

2023 ALBERTA GUIDE TO

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HUNTING

REGULATIONS



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2023 Deer Hunters

Your Role in CWD Surveillance

Ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance is designed to support game management decisions. While CWD occurs in deer throughout eastern Alberta, the program targets specific wildlife management units (WMUs) along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and along the leading edges of the CWD risk area. However, as always, we accept any cervid legally harvested in Alberta for testing. Depending on where and what you hunt, the risk of harvesting an infected deer ranges from very low to very high. CWD occurs most often in mule deer bucks. For more information and previous data check the CWD web pages at alberta.ca/chronicwasting-disease-updates

For 2023, it is **MANDATORY** to submit **DEER** heads from WMUs: 148, 150, 151, 200, 234, 236, 728, 730.

For game management purposes, we are interested in receiving:

- 1) ANY deer head from 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 514
- 2) MULE DEER heads from WMUs: 108, 110, 212, 216, 221, 224, 246, 247, 248, 250, 300, 302, 303, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 402, 404, 508.

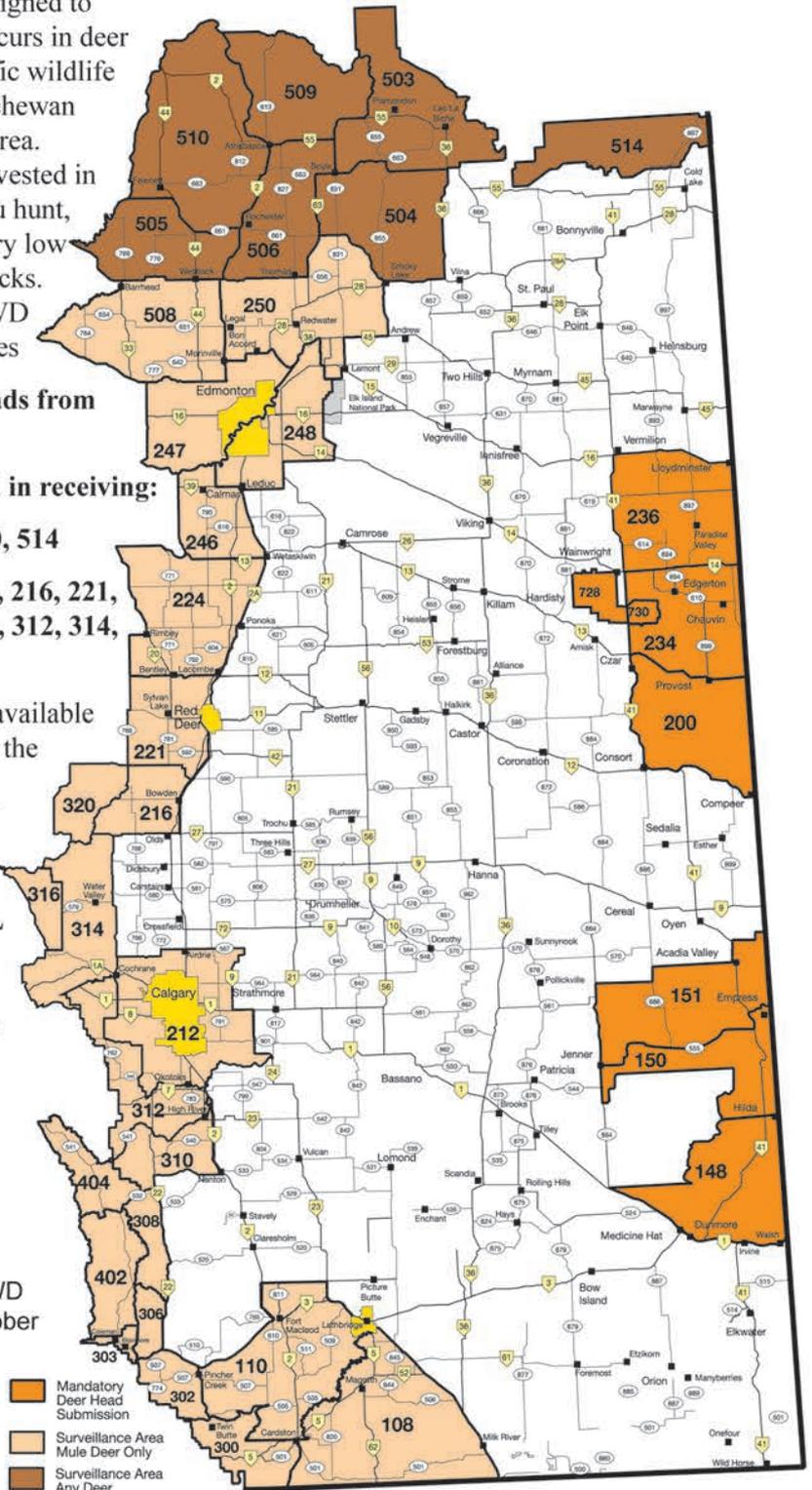
Each head must have a green CWD label. Labels are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at the 24-hour CWD freezers. **DO NOT TAKE EXTRA LABELS FROM THE FREEZERS! TAKE ONLY THE LABEL YOU NEED FOR THE HEAD YOU HAVE!! COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE GREEN LABEL, INCLUDING A PRECISE KILL LOCATION AND YOUR WIN NUMBER.** Keep head frozen and drop it off at any CWD freezer or call to perhaps arrange drop-off at a Fish and Wildlife office. CWD test results are provided via email to hunters as soon as possible.

For more detailed information about CWD, visit Alberta's wildlife diseases website alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease or contact Dr. M. Pybus (780) 427-3462. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free long distance calls.

Health authorities state that CWD is not known to infect humans. However, they advise against eating animals infected with any prion disease.

See page 64 for information regarding carcass disposal.

Note: Check CWD web page in October for 2023 freezer locations





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Genesee Hunting Program

Capital Power at the Genesee Generating Station and Mine, south west of Edmonton, is continuing their hunting program that includes black powder rifles, cross bows, shotguns, and archery. This program provides excellent hunting opportunities for the public in an area well known for its Whitetail and Mule Deer populations.

The program, in partnership with Hunting for Tomorrow, is open to all eligible hunters. There is no cost to participate, but there are specific rules that all participants must adhere to regarding site access.

Public access to Capital Power's land at Genesee is only permitted through the Hunting for Tomorrow program.

The mentorship hunting program is also still active. This program pairs youth participants and first time hunters with a qualified mentor to receive one-on-one hunting instruction and opportunities.

Genesee staff are on the land 24-hours a day and at risk if you hunt in unauthorized areas.

*Please protect yourself and others.
We appreciate your cooperation.*

Hunting for Tomorrow administers all hunting on Capital Power land. For more information or to apply to hunt at Genesee contact: Chuck Strong, chuck@acheia.com
Tel. 780-466-6682 Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342
Website: www.huntingfortomorrow.ca

Capital Power



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- Bighorn Sheep Essentials Online Training
- Archery Essentials Online Training
- Identification of Alberta's Game Fish Quiz
 - Outdoor Women's Program
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 - Wildlife Seminars
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For more information on any of our programs, contact us at:

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Notice to Hunters

Alberta Government Enforcement Compliance Officers frequently conduct vehicle checks to assist in the management of Alberta’s fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

Message from the Honourable Todd Loewen

Minister of Forestry and Parks

Hunting has always been integral to Alberta's heritage, culture, and way of life, and we're proud to invite hunters from within our province and around the world to experience all that Alberta has to offer. Whether you're a novice hunter looking to harvest your first white-tailed deer or an avid bighorn sheep hunter ready to scale a mountain in search of an elusive ram, Alberta provides countless opportunities for adventure. Our province's abundant and diverse natural spaces allow hunters to connect to the great outdoors while contributing to the long-term sustainability of our wildlife populations.

The ministry of Forestry and Parks aims to strike a balance between wildlife management and recreation, ensuring ample opportunities to engage with Alberta's forests, mountains, and prairies for hunters both now and well into the future. Hunters in Alberta play a key role in achieving this balance by supporting



conservation and hunting initiatives that maintain vital habitats, helping new hunters get out in the field, and assisting researchers focused on sustainable wildlife and resource management.

Earlier this year, for instance, more than \$950,000 was raised through

the auctioning of the Minister's Special Licences for pronghorn, turkey, moose, mule deer, elk and bighorn sheep. This is just one of the many ways hunters contribute to our province's environmental sustainability and conservation efforts.

As a lifelong hunter myself, I appreciate the same things that each of you do. There's nothing better than being able to visit Alberta forests, prairies, and mountains in search of the animal of choice. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to put game on the table and possibly bragging rights with a mature animal, for so many species, right here in Alberta.

We are proud to see growth in hunting participation in our province, and we are excited to celebrate and recognize hunters' contributions to outdoor recreation and sustainability—values essential to Albertan culture. Lastly, I urge hunters to remember the importance of responsible hunting practices and the role that each of you play in the management of our wildlife resource. Don't forget that harvest surveys are mandatory for all Special Licences held during the 2023 Alberta hunting season.

We wish everyone a safe, successful, and enjoyable hunting season this year!

Sincerely,
Todd Loewen
Minister of Forestry and Parks



310-LAND (5263)

Call for information or to report public safety incidents, illegal activity and enforcement concerns in provincial parks and protected areas, and on public land. Available 24/7 to ensure help is there when you need it most.

You can also call toll free from outside Alberta: 1-833-310-5869

Alberta

Alberta.ca/310LAND

Alberta

AlbertaRELM

Alberta Forestry and Parks uses your contact information on AlbertaRELM.com to send out important information regarding hunting and sportfishing opportunities. Please visit AlbertaRELM.com and confirm that your contact information (including your email address) is current to ensure that you receive messages regarding upcoming opportunities and information on licences that you have purchased.

Disclaimers

This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta hunting regulations. It is a summary of the regulations and is published annually by Sports Scene Publications Inc. to help hunters understand the rules of hunting. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest Fish and Wildlife office (page 13).

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IMPORTANT CHANGES AND INFORMATION FOR 2023

BIG GAME

- Game harvest reporting is mandatory for all Special Licences and must be completed by February 15th of each year. If there are pending harvest surveys in RELM from the previous season, a \$15.00 + tax surcharge will be added to your 2023 purchase in compliance with the regulation. Hunters that completed their report are entered into a draw for a prize. These results are critical for game management monitoring programs which help to ensure sustainable hunting opportunities and quotas. See link for 2022 results at: <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/hunters-harvest.aspx>
- Hunters that kill a male sheep over the age of one year are reminded to phone ahead and schedule a registration appointment, see updated designated offices list on page 13. Note that non-resident or non-resident alien hunters that kill a male sheep over the age of one year may have a designated guide submit the report and deliver the skull on behalf of the hunter if the designated guide accompanied the hunter while hunting the sheep. Voluntary nasal sampling of bighorn ewe heads will be conducted this year as part of disease monitoring at designated offices which is in response to the Mycoplasma ovipneumonia outbreak that occurred in Bluerock Wildland Provincial Park in February 2023. See the M. Ovi article in this guide on page 68.
- For 2023, the Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags and this list has been updated from 2022. The FIRST tag issued with the licence (but NOT the second tag) is valid for tagging a deer hunted in one of the following WMUs: 302-303, 306, 346-347, 349, 354, and 356. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 250-260, 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360, 440-446, and 500-544. Refer to pg 66 for other common licence mistakes. These licences are a valuable strategy for increasing harvest in productive populations and reducing agricultural conflict with landowners.
- The Minister's Special Licence raffles for Alberta residents are being administered through the Alberta Conservation Association's website. The application period is May 30th to August 10th. For 2023, additional species have been added to this program, as well as extended season dates. The funds raised are critical to supporting many wildlife Conservation Projects in Alberta each year. See link for details: <https://www.ab-conservation.com/ministers-special-licence-draw>.
- Hunters choosing to hunt in the Edmonton area should ensure that they are aware of the City of Edmonton's recent annexation of land which has reduced the area available to hunt within WMU 248 using the Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence. Refer to the city of Edmonton bylaws for any current restrictions on weapons use or hunting.
- The black bear hunting season in WMU 212 has been extended and now ends on November 30.

GAME BIRD

- The seasons dates in Zone 2 WMUs (102-166, 210-214, 300-314) for migratory waterfowl (snow or Ross's geese, Canada or white-fronted Geese, ducks, coots and Wilson's snipe, and sandhill crane) have been amended to align with recent changes in federal legislation. Delays in approval of federal legislation created an outage with provincial legislation that resulted in Alberta migratory waterfowl hunters in Zone 2 losing two days of hunting in 2022. Now that federal legislation has been amended, the Alberta Wildlife Regulation has been amended accordingly and Alberta waterfowl hunters in Zone 2 have the 2 days back. The 2023 migratory waterfowl season in Zone 2 will run from September 8 – December 23. See page 60 for more information about Game Bird regulations, bag limits and season dates.
- The hunting of game birds in Winagami Lake Provincial Park may occur on the lakebed and shore (lake portion only) of Winagami Lake, excluding the shorelines of: A) Sections 23, 26 and 35 of township 76, range 18, west of the 5th meridian. B) Section 2 of township 77, range 18, west of the 5th meridian. C) Section 36 of township 76, range 18, west of the 5th meridian. And D) Sections 1, 2 and 11 of township 77, range 19, west of the 5th meridian.

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FURTHER INQUIRIES

The following sources are available for further information about these regulations or other matters concerning fish or wildlife management:

EPA Outreach Services 310-3773
 Toll free 1-877-944-0313
 E-mail: EPA.Outreach-Services@gov.ab.ca

Public Lands 310-LAND (5263)
 (Recreational access questions, illegal garbage dumping, etc.)

AlbertaReIm Help Desk 1-888-944-5494

Websites – albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.ca

Hunting and Fishing Branch
Alberta Government

Forestry Building
 9920 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

Alberta Government Offices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunting, trapping and sportfishing regulations. ● Licences: RFMA/Trapping, Fish Stocking, Fish Research, Competitive Fishing, Fur Dealers, Taxidermy, Tannery, Damage Control. ● Found Dead Wildlife or Export Permit applications. ● Registrations for Compulsory Furbearer Species and Big Game, fish or wildlife disease inquiries including freezer locations. ● Wildlife or Fisheries Management inquiries. ● (*) indicates Designated Sheep Registration Office 	
Athabasca (*)	780-675-2419
Barrhead	780-674-8236
Bonnyville (*)	780-826-3142
Calgary (*)	403-297-6674
Drayton Valley	780-542-6616
Edmonton (*)	780-427-3574
Edson (*)	780-723-8244
Fairview	780-835-7200
Fort McMurray	780-743-7200
Fort Vermilion	780-927-3712
Grande Prairie (*)	780-538-5260
High Level	780-841-0132
High Prairie	780-523-6521
Hinton	780-865-8264
Lac La Biche	780-623-5247
Lethbridge (*)	403-381-5322
Manning	780-836-3065
Medicine Hat (*)	403-529-3680
Peace River (*)	780-624-6167
Pincher Creek (*)	403-627-1120
Red Deer (*)	403-340-7052
Rocky Mountain House (*)	403-845-8230
St Paul	780-645-6313
Slave Lake	780-849-7123
Spruce Grove (*)	780-960-8600
Vermilion	780-853-8137
Whitecourt (*)	780-778-7153

Public Safety and Emergency Services / Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services Offices

