Arizona Game and Fish Department Tag Modernization and Electronic Tagging FAQ's

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"Arizona E-Tag" the Department's Official electronic tagging app is now available for download in both the Apple and Google Play Stores.

In order to receive an electronic tag customers must download the app and opt-in to receive electronic tags in their Department portal account.

After downloading the "Arizona E-Tag" app, opt-in to receive electronic tags within your Department portal account. Once both processes are complete, customers will receive an electronic tag for future big game tag purchases and successful draw applications. It is important to note that tags drawn or purchased prior to opting-in will not be available electronically.

"Opting-in" to receive an electronic tag is not required to participate in the draw process.

Customers can opt-out at any time.

Instructions for using the "Arizona E-Tag" app and opting in to your Department portal account can be found below.

What is Tag Modernization?
Tag Modernization is the process the Arizona Game and Fish Department has developed to explore delivery of hunt permit tags and over the counter big game tags electronically to our customers.

What options are available within the app:
The **"Arizona E-Tag"** app provides the following functionality to hunters:
● Receive electronic tags following purchase at a Department office, and/or following successful draw application.
● Receive and view hunting and fishing licenses.
● Ability to electronically tag a harvested big game animal in the field - even in remote areas with no cell coverage.
● Allow hunters to immediately answer the hunter questionnaire during the tagging process, or after their hunt, providing enhancements to the current hunter questionnaire program and Department harvest data.

What if I don't have a smartphone?

Current options including paper tags will still be available to hunters who do not have a smartphone.

How do I receive an electronic tag?

Customers who wish to receive an electronic tag must download the app from either the Apple or Google Play Store, **and** opt-in to receive electronic tags within their Department Portal Account. Please see instructions for opting-in and use of the app below.

How do I update the app to the most current version?

To manually update the application on an Apple device, follow these steps:
- Open the "App Store" application.
- Tap your profile icon at the top of the screen.
- Scroll to find the section where you see available updates and release notes. Tap "Update All" applications OR find the "Arizona E-Tag" application and tap "Update."

To manually update the application on an Android device, follow these steps:
- Open the "Google Play Store" application.
- Tap your profile icon at the top of the screen.
- Tap "Manage Apps & Device."
- Applications with updates available are labeled "Update Available." Tap "Update."

Will I be required to use this app or download it to hunt or fish in Arizona?

If you choose to opt-in within your Department portal account to receive an electronic tag, you will be required to use the app. However, opting-in and the use of the app is voluntary.

Are electronic tags available for all species?

Electronic tags are available for all big game species. Over the counter tags purchased at Department offices and successfully drawn tags are available as electronic tags. Currently electronic tags are not available for falconers or sandhill crane hunters.

Can I still buy my hunting or fishing license at other places?

Yes, while the **"Arizona E-Tag"** app will make it easier for you to purchase or renew your hunting or fishing license, you can still purchase or renew a license at a license dealer, AZGFD Department office, or online at azgfd.gov.

What if I'm hunting in an area where I don't have cell service?

Cell service will not be required for some functions such as tagging your animal. You'll still be able to tag your animal, answer the hunter questionnaire, and access licenses and tags for viewing in the field in areas without cell coverage.

What's wrong with the current tag and harvest reporting system?

AZGFD is committed to improving the customer experience related to tagging your animal, obtaining tags, licenses, and reporting after a hunt. Modernizing our tag system provides additional options and flexibilities for customers, adds efficiencies to tag delivery for customers

and reduces customer concerns with misplaced or duplicate tags. Additionally, this product will improve the quality of hunt data from which our biologists make hunt recommendations and the AZGFD Commission makes decisions.

Why should I get this app?
The mobile application is designed to improve the customer experience, allow for electronically tagging your animal, simplify obtaining tags and licenses, and allow immediate hunter questionnaire reporting after a hunt.

Why is the Department doing this?
AZGFD is committed to improving the customer experience related to tagging your animal, obtaining tags, licenses, and reporting after a hunt. Modernizing our tag system provides value to our customers, supports the ability of officers to enforce laws, and ultimately improves the quality of hunt data from which our biologists make recommendations and the AZGFD Commission makes decisions.

