



Rules are made to be followed for good hunting

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While getting your gear together, take time to review Montana hunting rules and regulations to ensure an enjoyable hunting season.

As big game hunters prepare to head afield for the opening of Montana's general deer and elk seasons on Sunday, Oct. 22, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks urges them to keep in mind several points to ensure an enjoyable hunt.

Administrator of the Department's Law Enforcement Division Erv Kent asks hunters to familiarize themselves with the state's most common game violations.

These are:

1. Failure to properly validate a license tag and securely fasten the tag to a game animal immediately after the kill and before it is moved or transported from the kill site.
2. Using someone else's tag on a game animal you killed.
3. Tagging a game animal that someone else killed.
4. Shooting or attempting to shoot game animals or game birds from a vehicle.
5. Shooting game animals on or from any public highway or shoulder, berm or barrow-pit right of way of any public highway.
6. Shooting or attempting to shoot game animals with the aid of an artificial light.
7. Using a vehicle to concentrate, drive, rally, stir up or harass game or

8. Hunting without a valid license or tag in your possession.

9. Failure to stop at a checking station, even if you have no game or fish.

10. Swearing to a false statement to obtain a resident hunting license.

11. Failure to obtain permission from landowners before hunting big game on private property.

12. Failure to leave evidence of the sex of a game animal attached to the animal.

13. Failure to wear at least 400 square inches of hunter (fluorescent) orange clothing above the waist at all times while in the field during big game firearms season.

14. Possessing, transporting or offering for sale any parts of illegally taken game animals.

15. Wasting any part of a game animal suitable for food.

16. Shooting a big game animal before or after legal shooting hours, which are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Hunters are encouraged to protect the future of their sport by policing their own ranks and using the toll-free 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) hot line to report property vandalism, trespass and wildlife violations.

From July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989 (fiscal year 1989) Montana sportsmen reported 450 incidents. These tips resulted in \$43,810 in fines assessed by Montana courts. The TIP-MONT Board has dispensed 31 individual rewards totalling \$4,850.

As Kent emphasized, Montana's wildlife belongs to all citizens of the

state. "Poachers are stealing from all of us," he said. "If we are going to cut down on the number of poaching incidents, citizens must become involved. We believe putting some money in the pockets of those who help us apprehend poachers will greatly reduce the effects of this serious crime on our wildlife populations."

Personnel from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will be in the field throughout the season to enforce the hunting regulations and assist hunters and landowners.