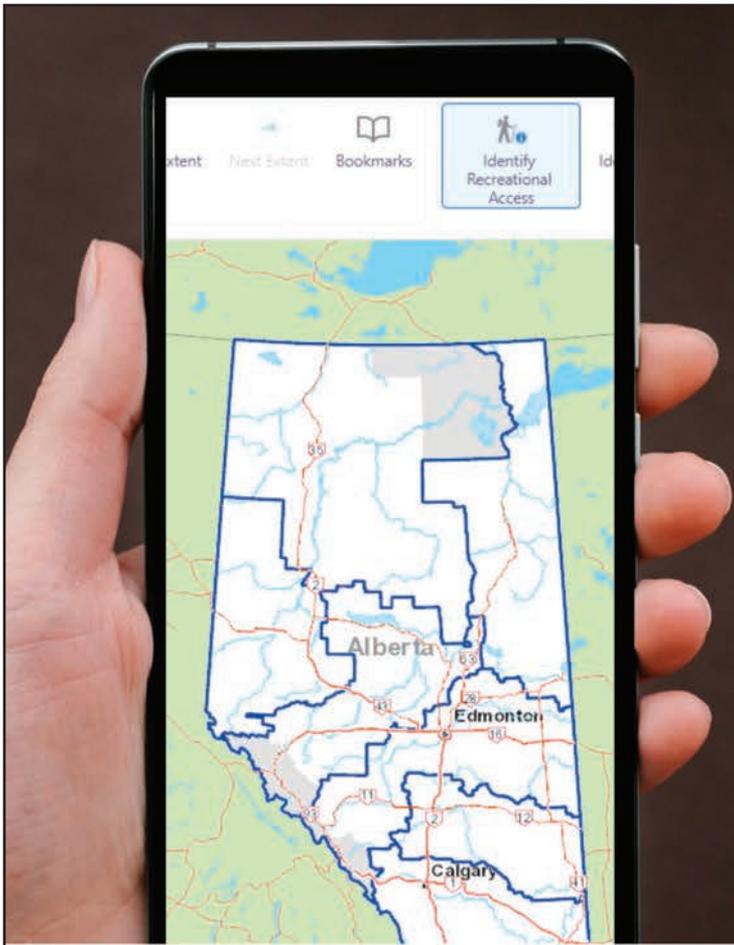
- For non-urgent enforcement or problem wildlife matters see contact information below
- For hunting and fishing violations in progress or imminent public safety risk or significant property loss due to wildlife call **Report A Poacher line 1-800-642-3800**
- Fish and Wildlife Enforcement media requests 780-644-3009
- The first location listed is the designated Unit Hub office location responsible for the subsequent locations listed

Northwest Region	Grande Prairie, Grande Cache, Spirit River, Valleyview	780-538-5265
	High Prairie, Edson, Fox Creek, Hinton, Slave Lake, Whitecourt	780-523-6526
	Peace River, Fairview, Fort Vermilion, High Level, Manning	780-624-6405
	Rocky Mountain House, Drayton Valley, Evansburg, Nordegg, Sundre	403-845-8300
Northeast Region	Athabasca, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche	780-675-8169
	Edmonton	780-644-7089
	Spruce Grove, Barrhead	780-960-8190
	Red Deer, Ponoka, Stettler, Wetaskiwin	403-755-6150
	Smoky Lake, St. Paul ¹	780-656-3556
	Vegreville, Camrose ¹	780-632-5410
South Region	Provost, Vermilion ¹	780-753-2433
	Calgary, Drumheller, Hanna, Strathmore	403-297-6423
	Cochrane, High River, Oyen	403-932-2388
	Lethbridge, Brooks, Cardston, Medicine Hat, Vulcan	403-381-5266
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Footnotes:
¹ Part time offices – please contact for service hours.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services frequently conducts vehicle checks to assist in the management of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.



Recreational access on agricultural public land

There are over five million acres of agricultural leased land in Alberta.

If you are looking to recreate on an agricultural lease on public land you must:

- Discuss access with the leaseholder, who stewards the land and is responsible for its management.
- Follow access conditions for each lease and be aware of user responsibilities.
- Plan ahead, respect the land and be courteous to other users.

Learn more and explore the Recreational Access Internet Mapping tool for leaseholder contact information and access conditions at Alberta.ca/AgriculturalPublicLand

For information, call 310-LAND (5263) or 1-833-310-5869 (toll free, outside of Alberta)



WMU DESCRIPTIONS

The WMU boundaries shown on the enclosed map are small-scale approximations of the actual units legally described in the *Wildlife Regulation* (AR 143/97) and subsequent amendments. The map enclosed in this Guide is provided to help you identify the WMU in which you wish to hunt. **It is your responsibility to know in which WMU you are hunting and the seasons, rules and regulations that govern hunting in that WMU.** Text descriptions of the WMU boundaries may be either read at your nearest Fish and Wildlife office or through the Alberta King's Printer website (<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx>) or purchased from The Alberta King's Printer at the following address:

Alberta King's Printer

10611 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Telephone: (780) 427-4952

NOTE: Maps can be found online at mywildalberta.ca/hunting/regulations/default.aspx.

MAPS

Maps providing information about access, topography and land ownership can be purchased at several locations throughout the province. Contact your local Map Dealer. Certain Government of Alberta maps, including WMUs, sanctuaries, useful for planning hunts, can be found at https://geospatial.alberta.ca/FWIMT_Pub/Viewer/?TermsOfUseRequired=true&Viewer=FWIMT_Pub.

Provincial and Federal Maps

Provincial and federal access and topographical maps are available from various private map dealers throughout the province.

County and Other Municipal Maps

Hunters are reminded to check with county and municipal offices for detailed maps showing land ownership status. These maps are available for a nominal fee and are useful for determining land status and ownership, which can help you obtain permission for access.

FEDERAL FIREARMS LEGISLATION

All hunters should be aware of federal laws surrounding the acquisition, possession, transportation and use of weapons and ammunition. For further information contact your local police service or the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit the Centre's website at rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms.

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 Bay #2, 774 Main Ave.W Sundre Alberta

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

Antlered – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

Antlerless – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not “antlered” (as defined above).

Bait – any substance that consists of a food attractant, including any mineral and any representation of a food attractant.

Big Game Designated Guide – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide big game hunters in Alberta. A Designated Guide may guide not more than two Non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien big game hunters at a time in any part of Alberta, provided that each Non-resident (Canadian) or Non-resident alien has contracted the hunt through an Outfitter. A Designated Guide may guide up to three non-resident or non-resident aliens when hunting black bear. The two-hunter limit does not include Resident hunters.

Big Game Outfitter – a person who is the holder of a valid Outfitter Permit, and who provides outfitting and guiding services to big game hunters in Alberta.

- Class S Outfitter – an Outfitter who holds Non-resident (Canadian)/Non-resident Alien allocations for Trophy Sheep Special Licences. A Class S Outfitter may also hold allocations for other big game special licences.
- Class T Outfitter – an Outfitter who holds allocations valid for Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien big game special licences other than those for trophy sheep.

Bird Game Designated Guide – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide game bird hunters in Alberta.

Bird Game Outfitter – a person who is the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit issued by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society and who provides outfitting and guiding services to non-resident and non-resident alien game bird hunters in Alberta.

Either Sex Special Elk – authorizes the hunting of any age, size, or gender of elk in a specific WMU.

Green Area – forest lands not available for agricultural development other than grazing. In general, the Green Area is public land outside the parkland and prairie regions or

roughly in the northern half of the province and within a strip running along the Rocky Mountains and foothills.

Hunter Host – an adult resident who is the holder of a valid Hunter Host Licence. To obtain this licence, the adult must hold a valid WiN and be eligible to hold recreational hunting licences. A Hunter Host **may not provide services for gain or reward or accept a fee for services, directly or indirectly.**

The licence authorizes the holder (**usually a relative or friend of the hunters to be hosted**) to host a maximum of two non-residents (Canadian) or non-resident aliens* named on the host’s licence to hunt wolf, coyote and big game throughout the province. * Non-resident alien hunters are referred to Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 18) for additional conditions and restrictions.

Legal Hunting Firearm

- Must comply with big game and bird game restrictions listed under General Regulations (see pages 28/29);
- Can have any stock design or stock composition;
- Is not limited by the energy its projectile(s) produces (see page 29 for air-pistol velocity limits);
- Can have any bore or caliber size except for restrictions listed under General Regulations (see pages 28/29);
- Can hold any amount of ammunition except for restrictions listed under General Regulations (see pages 28/29); and
- Can have any action other than fully automatic.

Loaded Firearm – A firearm in or on a vehicle, aircraft or boat is considered loaded if it has live ammunition in the breech, chamber or magazine. Cartridges are permitted in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm.

Non-resident (Canadian) – a person who is not a Resident, but who makes their home and is ordinarily present in Canada, and who has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date.

Non-resident Alien – a person who is neither a Resident nor a Non-resident.

OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) – any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh or swamp land, or on other natural terrain.

[Exceptions: motor boats, as well as four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles registered in accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*.] OHVs include the following kinds of vehicles when they are designed for cross-country travel as described above:

- four-wheel drive or low pressure tire vehicles,

- motorcycles and related two-wheel vehicles,
- amphibious machines,
- all-terrain vehicles,
- miniature motor vehicles,
- snow vehicles,
- minibikes, or
- any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular power or wind.

Partner Licence – a licence issued to an eligible hunter that allows them to hunt a specific species in a specified WMU and season under the direct authority of a Special Licence held by another hunter successful in a draw.

Resident – a person who either

- has his or her only or primary residence in Alberta and
 - 1) is a Canadian citizen or is admitted to permanent residence in Canada, or
 - 2) has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date; or
- is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Act* (Canada), be eligible to vote in Alberta under that Act.

Special Licence – a licence obtained through a draw process, or for Resident, Non-resident and Non-resident Alien hunters, through an outfitter. It permits hunting of a specific type or class of game only in specific areas during a specified season (page 17).

Weapon – a firearm or any other device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, spring, air, gas, string, wire or elastic material or any combination of those things.

White Geese – snow and Ross’ geese.

WMU – Wildlife Management Unit, a geographical area prescribed in legislation.

WiN – Wildlife Identification Number, a permanent registration number issued to each hunter and angler.

Month Abbreviations

The following defines the month abbreviations used in this guide:

A – August S – September O – October
N – November D – December
J – January F – February M – March
Ap – April Ma – May Ju – June



PURCHASING A LICENCE

Aspira manages the sale of all recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta. Licences are sold through private licence issuers or online at Albertarelm.com.

Albertarelm.com is a website for hunters and anglers. By registering on the site individuals can purchase their licences.

Costs of licences are the same online or at an issuer, no service fees are added. Cost will vary according to the type of licence.

For Online Purchases:

To purchase an online licence you will need a valid credit card, an email address, access to a computer with an internet connection and a printer to print your licences.

Download the AlbertaReIm APP and easily store your licences and WiN card electronically. Please remember that the onus remains on the hunter to be able to produce their licence, whether electronic or paper, and associated paper tags when requested by an officer during field compliance checks.

To purchase a licence, which requires tags online, you must have a pre-numbered tag(s) before you begin your purchase process. Tags are available by calling 1-888-944-5494 and at Licence Issuers

Licence Issuers

A list of Licence Issuers and locations can be located on albertarelm.com or contact the call centre/help desk toll-free in North America at 1-888-944-5494. Email inquiries can be sent to ab.webmaster@aspirasupport.com

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Wildlife Identification Number (WiN)

Hunters and anglers in Alberta must have a 10-digit Wildlife Identification Number (WiN) to apply for draws, purchase wildlife certificates, licences and replacements. Please keep your information up to date; address changes can be made online or at an issuer.

Wildlife Certificate

Hunters must possess a valid Wildlife Certificate and the applicable hunting licence to hunt big game or game birds. Licences whether electronic or paper and applicable tags must be carried on their person while hunting.

Licensing requirements for first-time hunters

NOTE: All new first-time hunters who have qualified for obtaining recreational hunting licences by successfully completing the Alberta Conservation and Hunter education course, will be required to provide on their WiN profile, their hunter certificate number that is issued to each course graduate, in order to be eligible to purchase a hunting licence.

A first-time hunter is a hunter who 1) has not previously held a hunting licence in Alberta or elsewhere, or 2) has not prior to April 1, 2010, met Alberta first-time hunter criteria, or 3) has not successfully completed a hunter education course in Alberta or elsewhere.

Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters (12 years of age, 10 years of age for game bird, or older) are exempt from the first-time hunter eligibility requirement if they are accompanied by a Hunter Host or a Designated Guide while hunting in Alberta.

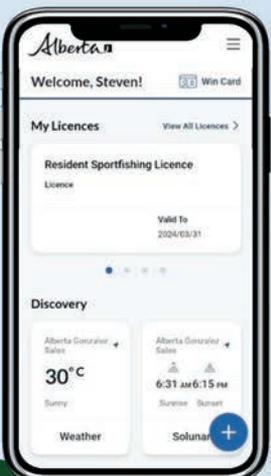
Youth first-time hunters must be *at least 12 years old* (10 years of age for game bird) to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta. All hunters *under the age of 16 years* must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. Hunters who are *11 years old* may apply in the draws for licences if they meet the above criteria, but they must be 12 years old anytime before or during the open season for that draw. They may not hunt until they are *12 years old*. To hunt with a firearm, hunters *under 18 years of age* must be accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian. If a youth turns 18 during the hunting season, they can continue to hunt using their valid licence.

If you are interested in taking the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, call the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association toll-free in Alberta at 1-866-852-4342, Edmonton 780-466-6682, or Calgary 403-252-8474.

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- Download and review regulations as PDFs to view online or offline on your device
- Complete harvest and effort reporting
- Display weather and solunar information based on location
- Order tags

If you forgot your WiN or need additional help, contact the ReIm help desk at 1.888.944.5494. The onus is on hunters and anglers to be able to produce copies of their licences either electronically through the app or hard copy (paper) when requested by an officer during field compliance checks.

Resident Youth Hunting Licences

Subject to the age limitations and conditions above, a resident 10 to 17 years of age may purchase a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for \$8.30. The holder of a valid Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate between 12 and 17 who has not yet attained the age of 18 years may also purchase a Youth White-tailed Deer Licence and a Youth Mule Deer Licence, each for \$8.25. **These licences are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the Special Licences obtained through a draw.** This person may also purchase an Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (available through a draw, see Draws for Special Licences, below) for \$8.25. Partner Licences are also available to resident youths if designated by the holder of any special licence. See this page.

Resident Senior Hunting Licences

A resident 65 years of age or older, at the time of acquiring the following licences may purchase a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for \$8.30. The holder of a valid Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate may also purchase a Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer Licence for \$8.25. These licences are only valid during the seasons that do not require one of the special licences obtained through a draw. Partner Licences are also available to resident seniors if designated by the holder of any special licence.

Hunters with Disabilities

Eligible individuals may obtain a special permit or licence relating to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, discharging a weapon from an OHV and cross-bow use during archery-only seasons. Service improvements have been made for those medically certified with permanent injuries allowing renewal of all permits online at albertarelm.com. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) for more information or online at mywildalberta.ca.

Mandatory Suspended Hunter Requirements

A person whose right to hold a recreational hunting licence has been suspended in Alberta as a result of a conviction is required to complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course available at Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association (AHEIA), either online or in person. This course must be taken after the beginning of the suspension period. The course is intended to increase outdoor safety, awareness, skills and efficiency and to develop responsible attitudes in the field. Individuals can contact AHEIA for information on completing the course. Participants will be responsible for course and material costs.

Licence Suspensions for Unpaid Fines

If a person is convicted of a provincial fishing or hunting offence and fails to pay their fine on or before the fine due date, they will be suspended from purchasing or using a sportfishing licence, a hunting licence or applying on draws until that outstanding fine has been paid.

Draws for Special Licences

When demand exceeds the number of hunting opportunities, season length and bag limits are often insufficient to conserve a game resource or to ensure a quality hunting experience. In such cases, Fish and Wildlife conducts lotteries or draws among eligible applicants for a limited number of special licences. Special licences allow successful applicants to hunt a specific type of game (e.g., antlerless elk) in defined areas during a specified season.

Only residents and, to a lesser extent, non-residents (Canadian) are eligible to apply in these draws. A non-refundable \$3.65 (plus GST) levy is charged for each application or group of applicants (maximum of four) for the same draw. This levy goes to the Alberta Conservation Association for programs. Although draws are used for specific wildlife management purposes (e.g., the goal in draw areas is to develop a more balanced age structure), other benefits include improved hunter success, increased opportunity to harvest a trophy animal, a more pleasant hunting experience with lower hunter densities, reduced disturbance of landowners, and a better distribution of the harvest.

Holders of a Special Licence are required to report their harvest and effort by February 15, 2023 for all Special Licences they purchased. Failure to report will result in a \$15.00 survey fee being charged before they can purchase a Wildlife Certificate and participate in the Special Licence draw process.

