

HUNTING GUIDE 2023

**2023 BIG GAME
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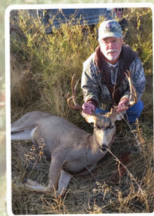
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2023 REGION 3 BIG GAME HUNTING OUTLOOK

Southwest Region – Nampa

Ryan Walrath, Regional Wildlife Manager; David Bernasconi, Regional Wildlife Biologist; Rachel Curtis, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Elk

The 2021 elk abundance survey in the Boise River Zone revealed that both cows and bulls were over population objectives. While the recent harsh winter resulted in a moderate uptick in the number of calf mortalities, it is unlikely that extended cold weather negatively impacted survival of adult cows and bulls. Both general season and controlled hunt tag holders should experience an abundance of opportunity this season.

Following the 2023 Sawtooth Elk Zone abundance survey, estimates of overwintering bulls showed a decline, while cow numbers increased when compared to the previous survey in 2017. However, it is important to remember that much of the huntable population immigrates into the Sawtooth Zone during the spring migration which are not captured during the winter aerial survey within the Sawtooth Elk Zone. Hunter success rates have remained consistent in the zone between surveys, but hunters may want to plan their hunts earlier in the season to increase their odds of encountering non-overwintering bulls before they migrate back out of the zone.

Elk hunting in the Owyhee Zone, which is limited to controlled hunts, will continue to provide hunters with excellent opportunities to harvest mature bulls this fall. These herds are stable and/or increasing, which allows for antlerless opportunity in the zone that is intended to slow population growth.

Mule Deer

With generous over-the-counter tags and any-weapon harvest seasons, and given its proximity to Idaho's most populated area, Unit 39 is the state's most popular and productive unit for mule deer hunters. Fawn recruitment in Unit 39 was severely reduced



following the recent harsh late winter conditions, which may mean hunters could see fewer yearling bucks this fall. Mature deer encountered in the field should be similar to better than previous years since winter conditions had limited effect on adult survival. Mule deer in the southern portion of the Central Mountains (Units 33, 34, and 35) has experienced steady recovery since the winter of 2016-2017 with multiple years of increasing buck to doe ratios observed during aerial flights. Hunters should expect mature bucks at low densities due to remote hunting conditions and the short growing season of the central mountains.

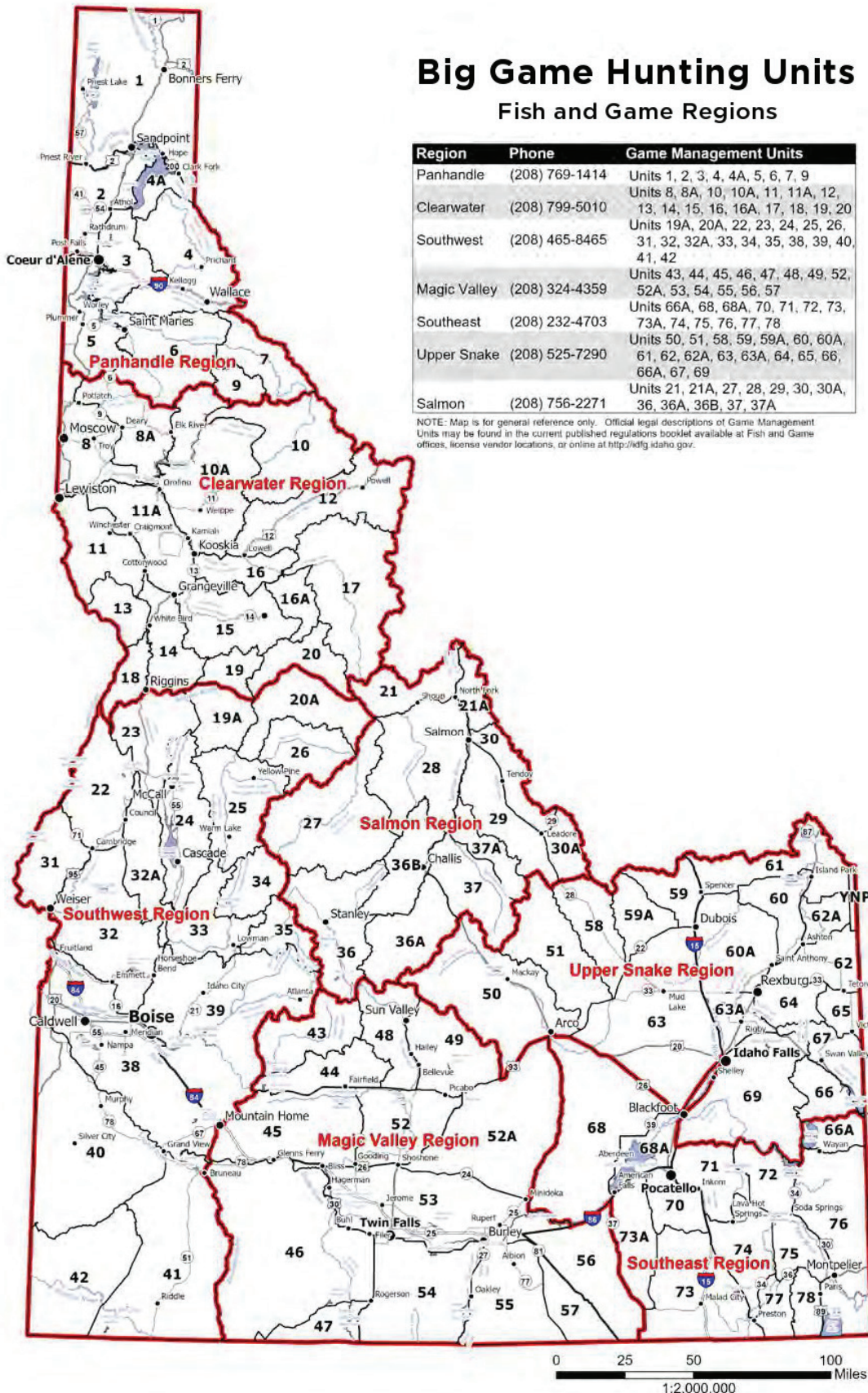
2023 HUNTING SEASON

WHAT'S NEW?

Big Game Hunting Units Fish and Game Regions

Region	Phone	Game Management Units
Panhandle	(208) 769-1414	Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9
Clearwater	(208) 799-5010	Units 8, 8A, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 18, 19, 20
Southwest	(208) 465-8465	Units 19A, 20A, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42
Magic Valley	(208) 324-4359	Units 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 52A, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57
Southeast	(208) 232-4703	Units 66A, 68, 68A, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78
Upper Snake	(208) 525-7290	Units 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69
Salmon	(208) 756-2271	Units 21, 21A, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A

NOTE: Map is for general reference only. Official legal descriptions of Game Management Units may be found in the current published regulations booklet available at Fish and Game offices, license vendor locations, or online at <http://idfg.idaho.gov>.



