



## A ZONE

### 2024 General Deer Hunting Information

(Includes Additional Hunts G-8, G-11, G-21, M-7, MA-1, MA-3,  
J-1, J-10, A-24, A-25, A-32, and A-33)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for or planning to hunt in the A Zone. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any “additional hunts” within this geographic area. The A Zone is a vast area encompassing the coastal mountain ranges and western Sacramento/San Joaquin Valleys from just north of Los Angeles to areas north of Ukiah. Due to the expansive area, management responsibility and oversight of the A Zone falls with five different California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regions. For more specific information or additional questions regarding hunting in the A Zone contact one of the regional offices listed below. The regional contact information and their counties of responsibility within the A Zone are as follows:

- **Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300)** encompassing Mendocino County;
- **North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900)** encompassing Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, and Yolo counties;

- **Bay Delta Region Office (Region 3), 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534 (707) 428-2002** encompassing Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties;
- **Central Region Office (Region 4), 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4005 X 151)** encompassing Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties; and
- **South Coast Region Office (Region 5), 3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123 (858-467-4201)** encompassing Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

## REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. All hunters should read and be familiar with the [Current Hunting Regulations](#). Remember, if you are hunting on private property you must obtain, and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

## NON-LEAD RESTRICTIONS

As of July 1, 2019, all hunters must use nonlead ammunition when taking any wildlife in California, except when hunting with a pellet rifle for approved species.

- CCR T14 250.1(d)(3) Effective July 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to use, or possess with any firearm capable of firing, any projectile(s) not certified as nonlead when taking any wildlife for any purpose in this state.
- CCR T14 475(f) The take or attempted take of any nongame bird or nongame mammal with a firearm shall be in accordance with the use of nonlead projectiles and ammunition pursuant to Section 250.1 of these regulations.

For more information including a list of certified non-lead projectiles/ammunition that may be used in firearms for the taking of deer or other big game mammals, and links to other related topics, visit [CDFW's Nonlead Ammunition in California web page](#).

## DEER HARVEST REPORTING

### USED AND UNUSED TAGS MUST BE REPORTED

Accurate harvest information is a crucial element in developing population estimates, tag quotas, assessment of current hunt programs, and in the development of new opportunities. Regulations require all deer hunters to submit a harvest report card (online or by mail) to CDFW. Any deer hunter who does not submit a harvest report for each deer tag issued will be required to pay a non-reporting fee upon application for the next hunt season.

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "Unit Number" where the deer was killed; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear, if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion.

### WHEN TO REPORT

Successful deer hunters must report the take of a deer within 30 days of harvest or by January 31 – whichever date is first. Unsuccessful deer hunters (including hunters that received a tag but did not hunt) must report that they were unsuccessful or did not hunt by January 31.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A REPORT

- Online – Both successful and unsuccessful hunters are encouraged to submit their harvest reports online. Hunters will be able to report their hunt results online via [CDFW's Online License Service](#). Hunters logging into the system will be able to view all their tags requiring reports. Reporting through the Online License

Service is easy, fast, and convenient. When you report online, you receive instant confirmation that your harvest report card has been received and accepted. You must record the confirmation number in the space provided on the harvest report card and retain the harvest report card until March 1 of that year. Tags reported online must be surrendered to CDFW upon demand.

- By Mail – Any deer tag holder who does not submit a harvest report for their deer tag online, must return the report card portion to CDFW to the following address:  
CDFW – Wildlife Branch, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94299-0002.

## ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

There are several additional deer hunts scheduled in the A Zone: G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt); Hunt G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt); Hunt M-7 (Ventura Muzzle-loading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzle-loading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzle-loading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt); Hunt J-1 (Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt); Hunt A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt); and Hunt A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, visit [CDFW's Deer Hunting web page](#).

## OBTAINING DEER TAGS

Beginning in late 2010, CDFW began implementation of the new Automated License Data System (ALDS). Under this computer data system, all licenses, stamps, and tags are applied for, and issued through Internet Point-of-Sale terminals (IPOS) located at various CDFW license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at [CDFW's Licenses and Permits page](#). Under ALDS, much less paperwork is required to apply for,

and receive tags. In addition, licenses, tags, and entry into the Big Game Drawing can all be accomplished with one trip to a license agent. Once your personal information is entered and stored in the database, the database controls and tracks what you have applied for, or been issued, as well as preference points. For more specific information on ALDS, application procedures and zone/hunt information, check out the current Big Game Hunting Digest available online at [CDFW's California Hunting Digest page](#).