Draw Application Deadline Dates — Hunters interested in special licence hunts for fall 2023 must have applied by June 24. Refer to the *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for more information on draws. Undersubscribed Licences are special licences leftover following the draw. These opportunities go on sale July 14 – visit albertarelm.com for more information.

Draw Results — Beginning July 13, draw results are available online at albertarelm.com.

Landowner Special Licence

A person who qualifies may be eligible to obtain a special licence after having been unsuccessful in some draws. Availability of Landowner Special Licences may be limited or not available at all for some species in certain WMUs. Those available will be issued to eligible persons on a first-come, first-served basis. For details on eligibility and the application process, please consult the *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

Partner Licence

The following Partner Licences are available:

1. A resident holder of an **Antlerless Moose** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible resident hunter (adult, youth or senior) to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence.
2. A resident holder of an **Antlered Moose** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible hunter, either a resident (adult, youth or senior) or a non-resident (Canadian) (adult, youth or senior), to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence. To qualify for a Partner Licence in a particular WMU, the non-resident (Canadian) must have been eligible to apply for the Special Licence in that WMU. A non-resident (Canadian) holder of an Antlered Moose Special Licence obtained through the draw process has the option of designating one eligible resident (adult, youth or senior) hunter to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence.
3. Resident hunters successful in drawing a Special Licence in any of the other Draws may designate one eligible resident youth (12 to 17 years of age) or senior (65 years of age and over) to be a partner on their Special Licence.

Rules for all Partners – A designated partner does not need any priority to qualify for a partner licence, does not need to have applied on the draw, and the purchase of the partner licence will not affect any existing priority of the partner. The intended partner must be eligible to hold a hunting licence. Refer to pages 19-23 regarding licence combinations and restrictions. The primary licensee may designate a partner at any time until the end of the season for which the Special Licence is valid. The designated partner hunts under the authority of the special licence and must be in direct communication (not including the use of any electronic devices) with the primary special licence holder while hunting to ensure that both stop hunting once the tag(s) are filled. The two hunters hunt as one.

The primary licensee must carry the tag(s) issued with the special licence and must tag the animal as soon as there is a kill. The primary licensee may hunt without the partner, but not vice versa.

To Designate a Partner – The Partner Licence is available online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuer. The intended partner must provide the number of the Special Licence held by the primary hunter along with his or her own WiN. The Special Licence number authorizes the licensing system to issue a partner licence that is linked to the Special Licence. The intended partner may then purchase a Wildlife Certificate and the appropriate Partner Licence. If the intended partner is a non-resident, he/she must be accompanied by a licensed Hunter Host while hunting. The Partner Licence is valid for the same WMU and season as the Special Licence. No tag is issued with the Partner Licence.

Outfitting and Guiding Requirements for Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens

There is no requirement for non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien game bird hunters to contract their **game bird** hunts through a Bird Game Outfitter. They may hunt game birds without an outfitter, a guide or Hunter Host.

In this section, the term “accompany” or “accompanied” means that the persons involved are close enough to each other to easily facilitate verbal communications without the need for electronic devices. **It is acceptable, however, for the hunter to be placed in a stand location by the guide or hunter host, if they remain at that same location to be picked up later the same day.**

Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien hunters of **big game, wolf and coyote must be accompanied by a licensed guide or a Hunter Host.** Each of these hunters has two options:

- 1) may contract the holder of a valid Big Game Outfitter Permit, be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide, and hunt under the authority of a licence allocated to an outfitter (for information on outfitters, contact the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society at apos.ab.ca), **OR**
- 2) may be hosted by a Hunter Host (see this page) – usually a relative or friend – and hunt according to the following restrictions and conditions:
 - Non-resident Aliens may hunt with any Hunter Host only if the non-resident alien has not done so in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 - March 31).
 - Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens are limited to certain licences, as indicated in the Licence Availability sections on pages 23 and 24.
 - Non-resident Aliens hosted by Hunter Hosts may hunt big game only during seasons that do not require one of the special licences,

obtained through a draw, indicated by a ■ in the season tables on pages 45 to 56 or listed under Additional Special Licence Draw Hunts on page 58.

- A Non-resident Alien and their intended Hunter Host must apply for their licences and make a statutory declaration that they understand the terms and conditions of the licences (see Hunter Host Licence on this page). The application process can take up to 10 days to complete.
- A Non-resident Alien must not hunt bighorn sheep, cougar or trophy antelope while accompanied by a Hunter Host.
- **Further Restrictions for Non-resident Aliens Who are Not Relatives of the Hunter Host or the Hunter Host’s Spouse**
 - ▶ Relatives are defined as father, brother, son, uncle, nephew, grandfather, grandson, son-in-law, brother-in-law (and female equivalents) of the Hunter Host or spouse of the Hunter Host.
 - ▶ The Non-resident Alien and intended Hunter Host must initiate an application at a Fish and Wildlife office for their licences.
 - ▶ The Non-resident Alien may apply to hunt only two (2) species of big game and wolf/coyote.

A Hunter Host

- Must be an adult resident, and be eligible to hold recreational hunting licences.
- Must be the holder of a valid WiN and Hunter Host Licence (below).
- **may not provide services for gain or reward, or accept remuneration, directly or indirectly, for such services.**
- may host a maximum of two (2) hunters/year, either Non-residents (Canadian), Non-resident Aliens or a combination thereof. If hosting 2 Non-resident Aliens, at least 1 must be a relative.
- may host Non-resident Aliens only if the host has not hosted a Non-resident Alien in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 to March 31).
- **must report to the Fish and Wildlife office by December 31 in the year of harvest all hunting activities by the Non-resident Aliens they hosted. A report must be submitted even if the hunter doesn’t harvest an animal.**
- must accompany the hunter(s) named on their Hunter Host Licence while they are hunting big game under the authority of the Hunter Host Licence.

Hunter Host Licence

A resident who wishes to be a Hunter Host may purchase a Hunter Host Licence online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuer. You must have the WiN(s) of the non-resident(s) at the time of purchase. You **must** ensure that the hunters you host are named on your Hunter Host Licence. If you purchase your Hunter Host Licence naming one hunter and you decide to add a second hunter to your licence at a later date, you can do so at no additional charge. Return to albertarelm.com or to a licence issuer to have your licence amended. Once you have purchased your Hunter Host Licence, the hunters may purchase their licences.

A Hunter Host who plans to take a **non-resident alien** hunting must do the following:

1. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 13) and initiate an application (including statutory declaration). Sign and have signature sworn.
2. Have the Non-resident Alien sign the application (including statutory declaration) and have their signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien does not have a WiN, have them complete a WiN profile online at this time.
3. Take completed application to a Fish and Wildlife office. The application will be reviewed for final approval and keyed into the automated licensing system.
4. Once application is approved, go online at albertarelm.com or to any licence issuer and purchase your Hunter Host Licence and the appropriate Wildlife Certificate and licences.



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BIG GAME LICENCES

Resident Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate which costs \$28.22 (or \$8.30 for a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate, page 17). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter	
White-tailed Deer	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first two licences.	A Resident Adult or Youth may obtain one licence from each species for a total of four from this list of 24.	
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	39.95			
Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer	8.25	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of the last three licences.		
Special Antlered White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Mule Deer	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first two licences.		
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	39.95			
Youth Mule Deer	8.25	A Resident Senior may obtain only one of the four licences, excluding the Youth licence. A Resident Youth may obtain only one of the last three licences.		
Special Antlered Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Elk*	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first five licences.		* Holders of a Resident Elk (General) Licence may purchase an undersubscribed Antlerless Elk Licence.
WMU 300 Elk Special Licence	39.95			
Either Sex Elk Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these nine licences.		
Antlerless Elk Special Licence	39.95			
Antlered Elk Special Licence	39.95	* Holders of a Elk (General) Licence may purchase a undersubscribed Antlerless Elk Licence		
Special WMU 300 Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Either Sex Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Antlered Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Moose (Archery)	44.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first six licences.	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these seven licences.	
Antlerless Moose Special Licence	44.95			
Antlered Moose Special Licence	44.95			
Calf Moose Special Licence	44.95			
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	12.00			
Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence	12.00			
Special Calf Moose Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Trophy Sheep	59.95	A Resident who killed a sheep, except a legal non-trophy sheep, in 2022 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Licence in 2023.		A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first six licences.
WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these 11 licences.
WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			

continued on next page

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Special WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00	<i>see page 19 for restrictions</i>	<i>see page 19 for licences</i>
Special WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence	29.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	A Resident Adult may obtain one of each of these 22 licences (excluding the Youth/Senior licences). A Resident Youth may obtain 14 different licences from this list of 22.
Special Non-trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence	18.70	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Antlerless White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer ¹	19.15		
Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212, 247 & 248)	10.70		
Strathcona White-tailed Deer	18.70		
Foothills Deer	18.70		
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence	21.20	A Resident Youth may obtain only one of the last two licences.	
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (Youth)	8.25		
Special Antlerless Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Camp Wainwright Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery	18.95		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Black Bear	20.65		
Supplemental Black Bear ²	20.65		
Youth Black Bear Licence	8.25		
Cougar	20.31		
Goat Special Licence ³ (Not Available in 2023)	59.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Goat Partner Licence (Youth/Senior) (Not Available in 2023)	12.00		
Antelope Archery Special Licence	59.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first three licences.	
Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence	29.95		
Trophy Antelope Special Licence	59.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these six licences.	
Special Antelope Archery Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special Non-trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special Trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Game Bird	15.80		
Pheasant	22.38		
Wild Turkey Special Licence	29.95	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Wild Turkey Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	9.20		
Hunter Host Licence	27.00		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁵	11.00		

- ¹ The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. The FIRST tag issued with the licence (but NOT the second tag) is valid for tagging a deer hunted in one of the following WMUs: 302-303, 306, 346-347, 349, 354, and 356. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 250-260, 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360, 440-446, and 500-544.
- ² This licence is only valid in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.
- ³ Drawn applicants cannot reapply in future years (once-in-a-lifetime opportunity).
- ⁴ All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- ⁵ You are required to bring your licence and identification to a licence issuer and obtain the authorization for the tag replacement. \$11.00 fee is applicable per licence.

NOTE: Special Licences (listed above) are available only through draws which occurred in June of this year. Please refer to the annual *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for information on how to apply in these draws next year. Draw results and undersubscribed opportunities will be available on July 13.


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Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability

All Non-resident hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require a Big Game Designated Guide or a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 18.

Non-residents who hunt with a Hunter Host may obtain White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear, Supplemental Black Bear, Cougar, and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) from private licence issuers or online at albertarelm.com. Some special licences may be obtained through the draw system that are described in the *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet which was made available in May 2023.

Non-residents contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter may obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-residents using the services of an outfitter must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide. These licences are only available at licence issuers.

Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below. Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$28.22. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

All **special** licences shown in the following table are available through a Big Game Outfitter. Some are also available through the draw system.

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	132.24	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	A Non-resident may obtain four different licences from this list of nine, but not more than one licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence ¹	132.24		
Antlered Mule Deer	132.24	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence ¹	132.24		
Antlered Elk	154.66	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence ¹	154.66		
Antlered Moose (Archery)	164.60	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these three licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence ¹	164.60		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	44.00		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence ^{1,2}	366.45	A Non-resident who killed a sheep in 2022 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2023.	
Wolf/Coyote	12.40	See <i>2023 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations</i> for dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence ³	213.10		
Black Bear Licence	83.90	A Non-resident accompanied by a Hunter Host may obtain both of these licences.	A Non-resident may obtain one of each licence from this list of two. However, Non-residents purchasing one of these two licences may not purchase a Black Bear Special Licence.
Supplemental Black Bear Licence ⁴	83.90		
Black Bear Special Licence ⁵	83.90	Non-residents must purchase these licences through an outfitter.	
Cougar	135.31		One licence only from this list of two.
Cougar Special Licence	135.31		
Game Bird	65.51		
Pheasant	32.91		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	16.45		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁶	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁷	11.00		

¹ These licences are available through the draw system or through an outfitter. If purchased through an outfitter, an additional service fee may be charged. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 22) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 18).

² Non-resident Trophy Sheep Special Licences are available through Class S Outfitters or through a draw. Only 2 licences are available through a draw, and each hunter successful in the draw must be accompanied by a Hunter Host.

- 3 Non-resident Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available through an outfitter or through a draw. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 22) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 18).
- 4 This licence is valid only in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841. Please see page 56 for more information.
- 5 These licences are valid for 2 black bears if the outfitter's allocation is valid for a WMU where the Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid (i.e., 2-bear areas).
- 6 All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- 7 You are required to bring your licence and identification to a licence issuer and obtain the authorization for the tag replacement. An \$11.00 fee is applicable per licence.

Non-resident Alien Licence Availability

All Non-resident Alien hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require either a Big Game Designated Guide **or** a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 18.

Non-resident Aliens who hunt with a Hunter Host may obtain Antlered White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear Special Licences and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuers. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 18 for a summary of the circumstances under which these licences may be used and the limitations that apply.

Non-resident Aliens contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter must obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-resident Aliens using the services of an outfitter must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide. These licences are only available at licence issuers.

Non-resident Alien Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$68.22. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered White-tailed Deer	203.84	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	A Non-resident Alien may obtain nine different licences from this list of 14, but not more than one licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	203.84 ¹		
Antlered Mule Deer	203.84	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	203.84 ¹		
Antlered Elk	291.43	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence	291.43 ¹		
Antlered Moose Archery	310.30	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence	310.30 ¹		
Black Bear Licence	105.02	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Black Bear Special Licence ²	105.02 ¹		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence ³	381.45 ¹	A Non-resident Alien who killed a sheep in 2022 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2023.	
Cougar Special Licence ³	269.97 ¹		
Wolf/Coyote Licence	27.40 ¹	See page 58 for wolf and coyote season dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence ³	268.02 ¹		
Game Bird	105.50		
Pheasant	32.91		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	23.20		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁵	11.00		

¹ If purchased through an outfitter, additional service fees may be charged.

² This licence is valid for 2 black bears where the Resident and Non-resident (Canadian) Supplemental Black Bear Licences are valid (2-bear areas).

³ Trophy Sheep, Cougar and Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available to Non-resident Aliens only through an outfitter.

⁴ All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.

⁵ You are required to bring your licence and identification to a licence issuer and obtain the authorization for the tag replacement. \$11.00 fee is applicable per licence.

GAME BIRD LICENCES

Resident game bird hunters require a WiN card and a Wildlife Certificate and:

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl;
- a Wild Turkey Special Licence and a Game Bird Licence to hunt wild turkey.

(NOTE: Wild Turkey Special Licences are available only through a draw. See page 61 for more information.)

Non-resident (Canadian) game bird hunters require a WiN card and a Wildlife Certificate and:

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

Non-resident Alien game bird hunters require a WiN card and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate and:

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate. The Wildlife Certificate costs \$28.22 or \$68.22 for a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, or \$8.30 for a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate (see page 17). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit.

Licence Costs

Game Bird Licence	Price (\$)		
	Resident	Non-resident (Canadian)	Non-resident Alien
Game Bird	15.80	65.51	105.50
Pheasant	22.38	32.91	32.91
Wild Turkey Special Licence ^{1,2}	29.95	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Special Wild Turkey Partner Licence (Youth/Senior) ¹	12.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bowhunting Permit	9.20	16.45	23.20
WiN Renewal	8.00	8.00	8.00
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00	2.00	2.00
Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit ^{3,5}	17.00	17.00	17.00

¹ A Resident youth or senior may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.

² Available only through a draw, page 61.

³ Available at Post Offices, certain private licence issuers or ordered online at permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/.

⁴ All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.

⁵ Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit is free of charge for youth (age 10-17) if purchased online.

