CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Wildlife Branch
1(888)334-CalTIP (888)334-2258 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

J-10 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 3-4, and October 10-12, 2026**, 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, 2026 in order to be eligible for a 2026-27 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 **October 2, 2026 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. 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 J-10 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 J-10 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.

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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Nonlead Ammunition in California web page.