disability requiring this permit
- (L) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's signature
- (M) Signature of the authorizing department employee and date issued

(2) The applicant must have a valid hunting license for the year for which he/she is applying.



(3) Proof of meeting eligibility requirements may be met by providing a previously issued Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit.

(4) The valid Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit shall be in the hunter's immediate possession while hunting and shall be shown on demand to any person authorized to enforce this regulation.

(5) The Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit is valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year or if issued after July 1 of the license year, it is valid beginning on the date issued through to the following June 30.

(m) For the purposes of this section a visual disability means a permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs the vision of a hunter, preventing the hunter from viewing and aligning the sights of a muzzleloading rifle with the target in order to hunt deer.

§354. Archery Equipment and Crossbow Regulations

(a) Bow, as used in these regulations, means any device consisting of a flexible material having a string connecting its two ends and used to propel an arrow held in a firing position by hand only. Bow, includes long bow, recurve or compound bow.

(b) Crossbow, as used in these regulations means any device consisting of a bow or cured latex band or other flexible material (commonly referred to as a linear bow) affixed to a stock, or any bow that utilizes any device attached directly or indirectly to the bow for the purpose of keeping a crossbow bolt, an arrow or the string in a firing position. Except as provided in [subsection 354\(j\)](#), a crossbow is not archery equipment and cannot be used during the archery deer season.

(c) For the taking of big game, hunting arrows and crossbow bolts with a broad head type blade which will not pass through a hole seven-eighths inch in diameter shall be used. Mechanical/retractable broad heads shall be measured in the open position. For the taking of migratory game birds, resident small game, furbearers and nongame mammals and birds any arrow or crossbow bolt may be used except as prohibited by subsection (d) below. Notwithstanding the general prohibition of the use of lights in [Fish and Game Code section 2005](#), arrows or crossbow bolts with lighted nocks that do not emit a directional beam of light may be used.

(d) No arrows or crossbow bolt with an explosive head or with any substance which would tranquilize or poison any animal may be used. No arrows or crossbow bolt without flu-flu fletching may be used for the take of pheasants and migratory game birds, except for provisions of [section 507\(a\)\(2\)](#).

(e) No arrow or crossbow bolt may be released from a bow or crossbow upon or across any highway, road or other way open to vehicular traffic.

(f) It shall be unlawful to use any bow or crossbow without a draw weight of at least 30 pounds for a bow or 125 pounds for a cross bow.

(g) Except as described in [subsection 354\(j\)](#), crossbows may not be used to take game birds and game mammals during archery seasons.



(h) Archers may not use or possess a firearm while in the field engaged in archery hunting during an archery season or while hunting during a general season under the provisions of an archery only tag except as provided in subsections (h)(1) or (h)(2).

(1) An archer may carry a firearm capable of being concealed on his or her person while engaged in the taking of big game other than deer with a bow and arrow in accordance with subdivision (h), but shall not take or attempt to take big game with the firearm.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the lawful possession of a firearm capable of being concealed on his or her person by an active peace officer listed in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code or a retired peace officer in lawful possession of an identification certificate issued pursuant to Penal Code Section 25455 authorizing the retired officer to carry a concealed firearm.

(i) No person may nock or fit the notch in the end of an arrow to a bowstring or crossbow string in a ready-to-fire position while in or on any vehicle.

(j) Upon application to the department, the department may issue a Disabled Archer Permit free of any charge or fee, to any person with a physical disability, as defined in [354\(k\)](#), which prevents him/her from being able to draw and hold a bow in a firing position. The Disabled Archer Permit authorizes the disabled archer to use a crossbow or device which holds a string and arrow in the firing position to assist in the taking of birds and mammals under the conditions of an archery tag or during archery season.

(1) Applications for a Disabled Archer Permit as specified in [Section 702](#) shall be submitted to the department at the address specified on the application and shall include:

(A) Applicant's name

(B) Applicant's physical address

(C) Applicant's date of birth

(D) Applicant's Driver's License or DMV Number

(E) Applicant's telephone number

(F) Applicant's signature

(G) Medical Physician's name

(H) Medical Physician's business address

(I) Medical Physician's business telephone number

(J) Medical Physician's State medical license number

(K) A description of the disabled archer's disability. The physician shall designate if the disability is permanent or temporary. If the disability is temporary, shall provide date the disability is expected to end.

(L) Medical Physician's signature

(M) Signature of the authorizing department employee and date issued



(2) Proof of meeting eligibility requirements may be met by providing a previously issued Disabled Archer Permit when the disability is still in effect.

(3) The valid Disabled Archer Permit shall be in the archer's immediate possession while hunting and shall be shown on demand to any person authorized to enforce this regulation.

(4) The Disabled Archer Permit is valid beginning July 1 through June 30 of the following year or if issued after July 1 of the license year, it is valid beginning on the date issued through to the following June 30. For any person with a permanent disability, the permit is valid through the end of the license year. A Disabled Archer Permit for a permit holder with a temporary disability that ends prior to the end of the license year is valid only through the date specified by his/her physician.

(k) For the purposes of this section a physical disability means, a person having a permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs one or both upper extremities preventing a hunter to draw and hold a bow in a firing position.