For deer tag distribution purposes, zones and hunts are classified based upon the date in which the zone or hunt tag quota is filled in the prior year. The three tag categories include:

1. **“Premium”** zone/hunt tags are only issued through the Big Game Drawing using a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application, except that junior hunters may use their Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for Apprentice (J) Hunts. Hunters will lose all accumulated deer preference points if drawn for their first choice in the Big Game Drawing;
2. **“Restricted”** zone/hunt tags are available upon application with a First-Deer Tag, or a Second-Deer Tag after August 1; and
3. **“Unrestricted”** zone/hunt tags are available at any time using either a First- or Second-Deer Tag.

For the A Zone and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

1. **Premium** Deer Hunts – **G-21, M-7, MA-1, MA-3, J-1, J-10, A-24, A-25, A-33**
2. **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
3. **Unrestricted** Deer Hunts – **A Zone, Archery Only (AO), and A-32**

**Note:** Additional Hunt G-11 tags are distributed to military, Department of Defense employees and personnel authorized by the Installation Commander. Prior approval from the Base is required to secure a tag.

The deer hunting regulations specific to the A Zone (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in the A Zone, hunters must possess an A Zone deer tag which is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take. Additionally, Archery Only Tags (AO Tags) are valid during the A Zone archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through CDFW's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and apply before the midnight **June 2, 2024 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2024 Big Game Hunting Digest available online at [CDFW's California Hunting Digest page](#).

## HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained on the [Department's Deer Harvest Data page](#). For the purpose of applying for hunts in a specific area, tables containing harvest success, antler class information, and Big Game Drawing statistics are the most useful in selecting a zone or hunt in which to apply. The harvest tables found on this web page may also contain more recent harvest analyses than information contained in the Big Game Hunting Digest due to the early production deadline dates for the publication.

## LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND

### OPPORTUNITIES

The A Zone is expansive and contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Most public land opportunity occurs on lands in the Mendocino (northern A Zone) and Los Padres (southern A Zone)

National Forests (USFS), scattered parcels of BLM land, Department Wildlife Areas and numerous other local and federally controlled lands that may be open to hunting.

However, due to the number of individual landholdings and expansiveness of the A Zone, there are too many to list. For information regarding USFS or BLM lands contact the following:

**USFS Offices:**

Los Padres National Forest, 6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150, Goleta, CA 93117 (805-968-6640)

Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, California 95988 (530-934-3316)

**BLM Offices:**

Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661-391-6000)

Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023 (831-630-5000)

Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707-468-4000)

Wilderness lands have been established within several portions of the Los Padres National Forest including: the Matilija (Ventura Co.); Dick Smith and San Rafael (Santa Barbara Co.); Machesna Mountains, Garcia, and Santa Lucia (San Luis Obispo Co.); and Ventana (Monterey Co.) Wilderness Areas are accessible by hiking and by pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Los Padres National Forest. No wilderness areas have been established in the A Zone portion of the Mendocino National Forest.

Additional deer hunting opportunity is provided on opening weekend of the rifle season on the Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area in western Merced County. Single day permits are issued by drawing and can be applied for through CDFW's Los Banos Complex

office. For additional information please contact the CDFW Los Banos Complex office directly at (209) 826-0463.

In the A Zone and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, visit [CDFW's PLM web page](#).

## MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, visit [CDFW's Deer Hunting web page](#).

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Los Padres and Mendocino National Forest maps. 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); ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), or mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807; or online at the [National Forest Map Store website](#).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. These maps can be purchased at local BLM district offices; the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400); or online at [BLM's California Maps web page](#).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from many sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores; by contacting the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS); or online at the [USGS Store website](#).



## ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

In the northern portions of the A Zone, the major access routes into and through the zone include: Interstates 5 and 80 and Highways 1, 101, 20, 128 and 16. In the south, major access is provided by Interstate 5 and Highways 1, 101, 33, 58, 154, 138, 41, 46, and 25.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this zone can be highly variable, so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry during archery and early general season, but early storms are not uncommon. The chance of snowfall during season is low except in the higher elevations in the north; however, heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

The A Zone covers an extremely large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of the A Zone. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the backcountry. Contact the local USFS and BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

## CAMPING

There are several USFS campgrounds within the hunt zone and these are shown on USFS maps. Informal camping is allowed on USFS and BLM lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM, or California

Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM, or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source, including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California, is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

The Federal Government, through the USFS, also requires a Forest Adventure Pass if you intend to park your vehicle and use the USFS public lands in the southern portion of the Los Padres National Forest for any purpose. For more information, contact the Los Padres National Forest.

## HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The overall deer population in the A Zone is considered stable. Population trends in some areas are increasing while others are decreasing. Check with the local CDFW office for specific information regarding the area you plan to hunt. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer that inhabit the A Zone primarily include the Columbian black-tailed deer in the northern and central portions of the zone, and the California mule deer in the southern portion. Deer in the A Zone are generally considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes; they do not make long seasonal migrations. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snowline. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should

be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather. In areas where deer do not encounter snow, they generally remain local throughout the year.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout the A Zone, ranging from coastal scrub along the coast areas, mixed chaparral and oak-hardwood forests in the south through mixed chaparral, oak-grassland and dense conifer forests in the north. Generally, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas, or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

## HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and, generally, the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and livestock.

In the A Zone portion of Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare and Ventura counties, deer habitat is limited or access extremely restricted, consequently deer populations and harvest are low.

In the A Zone portion of Alameda, Marin, San Benito, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and Yolo counties, a significant amount of deer habitat exists; however, access to public land is limited, and the bulk of the deer harvest occurs on private land.

In the A Zone portion of the following counties a more significant proportion of the deer harvest occurs on public, as well as private land. Historically, some of the more popular and productive deer hunting areas on public land are as follows (includes CDFW region to contact for more information):

- **Colusa County** (North Central Region): areas in the vicinity of Bear and Cache Creeks, Fouts Spring, Goat Mountain, Letts Lake, Stonyford, Walker Ridge and Wilson Valley.
- **Lake County** (North Central Region): areas in the vicinity of Boggs Forest, Borax Lake, Cache Creek, Cow Mountain, Deer Valley, Elk Mountain, French Ridge, Goat Mountain, High Glade, Highland Springs, Indian Valley, Mary Ann Ridge, Pine Mountain, Rice Creek and Lake Pillsbury, Walker Ridge and Wilson Valley.
- **Mendocino County** (North Region): A significant proportion is private land; however, public access is allowed on Cow Mountain and the Jackson State Forest.
- **Monterey County** (Central Region): areas in the vicinity of Dutra Flat, Indian Camp, Big Sur and Gorda, Marble Peak, Plasket Ridge and Williams Hill. In addition, a significant number of deer are harvested on Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts Military Reservations.
- **Napa County** (Bay Delta Region): areas in the vicinity of Adams Creek, Blue Ridge, Knoxville, public lands around Lake Berryessa, Rector Reservoir and Schwartz Canyon.
- **San Luis Obispo County** (Central Region): areas in the vicinity of American Canyon, Black Mountain, Branch Mountain, Caliente Mountain, Cerro Alto,

Crocker Springs, Cuesta Grade, Hale Peak, La Panza, Lopez Canyon, Mt. Lowe, Quail Springs, Queen Bee, Ragged Point, Rock Front, Ruda Canyon Shaw Ridge and Snell Peak. In addition, a significant number of deer are harvested on Camp Roberts Military Reservation.

- **Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties** (South Coast Region): areas in the vicinity of Aliso Canyon, Blue Canyon, Camuesa Peak, Colson Canyon, Dry Canyon, Figueroa Mountain, Little Pine Mountain, Little Pine Spring, McPherson Peak, Miranda Pines, Monte Arido Trail, Painted Rock, Potrero Seco, Santa Barbara Canyon, Santa Cruz Peak, Sierra Madre Mountains and Three Sisters. In addition, a significant number of deer are harvested on Vandenburg Air Force Base (limited to military and DOD personnel).

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see [CDFW's publication "Guide to Hunting Deer in California"](#), under "Related Information".

## J1 Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt

That portion of Sonoma County within the boundaries of the Lake Sonoma Area, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (COE) property described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Hot Springs Road and the COE boundary; east and south along the boundary line to the intersection with Brush Creek; west along the north bank of Brush Creek (shoreline) to the Dry Creek arm of Lake Sonoma; south along the shoreline of the Dry Creek arm to Smittle Creek; north along the COE property line to Dry Creek; east along the COE boundary across Cherry Creek, Skunk Creek, and Yorty Creek to the point of beginning. The area contains approximately 5,000 acres.