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Harvest and disease monitoring data indicate that CWD positive animals are concentrated in the Slate Creek drainage. A removal effort was conducted this spring to reduce deer densities in the drainage. Visit idfg.idaho.gov/cwd for more information.

Mule Deer

Antlerless mule deer tag opportunities were reduced in Units 40, 41, 42, 45 and 54 in response to reduced population productivity.

White-tailed Deer

General seasons were extended until November 20 in Units 19A, 23 and 24..

Elk

Removed antlerless only harvest in Units 22 and 32A from the Weiser River Zone B Tag. Boise River Zone B Tag season opens October 27, five days earlier. Pioneer Zone B Tag Quota (antlerless) has been reduced from 2500 to 500 tags. Big Desert B Tag Quota (antlerless) has been reduced from 500 to 250 tags.

Pronghorn

New either sex hunt in all of Units 31, 32 and 32A. Gray Wolf hunting seasons are now year-round on public and private land statewide.

Wolf

Trapping seasons in many additional units begin September 10.

Stay Up-to-Date

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Outlook Cont.

General season mule deer hunting opportunity in the Owyhee units is limited to two-point bucks, and as a result, the harvest is largely comprised of yearlings. Excellent summer forage conditions last year led to an increased number of fawns observed in winter herd composition surveys. While snow levels were above average, conditions on Owyhee winter range were not as severe as those in Eastern Idaho, leading to higher-than-expected overwinter survival. The resulting increase in recruitment should translate into more yearling deer on the landscape compared to the last two years.

What hunters should be aware of this fall

Fish and Game is collecting Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples from deer and elk in Unit 39 this fall as part of the statewide CWD monitoring effort. Hunters can submit lymph nodes or heads for sampling. Samples from deer and elk salvaged from vehicle collisions within Unit 39 will also be accepted. Please see the Fish and Game CWD webpage for information about sampling techniques, requesting a sampling kit and looking up sampling and drop-off locations. Hunters in Unit 39 are reminded that the Boise River Elk B tag season will start October 27, which will overlap the last 5 days of the general deer season.

Outlook Cont. Page 8



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Outlook Cont.

Hunters in Unit 40 should be aware that a Bureau of Land Management prescribed burn in Johnston Draw southwest of Reynolds may limit access during some early controlled hunts and/or during part of the general archery season. The burn will be conducted over a window of 3-5 days when conditions are ideal – sometime between September 15 and October 31.

Wildlife managers are continuing to encourage antlerless harvest in controlled hunts for Units 39 and 43. Unit 39 has been a very productive mule deer unit, and has been for a long time, but biologists have documented decreases in fawn production, a smaller number of fawns in proportion to the number of does, and a decline in winter weights of fawns — all of which suggest the deer herd is approaching the top end of what the habitat can support.

Southwest Region – McCall

Regan Berkley, Regional Wildlife Manager

Elk

Elk herds remain at or above objectives in most of the region with the exception of the Middle Fork Zone, which is still below objectives. Wildlife staff surveyed the McCall Zone during February 2022, and elk numbers are within management objectives.

Brownlee has a high ratio of bulls to cows, and harvest continues to trend up. However, hunters should expect that some of these elk will be challenging to hunt due to hunter numbers and private land access.

The Weiser River zone remains above objectives, but harvest success recently started to drop off due to an intentional reduction of herds in order to meet population objectives. During 2023 season setting, antlerless opportunity was reduced on both the A and B tags. In addition, Fish and Game reorganized a few of the private land hunts to try and push elk off private land. Hunters should be aware that access can be difficult in portions of the Weiser River Zone that are privately owned.

Deer

Although deer herds in eastern Idaho saw high mortality last winter, deer fawns collared across the Weiser-McCall area saw average overwinter survival at just over 60% percent. This follows three winters of above-average fawn survival, and should result in good numbers of 1- to 5-year-old deer available to hunters this fall.

White-tailed deer herds are stable to slightly increasing across the region with the highest densities occurring in the northern portions. White-tailed deer seasons were extended in units 23 and 24 during the 2023 season setting process.



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For hunters pursuing mule deer on the regular deer tag: hunters are reminded that youth are restricted to harvesting antlered deer only in Units 23, 31, and 32A. In Units 22 and 32, youth may harvest antlered or antlerless animals during the first week of the season (Oct 10-16) but may only harvest antlered deer during the second half of the season (Oct 17-24).

What hunters should be aware of this fall

Fish and Game is encouraging hunters to submit CWD samples this year, particularly from animals harvested in Unit 23 near the CWD management zone. Unit 23 hunters will see “head barrels” on some major access roads to help facilitate sampling. In addition, staff will operate a CWD sampling site in New Meadows during most weekends in October and November. Check the Fish and Game CWD webpage for times and locations of various sample collection opportunities.

The McCall office would like to hear about hunter observations of moose, to compile a little more information about moose distribution across the region. Please give the McCall office a call at 208-634-8137 if you see a moose this fall so that we can record location information.



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Only accurate rifles (and bows) are interesting

In a 1957 issue of American Rifleman Magazine, famed writer and marksman Col. Townsend Whelen quipped that “only accurate rifles are interesting.” Townsend argued that only those who spent the time sighting in and taking pride in their firearm – we’ll go ahead and assume he meant bows as well – produced rewarding outcomes as their skillset and marksmanship increased. Shooters who neglected their firearms, on the other hand, found the road to proficiency to be long and arduous, eventually losing interest in their hobby and soon disposing of it altogether.

As hunting season approaches, let Whelen’s remark serve as a reminder that taking pride in your firearm or bow is merely the prologue to yet another edition of the hunting season. An obvious, yet important, reminder: Your hunt will not end successfully if you

can’t deliver a bullet or arrow on target when it matters most.

“Taking the time to prepare and become a better marksman is a hallmark of an ethical hunter,” said

Brenda Beckley, Hunter Education Administrator. “And the better marksman you become, the better your chances of successfully harvesting an animal.”

Now that we’ve established the when to get started improving your aim, here’s the how.

Get in range time

Fish and Game offers several options for shooting and/or archery ranges around the state. Blacks Creek, Farragut, Nampa and Garden Valley Shooting Range are all Fish and Game-owned, public shooting ranges designed for safe firearm/bow practice by shooters of all abilities.

In the southwest, Nampa’s public facility features both an indoor and outdoor archery range, as well as an indoor air gun range. There is also the Boise River WMA archery range complete with 20



three-dimensional foam targets.

In the Panhandle, there is Farragut Public Shooting Range, which also includes a one-mile, walk-through archery range. Several Idaho state parks, in cooperation with Fish and Game, have archery ranges with life-sized, three-dimensional targets that mimic big game animals.

There are several other shooting ranges located across the state, some of which are co-managed by Idaho Fish and Game and the Shooting Range Development Grant program. This program's mission is to provide funds to assist organizations or agencies to establish, upgrade, expand or otherwise improve public firearms and archery ranges in Idaho.