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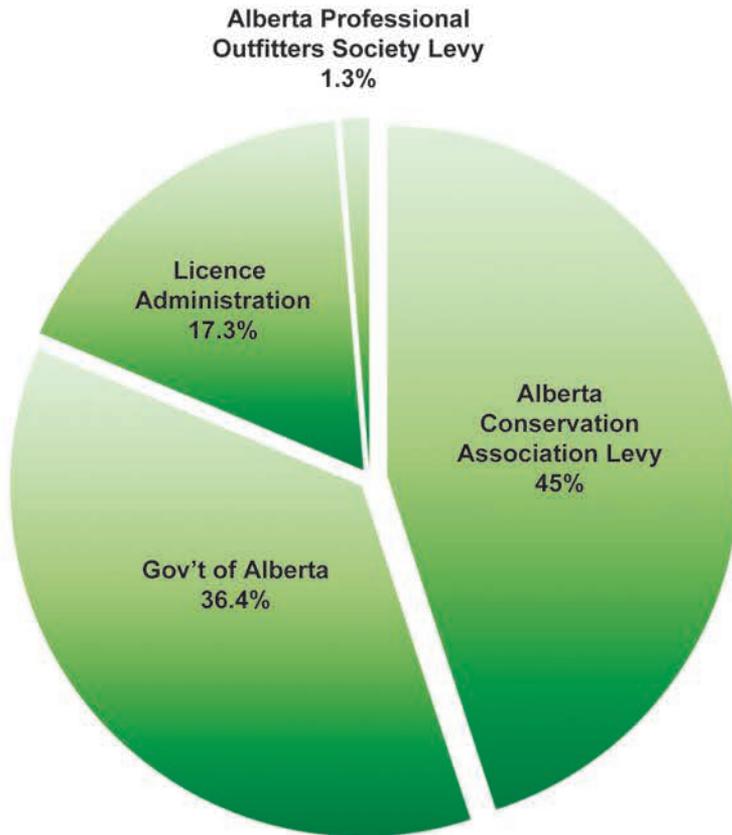
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2022/23 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT



Where did your 2022/23 Hunting Licence Dollars go?

- Over \$19.3M in revenue was collected from the sale of hunting licences, hunting draw applications and WiN cards.
- Over 45% of hunting licence revenue goes directly to the Alberta Conservation Association levy in support of programming (For more information please visit ab-conservation.com).
- Licence and administration fees accounted for just over 17% and provides compensation to licence issuers, pays for licensing services including the annual hunter harvest & effort survey delivered through AlbertaReIm.com
- Over 1.3% Alberta Professional Outfitter Society levies are applied to all outfitted licences.
- The Government of Alberta receives 36.4% of hunting licence revenue collected; 70% goes to General Revenue while 30% goes to a dedicated fund to deliver wildlife management programs such as annual ungulate surveys. For more information visit: Alberta.ca and search "wildlife survey".

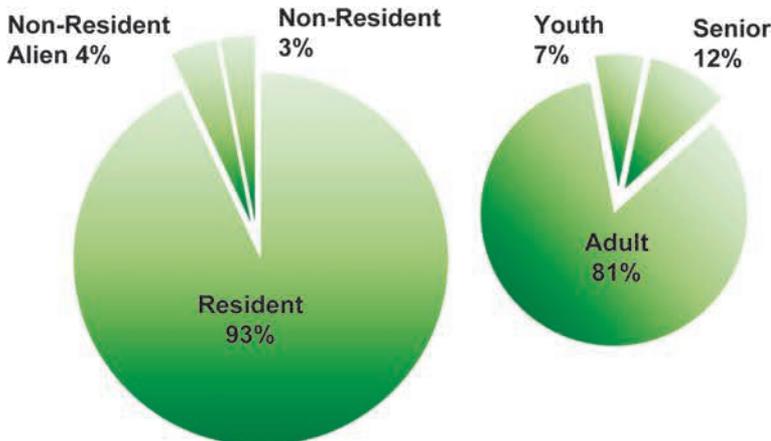
For more information, visit mywildalberta.ca/BuyLicences/Annual-Sales-Statistics

Resident Hunters in Alberta in 2022

- Over 160,000 resident hunters in Alberta.
- 14% purchased Bowhunting Permits.
- 47% purchased Game Bird Licences.

Hunters in Alberta in 2022

- 173,250 total hunters hunted in Alberta.
- 5,704 Non-Residents
- 6,898 Non-Resident Aliens



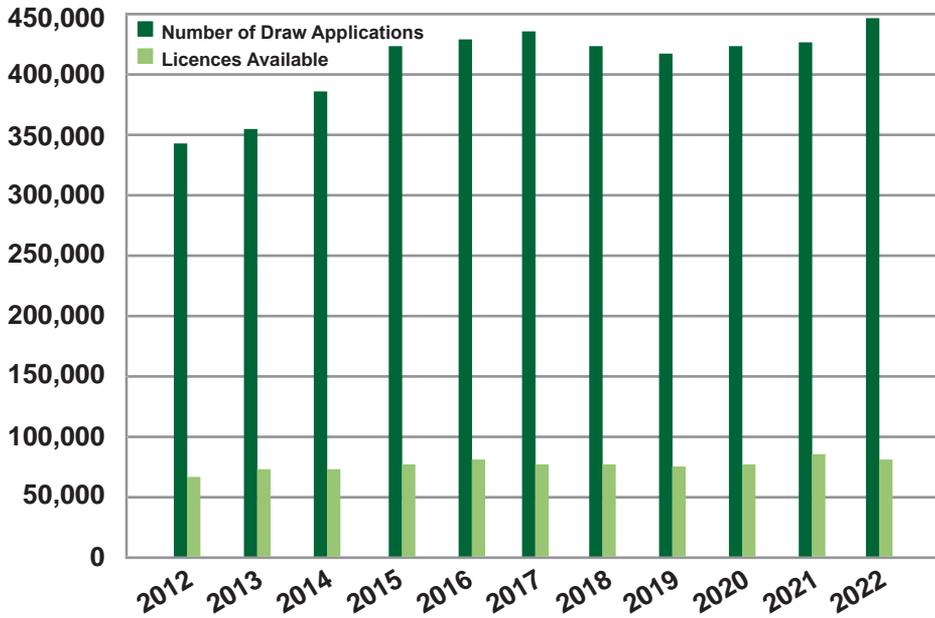
Hunter Hosts in Alberta in 2022

- Over 3,100 Albertans hosted over 7,400 friends and family to hunt with them in Alberta.
- Over 3,100 hosted hunters were Canadian.

Youth and Senior Hunters in Alberta in 2022

- Youth/Senior Wildlife certificates, which include a Game bird licence, are available for \$8.30. Over 29,000 were sold, 10,600 Youth and 18,350 Senior.
- Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer and Youth Mule Deer are available for \$8.25. Over 18,700 White-tailed Deer were sold, 7,000 Youth and 11,700 Senior. Over 800 Youth Mule Deer licences were sold.
- Did you know that you can legally share almost any big game Special Licence opportunity with a Youth or Senior hunter using the Partner Licence for only \$12.00. Over 250 youth and 500 Senior hunters took advantage of this opportunity allowing them to hunt elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and wild turkey.

2022/23 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT



Mandatory Harvest and Effort Reporting

Regulation requires mandatory reporting of harvest and effort on all special hunting licences purchased. Visit AlbertaReIm.com for more information on how convenient it is to report harvest and effort including the introduction of a new APP.

Harvest and effort information is essential to providing resource managers indicators of overall wildlife populations. Without this information, the department must rely on more intensive and costly wildlife surveys.

Hunters failing to submit harvest and effort survey results for 2023 special licences purchased will be subject to a \$15 survey surcharge payable on their next wildlife certificate purchase.

ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

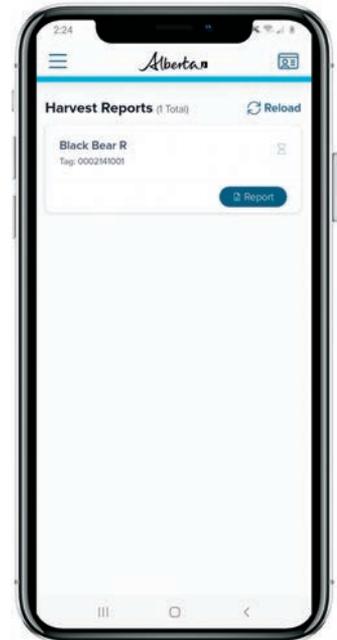
Fish and Wildlife Officers help conserve and protect the province's wildlife by ensuring everyone understands and complies with the laws in Alberta. Hunters are reminded to ensure that they are familiar with the hunting regulations and season dates for the areas and species that they plan to hunt.

In 2022, the top 5 offenses were:

1. Loaded firearm on vehicle/boat/aircraft.
2. Unlawful possession of wildlife.
3. Hunt wildlife without a licence.
4. Hunt on occupied land without permission.
5. Fail to retain evidence on sex/species on animal carcass.



Source: Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services, Public Safety and Emergency Services.



Congratulations to the lucky hunter that has been awarded a free 2023 special licence just for completing their 2022 hunter harvest and effort survey!

Hunters will continue to be entered for a chance to win a special licence hunting opportunity for either a Moose, Mule Deer, Antelope or Elk for each harvest and effort survey completed.

Please visit mywildalberta.ca to see 2022 hunter harvest and effort survey results.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

Prohibitions

Note: *Convictions for certain offences will result in the suspension of all recreational hunting licences for a period of 1 to 3 years, and may result in a suspension for as long as 5 or more years. This is in addition to the assessment of a fine, an order and/or imprisonment.*

General

It is unlawful to

- **apply on draws, obtain or use recreational licences in Alberta if:**
 - your hunting privileges are under a licence suspension/cancellation in Alberta (or elsewhere) or**
 - if you fail to pay your fine after being convicted of a provincial hunting or provincial sportfishing offence.**
 - carry or use another person's licence or tag or allow another person to use your licence or tag.
 - fail to carry a hunting licence when the hunter is hunting under the authority of that licence or when the hunter is transporting game taken under it.
 - fail to produce a licence when requested to do so by a wildlife officer.
 - *** For hunters that carry licences electronically (instead of paper), the AlbertaReIm APP is the only acceptable means of doing so. Tags cannot be carried electronically; they are a component part of many licences and must also be carried when required and produced to an officer upon request.**
- harass, injure or kill any wildlife with a vehicle, aircraft or boat.
 - hunt any wildlife with or from an aircraft, or communicate, for the purpose of hunting, the signs or whereabouts of wildlife seen during a flight on an aircraft, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.
 - transport dead wildlife taken by others without an accompanying bill of lading (see page 64) signed by the licence or permit holder and providing the following details:
 - the kind and number of the licence under which the wildlife was killed or possessed,
 - a description of the wildlife,
 - the points of origin and destination, and
 - the date on which the wildlife is to be transported.
 - set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting any wildlife:**
 - an arrow equipped with an explosive head,
 - a firearm that is capable of firing more than one bullet during one pressure of the trigger or a firearm that can be altered to operate as such,
 - a light,
 - a shotgun of a gauge greater than 10,
 - a device designed to deaden the sound of the report of a firearm,
 - recorded wildlife calls or sounds, or an electronically operated calling device except; 1) when hunting migratory game birds with the use of calls or sounds that mimic snow geese, or 2) using electronic calls to hunt crows, magpies, coyote, red fox and wolf (using sounds that mimic these animals, rabbits, hares, or rodents).
 - a pistol or revolver unless
 - the person is a licenced trapper (holding a federal authorization) who is dispatching an animal caught in a trap, or
 - it is an air powered pistol or revolver that discharges a projectile at less than 500 feet per second (often used for hunting small game).
 - live wildlife,
 - a swivel set or spring gun, or
 - a poisonous substance or an immobilizing drug.
 - abandon, destroy or allow flesh suitable for human consumption of any game bird or big game animal (except cougar or bear), to become unfit for human consumption.
 - have a loaded firearm (live ammunition in breech, chamber or

magazine) in or on, or discharge a **weapon** from

- a boat unless the boat is propelled by muscular power or is at anchor and the person is hunting, or
- any kind of aircraft or vehicle whether it is moving or stationary.

Note: Ammunition may be carried in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm. Refer to page 16 for contact information regarding federal firearms legislation.

- discharge a **weapon** within 183 m (200 yards) or cause a projectile from a **weapon** to pass within 183 m (200 yards) of any occupied building. Owners, occupants, or persons authorized by the owner or occupant are excepted, subject to local bylaws.
 - discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across:
 - a provincial highway (this designation applies to all former primary and secondary highways),
 - a road that is paved, oiled, graded or regularly maintained, unless
 - the road is held under any active disposition under the *Public Lands Act* or under an order under the *Surface Rights Act*, or
 - the person is hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence.
- Note:** if there is no identifiable ditch or fence to mark the outside edge of the roadway, then the roadway extends 20 feet from the edge of the traveled portion.
- hunt any wildlife while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
 - hunt any wildlife **or discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
 - alter, destroy or remove any sign or notice that has been posted under the authority of the *Wildlife Act*, *Petty Trespass Act* or the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.
 - hunt any wildlife or discharge any firearm on or over occupied land or enter on to such land for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land (page 32). **NOTE:** There is an additional requirement affecting access for guided hunts (page 32).
 - possess a firearm of a calibre larger than .22 in a helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
 - hunt with a firearm if you are under **18** years of age and not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian. See page 16 for Canadian Firearms Centre contact information.
 - disturb traps, sets or trapping cabins.
 - feed black bears, grizzly bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes, unless while legally hunting where baiting is permitted.

Big Game

It is unlawful to

- hunt big game with any weapon other than:
 - a bow or cross-bow, and arrow or bolt, that are lawful for hunting big game (see page 42),
 - a rifle and ammunition that are lawful for hunting big game,
 - a muzzle-loading firearm .44 calibre or greater, or
 - a shotgun and ammunition that are lawful for hunting big game.
- set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting big game:**
 - ammunition of less than .23 calibre,
 - ammunition that contains non-expanding bullets,
 - an auto-loading firearm that has the capacity to hold more than 5 cartridges in the magazine,
 - a shotgun having a gauge of .410 or less,
 - a shotgun in a bird sanctuary,

- bait, except as permitted for the hunting of black bears (page 56),
 - a rifle or shotgun in WMUs 212, 247, 248 or 410 (persons hunting under the authority of a Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence, a Foothills Deer Licence, or an Antlerless Moose Special Licence in Strathcona County may hunt with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun),
 - a trap,
 - a cross-bow and arrow that is not authorized (see page 59).
3. discharge a **weapon** at a big game animal while it is swimming.
 4. discharge an arrow from a bow or cross-bow at big game, from, along or across a highway or road specified in Item 9 on page 28.
 5. be accompanied by a dog while hunting big game except;
 - in WMUs 400 – 446 where a pack dog may accompany a hunter if leashed, or within 50 m of the hunter and if under direct command and control. The dog is prohibited from tracking, scenting, pursuing or chasing big game, or
 - when hunting cougar under the authority of a cougar licence, from December 1 to the last day of March (the winter season).
 6. possess the carcass of a male elk, male antelope or male non-trophy sheep unless the complete skull plate, with horns or antlers intact, is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
 - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.
 7. possess the carcass of a calf moose taken under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence unless its head is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
 - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.
 8. allow the skin of any bear or cougar to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. See exception for salvaging skin on page 32 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation.
 9. remove the distinctive evidence of sex and species from the carcass of any big game until
 - the carcass is delivered to a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*, or
 - the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption at:
 - the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, or
 - the usual residence (a residence that is neither a business premises nor attached to such premises) of a resident of Alberta and that resident is in attendance.

In the case of cougar, the evidence of sex must remain attached and be retained until the animal has been registered (page 44).
 10. remove the tag from the carcass of a big game animal until authorized (as outlined on page 41).
 11. hunt:
 - a black bear under the age of one year,
 - a female black bear accompanied by a cub under the age of one year,
 - a female cougar accompanied by a kitten with spotted fur, or
 - a cougar kitten with spotted fur.
 12. transport big game hunters, except those requiring medical aid, or big game by helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
 13. land or take off in a fixed-wing aircraft that is carrying big game, big

- game hunters or firearms of a calibre larger than .22 at or from any location in WMUs 400-446 except those locations where aircraft routinely land and take off.
14. hunt big game within 6 hours of having disembarked from an aircraft, except for a jet or turbo-propeller driven aircraft.
 15. hunt big game on Sundays:
 - in WMUs 102 – 160,
 - in WMUs 624, 728, 730 and 936.
 16. be within 50 yards of a vehicle when discharging a weapon at an antelope.

