California Department of Fish and Wildlife

NORTHEASTERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK HUNT

HUNT OVERVIEW

CDFW contacts

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Please note US Forest Service horse-management activities may overlap with hunting season, contact (530) 233-8713.

Hunters are legally required to know and follow current hunting regulations. Related regulations are listed later in this document.

Geography and maps

This hunt zone has highly variable terrain, ranging from heavily forested, steep, and rugged to high desert juniper-sage communities. Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, Modoc, and Lassen National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management Applegate field office have maps available online. 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. For access to elk data via the CDFW interactive mapping program, click + BIOS Data > Type "elk" in search bar > + desired data. A map of this hunt zone is also provided below.

Weather

Weather in this hunt zone is highly variable. Be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions. It may be quite warm but early storms are common. Snow would be unusual but heavy rains can occur, making some roads impassable. Contact the Forest Service for information about closures, fires, and campgrounds.

Access

There are extensive tracts of public land within the hunt zone with excellent access. Elk do not occur throughout the entire zone.

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

Guides and outfitters

You may wish to employ the services of a licensed guide in the hunt or provide pack animals to bring the elk carcass out to a trailhead. Many have limited space so be sure to contact them as soon as possible to reserve their services. Department employees will not be available

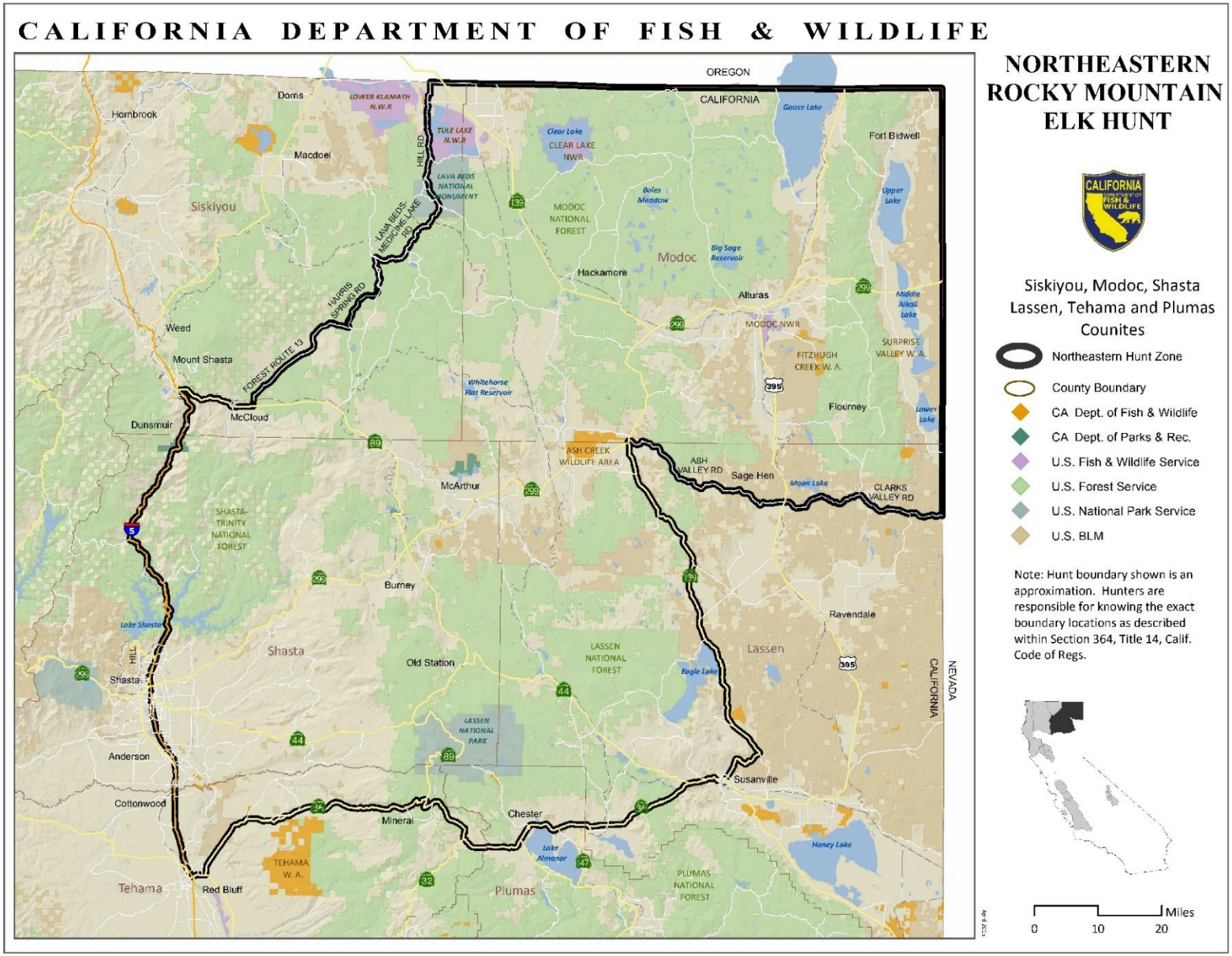
to assist hunters in removing elk from the field. It is your responsibility to verify any guides you retain have a current guide license issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. If you plan to hunt on Federal property your guides will also need to be permitted with that agency. Failure to verify the proper licenses required may result in a citation to both the hunter and guide. A list of licensed guides can be obtained online.

