



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
**2014 Deer Zone Information**

Wildlife Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811



General Deer Hunting Information For  
**ZONE X-7a**  
**and**  
**Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-13**  
(Includes Additional Hunt J-19)

**NEW LEAD RESTRICTIONS COMING SOON**

California to Require Use of Lead Free Hunting Ammunition State-wide by July 1, 2019.  
Phase-in Regulation to be Developed and Adopted by July 1, 2015.

In October 2013 Assembly Bill 711 was approved by the Governor and chaptered into law by the Secretary of State. AB 711 added several sections to Fish and Game Code, one of which (3004.5(b)) requires a complete ban on the use of lead ammunition when taking (hunting) ANY wildlife anywhere in the State by July 1, 2019. This section also requires the Fish and Game Commission to develop a phase-in regulation by July 1, 2015 designed to impose the least burden on California's hunters while still implementing the intent of the law. The new law builds on a previously enacted ban on the use of non-lead ammunition for big game hunting within the range of the California condor (see map at [www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/condor](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/condor) ).

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) introduced a proposed phase-in regulation at the Fish and Game Commission's (FGC) Wildlife Resource Committee (WRC) meeting in January 2014 (see "Implementing AB 711" under "Alerts" at [www.dfg.ca.gov/Hunting](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Hunting)). The proposal will continue to be discussed at WRC meetings, as well as at a series of scoping sessions conducted by CDFW, throughout the regulation development process. Information regarding these meetings will be posted as they are developed under the "Meetings" tab at [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov) and under the "Public Notices" link at [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov).

Both the CDFW and FGC consider hunter participation to be a crucial element in the development and implementation of this regulation. The FGC will officially notice the regulation proposal at their December 2014 meeting, triggering a public comment period extending until the regulations scheduled adoption in April 2015. However, the CDFW must have the proposal before the WRC by mid-September 2014. CDFW will use the time between now and the end of August as a "scoping" period for public comment and recommendations for use in the preparation of the final proposal. Hunters are encouraged to get their comments and recommendations in as early as possible. In-lieu of (or addition to) providing testimony and/or written comments at one of the above mentioned meetings, hunters may send comments by email to: [wildlifemgmt@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wildlifemgmt@wildlife.ca.gov) (please identify "AB 711 Implementation" in the subject line) or in writing to:

Attn: AB 711 Implementation  
CDFW - Wildlife Branch  
1812 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE X-7a**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-7a located in portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-13; Zone X-7a Archery Hunt), Zone X-7a general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

**North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900)** encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba 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: <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. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience even more.

The deer hunting regulations including: boundary descriptions, seasons, bag/possession limits, number of tags, and any special conditions specific to **Zone X-7a** and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. For a brief summary of season dates and tag quotas go to the following web page:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/tags/index.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to, or file an online harvest report with, DFW within 30 days of taking a deer (see Internet Harvest Reporting highlighted below).

### **INTERNET HARVEST REPORTING**

In anticipation of mandatory harvest reporting for all big game species, in 2012 DFW began offering an Internet reporting option for hunters to submit big game tag/report card information. Both successful and unsuccessful hunters will be able to report their hunt results online via DFW's Online License Service at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/harvestreporting/>. Hunters logging into the system are now able to view all their tags that require reports. Hunters submitting reports online will receive a report confirmation number and will not have to mail in their report card(s). DFW encourages all hunters (including those who were unsuccessful or who had a tag but did not hunt) to use this new service to meet their respective reporting requirement(s).

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. An online reporting option will provide that information in a more timely and convenient manner.

## **OBTAINING DEER TAGS**

Beginning in late 2010, DFW 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 DFW license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at <http://www.dfg.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.

Other than the way you apply for and receive licenses and tags, the primary difference you will notice is in the form that the license or tag comes. Instead of the old style license or postcard type deer tag, they will all come out of the IPOS terminal in the form of a long receipt. If successful at harvesting a deer, filling out the tag and report card portion, validation and report card return requirements remain unchanged.

For more specific information on ALDS, application procedures and zone/hunt information, check out the current Big Game Hunting Digest available by May at most DFW offices and license agents or online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/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 X-7a and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

- 1) **Premium** Deer Hunts – **X7a, A13 and J19**
- 2) **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
- 3) **Unrestricted** Deer Hunts – None

**General Season Tags (Zone X-7a):** The deer hunting regulations specific to Zone X-7a and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer during the general season in Zone X-7a, a hunter must possess a Zone X-7a tag. This tag is valid in Zone X-7a, but **ONLY** during the prescribed general season. Zone X-7a tags **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-13 archery season, even with archery equipment.