For a more comprehensive list of shooting ranges in Idaho, go check out the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Where to Shoot webpage. This state-by-state shooting range directory lists contact information, facilities available, maps and more for each range. Calling before you go is highly recommended, as hours of operation, services or shooting opportunities may change. If you've never been to a public shooting range, here is a beginner's guide to get you started.

Pre-Season Prep Tips | Rifles

For rifle hunters, many shooting experts recommend setting your initial target at 25 yards to make sure you hit the paper if you have a new rifle, have replaced a scope or don't know where your rifle is hitting. After shooting at that distance, move your target out to 100 yards or more to finish the sighting-in process. Consistent accuracy is the ultimate goal when practicing shooting

skills, so it's important that hunters consider their effective shooting range and practice at all distances out to that maximum number.

It's also important to practice from a variety of shooting positions and not just from a bench. Think about it. When that 4-point buck or 6-point bull pauses along the hillside, you're not going to have the luxury of a bench rest and 5 minutes of slow breathing when you go to take that shot.

Shooters should try to replicate the conditions they are likely to encounter in the field as closely as possible, so after your rifle is sighted in, consider doing some exercise to get your heart rate elevated and your lungs working harder to mimic what shooting may feel like in the field.

"We stress in our hunter education courses that all hunters have an ethical obligation to know their personal limits and be prepared," Beckley said. "Practicing often, at a variety of distances and from a number of different shooting positions, will help hunters prepare for a variety of situations they may encounter."

Hot Tip: Hunters should always use the same ammunition for hunting as they did when sighting in their rifle.

Pre-Season Prep Tips | Shotguns

Don't let the Elmer Fudd cartoons fool you – there's a lot more to using a shotgun than just spraying a target with pellets. When it comes to preparation for wing shooting, hunters should focus on practicing different shots at different angles that may at first seem difficult.

Bow Cont.

Hot Tip: Be sure you use the choke and shell combination you plan to use for the hunting season. Modified chokes produce a moderately tight pattern, good for rabbits, quail and upland game birds. Full chokes have an even tighter pattern and are best suited for turkey, squirrels and other game at longer range.

Patterning a shotgun before the season is a fairly common practice with turkey hunters, but it's something upland and migratory bird hunters should consider, too. Knowing your pattern density at given distances can help you determine your effective range, and give you a good idea of how your shotgun performs with a particular choke and shell combination. Every shotgun is different, and your shotgun will likely perform differently if you change either of those variables.

Pre-Season Prep Tips | Bows

By this point in the game, most archery hunters using traditional and compound bows will already be dialed in as early-season and archery-only hunts kick off in late August.

But if you're new to the sport of bow hunting, you should start by visiting your local bow shop and get your bow tuned up, especially if you haven't shot much or at all since last fall.

After that, it's time to get your body back into shooting shape and practice at known and unknown distances. Archery ranges with

life-sized, 3D targets are good place to practice your shooting and estimating distance in a field setting.

Hot Tip: Estimating distance is a lot more crucial in archery than in rifle hunting. To become proficient at gauging distances in the field, sharpen your eye by making estimates on various landmarks or 3D targets. Once you make an assessment, whip out your trusty rangefinder and confirm just how close or far off your naked eye was.

Fish and Game has ranges at its Boise River Wildlife Management Area and Farragut Shooting Range. You can also find archery ranges at some Idaho State Parks, including Hells Gate near Lewiston, Castle Rock near Albion and Dworshak near Orofino.

Remember that most ranges will not allow you to shoot broadheads, and they usually shoot differently than field tips, so you will need to resight in your bow when you make the switch. So whether you're hauling a rifle or a recurve out into the field with you this hunting season, proper maintenance and preparation is a must. Be sure to brush up on your marksmanship and take care of your weapon to ensure a fun, safe (and "interesting") hunt.

Idaho Fish and Game encourages hunters to dust off their firearms or bows and visit their local shooting or archery ranges to get dialed in for hunting season.



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Spike and Brow-tined Elk Hunts



Spike Elk

Legal in spike elk hunts: One antler must be at least 6 inches or longer (not legal in brow-tined elk hunts).



Branch Antlered Bull (or larger)

Not legal in spike elk hunts or brow-tined elk hunts: Not legal for spike-only hunts if branch point is longer than 1 inch.



Point must be 1 inch or longer.



brow-tine

Legal in brow-tined elk hunts

Legal Deer In Two-Point Hunts



Spike Deer

Legal buck under 2-point regulations at least 1 antler is 3 inches or longer.



1 x 2 Point Deer

Legal buck under 2-point regulations.



2 x 2 Point Deer

Legal buck under 2-point regulations. Not legal in 3-point or 4-point hunts.



2 x 3 Point Deer

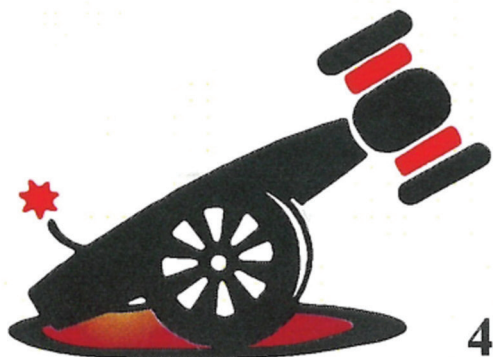
Legal buck under 2-point regulations. Also legal under 3-point regulations.



Point must be 1 inch or longer.

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MANDATORY HUNTER REPORTS FOR ALL BIG GAME

Hunters must report 10 days after harvest, or if the hunter did not hunt or harvest (deer, elk, and pronghorn only), 10 days after the closing date of their season for each tag purchased. For Deer, Elk or Pronghorn Report your hunt online, by signing into your Idaho Fish and Game account at GoOutdoorsIdaho.com, or through our Go Outdoors Idaho app. If you prefer to speak to a live operator, call our toll-free number at 1-877-268-9365. Operators are available seven days a week, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Mountain Time (excludes major holidays). Have your license or tag number available.

Information Collected: Hunters with an elk, deer, or pronghorn tag will be asked if they hunted, the weapon(s) they hunted with, the number of days hunted, the game management units hunted in, and if the hunter harvested an animal. If a hunter harvested an animal, they will be asked additional questions such as the date of harvest, the sex of the animal, the number of antler points on deer or elk or the length of horns on the pronghorn (in inches), and the weapon used.

Additional Information

A hunter may authorize another person to comply with the above requirements if that person possesses enough information to accurately complete the necessary questions. For more frequently asked questions about Mandatory Hunter Reports, visit idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/report. To locate a Fish and Game office near you, go online at idfg.idaho.gov/offices.



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- ❺ Don't drive off established roads
- ❻ Express your thanks!



