



## ZONE D17

### 2017 General Deer Hunting Information (No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-17 located in portions of Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any “additional hunts” within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

- **Inland Deserts Region Office (Region 6), 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 (909-484-0167)** encompassing Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino 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 available online at: [www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.aspx](http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.aspx). 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.

#### NONLEAD RESTRICTIONS

Following reports that the ingestion of lead projectiles and fragments associated with hunting may be contributing to high lead levels documented in wild condors, the Legislature passed the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act into law (Fish and Game Code, Section 3004.5). Effective July 1, 2008, the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) adopted regulations (Sections 353 and 475, Title 14, CCR) which prohibit the use and possession of any lead projectiles/ammunition in firearms while taking, or attempting to take (hunting) any big game mammal (including deer), or non-game bird or mammal in most of the deer A Zone-South Unit 110 and all of deer zones D-7, D-8, D-9, D-10, D-11 and D-13.

Only FGC/Department certified projectiles/ammunition may be used or possessed when taking, or attempting to take big game mammals. Simply put, when hunting big game in these areas you may only use certified nonlead projectiles/ammunition in firearms (includes centerfire rifles, pistols and revolvers; shotguns and muzzle-loading rifles) legal for big game. In addition, while hunting big game in these areas hunters may not possess any lead projectiles/ammunition and a firearm capable of firing that lead projectile or ammunition.

In April 2015, the Fish and Game Commission adopted CDFW's proposed regulations, which will implement the nonlead requirement in the following three phases:



# NONLEAD AMMUNITION IMPLEMENTATION



- **Phase 1** – Effective July 1, 2015, nonlead ammunition will be required when taking Nelson bighorn sheep and all wildlife on CDFW lands.
- **Phase 2** – Effective July 1, 2016, nonlead shot will be required when taking upland game birds with a shotgun, except for dove, quail, snipe, and any game birds taken on licensed game bird clubs. In addition, nonlead shot will be required when using a shotgun to take resident small game mammals, furbearing mammals, nongame mammals, nongame birds, and any wildlife for depredation purposes.
- **Phase 3** – Effective July 1, 2019, nonlead ammunition will be required when taking any wildlife with a firearm anywhere in California.

Existing restrictions on the use of lead ammunition in the California condor range remain in effect while implementation proceeds.

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 go to the following web address: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Nonlead-Ammunition](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Nonlead-Ammunition)

## 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 at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/tagreporting). Hunters logging into the system will be able to view all of 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, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94299-0002.

## ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

There are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone D-17.

## 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 online Point-of-Sale terminals (IPOS) located at various CDFW license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing). 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 at most CDFW offices and license agents or online at: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest).

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 Zone D-17 and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

- 1) **Premium** Deer Hunts – **D17**
- 2) **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
- 3) **Unrestricted** Deer Hunts – **Archery Only (AO)**

The deer hunting regulations specific to Zone D-17 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-17, hunters must possess a Zone D-17 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 Zone D-17 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, 2017 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2017 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most CDFW offices, license agents and online at: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest)

## HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained on the Department's Deer Harvest Data page available on-line [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#5477272-harvest-statistics](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#5477272-harvest-statistics). 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

Zone D-17 is primarily public land with the exception of a few, small private property in-holdings within the Mojave National Preserve. Deer are known to occur only in that portion of Zone D-17 situated within eastern San Bernardino County. Almost the entire area where deer can be found in Zone D-17 was designated by Congress in 1994 as the Mojave National Preserve, administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The northern portions of the Clark Mountains and the Kingston Range are administered by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

### NPS Offices:

National Park Service (NPS), Mojave National Preserve, 2701 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 (760-252-6100)

### BLM Offices:

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 (760-252-6000)  
Needles Field Office, 1303 S. Hwy 95, Needles, CA 92363 (760-326-7000)

In Zone D-17 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, go to the following link: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/PLM](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/PLM)

## MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following Department web page: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#54774-zones--hunts](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer#54774-zones--hunts)

The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) map for San Bernardino County provides a good, large scale overview of roads open within wilderness boundaries. In addition, both NPS and BLM maps are available. NPS maps can be obtained by contacting the Mojave National Preserve visitor center located in

Baker (760-733-4040). BLM surface management maps can be purchased at local BLM district offices; the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400); or order on-line at: [www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/maps\\_pubroom](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/maps_pubroom)