**Archery Season Tags (Hunt A-13):** To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-7a, hunters must possess an Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-13 tag. This tag is only valid during the Hunt A-13 archery season and **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even with archery equipment. Additionally, Archery Only Tags (AO Tags) are **NOT** valid in any X zone or archery hunt within an X zone.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-7a are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section near the end of this sheet. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and apply by the midnight **June 2, 2014 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2014 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most Department offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

## **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone X-7a 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. Public lands within Zone X-7a are administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe and Tahoe National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

### USFS Offices:

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 (775-331-6444)  
Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St., P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City CA 95959 (530-265-4531)

### BLM Offices:

Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775-885-6000)

In Zone X-7a 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:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

## **MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following Department web page: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>.

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Tahoe National Forest map. 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); or 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 on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

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-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400); or order on-line at: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/maps\\_pubroom.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/maps_pubroom.html).

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 on-line at: [http://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**

Major access to Zone X-7a is provided by Highways 80 and 89. North of Highway 80 and west of Highway 89, private lands are checker boarded throughout much of the Tahoe National Forest.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. In most years, storms arrive during the deer season. Although storms are usually not serious, hunters should always be prepared for the event of a storm. Snow may fall at higher elevations but normally lasts only a short time. Roads usually dry out quickly. Most of the area is accessible with a two-wheel drive vehicle. Four-wheel drive may be required in some locations. Due to the complex road system in the Tahoe National Forest, horse packing and backpacking are not necessary. However, if you choose to horse pack in, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-7a covers a 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 when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

## **CAMPING**

There are several USFS campgrounds within the Zone X-7a and these are shown on the map of the Tahoe National Forest. Informal camping is allowed on both 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. Commercial lodging facilities are available in Truckee and Portola.

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.

## **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 at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> 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.

## **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone X-7a is considered stable to declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. 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 inhabiting Zone X-7a is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer however you may encounter some Columbian black-tailed deer. Deer in Zone X-7a are considered migratory. However, hunter success has been better at lower elevations, since the drought in the late 1980's. Early storms may result in some deer movement, but deer generally do not migrate down towards winter ranges until serious storms with moderate to heavy snowfall hit later in the season.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-7a ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, aspen, hardwood-conifer, conifer and juniper to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, 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. 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/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.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush. The habitat varies from sagebrush flats at the lower elevations to mixed conifer forests to rimrock areas covered by mountain mahogany at the higher elevations. Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone X-7a include: Sardine Peak, Lemon Canyon, Dark Canyon, Lake of the Woods, Crystal Peak and Babbit Peak.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

## **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2014, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-7a: 1) Hunt J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

## **2014 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

(Any 2014 regulation changes from 2013 are **highlighted in yellow.**)

### **§ 360. Deer.**

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

#### **(b) X-Zone Hunts.**

##### **(10) Zone X-7a.**

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties lying within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 395 and the California-Nevada state line at Bordertown; south along the Long Valley Road (County Road S570) to its intersection with the Henness Pass Road (County Road S860); west on Henness Pass Road over Summit 2 to the intersection with County Road S450 (near Davies Creek at Stampede Reservoir); west on County Road S450 (the Henness Pass Road) through Kyburz Flat to its intersection with Highway 89; south on Highway 89 to its intersection with Interstate 80 at Truckee; west on Interstate 80 to the Pacific Crest Trail near the Castle Peak-Boreal Ridge Summit; north on the Pacific Crest Trail to the new road to White Rock Lake (one mile west of White Rock Lake in section 21, T18N, R14E, M.D.B.M.); north on the new

White Rock Lake Road below Bear Valley to the White Rock Lake Road; north on the White Rock Lake Road to the Jackson Meadows Highway (Fiberboard Road); east two miles on the Jackson Meadows Highway to the Yuba Pass Road at Webber Lake; north on the Yuba Pass Road (main haul road) through Bonta Saddle to Highway 49 at Yuba Pass; west on Highway 49 to the new Gold Lake Road at Bassetts; north on the new Gold Lake Road to Highway 89 near Graeagle; north on Highway 89 to Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395 at Hallelujah Junction; south on Highway 395 to the point of beginning.  
(B) Season: The season in Zone X-7a shall open on the first Saturday in October 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: 225.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(41) J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties within the area described as zone X-7a (see subsection 360(b)(10)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be concurrent with the zone X-7a general season as defined in subsection 360(b)(10)(B).

(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 (see subsection 708.2).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(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 Hunting.**

(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:

(11) A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(10)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August 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: 45.

(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).

(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! \*\*\*\*