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<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Office of the Vice Provost of Research and Extension
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**Note: For links to referenced documents see Item VI,  
*Related Information, below.***

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## **I. POLICY SUMMARY**

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Recreational Hunting on any University of California (UC) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Research and Extension Center (REC) is a privilege, not a right. Hunting can be an effective means of population control of deer, coyotes, feral pigs and other wildlife as well as an opportunity to make positive impacts in the community about responsible resource stewardship. Informed and educated hunters equipped with solid science-based information surrounding hunting practices can benefit the conservation of wild lands and wildlife at the RECs.

RECs shall establish local procedures for creating fair and conflict-of-interest free public and residential hunting privileges, and for granting those privileges. These procedures shall include: application submission, authorization criteria, authorization period, and documentation in support of the procedures. All procedures must be submitted to the UC ANR Vice Provost of Research and Extension, and approved prior to granting any hunting privileges. Local procedures will be reviewed on a five-year cycle.

The continued privilege of hunting depends upon keeping accurate records of controlled harvest for the purpose of historical data, as well as compliance with University policies and federal, state and local laws and regulations.

In California, hunting is an important part of wildlife management and land stewardship, when conducted in a legal, well-regulated, and science-based manner. California Department of Fish and Wildlife's License and Revenue Branch is responsible for the issuance of approximately 200 types of licenses and permits for hunting and fishing. Well over 200,000 hunting licenses are purchased from Fish and Wildlife annually.

Within California, UC ANR operates nine Research and Extension Centers (REC) covering rich and unique resources across just about every ecosystem. RECs support research, education and extension activities to meet the needs of Californians. Recreational hunting on the RECs, both for the public and employees, provide educational opportunities to showcase that the RECs are more than a facility, but rather a focused programmatic center.

Recreational hunting can contribute to UC ANR's programmatic efforts by providing knowledge and understanding of animal behavior, the ecosystems that feed wildlife, and an intimate interaction with the RECs' natural resources. Hunting can be an effective strategy to reduce game animal damage to research sites by reducing animal populations.

The continued privilege of hunting depends upon managing REC resources in a safe and sustainable manner, keeping accurate records of controlled harvest for the purpose of historical data, and most importantly, following established University policies and procedures.

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## **II. DEFINITIONS**

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Not used – refer to Section 420.1, *UC ANR REC Firearms Policy* (see below Section VI, *Related Information* for link).

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## **III. POLICY TEXT**

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**A. Only use this policy in conjunction with Section 420.1, UC ANR REC Firearms Policy** (see below Section VI, *Related Information* for link).

**B. Recreational Hunting**

1. Each REC shall establish local supplemental procedures for approval by the Vice Provost of Research and Extension for granting residential employee hunting privileges and for public hunt days. Supplemental procedures will be reviewed and updated every five years.
2. Public Recreational Hunt
  - a. On RECs where hunting is allowed, hunting of game animals will only take place on dates within the seasons determined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
  - b. All recreational hunters must have:
    - i. The appropriate tag for that zone and animal (e.g. A-Zone rifle season at Hopland REC). These tags are not transferable and are valid only for the date(s) issued.
    - ii. A valid CA hunting license.
    - iii. A signed Recreational Hunting form with a description of the actual firearms they will use.
    - iv. A signed activity release and waiver form.
  - c. Substitutions and/or changes in firearms or hunters are not allowed.
  - d. Hunters must follow all applicable hunting laws and regulations, as well as any REC-specific restrictions and posted signs.
  - e. RECs will provide educational kiosks, booths, and/or information during a Public Hunt about the research being conducted on the REC.
3. Employee-Privilege Recreational Hunting
  - a. No University-owned firearms will be used for recreational hunting.
  - b. Only UC employees assigned to the specific REC location, UC employees conducting research at that REC, and their Nuclear-

- Family shall hunt.
- c. Nuclear Family.
  - d. If using a firearm within the course and scope of your REC position description, follow the UC ANR Vertebrate Pest Management Policy Section 420.2.
  - e. It is the employee's responsibility to make certain that the Nuclear-Family fills-out an authorization form and that the form is signed and approved by the Vice Provost of Research and Extension and the REC Director before hunting. See REC Firearms Policy Section 420.1, Firearm Authorization for Hunting form
  - f. Nuclear-Family are also required to sign an activity release and waiver of liability. It is the employee's responsibility to make certain the activity release and waiver is signed before the Authorization form is submitted for approval.
  - g. No hunting is allowed during normal business hours. Please review your REC specific guidelines for days and times.
  - h. Only Game Animals authorized by the California Fish and Wildlife can be taken and REC specific guidelines may prohibit otherwise legal game from being taken. Please refer to your REC-specific approved guidelines.

**C. Harvest Records**

- 1. Recreational Hunting
  - a. Harvest records must be filled-out and submitted according to state and local regulations.
  - b. Hunters must follow all applicable hunting laws and regulations, as well as any REC-specific restrictions, policies, guidelines, procedures and posted signs.
- 2. Policy Communication
  - a. REC Directors are responsible for providing copies of this policy, procedures and any REC-specific restrictions, policies, guidelines and procedures to REC employees, on-site researchers, tenants, and public hunters, as applicable.
  - b. Current policies and procedures should be easily accessible on a web page, a shared-drive or on a collaborative tool. All employees should be noticed when any updates, changes or modifications are made to these policies or procedures.

- c. Signs shall be placed at entry locations to RECs stating that under California Penal Code sections 626.9(h) and 626.9(i) it is considered a felony to possess firearms, loaded or unloaded, on University property unless written permission is granted by the appropriate University official.

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#### **IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES**

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##### **A. The REC Director**

The REC Director is responsible for compliance with this policy at their REC and will report issues of non-compliance to the Vice Provost of Research and Extension.

##### **B. The UC ANR Risk and Safety Services Office**

The UC ANR Risk and Safety Services office will periodically review compliance with these policies and procedures, including audits of records, hunting practices, and firearm storage practices. The Risk and Safety Services Director will report audit findings to the Vice Provost of Research and Extension and to the UC ANR Controller.

##### **C. The UC Whistleblower Hotline**

The UC Whistleblower Hotline is available for staff or the public to report any violations of this policy or any federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

##### **D. Authority**

1. Authority for enforcement of this policy is vested with the UC ANR Vice President (Vice President), and through the Vice President, with UC ANR's Associate Vice President.

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#### **V. PROCEDURES**

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- A. The UC ANR Vice President has authority under California Penal Code, Section 626.9 (h) to grant permission for possession, discharge or storage of firearms on property owned or managed by UC ANR. The Vice President has further delegated authority for approval of firearms at RECs to the Vice Provost of Research and Extension.
- B. Failure by any individual to comply with this policy or additional REC-specific policies and guidelines, or handling a firearm in an unsafe manner will result in an immediate revocation of their authorization and possible disciplinary actions, in accordance with University policy and labor agreements.

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#### **VI. RELATED INFORMATION**

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- [UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Section 420.1 Research Extension Center Firearm Policy](#)

- [UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Section 420.2 Vertebrate Pest Management Policy](#)
  - [UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Employee Firearm Authorization](#)
  - [UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Firearm Authorization for Hunting](#)
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## **VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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Not used.

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## **VIII. REVISION HISTORY**

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**November 2017:** Format updated.

**July 27, 2020:** Title corrections, minor formatting updates.