

Hunting Game and Birds

Stanislaus National Forest

ROG 16-70; 03/13



Hunting is viewed historically as sport and necessity, depending upon where and how one lives or subsists. The inhabitants of the Gold Country, both original Native Americans and settlers, have a long tradition of hunting animals within what is now the Stanislaus National Forest.

Proliferation of game within the Forest usually translates into meaningful hunting opportunities during appropriate seasons.

These seasons and their limitations are well discussed in the hunting regulations published by the California Department of Fish and Game. Regulations are published by species grouping (i.e., mammals, waterfowl, etc.) and define seasons by type of weapon allowed (e.g., bow season, gun season, etc.) Most hunters in the Stanislaus hunt either bear or deer.



Regulations concerning firearm use have been carefully developed to assist in promoting enjoyment and safety. Using a safe, common sense approach while hunting in the Forest serves all of us, preventing injury to others and damage to natural resources.

Wilderness Hunting

Visitors may not shoot any firearm, air rifle or gas gun (this includes BB guns) within the boundaries of any Wilderness area (Emigrant, Carson-Iceberg or Mokelumne) except by licensed hunters in-season. (36 CFR 261.58(m))

State Game Reserve Restrictions

Per game laws of the State of California, one may not carry a loaded firearm in a State game refuge. (The nearest of these areas is between the North and Middle forks of the Stanislaus River.)

In these areas, the weapon must be broken down (the trigger assembly removed from the housing) and kept in a place separate from

ammo. Check with ranger district offices for other possible restrictions.

Weapons and Vehicles

One may not carry any loaded firearm on or in a vehicle. A weapon is considered "loaded" if the ammunition is in, or attached to, a weapon—as in a loaded clip or magazine. During hunting season, the clip or magazine may be

Discharge of weapons within the Forest must be done safely and legally.

in the weapon but the round cannot be chambered.

Discharge of a Weapon

You may not discharge a firearm from a vehicle. You may not shoot a firearm in (or within) 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or other occupied area.

You also may not discharge a firearm across (or on) any Forest road, body of water or in any way where a person or property is exposed to injury or damage from such a discharge. (36 CFR 261.10(d) and California Gun Laws)

Help Keep The Forest Safe

We ask that any visitors to the Forest who may witness shooting incidents (or actions involving firearms that the observer believes are not in conformity with established local, State or Federal policy) to report such occurrences to appropriate law enforcement officials.

Know Your Hunting Zones

In California, hunting permits are issued by hunting zones. Tags in certain zones are determined by lottery draw (e.g., X-12 zone in Toiyabe NF) or allow hunting of multiple zones on the same tag (as in D-3-4-5 zone). You may only take the appropriate game (and number) in the zone for which the tag is issued. If you aren't sure which zone your favorite hunting spot falls in, ask a Game Warden or a Forest Ranger for more information.

What To Wear In The Woods

Take care to wear clothing that gives you a good chance of being seen by hunters. It's no good being able to hide from the animals if the end result is that you are mistaken for one and injured as a result. Wear bright orange vests and clothing that is easily distinguishable from the vegetation where you are hiding.

Kill Validation

Your deer kill can be validated at any Forest Service facility (or by any Fish & Game personnel). The kill must be validated prior to the hunter returning home. Tags should be

Fish & Game must validate all bear kills.

Hunters may remove the kill from the Forest and arrange an appointment with Fish & Game.

(The bear's skull must be kept for accurate validation.)

completely filled out when the animal is taken.

Please read and review the excellent handbook published by the State of California,

Know Your California Gun Laws and It's A Matter of Safety.

The National Rifle Association has also put out an informative booklet regarding conduct and discipline while using firearms.

For more information, contact a location listed below:

Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

(209) 532-3671
(TDD) (209) 533-0765
Mi-Wok Ranger District
24695 Hwy 108

PO Box 100
Mi-Wuk Village, CA 95346
(209) 586-3234
(TDD) (209) 586-0262

Summit Ranger District
#1 Pinecrest Lake Road
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434
(TDD) (209) 965-0488

Groveland Ranger District
24545 Hwy 120
Groveland, CA 95321
(209) 962-7825
(TDD) (209) 962-6406

Calaveras Ranger District
5519 Hwy 4
PO Box 500
Hathaway Pines, CA 95323
(209) 795-1381
(TDD) (209) 795-2854