

IDAPA 13 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Wildlife Bureau

13.01.15 – Rules Governing the Use of Dogs

Who does these rules apply to?

These rules apply to individuals who train and use dogs in taking wildlife, including upland game animals, game birds, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat fox, unprotected and predatory wildlife. These rules also apply to use of blood-trailing dogs for taking big game.

What is the purpose of these rules?

These rules govern the use of dogs in the taking of wildlife so that Idaho continues to have wildlife populations to support public use and enjoyment in the future. These rules also manage social aspects of the use of dogs to provide a range of opportunities and balance different public interests and preferences.

What is the legal authority for the agency to promulgate this rule?

This rule implements the following statutes passed by the Idaho Legislature:

Fish and Game -

Fish and Game Commission:

- [Section 36-104, Idaho Code](#) – General Powers and Duties of Commission.

Licenses to Hunt, Fish and Trap:

- [Section 36-409, Idaho Code](#) – Game Tags – Permits – Fees – Penalty

Protection of Animals and Birds:

- [Section 36-1101, Idaho Code](#) – Taking of Wildlife Unlawful Except by Statute or Commission Rule or Proclamation – Methods Prohibited – Exceptions

Who do I contact for more information on this rule?

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13.01.15 – RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF DOGS

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

Sections 36-104, 36-409, and 36-1101, Idaho Code, authorize the Commission to adopt rules concerning the use of dogs in taking wildlife, use of game birds in field training, and related permitting. (3-31-22)

001. TITLE AND SCOPE.

The title of this chapter for citation is IDAPA 13.01.15, “Rules Governing the Use of Dogs.” These rules govern the use of dogs in taking wildlife and use of game birds in field training dogs in Idaho. (3-31-22)

002. -- 009. (RESERVED)

010. DEFINITIONS.

IDAPA 13.01.06, “Rules Governing Classification and Protection of Wildlife,” defines upland game animals, upland game birds, and migratory game birds. (3-31-22)

01. Licensed Outfitter. An outfitter with a valid license issued under Title 36, Chapter 21, Idaho Code. (3-31-22)

02. Licensed Guide. A guide with a valid license issued under Title 36, Chapter 21, Idaho Code. (3-31-22)

03. Unarmed Observers. An unarmed person who is not the owner or controller of pursuit dogs and who accompanies a hunt without intent to take or harvest an animal. (3-31-22)

04. Unqualified Idaho Resident. A person who has moved into Idaho, and by notarized affidavit proves intent to become a bona fide Idaho resident but who is not yet qualified to purchase a resident license. (3-31-22)

011. -- 099. (RESERVED)

100. USE OF DOGS.

No person may use dogs for taking wildlife, except for the following wildlife under the following conditions: (3-31-22)

01. Upland Game Animals, Upland Game Birds, and Migratory Game Birds. A dog may be used for training on or hunting upland game animals, game birds, and migratory game birds. (3-31-22)

02. Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Fox—Taking. Dogs may be used for taking black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and fox in a take season open for the species, unless the Commission prohibits dog use in the area by proclamation. (3-31-22)

03. Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Fox—Training/Pursuit Only. Dogs may be used for training and pursuit only (no harvest) of black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and fox in a dog training season open for the species, unless the Commission prohibits dog use in the area by proclamation. A big game tag valid for the calendar year that has been filled is still valid for training/pursuit only of the species. (3-31-22)

04. Blood Trailing of Big Game. The use of one (1) blood-trailing dog controlled by leash during hunting hours and within seventy-two (72) hours of hitting a big game animal is allowed to track animals and aid in recovery. (3-31-22)

05. Unprotected and Predatory Wildlife. A dog may be used for training on or taking unprotected and predatory wildlife. (3-31-22)

101. -- 199. (RESERVED)

200. HOUND HUNTER PERMIT.

01. Hound Hunter Permits. (3-31-22)

a. The following persons must have a valid hunting license and Hound Hunter Permit in possession when any dog is being used to hunt, including training or pursuit only, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and fox: (3-31-22)

