

General Information

License Requirements

Attention Hunters: The 1998 Idaho Legislature passed the requirement that all applicants for licenses issued by the state, including hunting or fishing licenses, tags, permits and stamps, must give their social security number in order for a license, permit or stamp to be issued. The Idaho Privacy Law protects your social security number. Your social security number is considered confidential, will not be printed on your license and will not be given to any private person or organization.

No person shall hunt any wildlife without having in possession the appropriate hunting license and validations. Children must be at least 12 years of age to purchase a hunting license except an 11-year-old may purchase a hunting license to apply for a controlled hunt permit provided the license is not used to hunt until the person reaches 12 years of age. The new hunter must have taken hunter education prior to purchasing a license.

A 10-year-old who has passed hunter education may purchase a youth small game license and a 12-year-old nonresident who has passed hunter education may purchase a “junior mentored hunting license.” These licenses may be used only when accompanied in the field by the holder of a valid adult Idaho hunting license who is close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices.

Hunter Education Required

- To purchase a hunting license, all hunters must show proof that they have completed a hunter education course if they were born on or after January 1, 1975, unless they previously held a hunting license from Idaho or another state.

These options are available for hunters to complete the hunter education requirement.

- The Hunter Education Course includes 15-17 class hours plus a 2-4 hour range and live-fire exercise. The curriculum includes training in firearms safety, basic archery safety, hunting ethics, wildlife management, conservation, survival, regulations and a final written exam.
- Independent study courses include a Workbook Option and an Internet based course for hunter education as alternatives to the traditional classroom courses for students 10 years or older. There is a small additional cost for the Internet courses that is paid directly to the course provider. All independent study courses require the successful completion of an additional 6-7 hour scheduled field day.

Course and registration information can be found on the Hunter Education Program page of the Fish and Game website at http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/hunter_ed/ or

obtained from a regional Fish and Game office (see page 2).

It is highly recommended that individuals planning to participate in fall hunts register for a course early in the year and prior to June 30. Hunter education classes are taught by volunteer instructors who, like other hunters, want to be afield early in the hunting season. The number of classes and independent study course field days available becomes very limited due to a decrease in instructor availability close to and during the hunting season.

Individuals with disabilities desiring to attend hunter or bowhunter education classes may request reasonable accommodations or obtain additional information by contacting the IDFG State Hunter Education Coordinator’s office, 600 S. Walnut St. Boise, ID 83707, phone 208-334-3746, or toll free at 1-866-285-1544 or through the Idaho Relay Service at 1-800-377-2529 (TDD) or email: rfritz@idfg.idaho.gov.

Hunting of Predatory & Unprotected Animals

Some animals are classified as “predators” or as “unprotected” and can be hunted and taken all year. Animals classified as predators in Idaho include coyotes, jackrabbits, skunks, weasels, and starling. The most frequently hunted unprotected animals include marmots, fox squirrels, porcupines and Columbian ground squirrels, English sparrows, **Eurasian-collared doves**, and feral pigeons. These species may be taken in any amounts and at any time by holders of the appropriate valid Idaho hunting, trapping or combination hunting license, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances or regulations.

Protected Nongame Wildlife, Species of Special Concern, Threatened or Endangered Species, Protected Birds

Special classifications for some animals extend extra protection to those species. These animals cannot be hunted, taken or possessed. Threatened or endangered wildlife, including caribou, Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Northern Idaho ground squirrel. Protected nongame wildlife include red (pine) squirrel, wolverine, chipmunks, rock squirrel, Wyoming ground squirrel (nevadensis subspecies only), golden-mantled ground squirrel, Merriam’s ground squirrel, Piute ground squirrel, pika, kit fox, northern flying squirrel, bats, Southern Idaho ground squirrel and migratory song birds. See pages 53 for ground squirrel information.

All birds in Idaho are protected except starlings, **Eurasian-collared doves**, English sparrows and feral pigeons. Protected nongame birds cannot be hunted, taken or possessed (including parts of birds, even if found dead). All hawks, owls, eagles

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and vultures are protected. Game birds may be taken only in accordance with established hunting rules.

See Idaho Fish and Game pamphlet for collecting, possession, and importing amphibians and reptiles.

Wounding and Retrieving

No person shall wound or kill any upland game bird, upland game animal or furbearer without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession. Every upland game bird, upland game animal or furbearer wounded by hunting and reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and become a part of the daily bag limit.