FIELD DRESSING OF GAME

CRITICAL TO MEAT PRESERVATION AND TASTE

When you talk with professional butchers who routinely cut and wrap wild game, the number one topic that comes up is how poorly a lot of game is field dressed before it reaches the butcher shop. Careless field treatment often results in substantial spoilage and waste, and often limits the variety of cuts that can be safely and efficiently harvested. The “gamey” flavor that is often attributed to wild game can be partially a result of poor handling of the meat from kill to final packaging.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game provides a very specific guide to hunters that can help alleviate the waste and perhaps even legal issues that can arise for careless meat care.

Taking proper care of game meat is a hunter's responsibility!

Idaho law provides for civil penalties from \$400 to \$10,000, in addition to fines, jail time and loss of hunting privileges for persons convicted of wasteful destruction of game meat.

Idaho Legal Requirements

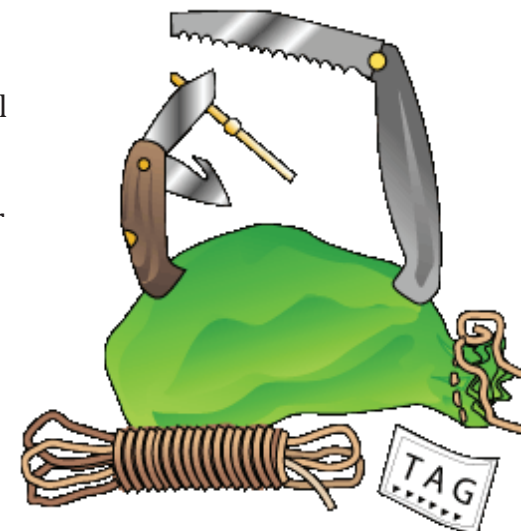
- Idaho Waste of Game Law: “Hunters are required to remove and care for the edible meat of big game animals, except black bears, mountain lions and gray wolves. This includes the meat from hind quarters as far down as the hock, meat of the front quarters as far down as the knee and meat along the backbone which is the loin and tenderloin. It does not include meat of the head or neck, meat covering or between the ribs, internal organs, or meat on the bones after close trimming.”
- The hunter must tag any big game animal immediately after it is killed
- Tags should remain attached to the largest portion of the carcass until meat is fully processed (Preferred to attach tag to portion of meat with the evidence of sex).
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass/meat.
- Antlers must accompany meat while in transit.
- If someone is transporting game taken by another, they must have a completed proxy statement signed by the taker showing number and kind of animals, date killed, taker's name and address, taker's hunting license and tag numbers.

Tips:

- Carry all equipment with you while you hunt. Leave heavier canvas bags in camp or with the horses. Lightweight game bags tear easily and can allow flies and other insects to ruin the meat.
- Repair tears in game bags and close all openings to prevent flies from getting in. Place cheesecloth bags inside canvas bags for transportation on stock or in vehicles.
- Fully boned meat cools slowly if packed together and can spoil if not spread out to cool completely. Carrying more game bags allow you to separate meat to cool better.
- Only use plastic bags for very short durations and not for storage. Meat spoils quickly in plastic.
- Keep meat in large pieces, so it has less surface area to get dirty or dried out.
- Try to cut as little hair as possible and remove loose hair from meat.
- A sharp knife is much easier to use and is less likely to cut you because you will not be straining to make your cuts.
- Once meat is cold, cover it with a sleeping bag in the shade during the day and it will stay cold even on fairly warm days. Uncover during cold nights. Get meat out to cold storage as soon as possible during warm weather.
- Once meat is cold, cover it with a sleeping bag in the shade during the day and it will stay cold even on fairly warm days. Uncover during cold nights. Get meat out to cold storage as soon as possible during warm weather

Equipment Recommendations:

1. At least 2 sharp knives (drop point preferred)
2. Knife sharpener
3. Small saw
4. Emergency space blanket (reusable, not tin foil type)
5. 4 heavy canvas washable game bags (best for keeping insects and dirt off meat)
6. 4 to 6 light cheese cloth game bags
7. Rope or parachute cord
8. Headlamp and batteries

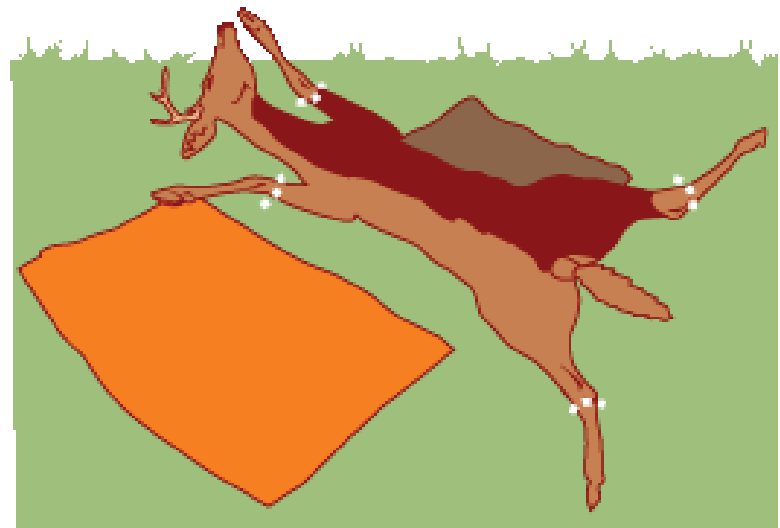


BONING OUT YOUR BIG GAME ANIMAL



This is one method that can be used to bone out a big game animal without gutting it. It is very important to get the meat cooled down as quickly as possible after the kill. If conditions do not permit boning the animal out immediately; after tagging it, gut the animal in the traditional method, skin the hide back from areas that retain heat, prop open the carcass, and elevate it off the ground so that cool air can circulate around the carcass and cool the meat. Return as soon as possible to complete boning the carcass out.

1. Validate your big game tag by notching out the month and day of kill.
2. If possible move the animal to a fairly level location and position it on its side. Lay equipment on the opened space blanket.
3. Do not cut into the intestinal cavity. Make a cut just under the skin, from between the hind legs, up the belly, sternum, between the front legs and up the neck all the way to the base of the head. Once through the hide, cut with the knife blade pointing out to minimize the amount of hair that is cut. Note: If caping the animal for mounting follow your taxidermists directions.
4. Cut just through the hide up the inside of each leg. Do not cut the tendon between the ham and the rear knee. It can make a good handle or hanging hook.



5. Skin the topside of the animal by pulling the hide from the belly towards its back, around the neck, and from around each of the legs. Be careful not to cut off the testicles or udder! Leave these naturally attached to one of the hind legs. Continue skinning the carcass until just past the backbone. Laying the hide back with the hair on the ground can give you another clean surface to place boned meat.
6. Use your bone saw to cut below the knee on the hind leg and at the knee joint of the front shoulder. (Can also be done with knife if you know where). Discard lower legs.



7. Remove hind leg: Pull top hind leg up to 90 degrees or greater to expose pelvis area. Cut straight down between legs to pelvis bone. Do not puncture intestinal cavity! Leave testicle, penis, or udder naturally attached to leg. Follow pelvis bone with your knife cutting meat from the pelvis to expose the large hip ball joint.

