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

J-9 Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Only Either-Sex Deer Hunt

That portion of Butte County within the exterior boundaries of the Little Dry Creek Unit Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (as defined in Section 551).

This either-sex deer hunt shall be open from **September 19 - September 27, 2026**.

Hunters are required to attend a pre-hunt meeting on **September 18 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Little Dry Creek Check Station.

Tags are valid only for the type 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 antlerless deer, as described above or legal bucks that have two or more points in the upper two-thirds of either antler. Spike bucks with antlers longer than three inches may not be taken (Section 204 (d), Fish and Game Code).

Bag limit shall be **one** (1) either-sex deer per tag.

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

Tag holders shall use **shotguns** capable of holding not more than three shells firing single slugs. Only non-lead ammunition is allowed on state wildlife areas (see below for further information).

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.

Parking is restricted to designated parking lots only. If requested, permission may be granted by area personnel to drive on a closed road for the purpose of transporting a deer carcass. All other travel is on authorized roads only.

For more information, please call (530) 982-2169.

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 have fun.

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.