



Hunting: Seasons and Trip Planning



Have a safe, enjoyable, and lawful hunt: familiarize yourself with applicable National Park Service (NPS), California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) regulations, and San Bernardino County ordinances. A current copy of hunting regulations is indispensable and is available online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations or by calling (916) 445-0411. No hunting or trapping is permitted inside Castle Mountains National Monument.

General Regulations, Licensing, & Firearm Use

Licensing

Hunting is permitted in accordance with CDFW regulations. All hunting activities require a license; additional permits, stamps and tags might apply. Be prepared to present documentation if requested by a NPS park ranger or CDFW game warden.

Vehicles

All vehicles must meet street-legal standards as defined by the laws of the State of California.

Firearms

The discharge of firearms is allowed only while legally hunting. Target shooting or “plinking” is prohibited. No shooting is permitted within ½ mile of developed areas, including campgrounds, information centers, Kelso Dunes, Fort Piute, Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, and the Zzyzx Desert Studies Center.

Hunting or Shooting from Vehicles

Except for mobility-impaired disabled persons in possession of a Motor Vehicle Hunting License, it is illegal to shoot at game from a public roadway (paved or unpaved) or to pursue, drive, herd, or take any bird or mammal from a motor vehicle.

Dogs

Dogs used during hunting activities must be under the owner’s control at all times. When not hunting, dogs must be on a leash. Never leave your pet unattended inside a vehicle.

Spotlighting

During the general hunt season for mule deer, lights may not be used for night hunting. Otherwise, furbearing and nongame mammals may be taken with the aid of a spotlight operated from a vehicle provided such a vehicle is stopped and the motor is off. No spotlight may be used from a vehicle which is on a public road.

Water Sources

No hunting is permitted at natural or manmade water sources.

Groups

The NPS requires a Special Use Permit for groups of at least 7 vehicles or 15 individuals participating in common recreational activities, including hunting. Fees apply. Proof of insurance might also be required. Call (760) 252-6107 or visit www.nps.gov/moja for more information.

Land Access

Private Property

Private property, including residences, are found throughout the preserve. Please respect the rights of our neighbors. It is your responsibility to obtain permission (preferably in writing) from the landowner before entering private property for any reason.

Vehicle Access

Vehicles are permitted only on established roadways and must be CA street legal. Closed routes are marked with flexible brown posts. While hunting is permitted beyond these posts, access is by foot, horse, llama, or mule only. Be prepared for vehicle emergencies.

Radio-Collared Deer

Some mule deer have been fitted with high-frequency radio collars. These deer may be legally hunted in accordance with CDFW regulations.

If a radio-collared buck is harvested, please return the equipment to the nearest visitor center or ranger station or to any Mojave National

Preserve employee or CDFW official or office. To arrange for a pick-up, call (760) 252-6100.

Returned collars save hundreds of dollars in equipment costs and allow researchers to complete the life history information for that animal.

Camping

Campgrounds

The Mid Hills Campground and Hole-in-the-Wall Campground are available year-round, equipped with pit toilets, trash and recycling receptacles, potable water, fire rings and picnic tables. Fees: \$12 per site per night, \$6 for Senior or Access Pass holders. Reservations are not accepted. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and can accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 2 vehicles.

The Black Canyon Group & Equestrian Campground (located at Hole-in-the-Wall) is ideal for larger groups. Campsites feature pit toilets, trash and recycling receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, and picnic tables. Fees: \$25 per group per night. Reservations are required; call (760) 928-2572 or (760) 252-6104.

Firewood

Cutting or collecting any wood, even downed wood, is prohibited. All firewood, including kindling, must be brought in.

Backcountry Camping

Roadside camping will be allowed in previously used or disturbed sites outside of the “day-use-only” areas. In some cases these sites include a rock or metal fire ring; not all sites contain a fire ring. All fires must be in a fire ring or fire pan; new fire rings cannot be constructed. Consider camping without a fire to get a full view of the desert night skies and to protect fragile desert resources. Backcountry and roadside camping is limited to a maximum of 14 consecutive days and 30 total days per year. Campsites must be 1/4 mile from paved roads and 200 yards from any natural or constructed water source.

Backpacking, horsepacking, and roadside vehicle camping do not require a permit or fee. Do not camp along paved roads or near day-use areas, and stay at least 200 yards from all natural or constructed water sources. Do not camp on private property. Bury human waste in catholes 6–8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Don't bury toilet paper or other hygiene products - pack it out. *There is no permit or registration system - notify others of your planned itinerary.*

Hunting Seasons in Mojave National Preserve: 2016 – 2017

Hunt	Season	Limit	Hours
Rabbit (Cottontail)	7/1/16 – 1/29/17	5 rabbits per day, 10 in possession	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Mourning Dove & White Winged Dove	9/1/16 – 9/15/16 & 11/14/16 – 12/28/16	10 birds per day, 20 in possession	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Mule Deer <i>Archery Hunt</i>	9/03/16 – 9/25/16	One buck, forked horn or better per tag	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Mule Deer <i>General Hunt</i>	10/08/16 – 10/30/16	One buck, forked horn or better per tag	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Bobcat <i>Hunting permit required</i>	10/15/16 – 2/28/17	5 per season	Anytime
Gambel Quail <i>Zone C</i>	10/17/16 – 1/31/17	10 birds per day, 20 in possession	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Quail - Youth Hunt	10/03/16 – 10/04/16	10 birds per day	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Chuckar (Red Legged Partridge)	10/17/16– 1/31/17	6 birds per day, 12 in possession	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Bighorn Sheep <i>Fund-raising hunt</i>	no season this year	no tag issued for this area this year	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Bobcat <i>Trapping permit required</i>	11/24/16 – 1/31/17	No limit	Anytime
Bighorn Sheep <i>General hunt</i>	12/05/16 – 2/07/17	One adult ram per tag (1 tag issued)	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Hare (Jackrabbit)	Open year-round	No bag limit	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Coyote	Open year round	No bag limit	Anytime

Contacts

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