Game Bird

It is unlawful to

1. possess, before it has been transported to the usual residence of the person who killed it or is prepared for immediate cooking, a game bird which does not bear evidence of sex and species. Evidence of sex and species consists of one completely feathered wing or head attached to the carcass of the game bird, except for wild turkey for which evidence of sex and species consists of the complete head and beard attached to the carcass (see reverse/back side of tag for tagging instructions for wild turkey).
2. hunt a migratory game bird using:
 - a firearm loaded with a single bullet,
 - shot, other than non-toxic shot,
 - a cross-bow,
 - a shotgun that is of a larger size than 10 gauge.
3. hunt any game bird using:
 - a shotgun in which the magazine and chamber combined will hold more than three rounds of ammunition,
 - a trap, or
 - bait.

Note: see item 12 (below) for additional restrictions for hunting wild turkey.
4. have more than one shotgun, for personal use, at any time while hunting migratory game birds unless each shotgun, in excess of one, is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased.
5. hunt game birds in WMU 410 with other than a bow and arrow or falconry bird.
6. hunt game birds in WMU 212, 247 or 248 with other than a bow and arrow, a cross-bow, shotgun or falconry bird.
7. exceed the daily or possession limit for any game bird (see game bird bag limits on page 60).
8. hunt game birds within 400 m (1/4 mi.) of a baited lure area operated under the Crop Damage Control Program.
9. transport unprocessed migratory game birds belonging to others unless carcasses have a label showing:
 - the signature, name and address of the owner,
 - the licence number under which the bird was taken, and
 - the date the birds were taken.
10. fail to make every effort possible to immediately retrieve a migratory game bird that a person has killed or wounded. A hunter must have adequate means to retrieve any migratory bird that he or she may kill, cripple or injure.
11. hunt wild turkey using:
 - a weapon other than a shotgun, cross-bow or a bow and arrow,
 - a shotgun with a bore diameter smaller than 20 gauge, or
 - shot size smaller than No. 6 shot or larger than No. 2 shot.
12. remove the tag from a wild turkey until authorized (page 41).

continued on next page

13. to hunt or guide for migratory game birds within 6 hours after flying over any portion of the same WMU, unless;
- it is a direct jet or turbo prop commercial flight,
 - a direct flight solely to transport hunters to a hunting destination,
 - it is a round trip no shorter than 12 hours in duration undertaken with direct flights to one or more locations outside the WMU.

EXPORTING

Alberta Export Permit

All big game (including bison hunted under a Bison Special Licence), game birds, and furbearing animals require a provincial export permit (**\$20.00 plus GST**) when they are to be conveyed beyond the borders of Alberta, except under the following conditions:

- Hunters who lawfully harvest game birds, coyotes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, pronghorn antelope or black bear* under the authority of a hunting licence or a right that is protected under Canadian Constitution, may export those species without an Alberta export permit if
 - in the case of upland game birds, the bird has been processed as a mounted specimen, or
 - the shipment is accompanied by the hunter who killed the animal, and
 - the appropriate licence is carried by the hunter who killed the animal being exported.

* Alberta prohibits the export of gall bladder and paws of black bear. You may export red meat, hide with claws attached, head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. See CITES Export Permit at right.
- Coyote that have been lawfully hunted by residents do not require a provincial export permit.

Note: United States migratory bird hunting regulations state that it is unlawful for a person to import into the United States migratory game birds belonging to another person. Evidence of sex and species must remain attached to the bird until the final U.S. destination is reached. For further information on the export of wildlife, contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13).

Commercial Export of Wildlife to the U.S.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) regulates commercial shipments of wildlife that enter or leave the U.S. In particular, taxidermists and outfitters may experience difficulties transporting wildlife to the U.S. unless such businesses are licenced with the US FWS for transporting commercial shipments of wildlife across the U.S. border.

For more details, contact the US FWS at 1-703-358-1949 or view information at: fws.gov/le/

CITES Export Permit - for more information (1-800-668-6767)

Persons exporting cougar or wolf to points outside Canada must obtain a federal export permit issued in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). In addition, provincial export permits must be obtained for exporting these species, except for tanned wolf skin. All black bear require CITES export permits, except for those exported by United States hunters as noted on this page. Black bears do not require the provincial export permit if they are exported as described in the Alberta Export Permit section.

U.S. Black Bear Hunters – A CITES export permit is no longer required for U.S. hunters to take their black bear hunting trophy home in a fresh, frozen or salted condition at the conclusion of their hunt. The trophy must be part of the accompanying baggage of the hunter who killed the animal. This exemption does not apply to taxidermized trophies. All provincial export requirements still apply (see Alberta Export Permit section) and the trophy and documentation must be presented to Customs at the border when the hunters exit. Only the following parts of black bear may be exported: red meat, the hide with claws still attached, the head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. Alberta prohibits the export of the gall bladder or paws of black bear. Note that the CITES permit exemption for fresh black bear trophies applies only to U.S. hunters returning home and not to other hunters. An individual must not sell or dispose of the black bear within 90 days after the date on which the CITES exemption is claimed.

Other circumstances for Black Bear: Claws of black bear may not be exported from Alberta if they are separated from the whole skin. Partial skins of black bear that are processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved), black bear skulls with teeth attached (when not accompanied by the hunter returning home as described above) or taxidermized black bear skins may still be exported but only under a provincial export permit with a CITES permit. A black bear skin that is not part of a returning hunter's baggage may still be shipped but requires both provincial and CITES export permits.

SALE OF WILDLIFE

The selling, buying, bartering, soliciting or trading in wildlife or wildlife parts, or offering to do so, is regulated under the *Wildlife Act* and Regulations. Many transactions are strictly prohibited, while others are regulated. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13).

When conducting wildlife transactions over the internet, recognize that wildlife laws vary in many jurisdictions; wildlife (such as a naturally shed antler) that is legal to sell within Alberta may not be legal to sell to persons in the U.S.

FOUND DEAD WILDLIFE

When driving or walking, hunters often find dead wildlife that they would like to keep. In most cases it is unlawful to possess such wildlife or parts of wildlife without first obtaining a permit. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office to apply for such a permit before taking possession of the wildlife.



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Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance in Alberta

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) kills deer. Alberta has wrestled with this fact since 1998.

Initial aggressive disease control programs seemed to limit the rate at which this prion disease moved into eastern Alberta in the early 2000s. However, in 2008 the province switched to monitoring the progression and effects of CWD. Alberta's CWD surveillance evolved to three primary objectives: detect CWD in wild cervids, limit CWD spread in wild cervids, and learn about CWD in Alberta landscapes and ecosystems. Our surveillance data provide strong patterns to show how this prion disease builds in local deer populations and how it moves across the landscape. They also provide a strong foundation for game managers and stakeholders to consider the potential to change future patterns of CWD increase and spread.

Previous results and reports are on the CWD pages www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease

Hunter harvest samples are the backbone of the wild CWD surveillance program. We also test opportunistic samples such as found dead, road-kill, or emaciated cervids anywhere in the province. Annual CWD data are provided on our web pages and are not repeated here.

Clear patterns in the data include:

- Once CWD establishes in an area, overall prevalence (% infected) rises each year
- CWD occurs throughout eastern Alberta south of Cold Lake and central Alberta west of Hwy 2 south of Edmonton, into the foothills in the southwest, and into the boreal forest fringe in the north.
- Most CWD occurs in mule deer, particularly bucks
- Prevalence differs among WMUs and changed significantly after 2010. Check out the CWD web pages.



AB# 1504: Emaciated hunter-killed mule deer with CWD.

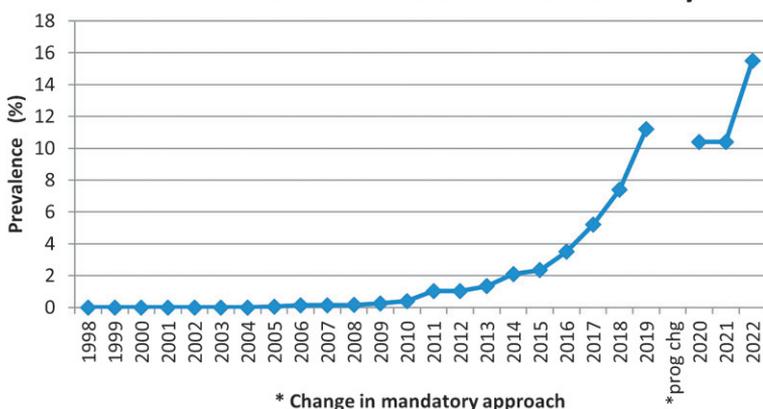
In over 111,000 heads tested since 1998, we detected CWD in 4603 mule deer, 818 white-tails, eight moose, and 26 elk. This includes 714 cases identified in 4517 heads tested in 2022 (15.8%): 575 mule deer, 129 white-tails, five elk, and five moose.

While the overall proportion of infected wild cervids remains low, prevalence of CWD in some mule deer populations is a significant concern to deer managers. Hunters and landowners are concerned about fewer deer, particularly male mule deer, in local areas where CWD is well established. Deer infected with CWD die within two years. With prevalence over 50% in mule deer bucks in some local areas, it is not surprising that fewer older bucks are on the landscape.

Risk models using Alberta data reveal ongoing geographic spread, largely in relation to riparian areas and proximity to previous cases. CWD is now well-established throughout much of eastern and central Alberta. Similarly, as CWD becomes more common in mule deer males, prevalence increases in mule deer females and spills over into more white-tails, elk, and a few moose.

What comes next? With CWD in the foothills, mule deer populations west of Hwy 2 seem to be at greatest risk of invasion with CWD. On the northern edge of the risk area, dense boreal forest may limit the rate of disease spread. If this is the case, it may also provide a buffer between caribou and CWD. However, CWD recently arrived at the northern forest fringe in Alberta and what comes next is still unknown.

Annual Overall Prevalence since 1996/97

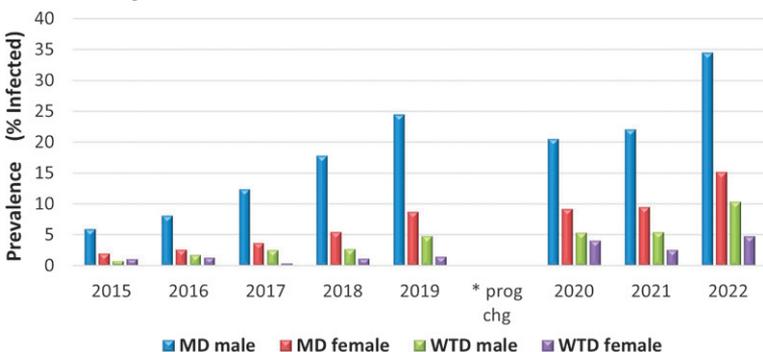


Hunters, particularly those familiar with our earlier CWD surveillance program, are encouraged to take a close look at the program details for 2023. The modified approach taken by game managers since 2020 better informs their deer management decisions.

CWD surveillance is a robust and complicated program with many challenges. Most deer submitted for testing are harvested in November. We test heads generally in the time frame they are submitted – that is, early November heads before mid Nov heads before late Nov heads. However, the number of heads submitted in November far exceeds the monthly laboratory testing capacity. All testing generally is completed in March.

In Alberta, long-term surveillance improves our ability to track CWD occurrence and patterns. Armed with this information, big game managers more fully understand the potential effects of the disease, and hunters concerned about CWD can make informed decisions about their hunt.

Species-Sex Prevalence 2015-2022



While there are a few cases of CWD in elk and moose, these occur as spillover from infected deer. Thus deer remain the best surveillance sample to indicate CWD occurrence. However, as always, we will test the head of any cervid harvested legally in Alberta.

Ongoing support from the public, and hunters and outfitters in particular, is essential to CWD surveillance.

For more information on CWD surveillance in Alberta, **CHECK PAGE 3** of this guide.



HUNTING PRIVILEGES ON OCCUPIED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

Access to Public and Private Lands

Except under authority of a Game Bird Shooting Ground Licence, it is unlawful to directly or indirectly buy or sell, trade or barter, or offer to buy or sell access to any land for the purpose of hunting any big game, furbearing animals or game birds.

Hunting on privately owned lands without permission is a problem in Alberta. It generates anti-hunting sentiment among landowners and results in the prosecution of more than 200 hunters each year. Hunters should leave gates as they find them, avoid damaging facilities or property, avoid disturbing livestock and establish friendly relations with landholders.

Although there is a moral obligation to pursue wounded game and a legal requirement to ensure game is retrieved and not wasted or abandoned, these obligations do not override the legal requirement to get permission to enter private land.

Access to Public Lands

Hunters are reminded that the privilege to access public lands is contingent upon courtesy and responsible conduct. It is the hunter's responsibility to know, understand and abide by access conditions that apply when using and enjoying these areas.

In addition to privately owned land, permission is always required before entering or crossing:

- Indian reserves (from appropriate band council),
- Métis settlements (from appropriate Métis settlement association)
- Public land under agricultural or grazing lease (from leaseholder), please see page 16.

While recreational 'foot' access is generally accepted on public land, hunters should be aware that:

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) access is prohibited in most provincial parks and provincial recreation areas.
- Off-highway vehicle access may be limited or prohibited within counties, municipal districts or within special public land management areas such as Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs).
- Some PLUZs have designated OHV trail networks (i.e. Ghost Pluz). In these areas, hunters are required to operate OHVs only on designated trails, even when retrieving game.
- Special conditions, such as extreme fire hazard, may warrant additional temporary access limitations.

Regardless of intent or mode of travel, all recreationists are expected and encouraged to respect, take pride, and play a stewardship role in maintaining the quality and character of Alberta's natural resources.

For more information regarding access to Agricultural Leased Land and Provincial Grazing Reserves, refer to page 14.

For more information, please contact your local Alberta Forestry and Parks office by dialing 310-0000 or visit <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use.aspx>.

Wildlife Act

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter onto such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

The *Wildlife Act* defines "occupied lands" as follows:

- privately owned lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence of any kind and not exceeding one section in area on which the owner or occupant actually resides, and
- any other privately owned land that is within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the section referred to in clause (a) and that is owned or leased by the same owner or occupant.

The occupied lands described in the above legislation do not need to be posted with signs to receive protection under Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act*. The black area in the map (right) shows an example of nine square miles of land that could contain land falling within the definition of "occupied lands."

Petty Trespass Act

Amendments to the *Petty Trespass Act* came into force June 1, 2004. While it is still possible for a landowner to prohibit entry on to his or her land by giving oral or written notice or by posting signs prohibiting entry, the amendments now set out certain kinds of property where entry is prohibited without any notice required. These lands include those privately owned lands (and leased public lands not associated with grazing or cultivation – these are addressed on page 14) that are under cultivation, fenced or enclosed by a natural boundary or enclosed in a manner that indicates the landholder's intention to keep people off the premises or animals on the premises. **Importantly, hunters or others who access those lands must have permission before entering.**

31	32	33	34	35	36
30	29	28	27	26	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	8	9	10	11	12
6	5	4	3	2	1

Legend:
■ Potentially Occupied Lands
X Residence

Federal Criminal Code

The **Criminal Code** (Section 41) provides that a person in peaceable possession of real property can require a trespasser to vacate the property.

Access for Guiding

A Hunter Host, Big Game Designated Guide or Bird Game Designated Guide, when guiding on any privately held land, requires permission authorizing access from the landholder for conducting those guiding services on that land. Such a guide or host is required to carry on his person the landholder's name, address (or legal land location of landholder's residence) and telephone number.

Access for Control of Livestock Predation

Black Bear and Coyote*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) black bear or coyote on such lands, at all times of the year.

Timber Wolf*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf on such lands, and on any lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the above lands, provided he or she also has the right of access to these latter lands.

*Cougar

Any person who is the owner or occupant of privately owned land may at any time of year, hunt (but not trap) cougar on such lands without a licence. Hunting with dogs is prohibited under this authority. Under this authority, registration is required within one week of the kill by bringing the skin and skull (or intact carcass) to a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 13). A premolar tooth will be retained for aging.

- * It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of furbearing animals (includes coyote and wolf) or black bear taken in accordance with regulations authorizing the control of problem wildlife set out in this part. The skin and skull of cougar taken on privately-owned land as described must be submitted at time of registration as noted, but the cougar pelt does not need to be further salvaged. Refer to page 58 for information about seasons for coyote and wolf.