Game Cont. Page 18

Game Cont.

Work knife around pelvis and through ball joint. Spread hind-quarter further apart as you cut. Continue cutting through to backbone until hind leg is totally free. Remove and lay skinned hind leg on clean space blanket.



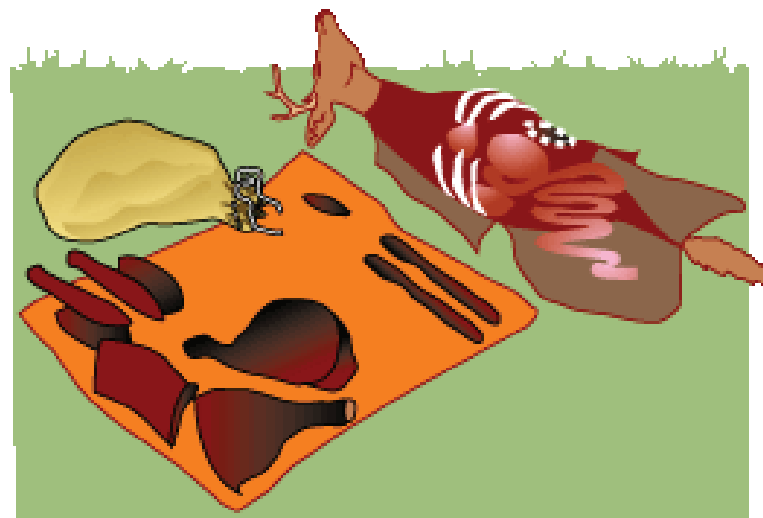
8. Remove Shoulder: Cut behind shoulder blade all the way to rib cage, taking as much meat as possible, then work forward and up to free shoulder from carcass. Place on clean space blanket or hang it off the ground.



9. Remove Backstrap: Insert knife along backbone near pelvis, cutting against upper side of spine, work forward cutting backstrap from the backbone. Cut until backstrap ends, near the base of the neck. Locate where ribs curve in towards backbone, then cut down towards spine. Work knife against the top of the ribs until backstrap comes free in one long piece. Place into cheesecloth game bag on space blanket.

10. Remove Neck Meat: Cut meat off of topside of neck, filleting off of the neck bone and windpipe. More meat will come from the neck than the shoulder. Try to keep meat in large pieces, so it has less surface area to get dirty or dried out. Place into game bags.
11. Remove Rib Meat: From the point where the backstrap was removed, lift the slab of meat covering the ribs and cut along the top of the ribs toward the sternum like you'd filet a fish. Place meat covering ribs and brisket into a game bag.

Flip carcass over: Repeat steps 5 through 11 on the opposite side.



12. Remove Tenderloins: After all meat has been removed from outside of carcass, cut into abdominal cavity behind the last rib. Saw can be used to cut base of ribs to give more access. Push rumen and intestines away from spine with non-knife hand. Remove tenderloins from either side of the backbone. Place into game bags with back straps.



13. Bone out hind legs and shoulders: (Only if further weight reduction is needed) Starting at the hip ball on the hind leg and at the lowest part of the leg bone on the front shoulder, carve meat away from the bone keeping the muscle groups as large as possible. Hind leg can be done in one piece. Place into game bags on space blanket.
14. Remove antlers and skull base with "V" cut through eye socket.

Following this type of process should provide the best possible meat preservation and best possible taste.

Having an idea of what you want to do with regards to the antlers, head, or skin of the animal is another decision that should be considered before your hunt begins. That way you are properly prepared to field prep those elements of the animal as well as the meat, keeping any waste left in the field to a minimum.



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BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT THIS FALL, DOUBLE CHECK FOR HUNT CHANGES

ROGER PHILLIPS

Idaho Dept. Fish & Game

New regulations were set in March and some hunts have changed.

Big game hunters are reminded to check for changes to the 2023 big game seasons that were adopted by the Commission in their March meeting. Due to harsh winters, and other population factors, changes were made to many hunts that could affect hunters expecting the same as last year.

Idaho Fish and Game works diligently to remind hunters that hunting seasons change, and they should check to ensure the new 2023-2024 Big Game Seasons and Rules brochure for details on different hunts. The print versions may not reflect all the latest changes. If hunters feel their hunts have been negatively affected, and they no longer want a certain tag, they can exchange it if other tags are

available. Hunting licenses and resident tags are nonrefundable. For information on nonresident refunds, please visit: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/forms/nonresident-refund>

General season tag exchanges must be completed before the first day of the hunt for the current tag, and may be exchanged to another general season tag of the same species if there are available tags. Exchanges must be completed through a Fish and Game office, either in-person or via mail, and must be completed before the first day of any hunt for the current tag.

Nonresident exchanges

Nonresident hunter's tag exchanges can also be processed online through the gooutdoorsidaho.com customer account during a scheduled Return Tag Sale. No exchanges can be processed at license vendor locations. For further questions, please email licenses@idfg.idaho.gov.

Why did the hunt change?

If you're wondering why your hunt changed, Idaho Fish & Game has a series of videos that were produced for the season-setting public comment period that was completed in February. In these videos Fish and Game staff explain the rationale for the proposed changes. Some of these proposals were adopted by the Commission, and others were not based on public input and other factors. These can be accessed through www.idfg.idaho.gov.

IDAHO WILDLIFE POLICY

"All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, shing and trapping."

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

REPORT POACHING

To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999. Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



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Legislation approved in 2009 designated major portions of Owyhee County as wilderness, where access by motorized vehicles is forbidden by law.

A number of access routes were preserved for hunter access. Please check your maps and abide by wilderness regulations.

Maps showing wilderness boundaries can be found at Bruneau, Owyhee and Jarbidge offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

For More Information, Please Contact
**BLM Boise District @ 208-384-3300 or the BLM
 Twin Falls District @ 208-736-2350; or visit the
 website @ www.blm.gov/idaho**

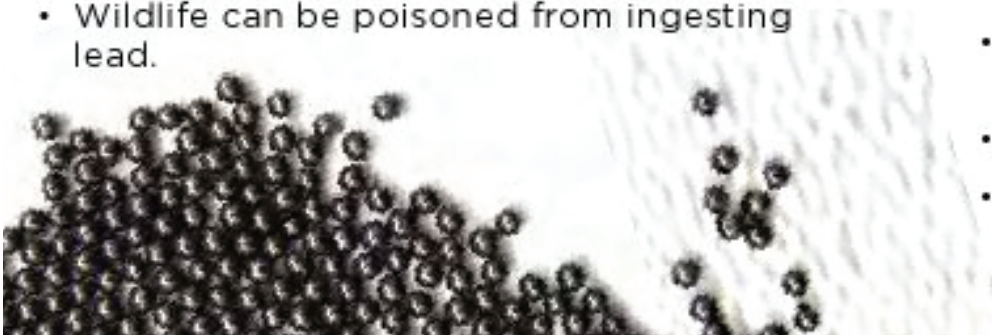
LEARN ABOUT ... LEAD ...