Additional information is available at the following links

- CDFW elk hunting (zone maps, season dates, harvest success, report an elk sighting): https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Elk
- Fish and Game Laws and Hunting Regulations: https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current
- Online reporting: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales
- Tooth age data: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Elk/Harvest-Data
- California Big Game Hunting Digest: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest
- CDFW elk management and conservation: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/elk
- Interactive map viewers: https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios6/
- Report poachers and polluters to CalTip: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP
- List of hunt guides: https://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/PublicListSearch/SelectPermitType
- Shasta-Trinity National Forest: https://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf
- Klamath National Forest: https://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath
- Modoc National Forest: https://www.fs.usda.gov/modoc/
- Lassen National Forest: https://www.fs.usda.gov/lassen/
- Bureau of Land Management: https://www.blm.gov/office/applegate-field-office

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

NORTHEASTERN HUNT ZONE MAP



TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR) 2021

§364. Elk Hunts

(b) Department Administered General Methods Rocky Mountain Elk Hunts:

(1) Northeastern General Methods Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt:

(A) Area: Those portions of Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, and Shasta counties within a line beginning in Siskiyou County at the junction of the California-Oregon state line and Hill Road at Ainsworth Corner; east along the California-Oregon state line to the California-Nevada state line; south along the California-Nevada state line to Lassen County Road 506 (Tuledad) Road; west on Lassen County Road 506 to Lassen County Road 512 (Red Rock Road); west on Lassen County Road 512 to Lassen County Road 510 (Clark's Valley Road); west on Lassen County Road 510 to Highway 395 at Madeline; west on Lassen County Road 527 (Ash Valley Road) to Highway 299/139 in Adin; south on Highway 229/139, then Highway 139 to Highway 36 in Susanville; west on Highway 36 to Interstate 5 in Red Bluff; north on Interstate 5 to Highway 89; southeast on Highway 89 to USDA Forest Service Road 13 (Pilgrim Creek Road); northeast on USDA Forest Service Road 13 to USDA Forest Service Road 15 (Harris Spring Road); north on USDA Forest Service Road 15 to USDA Forest Service Road 77; east on USDA Forest Service Road 77 to USDA Forest Service Road 49; north on USDA Forest Service Road 49 to Lava Beds National Monument Road; north on Lava Beds National Monument Road to Hill Road; north on Hill Road to the point of beginning.

(l) Definitions

(1) Bull elk: Any elk having an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

(2) Spike bull: A bull elk having no more than one point on each antler. An antler point is a projection of the antler at least one inch long and longer than the width of its base.

(3) Antlerless elk: Any elk, with the exception of spotted calves, with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

(4) Either-sex elk: For the purposes of these regulations, either-sex is defined as bull elk, spike elk, or antlerless elk.

(n) Tagholder Responsibilities

(1) No tagholder shall take or possess any elk or parts thereof governed by the regulations except herein provided.

(2) The department reserves the right to use any part of the tagholder's elk for biological analysis as long as the amount of edible meat is not appreciably decreased.

(3) Any person taking an elk which has a collar or other marking device attached to it shall provide the department with such marking device **within 10 days** of taking the elk.

§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.

§708.6. Tag Countersigning and Transporting Requirements

(b) Any person legally killing an elk in this state shall have the elk license tag countersigned by a person authorized by the commission as described in subsection (c) before transporting such elk, except for the purpose of taking the elk to the nearest person authorized to countersign the license tag, on the route being followed from the point where the elk was taken.

(c) The following persons are authorized to countersign deer and elk tags:

(1) State:

(A) Fish and Game Commissioners

(B) Employees of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, including Certified Hunter Education Instructors

(C) Employees of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)

(D) Plant Quarantine Inspector, Supervisor I, and Supervisor II

(2) Federal:

(A) Employees of the Bureau of Land Management

(B) Employees of the United States Forest Service

(C) Employees of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service

(D) All Uniformed Personnel of the National Park Service

(E) Commanding Officers of any United States military installation or their designated personnel for deer or elk taken on their reservation.

(F) Postmasters & Post Office Station or Branch Manager for deer or elk brought to their post office.

(3) Miscellaneous:

(A) Firefighters employed on a full-time basis, only when the deer or elk carcass is brought to their fire station.

(B) Judges or Justices of all state and United States courts.

(C) Notaries Public

(D) Peace Officers (salaried & non-salaried)

(E) Officers authorized to administer oaths

(F) Owners, corporate officers, managers or operators of lockers or cold storage plants for deer or elk brought to their place of business.

(d) No person may countersign his/her own deer tag or elk tag.

§708.11. Elk Reporting Procedures

(c) Tagholder Responsibilities

(1) All tag holders shall return their license tags to the department within **one week** after the close of the elk season, even though the tagholder may not have killed an elk.

(2) Upon the killing of any elk, the tag holder 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.

(A) License tags shall be attached to the antler of an antlered elk immediately after killing. The license tag shall be kept attached to the antler of an antlered elk and **retained for 15 days after the close of the season**

(B) **License tags shall be attached to the ear, leg, or largest portion of meat of antlerless elk immediately after killing**. If the head is removed and not retained, evidence of sex in the form or udder or vulva must remain naturally attached. Boned out or quartered animals shall have evidence of sex naturally attached to a portion of the meat. The license tag shall be kept attached to the ear, leg, or largest portion of meat of an antlerless elk until processed and then shall be retained for 15 days after the close of the season.

(3) Persons authorized to **validate or countersign elk tags are listed in** subsection 708.6(c). Elk tags shall be countersigned before transporting such elk, except for the purpose of taking it to the nearest person authorized to countersign the license tag on the route being followed from the point where the elk is taken.

(4) Only persons possessing valid elk license tags are entitled to take elk. Tags are not transferable and are valid only for the area and period specified.

(5) The tagholder shall surrender his tag to an employee of the department for any or all of the following reasons:

(A) Any act on the part of the tagholder which violates any of the provisions of the Fish and Game Code, or any regulations of the commission made pursuant thereto.

(B) Any act on the part of the tagholder which endangers the person or property of others. The decision of the department shall be final.

§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.