

Don't be blind

To federal regulations regarding hunting blinds

Mule deer and pronghorn are abundant on Oregon's rangelands, 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 BLM-managed lands.

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. Also, improperly constructed blinds can be hazardous to wildlife and livestock.

Lakeview BLM and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife want hunters to be able to use hunting blinds while ensuring that public resources remain healthy, attractive and properly managed. Help care for Oregon's rangelands and share them respectfully with others. Please apply the following rules if you plan to place a big game hunting blind on BLM-managed lands in Oregon:

Construction Materials

- 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 discouraged.

Portable pop-up blinds are the best solution and their use is encouraged.

Placement Dates

- 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.

Labeling

- The hunter's full name and zip code should be attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind.

Right of Use

- Blinds may be used by hunters on a first-come, first-



served basis. Placement of a blind on public lands does not create an exclusive right of use.

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.



Frequently asked questions:

Why are there rules for big game hunting blinds on Oregon BLM-managed lands?

Several federal regulations apply to resource damage, littering, unauthorized use, and other actions affecting BLM-managed lands. This brochure is intended to help hunters understand how to use hunting blinds appropriately. By following the rules described in this brochure you can prevent unnecessary litter, resource damage, and user conflicts.

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

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

Why can't I dig a pit to help conceal my big game hunting blind, and why is the cutting of live vegetation discouraged? Can I anchor the blind with stakes?

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. That said, some reasonable, minor cutting of live vegetation is allowable, 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.

May I construct my blind of plywood or similar materials?

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

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

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

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

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 personnel for inspection. If hunters are respectful of each others' efforts, conflict should not occur.

Why should I affix my name and zip code to the blind?

This helps to ensure that blinds are constructed in compli-



ance, and helps with monitoring and enforcement.

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

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 More Information

Contact your local BLM Field Office. For a directory, please call the BLM Oregon State Office at 503-808-6008, or visit: www.blm.gov/or