HUNTING IN ALBERTA PROVINCIAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Alberta's Parks Division provides hunting opportunities on over 85% of the land base managed as a Provincial Park or Protected Area. In protected areas where hunting is allowed some activities are restricted in order to protect sensitive areas and species or to address public safety or wildlife management issues. Section 15 of the Provincial Parks (General) Regulation prohibits dogs off leash in Provincial Parks, Wildland Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas. Dogs need to be controlled via a restraining leash not greater than 2m long. For detailed information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas contact your local Alberta Forestry and Parks office or visit albertaparks.ca.

Classification of Protected Area	Hunting	Exceptions	OHV (including snowmobile) Use
Ecological Reserves	No	No	No
Wilderness Areas	No	No	No
Provincial Parks	No	Castle Provincial Park, Elk seasons in Cypress Hills Game birds over water in Winagami Lake Provincial Park	No
Provincial Recreation Areas (PRA)	No	Big game and game bird seasons in Blue Rapids, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, Evan Thomas (Marmot Basin area), Fickle Lake, Lakeland, North Bruderheim, Redwater, Saskatoon Mountain, Sulphur Gates, and Wapiabi PRAs	Lakeland PRA - Yes on designated trails only. North Bruderheim PRA
Wildland Parks	Yes	Bison hunting is not permitted in Wildland Parks outside the special bison season in Hay Zama or other permitted harvest within Caribou Mountains. Access and other management conditions may apply.	On designated trails in a select number of Wildland Parks. For a complete listing visit albertaparks.ca
Willmore Wilderness Park	Yes	No	No
Heritage Rangelands	Yes	Entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions.	Subject to grazing lease access conditions
Natural Areas	Yes	Access and other management conditions may apply. For a complete listing visit albertaparks.ca	Dependant on access conditions. For a complete listing visit albertaparks.ca

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves preserve and protect natural heritage in an undisturbed state for scientific research and education. The primary intent of this class of protected area is strict preservation of natural ecosystems, habitats, features and associated biodiversity. Hunting is prohibited in Ecological Reserves.

Wilderness Areas

Wilderness Areas preserve and protect natural heritage, where visitors are provided with opportunities for non-consumptive, nature based outdoor recreation. Hunting is prohibited in Wilderness Areas.

Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

Provincial Parks preserve natural heritage; they support outdoor recreation, heritage tourism and natural heritage appreciation activities that depend upon and are compatible with environmental protection. Provincial Recreation Areas support outdoor recreation and tourism: they often provide access to lakes, rivers, reservoirs and adjacent crown land.

In general, hunting or discharging a firearm (or bow) is prohibited in Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas. Hunting is permitted in Castle Provincial Park and there are elk seasons in Cypress Hills Provincial Park. In addition, there are big game and game bird seasons in Blue Rapids, Fickle Lake, Wapiabi, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, the northwest corner of Evan-Thomas, Sulphur Gates, and Lakeland Provincial Recreation Areas. Firearms discharge permits are required to hunt in all Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas other than Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area, Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, Fickle Lake Provincial Recreation Area, and Wapiabi Provincial Recreation Area. Orientation sessions may also be required before hunting is permitted in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area. For more information on firearm discharge permits and orientation sessions for hunting in Provincial Parks or Provincial Recreation Areas please visit albertaparks.ca

If not in the process of hunting in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area that has an open season, all firearms must be unloaded, encased or dismantled.

Wildland Provincial Parks

Wildland Provincial Parks preserve and protect natural heritage and provide opportunities for backcountry recreation. Hunting is permitted in Wildland Provincial Parks. However, bison hunting is not permitted in Wildland Provincial Parks outside the special bison season in the Hay-Zama Wildland Park for holders of a Bison Special Licence. Additional bison harvest opportunities may be available in some specified areas, such as Caribou Mountains Wildland Park, to achieve conservation and management objectives. Special access restrictions apply to all motorized vehicles.

Willmore Wilderness Park

Willmore Wilderness Park was established under its own legislation in 1959 and is similar in intent to Wildland Parks. Hunting is permitted in Willmore Wilderness Park; however, off-highway vehicle (and snowmobile) use is not permitted. Hunters are advised that the adjacent staging areas have different hunting and firearm storage regulations than Willmore Wilderness Park. Further information and maps are available at the Hinton Parks Division office at 780-865-8395.

Heritage Rangelands

Heritage Rangelands preserve and protect natural features that are representative of Alberta's prairies and grazing is used to maintain the grassland ecology. Two heritage rangelands have been established in Alberta - Black Creek Heritage Rangeland in the Whaleback area and OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland near Longview. These lands are cooperatively managed with Alberta Forestry and Parks and grazing lease holders. Hunting is permitted, however entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions. For access conditions please visit <https://www.albertaparks.ca>

alberta.ca/public-land-use.aspx, select Recreation and Public Use, then select Recreation on Agricultural Public Land.

Natural Areas

Natural Areas preserve and protect sites of local significance and provide opportunities for recreation and nature appreciation activities. Hunting is permitted in Natural Areas, however, there are some sites with special management and safety considerations that restrict hunting and access, e.g. Wagner Natural Area, Riverlot 56, Sherwood Park Natural Area. Bison hunting is not permitted within the Harper Creek Natural Area. For more information please visit albertaparks.ca. To find access conditions for Natural Areas that are subject to a grazing lease please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use.aspx>. Go to Recreation on agricultural public land.

Kananaskis Country

Kananaskis Country is a multi-use area comprised of both protected areas and public land; hunters must be aware of what type of land they are accessing. Access to some areas may be affected when roads and recreational trails are temporarily closed. Information and maps are available from Visitor Information Centres with in Kananaskis Country. For more information please visit albertaparks.ca.

Hunters – Please be Aware:

Baiting

Baiting of all wildlife, including bears, wolves and coyotes, is not permitted in all Provincial Parks, Provincial Recreation Areas and Wildland Provincial Parks. There are two exceptions: 1) A limited number of Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) holders (registered trappers) and 2) A limited number of hunting guides who were historically authorized to conduct commercial guiding activities that used baits in an area prior to the area being established as a Wildland Provincial Park. Both exceptions are managed through permits and

approvals issued by Alberta Forestry and Parks. For more information contact your local Parks Division office.

Found Dead Wildlife in Parks

In Provincial Parks, Wildland Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas it may be unlawful to remove dead wildlife that you find. For more information please contact your local Parks Division office. To obtain a permit to possess found dead wildlife, contact your local Fish and Wildlife office.

Hanging and Storage of Big Game

Unless authorized by a Conservation Officer it is unlawful to dress, hang, or store big game in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area. Where these activities are permitted, please follow safe storage practices in order to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.

Be Respectful of Others

Provincial Parks and protected areas are multiple use sites and are used by a wide range of recreational users year round. When hunting in these locations, respect other users and recognize that there may be hiking, cycling, camping, picnicking or other activities going on in close proximity. Please use caution when transporting firearms and avoid the use of firearms for target shooting and sighting-in of rifles.

For more information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas please visit albertaparks.ca or contact your local Parks office.

Edmonton: 780-427-3582

Northwest Region: 780-538-5350

Northeast Region: 780-623-5235

West Central Region: 780-960-8170

East Central Region: 403-340-7691

Kananaskis Country: 403-678-5508

South Region: 403-382-4097

RESTRICTED AREAS

Alberta has a variety of restricted areas. Please read the following sections carefully to determine how the various designations affect hunting opportunities.

ALL HUNTING

Wildlife Sanctuaries

Sanctuaries are intended to provide secure habitat for wildlife and thus allow populations to either increase or remain at desired levels. They include areas of high quality habitat, often where populations of some wildlife species have been significantly lowered or dispersed because of disturbance at some time in the past. Sanctuary status allows these areas to realize their potential to support wildlife and to act as core areas of production for animals that will disperse to surrounding areas. It also increases the opportunities for Albertans to view wildlife.

NOTE: Privately owned lands within wildlife sanctuaries are excluded from the sanctuaries.

Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries

It is unlawful to hunt within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road in a designated road corridor wildlife sanctuary (a corridor 730 m or 800 yards wide). No person shall possess a weapon in these sanctuaries unless the weapon, if it is a firearm, is unloaded **and** either dismantled, encased, or completely enclosed by another suitable covering. If crossing a road corridor wildlife sanctuary on horseback or on foot, a firearm must be unloaded and the person must be traveling in a direct route to leave the sanctuary.

There are 11 road corridor wildlife sanctuaries, shown in green on the enclosed WMU map. Eight are located in the Mountain and Foothills regions and three in the Boreal Region. Descriptions of the Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries are as follows:

Mountain and Foothills

1. Highwood – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
 - (a) Highway 40 between the southern boundary of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Secondary Road 541,
 - (b) Secondary Road 541 between Highway 40 and the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve;
2. Harold Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of the road locally known as the Harold Creek Road between the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve and Secondary Road 734;
3. Ya Ha Tinda – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Road between the Red Deer River Provincial Recreation Area and the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch headquarters building;
4. Forestry Trunk Road – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 734 between its intersection with the road locally known as the Lynx Creek Road in section 26, township 36, range 14, west of the 5th meridian and the Seven Mile Provincial Recreation Area;
5. Cutoff Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Cutoff Creek Road between Provincial Highway 734 and the Cutoff Creek Equestrian Staging Forest Recreation Area;
6. North Ram – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Secondary Road 734 that is in Township 38, Range 15, West of the 5th Meridian and north of the North Ram River;
7. Onion Creek Road – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Onion Creek Road in section 9, township 36, range 14, west of the 5th meridian to its intersection with Provincial Highway 734;
8. Kootenay Plains – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Highway 11 between Allstones Creek and the eastern boundary of Banff National Park;



Hunting is prohibited in national parks in Alberta, which include:

Banff — Waterton Lakes — Elk Island — Wood Buffalo* — Jasper

Close to the national park boundary?

It is your responsibility to know where you are in relation to the park boundaries. Not all areas are clearly marked. Unsure? Obtain appropriate maps from your nearest outdoor store or contact the national park closest to your planned hunting area.

It is illegal to:

- Possess a firearm within a national park, except in a vehicle on a through highway, or at a person's primary residence, where it must be unloaded and encased.
- Disturb, chase or entice wildlife to move outside national park boundaries.
- Take "shortcuts" through national park land while in possession of a firearm.
- Enter a national park while in the act of hunting, trapping, pursuing or searching for wildlife to hunt, even without a firearm.
- Remove or possess natural objects (e.g. antlers or skulls).

If you wound an animal and it enters a national park, DO NOT ENTER THE PARK. Contact Parks Canada immediately.

To report incidents, wounded animals or for more information:

Banff and Waterton Lakes: 1-888-927-3367

Elk Island and Jasper: 1-877-852-3100

Wood Buffalo: 1-867-872-0404

*This notice does not apply to Indigenous Rights' holders who are eligible to hunt and harvest in Wood Buffalo National Park. For more information, please contact 1-867-872-7900.

La chasse est interdite dans les parcs nationaux de l'Alberta, ce qui inclut les parcs nationaux suivants :

Banff — Lacs-Waterton — Elk Island — Wood Buffalo* — Jasper

À proximité de la limite d'un parc national?

Vous avez la responsabilité de vous informer à quel endroit se trouvent les limites du parc national. Toutes les limites ne sont pas clairement indiquées. Vous avez un doute? Obtenez les cartes appropriées auprès de votre magasin de plein air le plus près ou communiquez avec le parc national se trouvant à proximité de la zone où vous prévoyez de chasser.

Il est illégal :

- De se trouver en possession d'une arme à feu dans un parc national, sauf si elle se trouve dans un véhicule circulant sur une route de transit, ou dans la résidence principale d'une personne, où elle doit être déchargée et rangée dans un étui.
- De perturber, de pourchasser ou d'attirer un animal sauvage à l'extérieur des limites d'un parc national.
- De prendre des « raccourcis » à l'intérieur des limites d'un parc national tout en étant en possession d'une arme à feu.
- D'entrer dans un parc national pendant la pratique d'une activité de chasse, de piégeage, de poursuite ou de recherche d'animaux sauvages aux fins de la chasse, même sans arme à feu.
- D'enlever des objets naturels ou être en possession de tels objets (p. ex. bois de cervidés ou crânes).

Si vous blessez un animal et qu'il entre dans un parc national, N'ENTREZ PAS DANS LE PARC. Communiquez avec Parcs Canada immédiatement.

Pour signaler des incidents ou des animaux blessés, ou pour obtenir plus d'information :

Banff et Lacs-Waterton : 1-888-927-3367

Elk Island et Jasper : 1-877-852-3100

Wood Buffalo : 1-867-872-0404

*Le présent avis ne s'applique pas aux titulaires de droits ancestraux qui sont admissibles à la chasse et à la récolte dans le parc national Wood Buffalo. Pour plus d'information, téléphonez au 1-867-872-7900.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

9. Nordegg – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Road 734 where it intersects the North Saskatchewan River in section 34, township 39, range 15, west of the 5th meridian to where it crosses Shunda Creek and within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 11 from where it intersects Provincial Highway 734 to where it crosses Shunda Creek;
10. Highway 40/Little Smoky/Simonette – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Highway 40 between the Berland River and the Muskeg River.
11. Highway 40 Cadomin - within 1 kilometre (1094 yards)
 - (a) west of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 40 between the intersection of Provincial Highway 40 and the northern boundary of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 48, range 24, west of the 5th meridian at its northerly extent and the intersection of Provincial Highway 40 and the northern boundary of section 5, township 48, range 24, west of the 5th meridian, and
 - (b) of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 40 between the intersection of Provincial Highway 40 and the northern boundary of section 5, township 48, range 24, west of the 5th meridian at its northerly extent and the intersection of Provincial Highway 40 and the eastern boundary of section 24, township 47, range 24, west of the 5th meridian at its southeasterly extent.

Boreal Region

12. Whitemud Hills – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Whitemud Hills Haul Road from Highway 35 to the western boundary of Section 14, Township 85, Range 2, West of the 6th Meridian;
13. Sulphur Lake – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Sulphur Lake Haul Road from the southeast corner of Township 88, Range 1, West of the 6th Meridian to its junction with the road locally known as the

- Canfor East Road in Township 89, Range 3, West of the 6th Meridian;
14. Peace River Pulp Mill – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Peace River Pulp Resource Road from its intersection with secondary road 986 in the south-east quarter of section 17, township 85, range 19, west of the 5th meridian northerly to the centre of the north-east quarter of section 23, township 90, range 20, west of the 5th meridian (gate at Whiskey Jack Creek).

Seasonal Sanctuaries

No person shall approach within 800 metres (0.5 mile) of any of the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15.

1. The island known as Pelican Island in Newell Lake in Township 17, Range 15, W4M;
2. The unnamed island in Namur Lake in Sections 35 and 36, Township 97, Range 17, W4M;
3. The unnamed island in Beaverhill Lake in Section 5, Township 52, Range 17, W4M;
4. The unnamed island in the unnamed lake in Section 8, 9, 16 and 17, Township 95, Range 17, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in Scope Reservoir in LSD 2 and 3, Section 10, Township 13, Range 14, W4M.

No person shall enter the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15:

1. That portion of the unnamed island in Lower Therien Lake in the NW Quarter of Section 14, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
2. That portion of Lower Therien Lake in Section 2, 3, 10 and 11, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
3. The unnamed islands in the Slave River in the SW Quarter of Section 30, Township 126, Range 10, W4M, and the SE Quarter of Section 25, Township 126, Range 11, W4M;
4. The island known as Bird Island in Buffalo Lake in Section 30, Township 40, Range 20, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in Joseph Lake in Section 12, Township 50, Range 22, W4M.