Can you ensure my privacy?
Yes, AZGFD's mobile application meets all data security requirements including encryption of personally identifiable information. Location data is not collected.

Will you be sending me text/emails/or push alerts if I get this app?
Users will have the ability to enable or disable alert options with the mobile application.

What if my phone/device dies in the field or is lost?
Just like the paper tag, it is the responsibility of hunters and anglers to have whatever tagging process they choose to use (paper or electronic) with them and be operational in the field. Including, ensuring their phone is in their possession and has enough battery life or a power source to charge. However, the duplicate tag process is still available if needed due to losing either your paper tag or electronic device.

Does my dependent child need a separate phone account or can the guardian tag the animal on behalf of the child?
Due to recent rule making, a parent or guardian is now allowed to manage dependent accounts and tag an animal on behalf of a dependent.

Do I need to affix anything to the animal after I electronically tag it?
Yes, the electronic tagging process will include the attachment of a unique validation code that you will be given through the app **after** a successful harvest. Cell service will not be necessary to receive the validation code. Hunters can choose a material of their choice such as flagging or tape, to write the validation code on, and attach to their successful harvest. The attachment of the validation code will be your legal proof of tagging.

Does this impact the current draw?
No changes are being made to the current draw process. "Opting-in" to receive an electronic tag is not required to participate in the draw process.

What about Tag Transfers, Donations, and Surrenders?
You will still have the option to transfer, donate or surrender your tag.

The Department has provided transportation permits through the tag in the past. Will this change?
The app provides instructions on how to create transportation permits.

How do I provide further comment or have additional questions?
If you have questions regarding the **"Arizona E-Tag"** app or electronic tags please contact the AZGFD through customer service or the following email: tagmodernization@azgfd.gov

NEW FOR 2022:

THE E-TAG OPTION IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL <u>BIG GAME</u> SPECIES.

DO NOT HUNT UNLESS YOU EITHER HAVE A PHYSICAL TAG OR YOU CAN SHOW YOUR TAG IN THE "Arizona E-TAG" APP!!!

The "Arizona E-Tag" app must be downloaded from the Apple or Google Play Store prior to receiving an electronic tag and prior to your hunt.

E-TAG OPTION:

- All customers wishing to receive an electronic tag must opt-in for E-Tags in their Portal account. **Customers who do not opt-in for E-Tags will receive paper tags.**
- Currently the E-Tag option is not available for sandhill crane hunters, falconers, or harvest of

bobcats.

- Hunters opting for E-tags must also install the AZ E-Tag app on their wifi enabled device and download a copy of their license into the app.
  - All hunters must be prepared to display their license to law enforcement at any time while in the field.

- After opting in, all tags will be delivered as E-Tags, including successful first come first serve applicants, unless the customer opts-out in their Portal.

- Once draw results are available, an E-Tag will automatically populate within the AZ E-Tag app for all successfully drawn hunters who have opted to receive E-Tags.

- Upon harvesting a big game animal, hunters must complete the tagging process identified in the AZ E-Tag app and obtain their E-Tag Validation Code. The Validation Code must be written on durable material and attached to the animal immediately following harvest.

- It is the hunter's responsibility to ensure that their phone is operational and charged at all times.

OVER-THE-COUNTER TAGS:

- Over-the-counter tags may be purchased at an AZGFD approved license dealer or at any

AZGFD office.

- Only over-the-counter tags purchased at <u>AZGFD offices</u> will be available as E-Tags.

- If a customer has opted-in within their Portal account to receive an electronic tag, an E-Tag purchased at AZGFD offices will be delivered to the AZ E-Tag app shortly after purchase.

DUPLICATE LICENSE AND TAG:
- Paper duplicate tags will continue to be available to E-Tag holders who lose their phone/device, or phone/device becomes otherwise unusable during their hunt.
- Duplicate tags may be purchased at any AZGFD approved license dealer.

