

Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q1: Why are there rules for big game hunting blinds on BLM-managed public land in Idaho?

A1: Several federal regulations apply to resource damage, littering, unauthorized use, and other actions affecting BLM-managed public land.

- The purpose of this brochure is to help hunters understand how to use hunting blinds appropriately.
- By following the rules described here you can prevent unnecessary litter, resource damage, and user conflicts.

Q2: Does this policy apply to blinds for hunting waterfowl or other game birds?

A2: No. This policy only applies to big game blinds, which are different than blinds typically used for game birds.

Q3: Why can't I dig a pit to help conceal my big game hunting blind? What is wrong with cutting live vegetation to set up my blind? Can I anchor the blind with stakes?

A3: Digging pits or depressions exposes bare soil. This can lead to soil erosion, allow noxious weeds to establish, or disturb cultural or historical artifacts. The excessive cutting of live vegetation can damage wildlife habitat and some shrubs take a long time to recover after cutting. Some reasonable, minor cutting of live vegetation is allowable outside of wilderness areas, such as to remove a branch that is obstructing a shooting lane or to clear an area inside the blind. You may use stakes to anchor your blind.

Q4: May I construct my blind of plywood or similar materials?

A4: Yes, but you still must comply with the placement/removal dates and other criteria.

Q5: Why can't I leave my blind up year-round?

A5: Leaving blinds beyond the authorized time limit constitutes abandonment of property and is a form of littering.

Q6: Why is the use of blinds based on a first-come, first-served basis?

A6: Under federal regulations, the placement of a blind on public land does not convey exclusive right of use, so it must be available for use by other hunters. This means that blinds cannot be locked or posted with "no trespassing" signs. Also, blinds must be accessible to law enforcement for inspection. If hunters are respectful of others, conflicts should not occur.

Q7: Why must I affix my name and zip code to the blind?

A7: This helps to ensure that blinds are constructed and placed in compliance with policy, and helps with monitoring and enforcement. Blinds lacking this information may be removed by law enforcement or other authorized personnel.

Q8: Why can't I divert water from a spring or pipeline to help attract game?

A8: Most water sources have legal water rights associated with them, so tampering with their location or flow is illegal. Also, diverting water sources could reduce their benefit to livestock and wildlife.

For Updated Information

Visit our website at: www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/Hunting_Blinds.pdf or visit your local field office. For BLM field office locations and phone directory, go to: www.blm.gov/contact/idaho



U.S. Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

USING BIG GAME HUNTING BLINDS

on BLM-Managed Public Land in Idaho

including the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas



**RESPECTED
IS OPEN ACCESS**

Mule deer and pronghorn are abundant on rangeland in Idaho, but the wide-open landscape offers little concealment for big game hunters. This is why some hunters utilize hunting blinds to aid in stalking big game on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). However, the number of hunters using blinds has increased over the last 20 years. Increasing use of hunting blinds has resulted in resource damage, more litter, conflicts among hunters, and problems for other land users. Improperly constructed blinds can be hazardous to wildlife and livestock.

The BLM wants hunters to be able to use hunting blinds while ensuring that public resources remain healthy, attractive and properly managed. Help care for Idaho's public land and share it respectfully with others. Please follow the rules in this brochure if you plan to place a big game hunting blind on public land managed by the BLM in Idaho.

The Good...



A portable hunting blind is easy to set up and take down.

Construction Materials

- The BEST solution is a portable pop-up blind and its use is encouraged.
- All construction materials must be removable. Permanent placement of materials is not allowed.
- Wire mesh is prohibited because it can be hazardous to wildlife and livestock.
- No digging, trenching or other surface disturbance is allowed, to prevent damage to natural and cultural resources.
- Cutting live vegetation to construct, screen or camouflage blinds is not allowed in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness areas.

Right of Use

- Blinds may be used by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. However, placement of a blind on public lands does not create an exclusive right of use. Therefore, if a blind is placed on public land, it may be used by anyone, and not just the person who placed it.
- The locking of hunting blinds is not allowed.

The Bad...



Using wire mesh poses hazards to all animals and is not allowed.

Placement and Removal Dates

All public lands in Idaho managed by the BLM and not within the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas:

- Blinds may be placed no earlier than 10 days before the beginning of the hunting season for which the hunter has a valid tag.
- Blinds must be removed within 7 days of the close of that hunting season.

Areas within the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness:

- Blinds may be placed only when the user is present and hunting and must be removed when the user leaves the wilderness. Early placement is not allowed.

Water or Livestock Developments

- Do not divert water or modify water troughs, reservoirs, springs or other developments.
- Do not harass livestock or impede their access to water sources.

Labeling

- The hunter's full name and zip code (or, in the case of minors, the full name and zip code of a parent, guardian or responsible adult) must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind.

The Ugly...



Abandoning your blind is irresponsible, illegal, and creates trash.