



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2014 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE
SURPRISE VALLEY APPRENTICE HUNT (ZONE 6)
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/pronghorn>



General Information: Congratulations on being drawn for the Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt! This information has been prepared to assist people hunting antelope in Zone 6, which is located in portions of Lassen and Modoc Counties.

For those who have access to a computer and a high speed internet connection, the Department 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>.

Regulations: Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the regulations contained in the Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Visit the above website address for specific zone regulations (hunt zone map, description, and harvest success information can also be viewed at this address). Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Apprentice hunt tagholders shall be accompanied by a nonhunting, **licensed adult chaperon 18 years of age or older** while hunting.

Remember all hunters MUST report to the Department within one week after the close of antelope season, REGARDLESS if an antelope 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/pronghorn/tooth> for hunters that submit teeth from their hunt. The age of your animal can be found by using your GO ID number. Please note that these results may not be available until **December** of the **following year (2015)**.

Care of Meat: Conditions during the antelope hunting season can be quite warm. It is critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. You should be prepared to skin and quarter or de-bone your antelope immediately after it is tagged. The meat should be

hung in flyproof breathable sacks in the shade until you pack it out. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need, at minimum, game sacks, 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.

Public Land: Zone 6 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS), Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), P. O. Box 460, Cedarville, CA 96104, (530) 279-6101.

Access: There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access in Zone 6. Primary roadways in Zone 6 are State Route 299 (central Zone 6) and State Route 395 (western Zone 6). Many County, USFS, and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands.

Maps: The most comprehensive map of the area is the Modoc National Forest map. BLM surface management maps may also be useful. The BLM surface management maps for Zone 6 are the Alturas and Cedarville maps. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on BLM or USFS maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly in Menlo Park, CA at (650) 853-8300. 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/>. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400.

Travel Tips: Zone 6 covers a large geographical area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire (or two), extra water, etc. Check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

Weather: The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunder storms are not uncommon. Thunder storms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel.

Camping: There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone 6. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season, special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a **fire permit** from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. YOU can pack water-- animals can't!

Where to Look for Antelope: Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Antelope run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting antelope, keep the sun at your back while it is low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn antelope are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions.

Because pronghorn antelope are creatures of open habitats, you can hunt them all day. However, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Try to pace yourself and concentrate hunting

in the mornings and evenings. Stalking can be a long process, so remember to bring gloves, knee and elbow padding to protect yourself from sharp rocks. Binoculars and spotting scopes can be a great asset for observing antelope at long distances. Popular areas to look for pronghorn antelope 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.

Additional Information: If you have any questions regarding this hunt, please contact Mr. Richard Shinn at (530) 233-3581. Additional information can also be found on the Department's web site at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/pronghorn/>

Again, congratulations and we hope you have an enjoyable hunt. Good luck!