TAG SURRENDERS AND TRANSFERS:
- E-Tag holders can still participate in the tag surrender and transfer programs.
- Information for tag surrender and tag transfer can be found on the Department's website.
- Tag surrender must occur at an AZGFD office prior to the close of business the day before the hunt starts.
- Recipients of tag transfers are required to

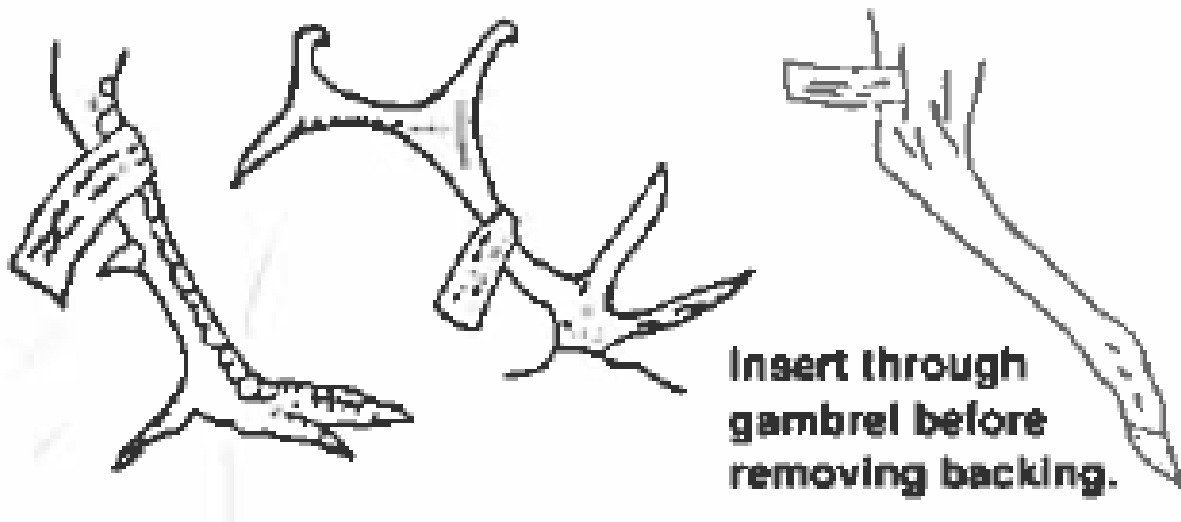obtain their tag in person at an AZGFD office.

DEPENDENT TAGS:

- A parent or guardian is allowed to manage dependent accounts and tag an animal on behalf of a dependent if necessary.
- Customers wishing to obtain an electronic tag for their dependents must link their dependents to their portal account.
- Dependents must follow the same tagging procedures as identified above.
- It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians select the paper tag option if it is anticipated that the dependent will be hunting with multiple family members.

HOW TO E-TAG YOUR BIG GAME ANIMAL

E-TAGGING INSTRUCTIONS

- Prior to entering the field, ensure that your tag is shown in the app.
- After harvesting your animal, open your AZ E-Tag app and follow the prompts to complete the tagging process; follow all instructions until a Validation Code is displayed on screen.
- Write the Validation Code on durable material that can be attached to the animal.
- Attach the Validation Code to the animal as indicated in the image below.
- Validation Code must remain attached until you reach your final destination.

Insert through gambrel before removing backing.

TRANSPORTATION PERMIT:

- This permit is only needed if a part of the animal will be transported by someone other than the tag holder.
- To generate a transportation permit, open the AZ E-Tag app, and select "Transportation".
- Fill out all fields, and confirm that you have read and understand the transportation instructions; a transport Validation Code will be generated.
- Write the transport Validation Code on durable material and attach it to the animal part that is being transported by another person.
- You can create two transport Validation Codes.

HARVEST REPORTING:

- Successful and unsuccessful hunters who have opted in to receive an E-Tag can now use the E-Tag app to report their harvest.
- **Use of the E-Tag app for reporting harvest does not replace the requirement for physical check out of mountain lions, bears, or bison. Please refer to the Arizona Game and Fish Department Regulations for all physical and mandatory check out requirements.**