This either-sex deer hunt shall be open from **November 2-3, 2024**.

The law allowing youths up to 18 years old to purchase a Junior Hunting License has sunset. Per Fish & Game Code Section 3031, a resident or nonresident now must be under 16 years of age on July 1, 2024 in order to be eligible for a 2024-25 Junior Hunting License.

Tag holders shall attend an orientation meeting on **Friday, November 1, 2024 at 4:30 pm** at the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center located at 3333 Skaggs Springs Rd, Geyserville, CA 95441.

Tags are valid only for the area and class of deer designated on the tag. Antlerless deer are defined as female deer, fawns of either-sex other than spotted fawns, and male deer with an unbranched antler on one or both sides which is not more than three inches in length. Either-sex deer are defined as antlerless deer as described above, or legal bucks that have two or more points in the upper two-thirds of either antler. Spike bucks may not be taken (Section 204(d), Fish and Game Code).

Immediately after killing the deer, the tag shall be attached to an ear of the antlerless deer or to an antler of the antlered deer.

Only deer may be hunted on the area during this hunt period, however, during some years and at the discretion of the COE, wild pig may also be taken. Participants will be notified ahead of the hunt period whether wild pigs may also be taken. Only non-lead ammunition is allowed on state wildlife areas (see below for further information).

Car-top boats (no other boats allowed) may be launched at the Yorty Creek ramp and used to access the hunt area. Boats on trailers may be launched at the Lake Sonoma public boat launch on Rockpile Road.

Contact the Lake Sonoma Visitor's Center for camping reservations. Campers in the boat camps must make camping arrangements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (707) 433-4533.

There will be other uses occurring at Lake Sonoma during the hunt, so please be careful and courteous at all times. The Hunt Area is open year-round for other uses and can be scouted at any time.

If you have any questions, **please call or email Ms. Stacy Martinelli at (707) 576-2868, [Stacy.Martinelli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Stacy.Martinelli@wildlife.ca.gov)**. Thank you for your cooperation and have a good hunt.

Most accidents associated with big game hunting involve a loaded gun in the vehicle. Remember what you learned in your hunter safety classes, be careful, and enjoy yourself.

## J10 Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt

That portion of Monterey County lying within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) Military Reservation, except as restricted by the Commanding Officer.

This either-sex hunt shall be open **October 5-6, and October 12-14, 2024**, except if rescheduled by the Commanding Officer with Department concurrence between the season opener and December 31.

The law allowing youths up to 18 years old to purchase a Junior Hunting License has sunset. Per Fish & Game Code Section 3031, a resident or nonresident now must be under 16 years of age on July 1, 2024 in order to be eligible for a 2024-25 Junior Hunting License.

Refer to the California Mammal Hunting Regulations Section 353 for legal methods of take. **Non-lead ammunition restrictions are in place.** For FHL Hunting and Fishing specific information, please refer to [FHL's iSportsman web portal](#), and [Fort Hunter Liggett Hunt and Fish Regulation 420-26](#).

Tags are valid only for the area, and class of deer designated on the tag. Antlerless deer are defined as female deer, fawns of either-sex other than spotted fawns, and male deer with an unbranched antler on one or both sides which is not more than three inches in length. Either-sex deer are defined as antlerless deer as described above, or legal bucks that have two or more points in the upper two-thirds of either antler. Spike bucks may not be taken (Section 204 (d), Fish and Game Code).

Immediately after killing the deer, the tag shall be attached to an ear of the antlerless deer or to an antler of the antlered deer. Successful hunters must bring their deer to the Wildlife Check Station (WCS) for data collection, when the WCS is open. Deer teeth and other biological data will be collected to obtain deer age and herd health information used for deer management.

The hunting area can consist of up to 130,000 acres of varied oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland habitat. Due to the rugged terrain, some physical effort will be required to traverse the property.