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. Some specific 7.5 minute quadrangle maps for the zone include: Midhills, Cima Dome, Clark Mountain, Joshua, Ivanpah, Cima, Pinto Valley, Hayden, Columbia Mountain and Woods Mountain. 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 on-line at: [store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/b2c/start/\(xcm=r3standardpitrex\\_prd\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do)

## **ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Primary approach to Zone D-17 hunt areas is via Interstate Highways 15 and 40 from Barstow. Secondary access roads leading from those highways are Kelbaker, Cima, Nipton to Ivanpah, Essex, Goffs to Landfair, Excelsior Mine and Yates Well roads. Many County, NPS, BLM and other dirt roads, including Black Mountain, Wildhorse Canyon, Cedar Canyon, and Green Wells roads, provide final access to hunting areas. With passage of the 1994 Desert Protection Act, some existing roads were and are closed to accommodate wilderness area designation as demanded by the new law. Although some access availability is hampered by the act, admittance generally remains fair to good at most locations. Hunters need to be aware of safety closure areas surrounding two NPS campgrounds.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Warm days and cool nights are typical during the Zone D-17 hunt season. However, hot days are always a possibility and wind conditions can change quickly. Hunters are advised to dress in layered clothing and always be prepared for possible desert showers.

Zone D-17 encompasses a large geographic area, and hunters are advised to assure gasoline tanks are full before entering the backcountry. Terrain can be sandy and flat to steep and rocky. As is the case for all remote area travel, hunters should take along a shovel, serviceable spare tire, and lots of extra food and water. Within the Zone D-17 hunting areas, four-wheel-drive vehicles are not required; however, some areas have sand and steep roads in which case four-wheel-drive is needed. Be sure to use extra caution when driving off-road and check with NPS or BLM regarding vehicle travel restrictions that may be in place. Note that only street-legal licensed vehicles are allowed within the Mojave National Preserve; green-sticker vehicles are not permitted. While horses can improve hunter access to some Zone D-17 locations, it must be remembered that water is in short supply throughout the desert. Check with NPS and BLM for information regarding area livestock forage conditions.

## **CAMPING**

There are two designated NPS campgrounds within Zone D-17, a primitive site at Mid Hills that provides water and pit toilets and a slightly more improved facility at Hole-In-The-Wall. Mid Hills is located at a higher elevation, within pinyon and juniper treed areas; Hole-In-The-Wall is located in the lower desert area. Camping outside designated camping areas is permitted in BLM and NPS areas, as long as the site has been previously used as a camping area. Firewood is scarce throughout the Zone D-17 desert, and firewood collecting is prohibited within the Mojave National Preserve. Hunters must supply campfire material.

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 on public lands within California; or any wildlife watering place such as waterholes, springs, seeps and man-made

watering devices within the California Desert Conservation Area on BLM land is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

## HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-17 is considered stable. Short-term fluctuations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production and the availability of water.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-17 includes a mixture of Rocky Mountain mule deer, California mule deer, and Southern mule deer that were translocated into the Providence Mountains area from 1945 through 1948. Today, deer in Zone D-17 can be found throughout mountainous areas from 4,000 to 8,000 feet elevation, but are not typically concentrated in any particular location. Deer in Zone D-17 are considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes, they do not make long seasonal migrations.

Deer forage and vegetation preferences vary, and deer can be found from desert wash to pinyon and juniper tree habitats. However the distribution of deer in Zone D-17 is usually associated in close proximity to bitterbrush.

## 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/or 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/or livestock. Deer in this desert environment occur in scattered populations at extremely low densities which are generally associated with permanent water sources. Deer populations may disperse somewhat following periods of significant rainfall that have resulted in flushes of vegetation.

Hunters should scout within the 4,000-8,000 foot elevation range near the top of the Clark and Kingston Mountains. Successful Zone D-17 hunters harvest from 30 to 50 bucks during a typical hunt season. The following areas have historically provided the majority of the deer kill in Zone D-17 (in descending order of reported deer-take): Mid Hills, New York Mountains, Providence Mountains, Clark Mountains, Mescal, Cima Dome, Castle, Kingston Range, and Granite Mountains.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see CDFW's publication "Guide to Hunting Deer in California" at the following web site, under "Related Information":

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Deer)

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