Hunter Information:

- Lead can be toxic if ingested, and the toxicity level depends on the level and frequency of exposure.
- People can ingest lead particles from bullets or shot in hunter harvested game animals.
- Lead particles in game meat may be too small to detect by sight, feel or taste.
- Lead shot is banned in U.S. for waterfowl hunting, but is still used for other purposes.
- Wildlife can be poisoned from ingesting lead.

Reduce Your Risk:

- Use non-lead, copper or other high-weight retention ammunition.
- Liberally trim around the wound channel.
- Discard meat that is bruised, discolored or contains hair or feathers, dirt, bone fragments, or plant material.
- Use caution when rinsing the carcass to avoid spreading lead fragments.
- Ground game meat has more lead fragments than steaks and chops.
- Ask commercial processors not to combine meat from other hunters with yours.
- Avoid cooking game meat with acidic substances like vinegar or wine.
- Practice good marksmanship.
- Practice clean field handling techniques.



HOW FIREARMS CREATE SPECIAL LEGAL ISSUES IN IDAHO

By Alex Kincaid



When a gun owner dies and has not prepared a gun trust (see below) to direct how the firearms should be handled, it is imperative that the person handling the probate proceeding understands the many rules that apply to the transfer and possession of firearms. Breaking these rules, even accidentally, is often a felony. A well-draft-

ed Idaho gun trust will assist the trustee with the following issues by giving much more direction than a personal representative (also called an executor or executrix) will receive in a probate proceeding. Keep in mind that expert legal advice is essential.

If you are involved the transfer of firearms from an estate, here are a few issues you will need to address:

1. Is there a master list of firearms?

Some Idaho gun owners leave a list on a computer program, such as Gun Count. You should try to find a list of firearms, to make sure that all of them are gathered, properly stored, and legal. As the personal representative, you are responsible for locating and properly storing the firearms until they are legally transferred to the heirs or sold.

2. Where are the firearms?

Are they stored in a place that is secure from theft, minors, and those who cannot legally possess firearms? Again, as a personal representative for an estate, you are in charge and responsible for keeping the firearms secured.

3. What kinds of firearms are there? Keep in mind that a simple-looking metal part called a receiver is a firearm under the law, subject to rules about possession and transfer. Small metal parts may constitute a “machine gun.” If any of the firearms are subject to a federal law known as the National Firearms Act, strict rules about who can possess and how these firearms are transferred must be obeyed to avoid committing a felony. If you don’t know what these items look like, get help!

4. Always use an FFL for all transfers to the heirs or beneficiaries of an estate.

Using an FFL (federal firearms licensee, also called a “dealer”) will ensure that you are doing things correctly and that the person receiving the firearm can legally have it. The cost of allowing an FFL to conduct the transfer and run a background check is well-worth it.

5. Check the laws of the state you are in as well as the laws of the state where the firearms are going.

Each state has different laws about what types of firearms are legal, whether a firearm must be registered, whether a background check must be conducted, and at what age a person may receive a firearm. These rules must be strictly followed to avoid breaking the law.

6. Make sure you follow all laws on how to legally transfer a firearm. Transfers across state lines are particularly tricky, and the proper procedure will depend on the laws of at least two states: 1) the state laws where the firearms are located and 2) the state laws that exist in the state where the firearms are going. Use an FFL to ship any handgun to another FFL, and always ship a long gun to an FFL.

7. Use a professional to value the firearms.

Don’t guess. If you are selling the firearms, you are responsible for getting fair market value or above.

8. Seek legal advice from a competent estate and firearms law attorney. Not all estate attorneys are firearms law attorneys, and vice versa. Alex Kincaid Law will provide you with experts in both areas of the law, to ensure an efficient, smooth, and competent transition of firearms from an estate to the lawful heirs or the devisees named in a Will.

Why a Gun Trust

A gun trust is a special type of trust that is designed to hold all of your firearms and firearms-related accessories. Gun trusts make it much easier for your loved ones to handle your firearms should you become incapacitated or die, they boost your ability to share and transfer NFA (National Firearms Act) firearms (such as suppressors), and they help ensure all state and federal laws are followed. Gun trusts have become the planning tool for gun owners whose collections include NFA firearms. One of the primary reasons is the ability to share possession of the NFA firearms with other trustees. Unlike other firearms, unless restricted by your state’s laws, NFA firearms can only be possessed by the person to whom the firearm

is registered. There is no exception for family members or other people with whom you live. If you leave your NFA firearm at home where it is accessible to other people, you and the other people in your home are violating federal law.

Most NFA gun owners are aware of this gun trust benefit. But many gun owners are not aware that gun trusts are important tools for all gun owners, whether or not a collection includes NFA firearms. Even if your collection does not include NFA firearms, you and your family will still benefit from a gun trust. Gun trusts are important for all gun owners, because they prepare you and your loved ones for your death and incapacity by responsibly addressing your firearms and keeping your affairs out of the court system. Planning for the possibility that you will be incapacitated (whether from age or accident), even if temporarily, is important for everyone. It is even more important for gun owners. Remember: if you don't plan, the government has a plan for you. The government's plan is a public, expensive, judge-controlled system that will take away your right to own a firearm.

All gun owners should try to avoid the court system if they are incapacitated or die by creating general estate planning documents as well as a gun trust. To learn more about proper estate planning for gun owners, watch a short video [Estate Planning for Gun Owners](#).

To learn why gun trusts are still important planning tools, even after Rule 41F went into effect, watch [Why You Still Need a Gun Trust Even After Rule 41F](#).

What does a properly drafted gun trust look like?

When properly written, gun trusts are powerful asset protection and estate planning tools. A well-drafted gun trust will achieve the following for the gun owner who creates the trust:

1. Ensure that friends and family can lawfully possess and transfer trust-owned firearms during the gun owner's lifetime;
2. Create a private plan that completely avoids the court system for all firearms if the gun owner becomes incapacitated or dies;
3. Assists gun owners in sharing NFA firearms with other law-abiding gun owners;
4. Helps the successors and heirs understand the gun owner's desires related to all the trust-owned firearms;
5. Helps the ones you care about to comply with firearms laws when they possess or transfer the firearms;
6. Assists the gun owner to own firearms in more than one state; and
7. Ensures that neither gun owner nor any loved ones commits an accidental felony.

