



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2014 LA PANZA TULE ELK APPRENTICE HUNT
www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/elk



Congratulations on receiving a tag for the La Panza Tule Elk Apprentice Hunt! This letter contains information regarding your hunt including an opportunity for a guided hunt on the Chimineas Unit of the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve in San Luis Obispo County. All tag holders are **REQUIRED** to attend hunter orientation. You will be receiving more information on your hunt, as well as the dates and times for the orientation, by September.

General Information: The guided hunt would occur on October 11 and 12, 2014 and would be a joint venture between the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). The weekend would include classroom, range, field assistance in the techniques of gun handling and safety, elk hunting, and game care. There will be shooting practice as well as instruction on wildlife and hunting. The apprentice hunter would be assisted on their hunt by RMEF volunteers. This will be a two-day event, with overnight lodging available at the main ranch house on the ecological reserve. RMEF will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday as well as breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you would like to participate in this opportunity.

The following information about the La Panza elk hunt is presented in the event that you choose **not** to take advantage of this offer. The general La Panza hunt takes place in San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Most of the elk in the hunt zone, including all of the elk herds in Monterey and San Benito Counties, occur on private lands. The Department will provide you with a list of lands which may allow access, usually for a fee, prior to your hunt. Your elk tag does not give you the authority to enter private property nor is it valid on Private Land Management (PLM) areas that currently harvest elk. Visit the above website address for specific zone regulations (hunt zone map, description, and harvest success information can also be viewed at this address). Please be aware that La Panza apprentice hunt coincides with Period 1 of the general La Panza elk hunting season (**October 11 – November 2, 2014**).

There are also a number of elk hunting opportunities on public lands in San Luis Obispo County near the Carrizo Plain. If you plan to hunt this area, we recommend that you obtain the road/land ownership map for the Carrizo Plain National Monument prior to your hunt. The map can be purchased from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Bakersfield. The BLM phone number is (661) 391-6000. In addition, the Los Padres National Forest publishes a recreation map for the National Forest which is a good general guide for much of the hunt area. United States Forest Service (USFS) maps are available locally at most USFS offices; by contacting the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737); or ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O. Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807, or on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

Collars: Please note that some of the elk within the hunt area have been fitted with radio collars. The data we are gathering is critical to the management of this herd. In the event that you harvest a collared animal, please contact the local CDFW personnel at (805) 528-8670 or Mr. Joe Hobbs (916) 445-9992 immediately so that we can make arrangements to obtain the collar. In order to prevent the loss of data it is important that we are contacted as soon as possible.

Remember all hunters MUST report to the Department within one week after the close of elk season, REGARDLESS if an elk was taken, either through mailing in the tag or the new online reporting system outlined below.

Due to mandatory harvest reporting for all big-game species the Department offers an internet reporting option for hunters to submit big game tag report card information. For the 2014 hunting season, both successful and unsuccessful hunters will be able to report their hunt results online via the Department's online license service at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/>. Log on to the

Online License Sales and Service, and then click on Harvest Reporting in the top section. Hunters submitting reports online will receive a report confirmation number and will not have to mail in the report card. The Department encourages all hunters (including those who were unsuccessful or who had a tag but did not hunt) to use this service to meet their respective reporting requirements. Accurate harvest information is a crucial element in developing population estimates and the resulting tag quotas as well as in assessing the performance of current hunt programs and in the development of new opportunities. An online reporting option will provide that information in a timelier, more convenient manner.

Tooth Collection: The Department is collecting teeth from animals taken by hunters for age analysis. Successful hunters should follow directions on the tooth envelope (included with this flyer) to remove the two front teeth (and only the two front teeth, please do not send in sections of the jaw) and submit them to the Department. Please do not wrap teeth in plastic or foil. The Department will post the age analysis results at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/elk> for hunters that submit teeth from their hunt. The age of your animal can be found by using your GOID number. Please note that these results may not be available until **December** of the **following** year (2015).

Care of Meat: Conditions during the elk hunting season can be quite warm, even with mild temperatures an improperly handled carcass can lead to **spoilage**. The weather and the steep, rugged terrain within the hunt area make it critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. Elk are large mammals and hold heat, which leads to **spoilage**. Open up the elk as soon as possible including the neck area, hip joints, and shoulders to promote cooling. You should be physically fit and prepared to skin and quarter or de-bone your elk **immediately** after it is tagged. It is encouraged that you debone the meat as soon as possible to prevent the meat from spoiling (bone sour). The meat should be hung in fly proof breathable sacks in the shade until you pack it out (as soon as possible). If you are hunting by yourself, you will need, at minimum, 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 would also likely be helpful. Failure to properly care for or remove all edible portions of a harvested animal can lead to a violation of the Fish and Wildlife Code. 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 down to insulate the meat underneath.

Additional Information:

For those who have access to a computer and a high speed internet connection, DFG has an interactive mapping program which allows you to zoom in to the 7.5 minute topographical maps. The program website is <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/gis/imaps.asp> . If you do not have access to a computer, the U.S. Geological Service publishes several maps that cover the public hunt area. The most useful maps for hunting on public lands will be the Branch Mountain, Los Machos Hills, Caldwell Mesa, Miranda Pine Mountain, Chimney Canyon, Huasna Peak, California Valley, La Panza, Pozo Summit, Caliente Mountain, Chimineas Ranch and the Painted Rock Quads. Not all of the land covered on these maps will be open to hunting, and they are not inexpensive, so we suggest that you get the Forest Service and/or BLM maps first, and then decide which of the topographical sheets you need. These are generally available at outdoor shops or can be ordered on line at the U.S. Geological Service website at http://topomaps.usgs.gov/ordering_maps.html .

Weather: The weather during the hunts can be variable and it may be hot during your hunt so plan accordingly. If it rains, roads will be impassable for a period of time, usually only a few days. Fire danger may be extreme, so call ahead to the Forest Service at the number above for the latest on campground information. There are two BLM camping areas within the Carrizo Plain National Monument at the KCL Ranch and at the Selby Ranch; several small camps are also available within the Los Padres National Forest. All camps are primitive, with no potable water available, so bring your own.

Outfitters and Guides: Outfitters and guides offer a variety of services for elk hunters interested in hunting. Many have limited space so be sure to contact them as soon as possible to reserve their services. It is your responsibility to verify any guides you retain have a **current guide license** issued by the Department of Fish and Game. If you plan to hunt on Federal property your guides will also need to be **permitted** with that Federal land 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 (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/hunting/>). Scroll down to the Related Information section and select Big Game Guide List. A list of licensed guides that work in San Luis Obispo County is available from the Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 928-5805. Only a very few of these guides will be able to assist you, but it may be worth while to get the information. Mention of individuals does not signify Department endorsement. The names are given for information only.

Be aware that **NON-LEAD AMMUNITION** restrictions are in place as of July 1, 2008. Refer to Title 14 Section 353 and 354 for legal methods of take.

For more information, please contact the CDFW personnel assigned to the San Luis Obispo area by telephone at (805) 528-8670. You may also contact the Department's regional office in Fresno at (559) 243-4005. Our goal is to assure that you have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you have a successful hunt. Good luck!