No person shall enter the following seasonal sanctuaries between May 1 and August 15:

1. The following lands to the extent that, at any given time, they are not covered by any of the waters of Muriel Lake,
 - a) within township 59, range 5, west of the fourth meridian, the east half of legal subdivisions 9 and 16 of section 19; legal subdivisions 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of section 20; legal subdivisions 13 and 14 of section 21; the northeast quarter of section 21; legal subdivisions 2, 3 and 4 of section 28; legal subdivisions 10 and 11 of section 29; the southeast quarter and the southwest quarter of section 29;
 - b) within township 60, range 5, west of the fourth meridian, legal subdivisions 5, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of section 1; legal subdivisions 8, 9, 15 and 16 of section 2; the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of section 11; legal subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 12.
2. All areas within legal subdivisions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of section 35, township 68, range 15, west of the fourth meridian and legal subdivisions 9 and 16 of section 34, township 68, range 15, west of the fourth meridian.

Métis Settlements

In general, only a member of a Métis Settlement Association, formed under the *Métis Settlements Act*, may hunt or trap wildlife on a Métis Settlement. Hunting by non-members may be authorized under settlement by-laws.

Forest Recreation Areas

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within a forest recreation area. It is also unlawful to “dress” a big game animal within a forest recreation area.

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National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in national parks, and hunters should be especially careful about their locations when hunting near park boundaries. Firearms are prohibited in national parks except on through highways and in town sites where they must be unloaded and encased.

Bison Protection and Special Bison Areas

Except for the special seasons provided in WMUs 536 and 539, all bison hunting is prohibited in designated Bison Protection Areas. Bison Protection Areas are located in (*or portions of) the following WMUs:

BISON PROTECTION AREAS	
WMU	Sanctuary
524*, 536, 537*, 539	Northwest Bison Protection Area
540*	Wabasca Bison Protection Area
416*, 418*	Upper Red Deer River Special Bison Area

For more information and detailed map/description of the Bison Protection Areas, please contact the Peace River Fish and Wildlife Office.

Other Restricted Areas

Except for the special seasons provided in WMUs 728, 730 and 732, hunting is not permitted in the following areas:

- Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (WMU 726),
- Canadian Forces Base Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730),
- Canadian Forces Base Suffield (WMU 732),
- Ghost River Wilderness Area (WMU 734),
- Greene Valley Wildlife Management Unit (WMU 926),
- Siffleur Wilderness Area (WMU 736),
- White Goat Wilderness Area (WMU 738), and
- within 91 m (100 yards) of Highway 1 or Highway 1A in WMU 410.

BIG GAME HUNTING

The hunting of big game is not permitted in the following areas:

- the Gregg River Resources Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438, and
- the Cardinal River Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438.

Saskatoon Mountain Primitive Weapons Area

Only shotguns, muzzle loaders and archery equipment may be used to hunt big game in this area in WMU 357, located 20 km west of Grande Prairie on the north side of Highway 43 (see enclosed Wildlife Management Unit Map). For a more detailed map/description of area, please contact the Grande Prairie Fish and Wildlife office.

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Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep

It is unlawful to hunt trophy or non-trophy sheep within the following areas:

- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 1A between the western boundary of the Stony Indian Reserve and Canmore,
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 3,
- 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the Sheep River from the eastern boundary of WMU 406 upstream to Dyson Creek,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the Inland Cement Rock Quarry near Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the intersection of Whitehorse Creek and the main forestry trunk road south of Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of where Highway 16 intersects the eastern boundary of Jasper National Park,
- 3.2 km (2.0 mi.) of the intersection of the Forestry Trunk Road and the South Ram River in Section 18, Township 36, Range 13, West of the Fifth Meridian.

GAME BIRD HUNTING

Game Bird Sanctuaries

Hunting game birds and carrying shotguns are prohibited in game bird sanctuaries except with a special permit. Descriptions of these sanctuaries are available from the Alberta King's Printer in Edmonton (page 12).

Game bird sanctuaries are located in the following WMUs:

WMU	Sanctuary	WMU	Sanctuary
102	Pakowki Lake	242	Miquelon Lake
148	Many Island Lake	357	Saskatoon Lake*
212	Inglewood*	503	Lac La Biche
220	Red Deer*	530	Richardson Lake*
238	Birch Lake	523	Kimiwan Lake
242	Ministik Lake		

*These areas are designated as a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

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VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

The use of vehicles, including off-highway vehicles (OHVs), is controlled by various regulations. Refer to the enclosed Wildlife Management Unit Map for more information.

Vehicle Use and Restrictions

The ‘footprint’ of vehicles is much greater than the average foot. Noise, erosion, soil compaction, habitat disturbance and vegetation impacts generally increase with vehicle use. Hunters are requested to minimize the impacts of vehicles where they are permitted and abide by limitations to vehicle use where applicable.

All off-highway vehicles (OHVs) operated on public land must be registered, insured and have a visible licence plate. Vehicles must also have a headlight, tail light, muffler and spark arrestor.

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ)

Several areas in the province are designated as PLUZs to allow for the management of recreational interests and pressures on local ecology. On and off highway vehicle restrictions apply in all PLUZs and may limit vehicle type, trail access and seasons open to vehicle use. WMU and PLUZ boundaries may overlap and all – or portions of – WMUs may have vehicle access restrictions. Please refer to PLUZ maps available at your local Alberta Forestry and Parks office or visit <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones.aspx>.

Wildland Provincial Parks

Hunting is allowed in the Wildland Provincial Parks shown on the enclosed WMU map. However, special access restrictions apply to all motorized vehicles. For example, Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park provides a network of designated trails on which only specific OHVs (quads and snowmobiles) may be operated from May 1 to December 15. For more detailed information, contact Alberta Forestry and Parks or visit albertaparks.ca/

Hunting with Motorized Vehicles

It is unlawful to

- discharge a **weapon** at antelope from within 46 m (50 yards) of a vehicle;
- use motorized travel within Willmore Wilderness Park; and
- carry a weapon (see definition on page 14) on an OHV **between 1 hour before sunrise and the following noon** during an open season for big game* on public land in the following WMUs: 400-446. This does not apply to a person who is traveling on a direct route to or from a location accessible by vehicles designed for highway travel and his or her isolated campsite, and the weapons and ammunition are carried out of view in separate locked containers (and remain locked during the trip).

Also, the restriction does not apply in a WMU when the only big game season open is a spring black bear season or a cougar season.

* this restriction applies to all hunters (including bird game hunters).

Use of Aircraft

The use of aircraft for the purpose of hunting and hunting after flight is controlled by various regulations which are summarized under the “general” and “big game” prohibitions area within this Guide. For further clarity, it is unlawful to:

1. Use any aircraft for the purpose of hunting wildlife, including unmanned aerial vehicles.
2. Hunt big game within 6 hours* of having disembarked from an aircraft, except for a jet or turbo-propeller driven aircraft (regardless of the purpose of the flight).
3. Communicate, for the purpose of hunting, the whereabouts or signs of wildlife from knowledge gained from a manned or unmanned aircraft flight to anyone at any time during or after the flight.

4. To hunt, guide or outfit for migratory game birds within 48 hours of flying within the same WMU (excluding jet and turbo prop flights).

*NOTE: Hunting big game after the 6 hour timeframe as indicated in #2 above does not negate the potential application of #1 above.

Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ)	Off-Highway Vehicles	Associated WMUs
Allison Chinook	Seasonal access on designated trails only	402
Athabasca Ranch	Seasonal access only	344
Brule Lake	Designated corridors only	438
Castle	Seasonal access on designated trails only	400
Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle	Snowmobiles only with additional conditions	404
Coal Branch	Seasonal access on designated trails only	436-438
Dormer / Sheep	Designated trails only	416
Ghost	Designated trails only	316, 412, 414, 416
Job / Cline	Seasonal access on designated trails only	426, 430, 432, 434
Kiska / Willson	Designated trails only with some seasonal restrictions	326, 328, 416-418, 420, 422, 426, 428-430
Livingstone	Designated trails only	302, 303, 306, 308, 400, 402
McLean Creek Off-Highway	Permitted with conditions	406
Porcupine	Designated trails only	304, 305, 308
Sibbald Snow Vehicle	Snowmobiles only with additional conditions	406
Blackstone / Wapiti	NOT PERMITTED	430, 434
Holmes Crossing	NOT PERMITTED	507
Kananaskis Country	NOT PERMITTED	404, 406, 408
Panther Corners	NOT PERMITTED	416, 418
Whitcourt Sandhills X-Country Ski	NOT PERMITTED	507

Recreation Trails

A number of forested areas throughout Alberta have designated recreation trails. These areas allow a variety of activities, including hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Trail users and backcountry travellers should be aware of current land use restrictions. For more information on recreation trails, contact the Information Centre in Edmonton (see page 13).

When accessing Alberta’s public land whether motorized or non-motorized, hunters are reminded to respect the land.

Trappers’ Trails

Many trails on Crown lands are created and maintained by trappers. To avoid interference with trapline operations, recreationists are urged to avoid motorized use of trails marked with signs indicating “Active Trapline,” especially during trapping seasons of November through February.



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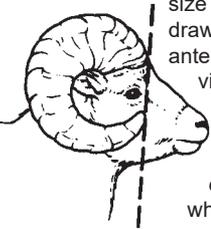
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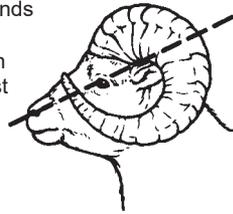
BIG GAME REGULATIONS

— Big Game Identification —

Trophy Sheep – A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that a straight line drawn from the most anterior point of the visible base of the horn to the tip of the horn extends beyond the anterior edge of the eye when viewed in profile.



Full-Curl Trophy Sheep – A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that when viewed in profile, its tip extends upward beyond a straight line drawn from the rear-most point of the base of the horn to the centre of the nostril.



Be Careful! Study a ram carefully when determining its trophy status. Be sure to view the ram's head from a horizontal plane and in profile, with the front of the right and left horn bases aligned. Views from below, in front, or any other perspective other than "in profile" will not provide for accurate judgement. Some rams may not be legal even if they are old or have horns severely broomed or with turned up tips.



lamb



yearling ewe

Non-trophy Sheep – A female bighorn sheep or a male bighorn sheep under one year of age.



yearling ram
(illegal)



adult ewe

White-tailed Deer – Body color grey to reddish brown, under body white. Tail large and bushy, brown on upper surface and white on lower surface. Tail often held erect and "flagged" when animal runs. Gait a series of short running dashes and bounds. Antlers have individual tines off main beams. Antlers present on males only.



Mule Deer – Body color grey to brownish grey, under body white. Ears prominent; tail compact, rope-like, and black-tipped; rump patch white. Tail held down when animal runs. Gait a series of stiff-legged bounds. Antlers branched and present on males only.



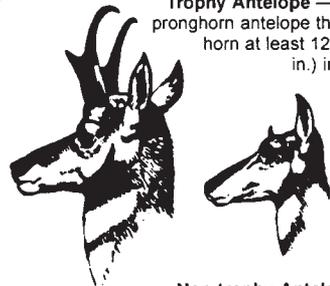
Antlered

A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

Antlerless

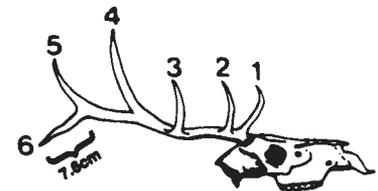
A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not "antlered" (as defined above).

Trophy Antelope – A male pronghorn antelope that has a horn at least 12.6 cm (5 in.) in length.



Non-trophy Antelope – A female pronghorn antelope or a male pronghorn antelope having horns not more than 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Woodland Caribou – Woodland Caribou are classified as Threatened animals in Alberta.



Six-point Elk – A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than five tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Note: The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.

GRIZZLY Hump There is No Season for Grizzly Bear.



Dished Face Profile

14 cm

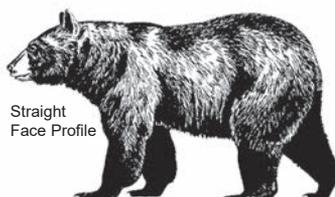


13 cm



24.5 cm

No Hump **BLACK BEAR**



Straight Face Profile

9.5 cm



9 cm



18 cm

Go to bearsmart.alberta.ca for more information on distinguishing black bears from grizzly bears.



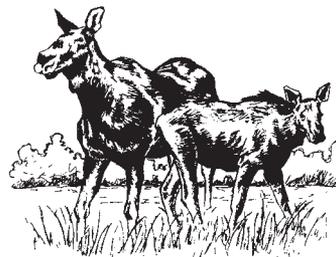
Three-point Elk – A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than two tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Note: The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.

Moose

Cow – large, long nose and face; eyes appear close to top of head; rectangular body proportions; 1.8 m (6 ft.) high at the shoulder; may be found alone.

Calf – small, short nose and face; eyes appear more centered between tip of nose and top of head; squarish body proportions; 1.2 m (4 ft.) high at the shoulder; seldom found alone.



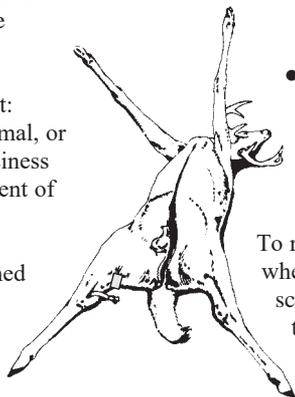
EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

In the case of **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep** the evidence of sex, species and class must remain attached to the carcass (cannot be surgically or otherwise removed) until:

- the carcass is delivered to a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*, or
- the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption at:
 - the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, or
 - the usual residence (a residence that is neither a business premises nor attached to such a premises) of a resident of Alberta and that resident is in attendance.

The evidence of sex, species or class that must be retained is as follows:

- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep** – attached to the same part of the animal to which the tag is affixed, **one** of the following:
 - testicles, scrotum, or udder, and in the case of deer only, the completely haired tail, or
 - the head with horns or antlers attached if the animal has horns or antlers, or
 - the head (complete with the skin on it) if the animal has no horns or antlers, **and in addition**



- the complete skull plate with horns or antlers intact must be retained with the carcass of the male antelope, male elk or male non-trophy sheep
- the complete head must be retained with the carcass of a calf moose harvested under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence.
- **cougar** – one of the following attached to the skin and visible until compulsory registration is complete:
 - in the case of a male, the scrotum
 - in the case of a female, a teat or a portion of a mammary gland.

To retain the scrotum or udder, cut to one side of the scrotum or udder when opening the animal for gutting. If you skin your game, the scrotum or udder must remain attached to the portion to which the tag is affixed. If you remove the testicles and penis, leave the entire scrotum intact. The meat will not be tainted.

Deboning: a hunter can debone a carcass while in the field and still follow the requirements described above for moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep. It's not necessary for the full hind quarter of meat to remain intact while still bearing the required evidence, provided that portion of the leg and tendon where the tag is attached also has the evidence of sex, species or class still attached to it.

TAGGING

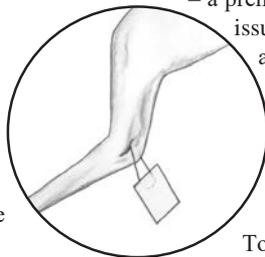
NOTE: Antlered moose, elk and deer must **NOT** be tagged around the antler base. Please review the following instructions.

Immediately after killing a big game animal, the appropriate tag(s) must be affixed and securely locked to the animal as follows:

- **trophy sheep, goat** – one tag through the nostril and, as soon as the skin is removed from the skull, one tag around the lower bone of the eye socket leaving the horns and eye intact.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep** – through the space between the bone and the tendon of a hind leg directly above the hock and around either the bone or the tendon.
- **bear and cougar** – to the skin.

Partner Licence

Upon killing an animal, a partner must immediately inform the primary licence holder (and vice versa – if the primary licence holder kills the animal, he or she must immediately inform the partner) of the killing. The primary licence holder must, immediately upon arriving at the carcass, tag the animal in the normal fashion (See page 17 for more information).



Tags must remain affixed until, in the case of

- **trophy sheep, goat** – the animal is registered (page 44) and the skin is processed.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison, non-trophy sheep or turkey** – the carcass is delivered to a place where it is cut up and packaged for consumption, including:
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*,
 - the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, or
 - the usual residence (a residence that is neither a business premises nor attached to such a premises) of a resident of Alberta and that resident is in attendance.
- **bear and cougar** – the skin is processed.

To tag your kill using the adhesive tag associated with your licence, attach the wire loop to the animal as described above for various species and classes. Close and secure the loop by affixing the adhesive tag over the free ends of the wire.

