



2024 ANTLER GATHERING SEASONS & RULES

January 1, 2024 - April 14, 2024

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has enacted an antler gathering closure running **January 1, 2024 through April 14, 2024** in the Upper Snake and Southeast Regions. The closure is on public land only. Activities other than antler gathering are not affected.

The closure is intended to reduce stress on wintering big game herds and help eastern Idaho mule deer herds recover after the harsh winter of 2022-2023.

The antler gathering closure includes searching for, locating, gathering, transporting or possessing antlers.



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

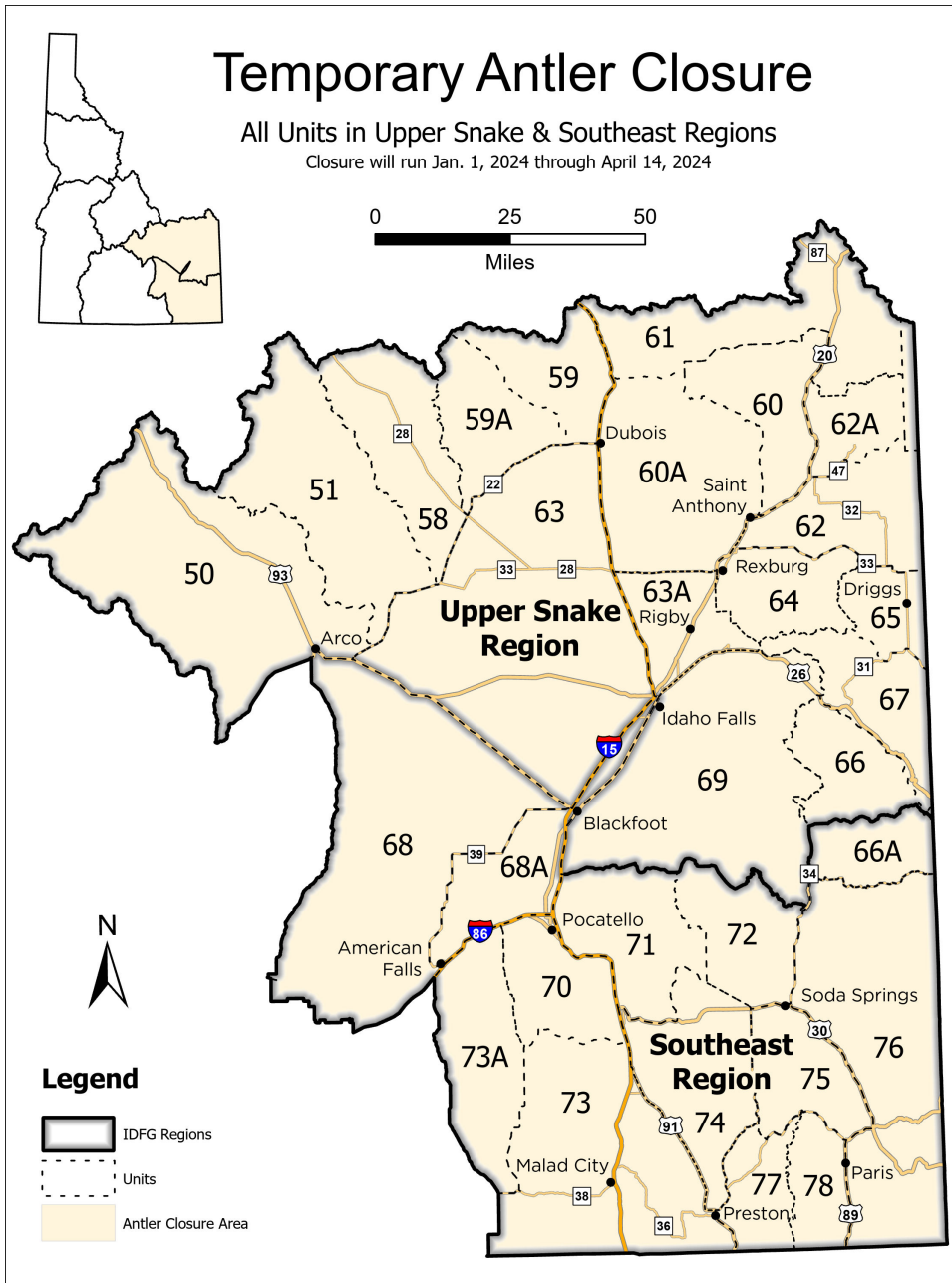
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Antler Shed Seasons and Rules 2024 | 41918 | 12/2023 ONLINE ONLY | Glenna Gomez | photo images courtesy by IDFG

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Temporary antler gathering closure Q&A

Q. Is this closure statewide?

A. No, it only applies to the Upper Snake and Southeast Regions.

Q. What are the new restrictions related to possession and transportation of antlers?

A. Possession, transportation and collection (including searching for, locating, or gathering) of shed antlers from deer, elk and moose and antlers from deer, elk and moose that have died from natural causes is prohibited in the Upper Snake and the Southeast Regions January 1, 2024 through April 14, 2024. The temporary closure includes caching, marking locations with GPS, and the use of unmanned aircraft systems to locate antlers.

Q. Can a person be cited for violating the closure?

A. Yes, it can result in a misdemeanor citation.

Q. Does this apply to private lands?

A. No, the law does not apply to a private landowner or his/her designee on land leased or owned by that person.

Q. Why not close winter ranges to all human entry when so many other activities can disturb wintering big game herds?

A. Fish and Game authority is limited to fishing and hunting-based activities. Authority over access to public lands lies with the land management agency.

Q. Will this closure happen every year?

A. No. The intent is to protect wintering big game during or after extreme winters, and to help them recover more quickly. Future closures will depend on future winter conditions.