- i. Anyone who owns the dog. (3-31-22)
 - ii. Anyone having control of the dog if owned by another person. (3-31-22)
 - iii. Anyone that harvests an animal over dogs, except clients of licensed outfitters. (3-31-22)
 - b. A permit is not transferable EXCEPT, a licensed outfitter may convey the authority of his Hound Hunter Permit to a nonresident licensed guide operating for him, provided the nonresident guide has a copy of the outfitter's Hound Hunter Permit in possession. (3-31-22)
 - c. A permit is valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year. (3-31-22)
- 02. Exceptions.** A person owning or using a dog only for blood trailing does not need a hound hunter permit. An unarmed observer does not need a hunting license or hound hunter permit. (3-31-22)
- 03. Limit on Hound Hunter Permits for Nonresidents.** No more than seventy (70) nonresident hound hunter permits will be issued to nonresident hunters. Sales of nonresident Hound Hunter Permits to the following persons are exempt from this limit: (3-31-22)
- a. A nonresident licensed outfitter or guide, provided the permit is not used for personal hunting. (3-31-22)
 - b. An unqualified Idaho resident. (3-31-22)
 - c. Persons who hound hunt solely in the Middle Fork Zone (Units 20A, 26, and 27). (3-31-22)
 - d. Persons who hound hunt solely in the Lolo Zone (Units 10 and 12). (3-31-22)
 - e. Persons who hound hunt solely within the Selway Zone (Units 16A, 17, 19, and 20), for which no more than forty (40) nonresident permits will be issued for Units 16A, 19, 20, and all of Unit 17, excluding Hunt Area 17-1, for which no more than six (6) nonresident permits will be issued. Hunt Area 17-1 is that portion of Unit 17 south of the following boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Unit 17 boundary and Forest Service Trail 24, then west along Forest Service Trail 24 to the Selway River, then north along the Selway River to Forest Service Trail 40, then southwest along Forest Service Trail 40 to Forest Service Trail 3, then along Forest Service Trail 3 to the Unit 17 boundary. (3-31-22)
- 04. Nonresident Applications.** (3-31-22)
- a. To be eligible for a controlled draw for limited nonresident permits, a nonresident must submit a legible, complete application for a hound hunter permit on the form prescribed by the Department such that it is received at the Department's main office by no later than December 1 of the year preceding the year in which the permit is to be valid. (3-31-22)
 - b. No person may submit more than one (1) application for a Hound Hunter Permit. (3-31-22)
 - c. Two nonresidents may apply for two (2) permits on the same application form. (3-31-22)
 - d. If nonresident tags are available after the application period, they will be available for purchase at any Department office on a first-come, first-served basis on or after December 10. (3-31-22)
- 201. -- 299. (RESERVED)**
- 300. BIRD-DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS BY INDIVIDUALS USING ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED GAME BIRDS.**
- 01. Bird-Dog Training.** No person may conduct bird-dog field training with the use of artificially

propagated game birds unless all of the following conditions are met: (3-31-22)

- a.** The owner of any dog being field trained has a valid Bird-Dog Training Permit (obtainable at Department Offices), and has the permit available for inspection at the training site. (3-31-22)
- b.** Artificially propagated game birds used for training purposes on Wildlife Management Areas are certified as disease free under the standards set forth by the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP). (3-31-22)
- c.** The permittee is in compliance with permit terms. (3-31-22)

02. Bird-Dog Field Trials. No person may conduct or own a dog participating in a bird-dog field trial using artificially propagated game birds unless all of the following conditions are met: (3-31-22)

- a.** There is a valid Bird-Dog Field Trial Permit (obtainable at Department Offices) available for inspection at the field trial site. (3-31-22)
- b.** Artificially propagated game birds used for training purposes are certified as disease free under the standards set forth by the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP). (3-31-22)
- c.** Proof of lawful game-bird origin is available for inspection at the field trial site. (3-31-22)
- d.** The permittee is in compliance with permit terms. (3-31-22)

301. -- 999. (RESERVED)