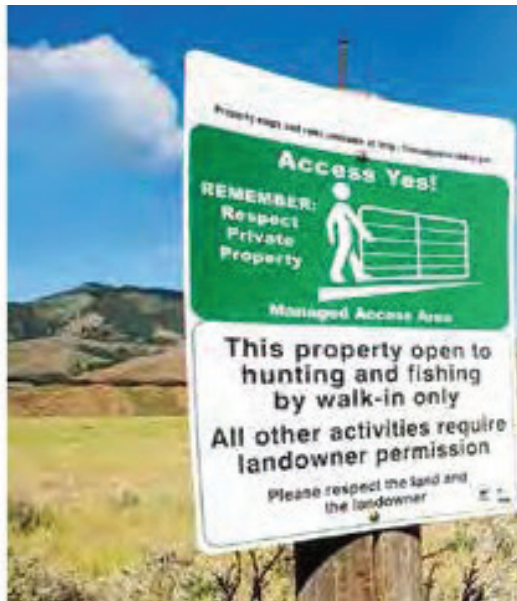
This article is for general information only and not legal advice. Reading an article is not a substitute for legal advice and no attorney-client relationship is formed by reading this article. You may contact Alex Kincaid Law at www.AlexKincaidLaw.com or (208) 365-4411.



Citizens Against Poaching (CAP) is a nonprofit organization established in 1981 in cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game. CAP offers monetary rewards for reporting wildlife crimes that result in Fish and Game conservation officers catching violators.

If you witness a wildlife violation, call the Citizens Against Poaching 24/7 hotline. Callers may remain anonymous.

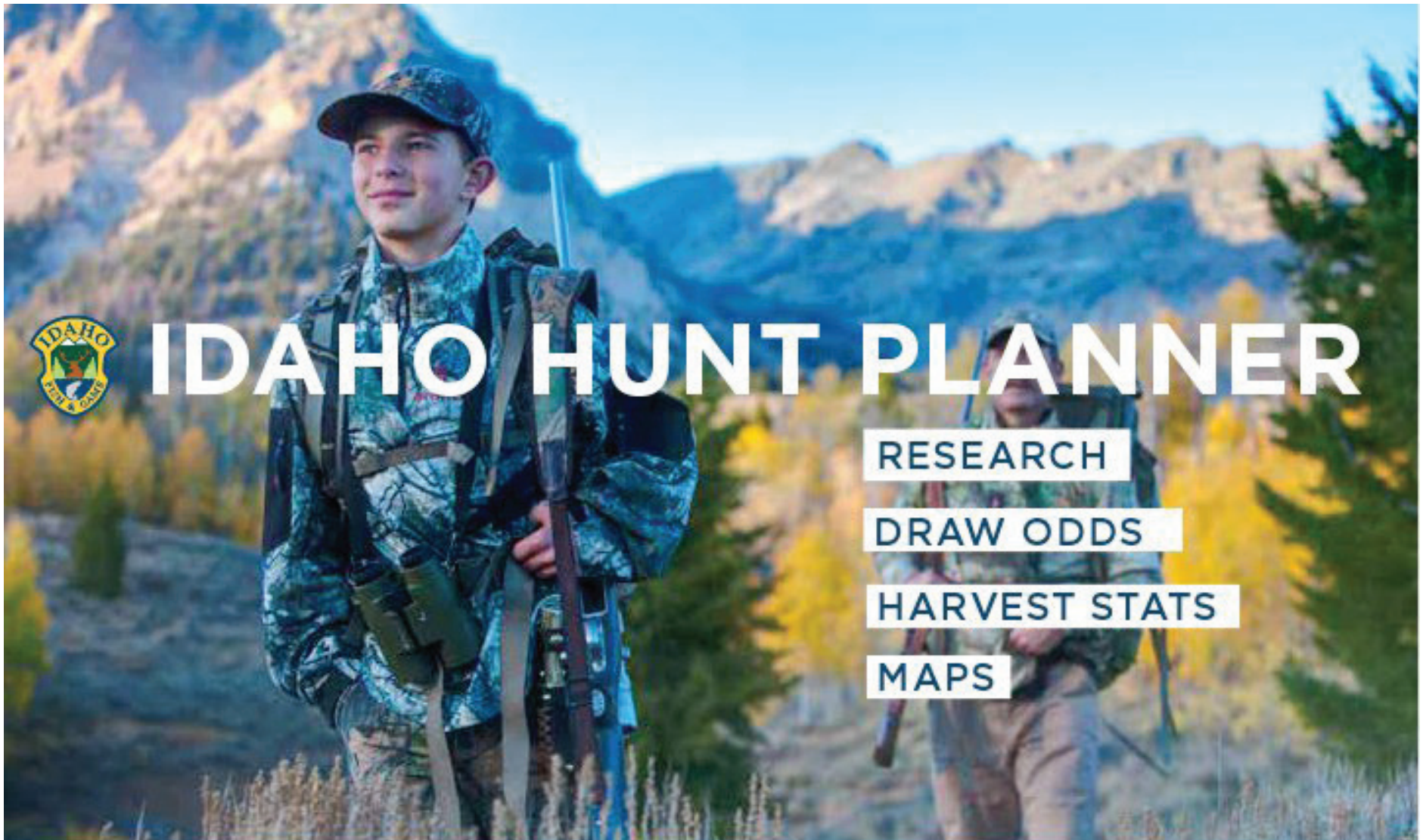
For more information regarding CAP, visit their website: citizensagainstpoeaching.org



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- To learn more about Access Yes! properties, including printable maps, go to idfg.idaho.gov/access.
- Access Yes! guides are also available at Idaho Fish and Game offices.



Plan your next hunt at idfg.idaho.gov/huntplanner

BEYOND THE HUNT

FALL SALMON AND STEELHEAD FISHING OUTLOOK

By C Sullivan
Idaho Dept. Fish & Game

A look at Idaho's fall anadromous fisheries

With summer winding down, it's time to start looking ahead to the fall season fisheries for salmon and steelhead. This is an exciting time of year as we watch fish counts at Bonneville Dam, and anticipate the fisheries that will be ramping up in Idaho over the next few months. Below is a description of upcoming fisheries and what we know at this point about run sizes.

Steelhead

Catch-and-release fisheries for steelhead are already underway in many areas of the state including parts of the Clearwater, Snake, and Salmon river basins and harvest seasons will begin on many rivers in September. Check out this link for details on current and upcoming fisheries.

The steelhead forecast for this year was not good, but we are seeing counts at Bonneville Dam that suggest the run might not be as bad as forecasted. It is still early in the run and the next few weeks are typically when the bulk of Idaho's steelhead run crosses Bonneville Dam so stay tuned for future updates.



A Clear water River basin steelhead. Photo credit: John Cassinelli

Fall Chinook Salmon

Fall Chinook seasons opened in many areas in the Clearwater, Snake, and Salmon river basins opened Aug. 18. The daily bag limit is three adult Chinook Salmon and there is no limit on jack Chinook Salmon which are less than 24 inches in length.

The forecast for fall Chinook is not as high as last year's return but this year's run is expected to be high enough to provide good fishing opportunities. Fall Chinook Salmon counts are just beginning to increase at Bonneville Dam, and we expect the peak of the run there to occur in the next two weeks. On average it takes about 14 days for fish to get from Bonneville Dam to Lower Granite Dam, so it will be a few weeks before we have good numbers of fall Chinook in the fisheries in Idaho. In the meantime, enjoy less crowded fishing and the potential for some really big fish as they are usually the first to make the journey to Idaho.

