



Camp Pendleton 2026 G-10 Deer Hunting Rules

These rules are in addition to the General Hunting Rules and offer deer specific information. These rules augment and do not replace relevant California Fish and Game Code.

Validation Process for General Deer Season Hunters!!!

- **DOD ID Card Validations and G-10 Lottery Entry** will be from **1 to 30 April**. If you wish to enter the G-10 Tag Lottery, please send a photo of your DoW/DOD ID Card to:
[PNDL ENV Hunter Validation@usmc.mil](mailto:PNDL_ENV_Hunter_Validation@usmc.mil)
 - This validation will be completed prior to the 2026 hunting licenses becoming available. This allows us to conduct the G-10 lottery prior to the deadline for the state's lottery entry period so that non-winners can apply for other tags in the state and eliminate the requirement to buy a license for those who only hunt on Camp Pendleton in the event they do not win.
- Once the 2026-2027 CALIFORNIA Hunting License becomes available 1 July, hunters **MUST watch the G-10 Hunting Video** and then submit their current year hunting license and DoD ID card again. Once validated the second time, you will have access to the 2026-2027 Hunting Permit. **DEER hunters are required to be validated twice under this this process.**

AO Tags:

- Archers may use the California Archery Only (AO) tag on base and are restricted to **archery equipment only**, which is available over the counter. Archers must pass an **Annual Archery Proficiency Test** which will be held on **weekends in August**.
 - If you hunt with archery equipment only, you do **NOT** need to enter the **G-10 Lottery**.
 - If you are not selected for a G-10 Tag, you may purchase an AO Tag and hunt with archery equipment only.
 - *Please refer to the Archery Only Tag Rules for more information.*



The Camp Pendleton General Season Hunt requires the G-10 Deer Tag.

D-15, D-11, or D-13 Tag(s) are NOT valid to use on base.

- The G-10 Tag allows a hunter to harvest a deer with a firearm **or** archery equipment on Camp Pendleton.
- Due to the (1) deer per person limit on base, if you possess **both** an AO and a G-10 tag, you **SHOULD** utilize your G-10 Tag when hunting on base regardless of weapon system.
- Once validated, hunters may enter the G-10 Deer Tag Lottery through iSportsman by utilizing the “G-10 Lottery Entry Permit” from **1 to 30 April**.
- No more than **two (2)** hunters per family may enter the lottery.
- **Group entry** will not be used for G-10 Lottery.
- G-10 Tags will be issued as **First (1st) Reservation Period** and **Second (2nd) Reservation Period**.
- G-10 tag holders will have an opportunity to hunt **all 6 weekends** of the deer season but will **only** be able to make a **reservation** during **their designated** tag period.
 - Example: *John Smith* is issued a G-10 **1st Reservation Tag**. *John* may hunt during **all six (6) weekends** of the deer season; however, he may **only** make hunting reservations during the **1st Reservation Tag period**. *John* may not make reservations during the 2nd Reservation Tag period but may hunt on a space available basis.
- Winners will be notified via the email provided in their iSportsman account during the first week of May. Ensure the email in iSportsman is the one you check.
- Winners may begin purchasing their G-10 deer tag in August at the STAR Card counter at the Pacific Views Exchange (Main MCX).
 - There is no deadline to purchase your tag prior to season but must be purchased prior to your hunt.

Deer Limit:

Each Hunter may harvest **one** deer on Camp Pendleton regardless of method.



Typical Hunt Schedule:

0535 the day prior to the hunt: Hunters with the appropriate tag (*1st or 2nd depending on date*) may make a reservation for the following day.

0445-0529:

- Reservation holders may check into their reserved areas.
- Other tag holders can check for availability on a first come first served bases.

0530:

- Unused reservations become available to all hunters.

60 minutes after last shot (90 minutes after sunset):

- All hunters must be checked out of areas or have contacted the Game Wardens to avoid suspension.

