

**The Idaho Department of Fish and Game considers the following document to be an agency guidance document for purposes of Idaho Executive Order 2020-002. The guidance document is not new law; it is the Department's interpretation or implementation of existing law.**

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## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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### **Guidance for Kill Permits and disposal of big game carcasses**

These guidelines are meant to assist IDFG personnel in issuance of kill permits and the disposal of big game taken with an IDFG issued kill permit(s). The statute references for disposal of big game is mentioned in Title 36-1106 & 36-1108 (language below)

**36-106(ii)** In the event a kill permit is issued by the director or his designee, the individual or landowner with the kill permit, in conjunction with their responsibility for field dressing the animals taken, may keep one (1) animal for their personal use. In the event the director or his designee issues a subsequent kill permit for the same individual or landowner due to continued depredation, the director or his designee may authorize the individual or landowner to keep a second subsequently taken animal for their personal use.

**36-1108. CONTROL OF DAMAGE BY PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, ELK, DEER OR MOOSE — COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES.** (a) Prevention of depredation shall be a priority management objective of the department, and it is the obligation of landowners to take all reasonable steps to prevent property loss from wildlife or to mitigate damages by wildlife. When any pronghorn antelope, elk, deer or moose is doing damage to or is destroying any property or is about to do so, the owner or lessee thereof may make complaint and verbally or electronically report the facts to the director or his designee who shall, within seventy-two (72) hours, investigate the conditions complained of. If it appears that the complaint is well-founded and the property of the complainant is being or is likely to be damaged or destroyed by such pronghorn antelope, elk, deer or moose, the director may:

1. Send a representative onto the premises to control, trap, and/or remove such animals as will stop the damage to said property. Any animals so taken shall remain the property of the state and shall be turned over to the director. The director may provide written authorization for possession of animals so taken.
2. Grant properly safeguarded permission to the complainant to control, trap and/or remove such animals. Any animals so taken shall remain the property of the state and shall be turned over to the director. The director may provide written authorization for possession of animals so taken.

Consideration for the issuance of a kill permit should take into account the number of animals causing the damage, proximity to adjacent private land, and objectives of both the landowner and sportsmen.

- For area with chronic depredations, regions should look at implementing a Commission approved hunt solution during the next season setting cycle (LPH, controlled hunts), rather than continued issuances of kill permits.
- If the regional assessment dictates removal of >5 animals from a single landowner, regions should use a means other than kill permit (depredation hunt, IDFG sharpshooters) to accomplish the goal.
- Unless justification is provided, disposal of carcasses will be according to 36-106 (e)(6)(B)(ii)---only 1 animal to landowner per kill permit.

If a region feels that disposal of additional carcasses beyond 36-106 (e)(6)(B)(ii) is justified and in the best interest of the state of Idaho, regional staff must provide written justification in the appropriate section of the kill permit.

Some examples of what might be written are (with issue specific details):

- The XX ranch is 80 miles, one way, from the processing plant. The logistical requirements of getting carcasses to processing plants in a timely manner or the fiscal impact, to the department, of doing so are too great.
- The farm's cornfields are being impacted nightly by a herd of 100+ elk. Effective implementation of the kill permit is based on participation of multiple designees and retention of carcasses will assist in us meeting our objective.
- Region X currently has 15 ongoing depredations. The limits of IDFG manpower to carry out the requirements of the kill permit will not allow for the quick response needed to address this depredation.

\*\*Regarding the kill permit as of this date forward please use the attached kill permit form. This kill permit should be used for all species other than wolves.