

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: 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?

A2: Under 43 CFR § 8365.1-5(a)(2), it is prohibited to deface, remove, or destroy soil or live vegetation on public lands. Digging pits exposes bare soil which can lead to erosion, spread noxious weeds, or disturb cultural resources. Excessive cutting of vegetation can damage wildlife habitat, and some plants take years to recover. However, reasonable, minor trimming, like clearing a branch blocking a shooting lane or area inside the blind, is allowed except for wilderness areas. You may use stakes to anchor your blind.

Q3 May I construct my blind of plywood or similar materials?

A3: Yes, but you still must comply with the placement/removal dates and other criteria.

Q4: Why can't I leave my blind up year-round?

A4: Leaving blinds beyond the authorized time limit constitutes abandonment of property and is a form of littering.

Q5: Why it is recommended that I affix my name and zip code to the blind?

A5: Labeling your blind with your name and zip code is a recommended best practice. It helps reduce confusion, promotes respectful use among hunters, and can assist BLM staff in identifying abandoned property.

Q6: Why can't I divert water from a spring or pipe-line to help attract game?

A6: 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 local field office websites at: <https://www.blm.gov/idaho>. For BLM maps, visit our website at: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/frequently-requested/idaho>



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Using Big-Game Hunting Blinds on BLM-Managed Public Lands 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 which has resulted in resource damage, 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 not recommended 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

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

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:

- In accordance with 43 CFR § 8365.1-6 and the Idaho State Supplementary Rules published in the Federal Register, any personal property left unattended for more than 5 days is considered abandoned and may be removed and disposed of by the BLM.

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

- It is recommended that 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) be clearly marked on the blind so it remains legible throughout the season.

The Ugly...



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