After the Harvest:

- You may **NOT** enter a different hunting area to track a wounded or dead deer without prior coordination with the Game Warden's Office.
- The hunter must first fill out the tag (always bring a pen/marker with you) prior to field dressing the deer.
- Field Dress the deer in the field. Do not leave the gut pile on a road, within 150 feet water, or in a conspicuous place that could affect military training.
- Bring the carcass or all major eatable portions back to the Game Warden's office with the tag **attached** to the **ear of a doe** or the **antler of a buck**. If you bring the quartered portions, you will be asked to produce the **Head**, the **Two Hind Quarters**, the **Two Front Quarters** and the **Two Back Straps**.
- Call the Game Wardens office to ensure someone will be there to meet you and counter sign your tag.
- Game Warden personnel will collect data on the deer and validate your tag. The hunter will submit the tag data to the state by mail or online by following the instructions on the tag.
- Hunters may utilize the game processing station and discard animal parts in the "gut cans"; do not throw regular trash in the "gut cans."
- Deer must be removed from the cooler No Later Than (NLT) Close of Business (COB) Wednesday, so we can clean the refrigerator for the next weekend. Call to the Game Wardens to make sure someone will meet you at the cooler.
- Any person who was issued a deer tag must submit a harvest report card.



- Successful hunters must submit a completed report within **30 days of taking** a deer.
- Unsuccessful hunters or hunters who did not hunt must submit a completed report by answering the applicable questions on the harvest report card and submit the report by January 31, 2027.

Guzzlers:

- These artificial water sources provide valuable water to thousands of animals each day during the dry season, which coincides with the deer hunting season. Hunting over a guzzler is not an ethical hunting practice as it discourages wildlife from visiting the guzzler. The hunter may be suspended for the remainder of the season for hunting over a guzzler. Remember, you can bring water with you, the wildlife cannot.

Deer Hunting Activities:

- While checked in to hunt deer, you may only hunt deer and shoot coyotes as a target of opportunity.
- No predator calling nor small game hunting may be conducted while deer hunting.

Hunting Blinds and Stand Alone/Tree Stands:

- All ground hunting blinds used during any General or Archery season in Co-Use areas shall display **blaze orange** on **all four (4) sides** of the blind. **Blaze orange** markings must be clearly visible from all directions and **always remain unobstructed** while the blind is in use.
- **All hunting blinds and stands** shall be established the morning of the hunt and removed **prior** to check-out.
- **No blind or stand** may remain in place overnight.

Etiquette:

- Deer hunting on Camp Pendleton is the base's most popular hunting activity. Hunters from all over the country participate. Some are hunting on base for the first time, some are hunting deer for the first time. Each hunter brings different levels of experience and different traditions from their home state.
- Here are a few etiquettes notes to reduce angst in the field:
 - If another hunter is in "your spot", go somewhere else. Have a plan B and C.



- Give other hunters space, buffer with a large terrain feature or distance suitable for your hunting equipment.
- Avoid walking through areas being glassed by other hunters. This may not always be possible since hunters try to remain hidden from their game, so assume that another hunter walking through an area you are glassing simply did not see you.
- Parked vehicles are clues that other hunters are in the area, maybe go somewhere else.
- Area quotas give each hunter about 1 square kilometer (more than 1/2 of a mile) to spread out, please use the space.
- Know your effective range and your weapon's effective range, these are not the same.
- Taking shots outside your practiced ranges or capability or outside the effective range of your weapon and cartridge, will likely result in a wounded animal.

Safety Note from the Game Wardens:

- **Know your target and what lies beyond it.** Always be certain of your target before shooting.
- **Do not shoot over ridgelines or into the sky.** Other hunters or personnel may be present on the opposite side.
- **Track harvested deer properly.** Follow blood trails carefully to recover game safely and efficiently.
 - Mark your location
 - Mark the location of the animal when you shot
 - Note the deer's reaction when you shot (*did it hunch up, kick, fall and get back up*)
 - Note the manner in which the deer departed the area. (*walk, run, bounce*)
 - When in doubt back out and give the animal as much time as possible to expire prior to pursuing. A wounded animal may lie down if not immediately pursued.
- **Know your personal and equipment limitations.** Understand your own skill level and the effective range and capabilities of your rifle, bow, or other weapon system.

[Updated February 2026]