It Is Unlawful

- To hunt on cultivated or posted private lands without permission. See Trespass Law, page 12.
- To hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license on your person.
- To take any game without the proper tag or permit.
- To shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- To hunt game from any motorized vehicle, except for holders of a valid handicapped persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit. Also see page 12 (use of motorized vehicle) and see page 10 (Unlawful methods of take “From boats . . .”).
- To operate any vehicle in an area designated as closed for that specific vehicle type.
- To operate a motor vehicle in violation of area, trail or road restriction.
- To use aircraft to locate game and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear or game except at established landing fields.
- For all hunters, anglers and trappers, with or without game or fish, to not stop and report at any check station established to inspect licenses and fish and game – even if hunting, fishing or trapping was done outside the state of Idaho.
- To fail to produce wildlife in possession for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce Idaho Fish and Game laws.
- To hunt any game species with the aid of artificial light (except raccoons, see Furbearer section, page 44) .
- To cause or allow the waste of meat from any game animal, except a mountain lion.
- To transfer any license, tag, or permit or use another’s license, tag, or permit.
- To party hunt, or help fill another hunter’s bag.
- To take more animals than the hunter has legal tags for that species.
- To destroy or disturb traps or remove any wildlife from

traps belonging to others.

- To enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- To intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- To hunt any game animal/bird by means of baiting with grain, salt in any form (liquid or solid), or any other substance (not to include liquid scents) to constitute an attraction or enticement, with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit.
- To possess or transport game or parts (including processed meat) taken by another person without having a proxy statement.

Lawful Methods of Take

To take upland game birds in Idaho, all hunters may use a bow, muzzleloader shooting shot or shotgun with lead or steel shot with shells not exceeding 3.5 inches in length. Shotguns are not required to be plugged when hunting upland game birds. Hunters also may use dogs to locate, flush and retrieve upland game birds.

Unlawful Methods of Take

No person shall take upland game birds:

- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. Pheasants shall not be taken before twelve o’clock noon on the opening day in Areas 2 and 3. Pheasants shall not be taken before 10 a.m. on Fort Boise, C.J. Strike, Montour and Payette River WMAs except on opening day of the season when pheasants shall not be taken before 12 noon.
- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, slingshot, hand-held or thrown missiles, firearms except a shotgun using shells not exceeding three and one-half (3 ½) inches maximum length, except forest grouse. Forest grouse shall not be taken with a trap, snare, net or crossbow.
- From boats or other craft having a motor attached unless the motor is completely shut off and forward progress has ceased, or the boat is drifting naturally, or it is propelled only by paddle, oars, or pole, or it is beached, moored or resting at anchor.
- By the use or aid of any electronic call.
- By the aid of baiting. Bait is defined as any substance placed to attract game.

Identification of Species in Possession, Transportation or Shipment

Any person in possession of or transporting harvested game that has been lawfully taken and reduced to possession must comply with the following requirements:

- No person shall transport for another, receive for cleaning,

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processing, or storage, or accept as a gift any harvested game unless it is accompanied by a written “proxy” statement signed by the taker. A blank proxy statement appears in this brochure on page 13; it must be filled out completely for the appropriate species to be valid. Migratory game birds accepted as a gift shall apply to the recipient’s possession limit. Migratory game birds being temporarily possessed or transported for the taker, as provided above, shall not apply to the non-taker’s possession limit.

- Any time big game is transported, a validated tag must be attached to the largest portion of the carcass. In addition, the taker must be in possession of the appropriate hunting license and permits. Any person transporting big game for another (including big game animal parts, processed meat, and/or gifts of big game that do not exceed the lawful possession limit) must be in possession of any applicable permits and all information from the proxy statement (see proxy form on page 13). The validated tag must remain attached to the carcass until the meat is processed. The validated tag must accompany the meat to the place of final storage or until final consumption.
- One fully-feathered wing or head must be left naturally attached to any dressed game bird (except turkey); the beard or leg must be left naturally attached to turkey carcasses. Naturally-attached parts are needed so enforcement and management personnel are able to identify the species and sex of the birds in possession or being transported.
- Any package or container in which game species are being transported by common carrier must have the name, address, and hunting license number of the shipper, the name and address of the consignee, and an accurate statement of the species and number of each contained in the package or container clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside.
- No person shall give another any game species to possess or transport unless they also give the transporter a written proxy statement. (Proxy statement on page 13.)
- When a wild turkey is accompanied by a written statement as provided above and is being transported for another, it shall not be counted in the possession limit of the person transporting the wild turkey.

Hunters: Watch For Traps Set For Furbearers!

- Ask landowners if there are traps set on their land — and avoid them.
- If a hunting dog is accidentally caught in a trap, it should be removed carefully! Although usually not seriously harmed, a dog in a trap will be frightened and may bite. As gently as possible, cover the dog’s head with a jacket, etc., and carefully remove the trap.

Bird dog training permits

- A permit is required to train bird dogs on private/public lands (excluding licensed shooting preserves) when the release of artificially propagated upland game birds or waterfowl will be part of the training process. Permit applications are available at Fish and Game regional offices.
- A permit is required to sponsor/conduct any organized competitive dog trials/tests on private or public lands (excluding licensed shooting preserves) when artificially propagated game birds are used. The permit is required even if live birds are not used or released during the trial on Wildlife Management Area lands. Permit applications are available at Fish and Game regional offices.