§708.10. Pronghorn Antelope License Tags, Application, Distribution and Reporting Procedures

(a) Fund-raising buck pronghorn antelope license tags:

Fund-raising license tags for the taking of buck pronghorn antelope shall be offered for sale for the purpose of raising funds for the management of pronghorn antelope. The department may conduct a random drawing to distribute fund-raising tags. Any resident or nonresident is eligible to buy one of the fund-raising license tags. The sale price of a fund-raising license tag includes the fee for processing and issuing an annual hunting license for the purchaser or any person designated by the purchaser. A fund-raising license tag distributed through a department random drawing does not include the fee for processing and issuing a hunting license. The purchasers shall be issued the fund-raising license tag only after meeting the hunter education requirements for a hunting license.

(b) Distribution of pronghorn antelope license tags:

(1) Applicants shall apply, and pay a nonrefundable processing fee as specified in [Section 702](#), through the department's Automated License Data System terminals at any department license agent or department license sales office on or before June 2 each year.

(2) Applicants shall be California residents or nonresidents, at least 12 years of age on or before July 1 of the license year for which they are applying. Applicants for the apprentice pronghorn antelope hunts shall hold a junior hunting license for the license year for which they are applying. Applicants shall possess an annual California hunting license that is valid during the pronghorn antelope season for which they are applying.

(3) Up to two residents may apply together as a party. Nonresidents may not apply as a party.

(4) Applicants shall apply for only one designated zone pursuant to [Section 363](#).

(5) No applicant shall submit more than one application per license year for a pronghorn antelope license tag.



(6) Incomplete, late and ineligible applications and applications submitted without the appropriate processing fee will not be included in the drawing and the applicant will not earn a preference point.

(7) Successful applicants and a list of alternates for each zone shall be determined by drawing within 10 business days following the application deadline date. If the drawing is delayed due to circumstances beyond the department's control, the department shall conduct the drawing at the earliest date possible.

(8) Not more than one nonresident shall be selected to receive a general license tag each year.

(9) Unsuccessful applicants shall not be notified by mail. Successful applicants will be mailed notification as soon as practical. Upon receipt of the notification, the applicant shall submit the appropriate tag fee, as specified in [Section 702](#), through the department's Automated License Data System terminals at any department license sales office. The tag fee shall be received by the department by 5:00 p.m. on July 15 each year. If the deadline to submit the fee falls on a weekend or holiday payment will be accepted until the close of business on the first state business day following the deadline to submit payment.

(10) Should the quota for each zone remain unfilled after that date, the alternate lists shall be used. Any tags unclaimed by successful applicants after that date shall be awarded to alternates for that zone, on an individual basis, in the order drawn.

(c) Tagholder Responsibilities:

(1) Only persons possessing valid pronghorn antelope license tags are entitled to hunt pronghorn antelope. Tags shall not be transferable and are valid only in the area, season, and period specified on the tag.

(A) All tag holders shall return the report card portion of their license tag to the department within one week after the close of the pronghorn antelope season, even though the tagholder may not have killed a pronghorn antelope.

(B) The holder of a pronghorn antelope license tag, after killing a pronghorn antelope, shall immediately fill out all portions of the tag including the report card completely, legibly, and permanently, and cut out or punch out and completely remove notches or punch holes for the month and date of the kill. The tag portion shall be immediately attached to a horn of buck pronghorn antelope or to an ear of doe pronghorn antelope and kept attached for 15 days after the close of the open season.

(C) The tagholder shall surrender his license tag to an employee of the department for any of the following reasons:

1. Any act on the part of the tagholder which violates any of the provisions of the Fish and Game Code, or any regulations of this commission.

2. Any act on the part of the tagholder which endangers the person or property of others. The decision of the department in such respects shall be final and binding upon the tagholder.



§730. Camping Near or Occupying Wildlife Watering Places

(a) Camping/Occupying Defined. For purposes of this Section, camping/occupying is defined as establishing or inhabiting a camp; resting; picnicking; sleeping; parking or inhabiting any motor vehicle or trailer; hunting; or engaging in any other recreational activity for a period of more than thirty (30) minutes at a given location.

(b) Wildlife Watering Places Defined. For purposes of this Section, wildlife watering places are defined as waterholes, springs, seeps and man-made watering devices for wildlife such as guzzlers (self-filling, in-the-ground water storage tanks), horizontal wells and small impoundments of less than one surface acre in size.

(c) Prohibitions

(1) Camping/Occupying is prohibited within 200 yards of the following:

(A) Any guzzler or horizontal well for wildlife on public land within the State of California.

(B) Any of the wildlife watering places on public land within the boundary of the California Desert Conservation Area as depicted on the Bureau of Land Management maps of "Calif. Federal Public Lands Responsibility," "Calif. Desert Conservation Area" and the new "Desert District, B.L.M."

(2) Camping/Occupying is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the following wildlife watering places:

(A) Butte Well--T31N, R14E, Section 28, NE1/4, M.D.B.M., Lassen County.

(B) Schaffer Well--T31N R14E, Section 25, Center, M.D.B.M., Lassen County.

(C) Tableland Well--T31N, R14E, Section 17, SE1/4, M.D.B.M., Lassen County.

(D) Table Mountain Well--T31N, R14E, Section 32, SE1/4, M.D.B.M., Lassen County.

(E) Timber Mountain Well--T44N, R6E, Section 33, M.D.B.M., Modoc National Forest, Modoc County.

(F) Belfast Well--T31N, R14E, Section 31, NE1/4, M.D.B.M., Lassen County.