**FHL requires all junior hunters to** (1) create an FHL iSportsman account and purchase an FHL hunting permit, (2) attend mandatory hunter orientation on **Friday, 4 October 2024 at 4 pm at the Wildlife Check Station located at the Fort Hunter Liggett Campground**, and (3) register their firearms through the Directorate of Emergency Services under the name of their adult chaperone. Go to [FHL's iSportsman web portal](#) for information on purchasing permits, check-in/out procedures, and obtaining other area specific requirements pertaining to hunting on the base. For other hunting or fishing questions, [email the FHL Hunt and Fish Program](#) or call the FHL Hunt and Fish Program at (831) 386-2954. Please email to request a call-back if the phone is not answered.

**All J-10 hunter chaperones** are required to clear the National Crime and Information Center background check through the FHL Directorate of Emergency Services and obtain an FHL Adult Hunt and Fish Program Guest Permit (or FHL Hunt Permit, if desired) through iSportsman prior to the start of the hunt for access to FHL Hunt Areas.

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The background check process may take up to 30 days to complete, so be sure to start it in a sufficient amount of time.

For operational safety consideration, some FHL hunt areas may have weapon restrictions. If you are proficient in their use, it is advisable to bring other methods of take (i.e., shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader and/or archery equipment) to utilize these weapons restricted areas. **FHL or the CDFW cannot guarantee that rifle areas will be available during your hunt.** Hunters should check the [FHL iSportsman Forecast Maps](#) a few days prior to the hunt for information on the hunt areas and if any weapon restrictions are in place.

Primitive camping is allowed on the base, but only in the designated campground or rooms are available at FHL at the Hacienda and the hotel. Call Outdoor Recreation (831) 386-2677 for access procedures and current fees. Hunters can also camp at the nearby Los Padres National Forest.

Prior to the hunt, FHL will email an information letter to all successful J10 tag holders explaining when and where the mandatory orientation will be held. This email will be sent to the email address on file for your child's CDFW account. The information package will also cover FHL's deer management goals and other J10 hunt information.

Most accidents associated with big game hunting involve a loaded gun in the vehicle. Remember what you learned in your hunter safety classes, be careful, and enjoy yourself.

## NONLEAD RESTRICTIONS

When hunting any game on FHL, you may only use certified non-lead projectiles/ammunition in firearms (includes centerfire rifles, pistols, and revolvers; shotguns and muzzle-loading rifles). In addition, while hunting any game on FHL, hunters may not possess any lead projectiles/ammunition and a firearm capable of firing that lead projectile or ammunition.

**A Zone General Deer Hunt Information**

For more information including a list of certified non-lead projectiles/ammunition that may be used in firearms for the taking of deer or other big game mammals; a map detailing the non-lead area; and links to other related topics, visit [CDFW's Nonlead Ammunition in California web page](#).

## 2024 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

For more information, see the current [Mammal Hunting Regulations](#).

### §360. DEER.

Except as otherwise provided in Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

- A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.
  - Zone A.
    - Area: Shall include all of Zone A-South Unit 110 and Zone A-North Unit 160 (see subsections 360(a)(1)(A)1. through 2.).
      - South Unit 110. In those portions of Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare and Ventura counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 99 and the San Joaquin-Sacramento county line at Dry Creek; south on Highway 99 to Highway 166 in Kern County; west on Highway 166 to Highway 33; south on Highway 33 to Sespe Creek; east and south along Sespe Creek to Highway 126; east on Highway 126 to Interstate 5; south on Interstate 5 and 405 to Interstate 10; west on Interstate 10 to the Pacific Ocean; north on the Pacific Ocean coastline to the San Mateo-San Francisco county line; east on the San Mateo-San Francisco county line to the Alameda county line; north on the Alameda-San Francisco county line to the Contra Costa-San Francisco county line: northwest on Contra Costa-San Francisco county line to the Contra Costa-Marin county line; northeast on the Contra Costa-Marin county line to the Contra Costa-Solano county line in San Pablo Bay; east on the

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Contra Costa-Solano county line and the Sacramento River to the confluence of the San Joaquin River and Sacramento-Contra Costa county line; east on the Sacramento-Contra Costa county line and San Joaquin River to the confluence of the Mokelumne River and San Joaquin-Sacramento county line; northeast on the San Joaquin-Sacramento county line and Mokelumne River to the confluence of Dry Creek; east on the San Joaquin-Sacramento county line and Dry Creek to the point of beginning at Highway 99.

