State of California - Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BEAR TAGS AND BEAR TEETH IS USED TO EVALUATE THE STATUS OF THE STATE'S BEAR POPULATION AND TO DEVELOP 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. The information we receive from unsuccessful bear hunters is also important. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will close the bear hunting season immediately if it determines that 1,700 bears have been taken. This includes bears harvested during the archery season. For your convenience, here is a summary of the 2014 hunting regulations. You should be familiar with all game laws prior to hunting.

BEAR SEASONS FOR 2014

ARCHERY: August 16, 2014 – September 7, 2014

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 2014 California Mammal Hunting Regulations for opening dates. In the remaining deer hunting X zones, bear season begins October 11, 2014.

Bear season will close on December 28, 2014

OR

When 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

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.

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. 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**. 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 Game offices will validate bear tags. **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. You will be notified of the age of your bear in the fall/winter of 2015.

BEAR TAG VALIDATION AND TOOTH EXTRACTION APPOINTMENTS

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

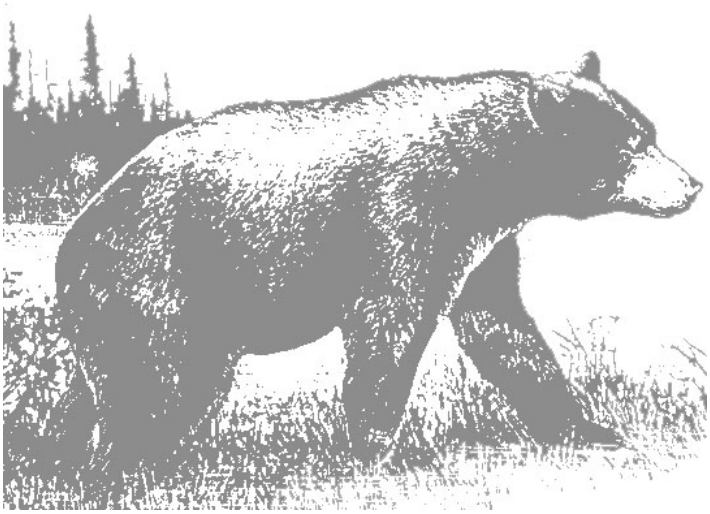
All Department of Fish and Wildlife offices will **validate** bear tags.

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.

REDDING ..... (530) 225-2300
RANCHO CORDOVA (SACRAMENTO) ..... (916) 358-2900
YOUNTVILLE ..... (707) 944-5500
FRESNO ..... (559) 243-4005

Field Offices

EUREKA ..... (707) 445-6493
CRYSTAL LAKE HATCHERY ..... (530) 335-4111
DARRAH SPRINGS HATCHERY ..... (530) 474-3141
IRON GATE HATCHERY ..... (530) 475-3420
MT. SHASTA HATCHERY ..... (530) 926-2215
TRINITY RIVER HATCHERY ..... (530) 778-3931
FEATHER RIVER HATCHERY ..... (530) 538-2222
WARM SPRINGS HATCHERY ..... (707) 433-6325
RED BLUFF SCREEN SHOP ..... (530) 528-9405
SHASTA VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA ..... (530) 459-3926
YREKA SCREEN SHOP ..... (530) 841-2550
MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA ..... (559) 655-4645
ONTARIO..... (909) 484-0167
LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA ..... (209) 826-0463
SAN DIEGO ..... (858) 467-4201
MOKELUMNE RIVER HATCHERY..... (209) 759-3383
MONTEREY..... (831) 649-2870
BISHOP ..... (760) 872-1171
LA GRANGE ..... (209) 853-2533
LOS ALAMITOS ..... (562) 342-7100
KERN RIVER HATCHERY ..... (760) 376-2846
MERCED RIVER HATCHERY ..... (209) 563-6401
MOCCASIN HATCHERY..... (209) 989-2312



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Whether or not you are successful, all bear tags must be returned to the Department of Fish and Wildlife no later than February 1, 2015. If you fail to return your 2014 bear tag, even if you did not kill a bear, you will be in violation of Section 708.12(d), Title 14, CCR.

Guides: If you use a guide, the guide must give you his 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.

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.