Coho Salmon

Idaho's Coho Salmon fishery opens on September 1 and the daily bag limit is two adult Coho Salmon which are greater than or equal to 20 inches in length. Fisheries occur in portions of the Clearwater and Snake river basins. Check out this link for more information on Idaho's Coho Salmon Fisheries.

Similar to Fall Chinook, the forecast for Coho Salmon is not as high as last year's return but is still forecasted to be the third highest return since Coho were reintroduced into Idaho by the Nez Perce Tribe. Returns have steadily been increasing, and the 2023 fishery will mark the fifth consecutive year for Coho fisheries in Idaho. Anglers are beginning to figure out how to catch these fish and are enjoying yet another species to target in the fall. Expect good numbers of Coho to start entering Idaho around the first week of October.

With three species of salmon and steelhead on their way to Idaho and fisheries on the horizon, anglers have a lot to be excited about. There is the possibility of catching a steelhead, fall Chinook Salmon, and Coho Salmon in the same waters, potentially in the same day. Get out there and see if you can catch the fall-season trifecta this year!

THE TASTE GAME

The taste of wild game is often misunderstood, or perhaps just confusing for some cooks to adapt to their traditional menu of meat proteins. If the meat, poultry or fish is fresh, there is no reason not to experiment and enjoy to your own specific tastes.

Here are some recipes that might help you get over the hesitancy to regularly feature wild game on your dinner table and not resort to converting everything to ground sausage or jerky. These are quick to fix without a lot of prepping.

Sliced Elk in Wine Broth

6 strips bacon, cut into ½ inch pieces
3 lbs. cooked & sliced elk meat (roast or steak)
1 medium onion, sliced
2 small cans of sliced mushrooms
1-10oz. can condensed beef broth
1½ c. red or burgundy wine
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ t. bay leaf
Salt & pepper to taste

Cook bacon in large Dutch oven-type pan until crisp. Remove and drain. Place elk slices in the pan and then top with the onion, mushrooms and bacon. Last, combine the broth and wine with the seasonings and pour this over the meat mixture. Cover and slow cook in the oven, at 250 degrees until thoroughly hot. Serve on a great bun, pouring some of the sauce over the meat mixture.

Best Meat Marinade Ever

½ c. Butter
½ c. Extra-virgin olive oil
Fresh thyme
Fresh rosemary
Sea salt

In medium to large pan, over low heat, combine butter and olive oil. Once they have melted and are warm, add 3-4 sprigs of both thyme

and rosemary. Let this heat over low heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to mix the flavors. (If you are fixing a large number of steaks, just increase the amount of all 4 ingredients, to make more of the mixture.)

When you are ready to cook your meat, just place the steaks (elk, deer, moose, buffalo, beef, etc.) onto the mixture (leaving the sprigs of thyme and rosemary in the pan) and increase the heat. Cook the meat as desired. Before serving, remove the sprigs of thyme and rosemary, then serve the infused sauce over the meat. Top with sea salt and serve.

Steak & Beans

1/2 lb. elk steak, cubed & browned
1 lb. pork steak, cubed & browned
1 small can mushrooms
2-8 oz. cans tomato sauce
1 small jar pimentos
2 cans kidney beans
½ t. garlic powder
Cumin, to taste (this is what gives it a good flavor!)

Mix all ingredients together and bake in the oven at 325 degrees until bubbly. Sprinkle shredded mild cheddar cheese over the top, and continue to bake until the cheese melts. Excellent flavors in this recipe!

Pepper Jelly Sauce for Any Meat

½ c. Beef broth
¼ c. Balsamic or red wine vinegar
2 T. Jalapeno pepper jelly

Combine the 3 ingredients and heat until it thickens. Spoon over any meat.

Parchment Paper Salmon

1 wild salmon filet
1 T Butter
Lemon or lemon juice
Fresh dill
Sea salt & pepper

Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Rub paper with butter. Lay filet in center, poke holes in it. Drizzle with lemon juice, salt & pepper, then lay dill sprigs over. Fold paper into a packet and bake, 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes, until medium-rare.

MAKING WATERFOWL JERKY IN THE OVEN

by amberhollis918@gmail.com

If you're married to a hunter then you know there is some game meat your family really likes and some they do not.

Duck and Goose meat is not one of my family's favorites but we have found a recipe for ground waterfowl jerky that we all love. I even gave some jerky to a few friends and they had no idea it was made from waterfowl.

HOW TO MAKE DUCK & GOOSE JERKY

To make this you will need some food processing equipment. We process all of our own game meat as many do. Investing in good food processing equipment is totally worth it and comes in handy for processing meat and a variety of canning and preserving staples that fill our pantry.

To Make This We Used:

1 HP Commercial Grade Meat Grinder
High Mountain Jerky Cures (Hickory Blend)
Jerky Gun
3-Tier Wire Jerky Rack
Meat Thermometer
Digital Food Scale

HOW TO MAKE JERKY WITHOUT A DEHYDRATOR

First, start by grinding up the meat in your meat grinder and weighing it. The amount of meat you are working with will determine how much jerky seasoning and cure you will use.

We like to use Hi Mountain Jerky seasoning and cure we used can be used for as little as 1 lb or as much as 15 lbs at a time.

Once your meat is ground up measure out the proper amount of seasoning and cure, mix well, and cover. Refrigerate for a minimum of 24 hours.

WHAT TEMPERATURE DO I COOK JERKY IN THE OVEN?

When you're ready to make the jerky preheat the oven to 170°. Load the jerky gun with the tip that you prefer (cooking time will vary depending on the style of jerky you make).

HOW TO MAKE WATERFOWL JERKY IN THE OVEN

Using the jerky blaster pipe the jerky directly onto the wire jerky



rack and use a knife to disconnect the meat at the end of the row. Continue this process leaving even spacing between rows until all three racks are full or you've used all your meat.

Place the 3 Tier Wire Jerky Rack on the lowest rack in your oven and set a timer for 60 minutes. At this time I prefer to rotate the racks and set the timer for another 60 minutes.

CAN I MAKE JERKY IN A CONVECTION OVEN?

Yes, convection ovens are a terrific way to make jerky. The air circulating around the oven helps to dry out the jerky evenly. You'll still want to set the oven to a low temperature like 170° and the convection setting may take less time than the traditional oven method.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN JERKY IS DONE?

This style of strip jerky is fairly thin and should take between 2-3 hours depending on the thickness. The jerky will be done when it bends and cracks but does not break in half. Some styles of jerky will take longer than others. In my experience, it usually takes between 2-3 hours.

Factors may vary from my oven to yours so cooking times are just approximate. All poultry should be cooked until it reaches an internal temperature of at least 165 F.

For additional quick meal hints and recipes go to: www.hollishomestead.com



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