- North Unit 160. In those portions of Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo within a line beginning at the junction of the mouth of Hardy Creek (Mendocino County) and the Pacific Ocean; east along Hardy Creek to Highway 1; north along Highway 1 to Highway 101; south along Highway 101 to Commercial Avenue in the town of Willits; east on Commercial Avenue to the Hearst-Willits Road (County Road 306); north and east on the Hearst-Willits Road to the Main Eel River; southeast on the Main Eel River to Lake Pillsbury at Scott Dam; southeast along the west shore of Lake Pillsbury and the Rice Fork of the Eel River to Forest Service Road M-10; east on Forest Service Road M-10 to Forest Service Road 17N16; east on Forest Service Road 17N16 to Forest Service Road M-10; east on Forest Service Road M-10 to Letts Valley-Fouts Spring Road; east on the Letts Valley-Fouts Spring Road to the Elk Creek-Stonyford Road (County Road 306); north on the Elk Creek-Stonyford Road to the Glenn-Colusa county line; east along the Glenn-Colusa County line to Interstate 5; Interstate 5 south to Highway 99 in the City of Sacramento; Highway 99 south to the Sacramento/San Joaquin County line at Dry Creek, west along the Sacramento/San Joaquin County line and Dry Creek to the confluence with the Mokelumne River, southwest on the Sacramento/San Joaquin County line and Mokelumne River to the confluence with the San Joaquin River and Sacramento/Contra Costa County line, west on the Sacramento/Contra Costa County

line and San Joaquin River to the confluence of the Sacramento River and Solano/Contra Costa County line, west on the Sacramento River and Solano/Contra Costa County line to the Marin County line in San Pablo Bay, southwest on the Marin/Contra Costa and Marin/San Francisco county lines to the North Peninsula shoreline near the Golden Gate Bridge, west on the shoreline to the Pacific Ocean coastline, northwest on the Pacific Ocean coastline to the point of beginning.

- Season: The season in Zone A-South Unit 110 and Zone-A North Unit 160 shall open on the second Saturday in August and extend for 44 consecutive days.
  - Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see **subsection 351(a)**) or better, per tag.
  - Number of Tags 65,000. Zone A tags are valid in Zone A-South Unit 110 and Zone A-North Unit 160.
- (c) Additional Hunts.
    - (8) G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
      - (A) Area: That portion of Santa Barbara County lying within the exterior boundaries of Vandenberg Air Force Base.
      - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the last Monday in August and extend through October 1.
      - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see [subsection 351\(c\)](#)) per tag.
      - (D) Number of Tags: 85 (military, Department of Defense employees, and personnel authorized by the Installation Commander only).

#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

- (E) Special Conditions: In the event the Commanding Officer cancels the hunt, G-11 tagholders may exchange the unused tag for any remaining deer tag and have accumulated and earned preference points restored pursuant to Section 708.14.
- (12) G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt).
  - (A) Area: That portion of Monterey County and the Los Padres National Forest within the exterior boundaries of the Ventana Wilderness Area.
  - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt) shall open on the second Saturday in November and extend for 23 consecutive days.
  - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see [subsection 351\(a\)](#)) or better, per tag.
- (D) Number of Tags: 25.
  - (20) M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
    - (A) Area: All of Ventura County.
    - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the last Saturday in November and extend for 16 consecutive days.
    - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see [subsection 351\(c\)](#)) per tag.
    - (D) Number of Tags: 150.
    - (E) Special Conditions: Only muzzleloading rifles as specified in [Section 353](#) may be used.
  - (24) MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

- (A) Area: That portion of San Luis Obispo County lying within the Los Padres National Forest.
  - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open the last Saturday in November and extend for 16 consecutive days.
  - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see [subsection 351\(c\)](#)) per tag.
  - (D) Number of Tags: 150.
  - (E) Special Conditions: Only archery equipment as specified in [Section 354](#) or muzzleloading rifles as specified in [Section 353](#) may be used.
- (25) MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt).
    - (A) Area: All of Santa Barbara County.
    - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt) shall open on the last Saturday in November and extend for 16 consecutive days.
    - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see [subsection 351\(a\)](#)) or better, per tag.
    - (D) Number of Tags: 150.
    - (E) Special Conditions: Only muzzleloading rifles as specified in [Section 353](#) and archery equipment as specified in [Section 354](#) may be used.
  - (26) J-1 (Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
    - (A) Area: That portion of Sonoma County within the boundaries of the Lake Sonoma Area, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) property described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Hot Springs Road and the COE boundary; east and south along the boundary line to the intersection with Brush Creek; west along the north bank of Brush Creek

(shoreline) to the Dry Creek arm of Lake Sonoma; south along the shoreline of the Dry Creek arm to Smittle Creek; north along the COE property line to Dry Creek; east along the COE boundary across Cherry Creek, Skunk Creek, and Yorty Creek to the point of beginning.

