

Chapter 18.05

BIG GAME HUNT REPORTING

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Authority: Pursuant to its authority under Article [IV](#), Section [5](#) of the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, as certified on November 24, 1993, the Yurok Tribal Council hereby enacts the following ordinance to provide for greater understanding of big game populations and Tribal member use of such resources within the Yurok Reservation.

Article I. General Provisions

18.05.010 Short title.

The ordinance codified in this chapter shall be referred to as the “Yurok Tribe Hunt Reporting Ordinance.” [Ord. 28 § 9001, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.020 Findings.

The Council hereby finds as follows:

- (a) Since the time of European arrival, big game populations have decreased drastically in Yurok ancestral territory and on the Reservation due to changes in hunting methods and land management, such as prohibition of native burn practices, deforestation, pesticide use, and significant increases in hunting pressure.
- (b) The decrease in game populations impacts the Yurok Tribal membership in their ability to sustainably provide food for subsistence and materials for cultural use.
- (c) The Constitution of the Yurok Tribe mandates that the Tribe shall “restore, enhance, and manage the tribal fishery, tribal water rights, tribal forests and all other natural resources.”
- (d) There is no data in regards to the numbers of deer, bear, elk, and other large game that are currently being taken for subsistence or cultural use on the Yurok Reservation.
- (e) This data is requisite for effective management of harvestable game and ensuring healthy big game populations for generations to come.
- (f) Bear is not a traditionally hunted resource for the Yurok people. The take of established nuisance bear for the protection of humans and of property is occasionally necessary due to the influx of bears presenting a threat to human life. [Ord. 28 § 9002, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.030 Purpose.

The ordinance codified in this chapter is enacted for the purpose of gathering data regarding Tribal harvest of big game on the Reservation, particularly in regards to deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, and wild pig or boar, as a tool for understanding big game populations and their use by and for the Yurok Tribal membership. [Ord. 28 § 9003, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.040 Scope.

This chapter shall govern all persons under Tribal jurisdiction within the Reservation. [Ord. 28 § 9004, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.050 Definitions.

“Council” means the Yurok Tribal Council.

“Reservation” or “Yurok Reservation” means all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Yurok Tribe Indian Reservation.

“Take” means to intentionally harm, pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in such conduct.

“Tribe” means the Yurok Tribe acting through the Tribal Council and its authorized entities and programs.

“YTWP” means the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program.

“Yurok ancestral territory” means that area as described in the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe Article [I](#), Section [1](#). [Ord. 28 § 9007, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

Article II. Reporting and Data Management

18.05.060 Information to be reported.

(a) All deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, and wild pig or boar taken on the Reservation shall be reported within one week of acquisition to the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program. This report will include information on date taken, name and age of hunter, Yurok Reservation hunt zone (defined at the upriver and downriver borders by major creeks), location, species, gender, and horn points on animal if applicable.

(b) Report forms can be acquired at the Klamath or Weitchpec Tribal offices, online at the YTWP's website, or via transfer of information over phone to YTWP. [Ord. 28 § 9101, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.070 Reporting requirements.

Any person taking an animal under this chapter must have on that person an appropriate report form. The report form must be completed before the person leaves the field dressing site. The report form information must be submitted to YTWP within one week of taking an animal. Completed paper forms shall be either mailed to the Tribe's Klamath administrative office at Yurok Tribe, Attn: Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program, 190 Klamath Boulevard,

P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, California 95548, or dropped off in person at either the Tribe's Klamath or Weitchpec administrative office. [Ord. 28 § 9102, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.080 Data management.

All data will be managed and analyzed by YTWP. An annual report of findings will be made available at the Yurok Tribal offices and on the Wildlife Program website. [Ord. 28 § 9103, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

Article III. Enforcement and Sanctions

18.05.090 Violations.

Any violation of this chapter is punishable by a fine in addition to any other specified sanction. [Ord. 28 § 9201, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.100 Fee schedule.

Tribal Council by resolution without amending this chapter may establish a wildlife management fee schedule setting sanctions, including fines, for any violation of this chapter or fees to administer this chapter. [Ord. 28 § 9202, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.110 Enforcement.

Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety is authorized to issue citations for any violation of this chapter. [Ord. 28 § 9203, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

Article IV. Jurisdiction of the Tribal Court

18.05.120 Tribal Court jurisdiction.

The Tribal Court is the court of primary jurisdiction for violations occurring under this chapter. [Ord. 28 § 9301, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

18.05.130 Avoiding trial.

Any person issued a citation under this chapter may avoid trial on the violation by doing all of the following:

- (a) Comply with any sanction and administrative fee specified for the violation in the Wildlife Management Fee Schedule, and
- (b) Plead either guilty or no contest to the charged violation. [Ord. 28 § 9302, adopted, 9/19/2012.]

The Yurok Tribal Code is current through Ordinance 68, passed May 21, 2020.

Disclaimer: The Office of the Tribal Attorney has the official version of the Yurok Tribal Code. Users should contact the Office of the Tribal Attorney for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited here.

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