CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Wildlife Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605

J-3 Tehama WA Apprentice Buck Hunt

That portion of Tehama County within the boundaries of the Tehama Wildlife Area.

This buck hunt shall be open from **November 28 – November 29, 2026**.

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.

Tag holders shall attend an orientation meeting on **Friday, November 27 at 5pm** at the Tehama Wildlife Area Headquarters, 30490 Plum Creek Road, near the town of Paynes Creek.

Tags shall be valid only for the area and class of deer designated on the tag.

Bag limit shall be **one** (1) buck, forked antler or better, per tag.

The deer tag shall be attached to an antler immediately after killing the deer.

Any legal method for taking deer as described in Section 353 of the Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers is authorized. Only non-lead ammunition is allowed on state wildlife areas (see below for further information).

For additional information, please call (530) 597-2201.

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

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