- (B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-1 (Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the first Saturday in November and extend for two consecutive days.
- (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see [subsection 351\(c\)](#)) per tag.
- (D) Number of Tags: 25.
- (E) Special Conditions:
  - 1. Only junior license holders shall apply.
  - 2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.
  - 3. Tagholders shall attend an orientation meeting the day before the opening day of the season.
  - 4. The use of dogs is prohibited.
  - 5. Boats are required for all areas west of Cherry Creek (2/3 of the hunt area). Only cartop boats are allowed to launch from the Yorty Creek access.
- (32) J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
  - (A) Area: That portion of Monterey County lying within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, except as restricted by the Commanding Officer.
  - (B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on October 5 and extend for



#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

2 consecutive days and reopen October 12 and extend for 3 consecutive days, except if rescheduled by the Commanding Officer with Department concurrence between the season opener and December 31.

- (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see [subsection 351\(c\)](#)) per tag.
- (D) Number of Tags: 30.
- (E) Special Conditions:
  - 1. Only junior license holders shall apply.
  - 2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.
  - 3. Tagholders shall attend an orientation meeting the day before the opening day of the season.
- (44) Conditions for Additional Hunts.
  - (A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.
  - (B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

#### §361. ARCHERY DEER HUNTS.

- (a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags.

Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

  - (1) Zone A.
    - (A) Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(1)(A)1. through 2.

#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

- (B) Season: The archery deer season in Zone A-South Unit 110 and Zone A-North Unit 160 shall open on the second Saturday in July and extend for 23 consecutive days.
- (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.
- (b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags.

Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

  - (21) A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
    - (A) Area: All of Monterey County, except Fort Ord Military Reservation.
    - (B) Season: The season for hunt A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the second Saturday in October and extend for 30 consecutive days.
    - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.
    - (D) Number of Tags: 100.
  - (22) A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
    - (A) Area: That portion of Sonoma County within the boundaries of the Lake Sonoma Area, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) property described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Hot Springs Road and the COE boundary; east and south along the boundary line to the intersection with Brush Creek; west along the north bank of Brush Creek (shoreline) to the Dry Creek arm of Lake Sonoma; south along the shoreline of the Dry Creek arm to Smittle Creek; north along the COE property line to Dry Creek; east along the COE boundary across Cherry Creek, Skunk Creek, and Yorty Creek to the point of beginning.

#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

- (B) Season: The season for hunt A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only, beginning on the first Saturday in October and extending for 24 consecutive days.
- (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.
- (D) Number of Tags: 35.
- (E) Special Conditions:
  - 1. The use of dogs is prohibited.
  - 2. Boats are required for all areas west of Cherry Creek (some 2/3 of the hunt area). Only cartop boats are allowed to launch from the Yorty Creek access.
- (27) A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
  - (A) Area: In those portions of Los Angeles and Ventura counties within the area described as the A Zone (see subsection 360(a)(1)(A)).
  - (B) Season: The season for hunt A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the second Saturday in November and extend for 23 consecutive days.
  - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(b)) per tag.
  - (D) Number of Tags: 250.
- (28) A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt).
  - (A) Area: That portion of Monterey County lying within the exterior boundaries of the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, except as restricted by the Commanding Officer.

- (B) Season: The season for hunt A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be open beginning the first Saturday in October and continuing through November 11, except if rescheduled by the Commanding Officer with Department concurrence between the season opener and December 31.
  - (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.
  - (D) Number of Tags: 50.
  - (E) Special Conditions: In the event the Commanding Officer cancels the hunt, A-33 tagholders may exchange the unused tag for any remaining deer tag and have accumulated and earned preference points restored pursuant to Section 708.14 for tags issued through the Big Game Drawing.
- (c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags.  
Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:
    - (1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.
    - (2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.
    - (3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
    - (4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).
    - (5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

#### A Zone General Deer Hunt Information

- (d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).
- (e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in [subsection 354\(j\)](#), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*