Areas Closed to Hunting of Game Birds

Hunting, killing or molesting of any game bird is prohibited in the following areas:

- **On BLM land in the Upper Snake Region and Southeast Region**, human activity is not allowed (including hunting) within 400 meters of active bald eagle nests. For specific access information on BLM land, please call the BLM office at 208-524-7500.
- **Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area (refuge)** from Sept. 15 through the end of waterfowl hunting season in the following area: Beginning at the bridge across Sand Hollow Creek on Old Fort Boise Road about 100 yards west of the WMA headquarters, then north along the east bank of Sand Hollow Creek to its confluence with the Snake River, then north and northeast downstream along the east bank of the Snake River to the WMA boundary fence, then south and southeast along the WMA boundary fence to Old Fort Boise Road, then west on Old Fort Boise Road to the point of beginning.
- **Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.** All lands contained within Craters of the Moon National Monument prior to the expansion of the park in November 2000 are closed to hunting. Contact the National Park Service (208-527-3257 or www.nps.gov/crmo) for a map indicating these boundaries. All other public lands within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve are open to hunting.
- **Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County**, except that portion within an area 50 feet in elevation above the high water level of the Snake River. The upslope area is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted down slope to the river.
- **Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge in Fremont County.**
- **Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce Counties.**

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- **That portion of Ada County within Veterans Memorial Park and the area between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue, and the Boise City limits.**
- **Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.**
- **Roswell Marsh Wildlife Habitat Area in Canyon County** on Sundays through Wednesdays from Sept. 15 through the end of the waterfowl hunting season in the area south of Highway 18 and west of Pebble Lane (Roswell Marsh Segment).
- **Lewiston Nature Preserve in Nez Perce County.**
- **Myrtle Creek Reserve in Boundary County.**
- **Springfield Bird Reserve in Bingham County.**
- **Mann’s Lake in Nez Perce County and extending 300 yards beyond the Bureau of Reclamation property line that encompasses the lake.**
- **On any of those portions of federal refuges, State game preserves, State Wildlife Management Areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which hunting closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.**
- **Hunting, killing or molesting of turkeys is prohibited on all state land within City of Rocks National Reserve in Cassia County.**

Trespass Law

No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with “No Trespassing” signs. Proper posting means either signs, 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points. It is unlawful for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses.

Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.

Motorized Vehicle Restriction Rule

The Fish and Game Commission has implemented restrictions for motor vehicle use while hunting to address many sportsmen’s concerns about off-road travel. The restricted units are: 29, 30, 30A, 32, 32A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 59A, 66, 69, 70, 72 (late season), 73, 75, 77, and 78.

The rule is found at IDAPA 13.01.08.411; 13.01.07.101 or 13.01.09.302. The rule reads:

411. Motorized Vehicle Use Restrictions.

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game, game birds or upland game animals is restricted in certain areas. This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders; including, but not limited to, any motorized vehicle

licensing, registration, and permitting requirements and traffic laws. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

01. Use Restriction. In designated areas and hunts, hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. All off-road use by hunters is prohibited.

02. Exceptions. This use restriction rule shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses:

- a. Holders of a valid Handicapped Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the land owner or manager.
- b. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager.
- c. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager; however, hunters shall not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- d. Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land; however, they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle as prohibited by Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

03. Restricted Areas and Hunts. This motorized vehicle use restriction shall apply to identified areas and hunts in all Big Game Management Units. The hunts and areas with a motorized vehicle use restriction are identified in the Commission’s Big Game Season Proclamation, which is published in a brochure available at department offices and license vendors.

04. Defined Terms.

- a. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross weight in excess of one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds.
- b. An established roadway shall be defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any governmental entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established

roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the wheel tracks.

- c. A hunter shall be defined as a person engaged in the activity of hunting as defined in Idaho Code Section 36-202(j).

State Park Rules

Certain types of hunting are allowed on some state parks. Please contact the state park you are interested in visiting to determine hunting opportunity.

Protection of Wildlife: All molesting, injuring or killing of any wild creature is strictly prohibited, except as provided by action of the Idaho State Parks and Recreation Board and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

Personal Safety: No person shall discharge firearms or any other projectile firing device, or otherwise purposefully or negligently endanger the life of any person or creature within any area in the State Parks and Recreation System. All firearms brought into a State Park must be unloaded, out of sight, or in

a vehicle, except when used for legal hunting, as authorized by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission or for exhibition, authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Indian-owned Lands and National Wildlife Refuges

Warning: Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing or trapping purposes (18 U.S. 1165).

Trapping on National Wildlife Refuges is under federal regulations by permit only, and steel shot may be required on certain refuges for some upland game species. Check with federal refuge manager.

Proxy Statement (To transport wildlife taken by another person)

Big Game:	Species	Sex	Description (e.g.: antler points, wrapped, hind quarter, etc.)	Hunt Area Killed	Date
Please circle Species	Elk				
	Mule Deer				
	Whitetail				
	Other				

Other Fish and Game:

Species _____ How many _____

Species _____ How many _____

Species _____ How many _____

Hunter/Angler's Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

License No. _____ Tag No. _____ Permit No. _____

Name of person transporting _____ Phone _____