WILD GAME PROCESSING

Hunters are reminded that when big game (including boned meat) or game birds are taken to a business for butchering or other related processing services, there are requirements for the business to keep a record of the wildlife that has been submitted. This includes recording the date, the name and address of the person who delivered the wildlife, the name and address

of the person who killed the wildlife and their wildlife certificate number or wildlife identification number (WiN), the number of the licence under whose purported authority the wildlife was killed, and (if applicable) the tag number, and a description of the wildlife that in the case of a big game animal includes its sex.

BOWHUNTING

Note: The following applies to bowhunting other than with a cross-bow. For information about hunting with cross-bows, see page 59.

Except for the hunting of black bear, coyote, cougar or wolf under the circumstances outlined on page 32, a Bowhunting Permit is required by anyone who hunts big game, game bird, wolf or coyote with a bow and arrow. Bowhunters with appropriate general or special licences may hunt during the general seasons, archery-only seasons and primitive weapon seasons. A Bowhunting Permit is required in combination with a big game licence. In some areas of the province, hunters require special licences to hunt certain species of big game – see season tables. A bowhunter who obtains an Antlered Moose Special Licence, Antlerless Moose Special Licence, Calf Moose Special Licence, Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlered Elk Special Licence, Antlerless Elk Special Licence or Landowner Special Licence may, if an open early archery season is offered, hunt under the authority of that licence during the archery season but only in the WMU specified on the licence and only for the type and species of animal for which the licence was issued. Holders of a Landowner Special Licence are subject to the terms/conditions of their licence. Bowhunters are reminded that, in some situations, archery-only seasons for some species may be in progress at the same time as primitive weapon and rifle seasons for other species in the same WMU.

Persons hunting big game must use an authorized bow and an authorized arrow. An authorized bow is one that is held, drawn and released by muscular power and has a draw weight of not less than 18 kg (40 lb.). This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 in.) to its head. An authorized arrow is one that is not less

than 61 cm (24 in.) in length that has a tip that bears a head that is not intentionally designed to resist being withdrawn after it has penetrated an object. Furthermore, it must either have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.

Hunters are asked to remove their tree stands at the end of the hunting seasons unless permission has been granted by the landholder to do otherwise.

HUNTING WITH CROSS-BOWS

Cross-bows may not be used to hunt big game during archery-only seasons. The only exception is for an eligible handicapped hunter who has obtained a cross-bow licence.

A Bowhunting Permit, as required by bowhunters using conventional archery equipment, is not required by persons who are hunting with cross-bows.

In accordance with federal regulations, cross-bows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.

Persons hunting big game with a cross-bow must use an authorized cross-bow and arrow (bolt). An authorized cross-bow is one that requires 100 pounds or more of pull to draw the string or cable to its cocked position. There is no restriction on arrow length, however it must have a tip that bears a head that is not intentionally designed to resist being withdrawn after it has penetrated an object. Furthermore, it must either have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.



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WILDLIFE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

After harvesting **any** of the animals listed below, a hunter or guide who has personally accompanied a Non-resident or Non-resident Alien hunter must register the kill at a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) within the specified time period. Where parts are required to be submitted, they must be submitted at the time the animal is registered in person by the hunter who killed the animal. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) for further information.

- Goat (the incisor bar must be submitted);
- Male sheep over 1 year of age (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact, and cape and lower jaw removed) to a designated Fish and Wildlife Office. See page 13 for Designated Offices for registering sheep. You must call ahead to arrange a time to complete the registration process;
- Cougar (the skull and skin must be submitted, complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible). A premolar tooth will be retained for aging.
- Bobcat (the skin must be submitted complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible);

Registration Deadlines – Deadlines for registering harvests are:

- **Male sheep over 1 year of age** – not later than 7 days after the close of the open season in which the animal was killed or 14 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first.
- **Goat (NO SEASON FOR 2023)** – not later than 14 days after the close of the open season in which the animal was killed or 30 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first.
- **Cougar** – if taken on privately owned land by a landowner or occupant, see page 32 for requirements; if taken under a licence allocated to an outfitter, within 5 business days of the date of the kill; if taken under any other authority, within one business day following the date of the kill.
- **Bison taken in WMU 536 or 539 (NO SEASON FOR 2023)** – not later than the end of the fifth usual business day after the animal was killed.

- **Bobcat** – before the skin is sold, processed or exported from Alberta or before the expiration of the period of 30 days after the bobcat was killed, whichever event comes first.

Persons registering goat, sheep, bison, cougar, and bobcat are required to provide the following information:

- species and sex of the animal,
- date and location of the kill.

As part of the registration process, trophy sheep horns will be fitted with a permanent identification marker. Fish and Wildlife has incorporated improvements to the sheep registration protocol which include the use of a new jig as well as allowing a Non-resident/Non-resident Alien hunter to have their guide register their ram on their behalf. Other animals may be marked in another manner or retained for examination.

Compulsory registration provides information about the relative numbers of males, females and young in big game populations. It also provides the dates and locations of the harvest. Age structure and sex ratios provide an indication of population productivity (how many young survive to become adults) and status (increasing, decreasing or stable). The population and harvest data can then be used to determine the harvest goals or quotas for following years. This valuable information, provided by hunters, is essential for managing cougars, goats, trophy sheep and wolves in Alberta.

It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes within 30 days of when it was killed. See pages 3, 31 and 64 for details.

Summaries that include additional information on registering game animals taken under Constitutionally recognized hunting rights can be viewed at open.alberta.ca/publications/hunting-by-treaty-indians-in-alberta-rights-responsibilities.



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BIG GAME SEASONS



Prairie WMUs (100 Series & 732)



Sunday hunting for big game is prohibited in Prairie WMUs (102–160).

Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See pages 3, 31 and 64 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered	S1 - O31	(Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11, N15 - N18, N22- N25	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	162, 163, 164, 166
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ (Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11, N15 - N18, N22- N25	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	162, 163, 164, 166
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ (Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11, N15 - N18, N22- N25	102, 106, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 158, 160
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	162, 163, 164, 166
	Antlered	■ S1 - O31	■ (Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11, N15 - N18, N22- N25	104, 108, 110, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 156
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ (Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11, N15 - N18, N22- N25	104, 108, 110, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 156
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		■ S1 - S23 ■ S24 - O8 ■ O9 - O23	102
			■ S1 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16 ■ N17 - D20	104, 108
			■ S1 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16 ■ N17 - D20 ■ J1 - J30, 2024	(124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150)
			■ O30 - N4 ■ N6 - N11 ■ N13 - N18 ■ N20 - N25 ■ N27 - D2	116, 118, 119, 624 (WMU 624 – Monday to Friday only)
			■ D1 - J1, 2024	116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
		S1 - O15		116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J20, 2024	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)

Big Game Seasons in PRAIRIE WMUs continued next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ O25 - O27 ■ N2 - N4 ■ N18 - N20 ■ J9 - J11, 2024 ■ J17 - J19 2024 ■ J25 - J27, 2024 	732 (CFB Suffield)

Additional hunting opportunities in the Prairie WMUs:

- Either Sex Elk Special Licence, Antelope Archery Special Licence, Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence and Trophy Antelope Special Licence. Refer to page 58 for season dates or to the **2023 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for further details.

BIG GAME SEASONS



Parkland WMUs (200 Series & 728, 730, 936)



Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

- Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Sunday hunting for big game is prohibited in WMUs 728, 730 and 936.

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See pages 3, 31 and 64 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer ¹	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		O17 - O31	N9 - N30	936 ²
	Antlered	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	210
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	210
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
	Antlered	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 ²
			■ O25 - D7 ³	248
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 ²
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ⁴	S1 - O24	O25 - N30	214
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	216, 221, 224
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	(200, 202, 203, 232, 234), (204, 228, 230), (206, 222, 226, 244, 246), (208, 210, 220), (236, 238, 256), (240, 242), (252, 254, 258, 260)
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J20, 2024	(200, 202, 203, 232, 234), (204, 228, 230), (206, 222, 226, 244, 246), (208, 210, 220), (236, 238, 256), (240, 242), (252, 254, 258, 260)
S1 - O31		■ N1 - D20	224	

Big Game Seasons in PARKLAND WMUs continued next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2024 	214
		S1 - O31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2024 	216, 221
		S1 - N30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ D1 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2024 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	212

Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.

- 1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, and 250-260.
- 2 Hunters (including bowhunters) require a Firearms Discharge Permit to hunt in WMU 936. Hunters must contact the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area office at **780-922-3293** for information on requirements to obtain the discharge permit. In WMU 936, vehicle access is permitted to the Staging Areas only. Horses are permitted only on designated trails and in open pastures. General area access is by muscular power only (bicycle or walking).
- 3 This season is open to hunting only by means of archery, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun.
- 4 See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:

- Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212, 247 and 248) Licence. Holders of this licence may kill two antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMUs 212, 247 and 248 during the archery-only season, S1 – N30.
- Foothills Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, shotgun, or muzzle loader in WMU 212 on the following dates: D1 – D20 (Monday to Friday only). When hunting, they must carry written permission from the landowner involved.
- Additional Antlerless elk harvesting opportunities in WMU 212 are being made available due to increasing elk populations in these WMUs. These are: 1) WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless elk with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) during the archery only season. S1-N30; 2) WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless elk.
- Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence. Refer to alberta.ca/WainwrightHunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2023 Camp Wainwright Hunt.
- Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill **three** white-tailed deer, only 1 of which may be antlered, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun in that portion of WMU 248 within the Counties of Strathcona and Leduc between the following dates: O25 – D7. Information about this hunt is available from the Fish and Wildlife office in Edmonton and from Strathcona County Hall, 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park.

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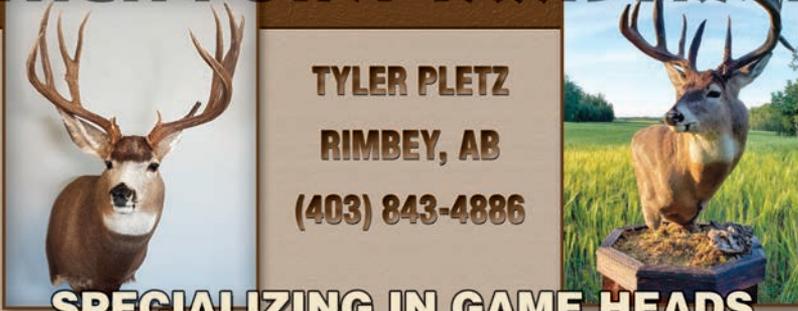
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SUNRISE / SUNSET

	DATE	Calgary		Coronation		Edmonton		Ft. McMurray		High Level		Hinton		Lac La
		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise
M D T	Sept. 1	6:49	8:22	6:37	8:13	6:43	8:24	6:28	8:22	6:47	8:49	6:59	8:40	6:34
	Sept. 5	6:56	8:13	6:44	8:04	6:50	8:14	6:36	8:11	6:56	8:37	7:06	8:30	6:42
	Sept. 10	7:03	8:02	6:52	7:53	6:59	8:02	6:46	7:57	7:07	8:23	7:15	8:18	6:51
	Sept. 15	7:11	7:51	7:00	7:41	7:07	7:50	6:56	7:44	7:18	8:08	7:24	8:06	7:00
	Sept. 20	7:19	7:39	7:08	7:29	7:16	7:38	7:06	7:30	7:29	7:54	7:32	7:54	7:09
	Sept. 25	7:27	7:28	7:17	7:17	7:25	7:25	7:16	7:17	7:40	7:39	7:41	7:42	7:19
	Sept. 30	7:35	7:17	7:25	7:06	7:34	6:13	7:27	7:03	7:51	7:25	7:50	7:30	7:28
	Oct. 1	7:37	7:14	7:27	7:03	7:35	7:11	7:29	7:00	7:53	7:22	7:52	7:27	7:30
	Oct. 5	7:43	7:05	7:33	6:54	7:43	7:01	7:37	6:50	8:02	7:11	7:59	7:18	7:38
	Oct. 10	7:51	6:54	7:42	6:43	7:52	6:49	7:47	6:37	8:13	6:57	8:08	7:06	7:47
Oct. 15	7:59	6:44	7:50	6:32	8:01	6:38	7:58	6:24	8:25	6:43	8:17	6:54	7:57	
Oct. 20	8:08	6:33	7:59	6:21	8:10	6:26	8:09	6:11	8:36	6:29	8:26	6:43	8:07	
Oct. 25	8:16	6:24	8:08	6:11	8:20	6:16	8:20	5:59	8:48	6:16	8:36	6:32	8:17	
Oct. 30	8:25	6:14	8:17	6:01	8:29	6:05	8:30	5:47	9:00	6:04	8:45	6:22	8:27	
M S T	Nov. 1	8:28	6:11	8:21	5:57	8:33	6:01	8:35	5:43	9:05	5:59	8:49	6:18	8:31
	Nov. 5	7:35	5:04	7:28	4:50	7:41	4:54	7:44	4:34	8:14	4:49	7:57	5:10	7:39
	Nov. 10	7:44	4:56	7:37	4:42	7:50	4:45	7:55	4:24	8:26	4:38	8:06	5:02	7:49
	Nov. 15	7:53	4:49	7:46	4:34	8:00	4:37	8:05	4:14	8:38	4:28	8:15	4:54	7:59
	Nov. 20	8:01	4:42	7:54	4:28	8:09	4:30	8:16	4:06	8:49	4:18	8:25	4:47	8:08
	Nov. 25	8:09	4:37	8:03	4:22	8:18	4:24	8:26	3:59	9:00	4:10	8:33	4:41	8:18
	Nov. 30	8:16	4:33	8:10	4:18	8:26	4:19	8:35	3:53	9:10	4:04	8:41	4:36	8:26
	Dec. 1	8:17	4:33	8:12	4:18	8:27	4:19	8:37	3:52	9:12	4:03	8:43	4:36	8:28
	Dec. 5	8:23	4:31	8:17	4:15	8:33	4:16	8:43	3:49	9:19	3:59	8:48	4:33	8:34
	Dec. 10	8:28	4:29	8:23	4:14	8:39	4:14	8:50	3:46	9:27	3:56	8:55	4:31	8:40
Dec. 15	8:33	4:30	8:28	4:14	8:44	4:14	8:56	3:45	9:32	3:55	9:00	4:31	8:45	
Dec. 20	8:37	4:31	8:31	4:15	8:48	4:15	9:00	3:47	9:37	3:56	9:03	4:32	8:49	
Dec. 25	8:39	4:34	8:34	4:18	8:50	4:18	9:02	3:50	9:39	3:59	9:05	4:35	8:51	
Dec. 30	8:40	4:38	8:34	4:22	8:50	4:23	9:02	3:54	9:39	4:04	9:06	4:40	8:52	
M S T	Jan. 1	8:40	4:40	8:34	4:24	8:50	4:25	9:02	3:57	9:38	4:06	9:06	4:42	8:51
	Jan. 5	8:39	4:44	8:33	4:29	8:49	4:30	9:00	4:02	9:36	4:12	9:05	4:47	8:50
	Jan. 10	8:37	4:51	8:31	4:36	8:46	4:37	8:56	4:10	9:32	4:21	9:02	4:54	8:47
	Jan. 15	8:33	4:58	8:27	4:43	8:42	4:45	8:51	4:19	9:26	4:31	8:58	5:02	8:43
	Jan. 20	8:29	5:06	8:22	4:51	8:37	4:53	8:44	4:29	9:18	4:41	8:53	5:10	8:37
	Jan. 25	8:23	5:15	8:16	5:00	8:30	5:03	8:37	4:40	9:09	4:53	8:46	5:19	8:30
	Jan. 30	8:16	5:23	8:09	5:09	8:23	5:12	8:28	4:51	8:59	5:05	8:39	5:29	8:22
	Feb. 1	8:13	5:27	8:06	5:13	8:20	5:16	8:24	4:55	8:55	5:10	8:35	5:33	8:18
	Feb. 5	8:07	5:34	8:00	5:20	8:13	5:24	8:16	5:04	8:46	5:20	8:28	5:41	8:11
	Feb. 10	7:59	5:43	7:51	5:30	8:03	5:34	8:05	5:15	8:34	5:32	8:19	5:51	8:01
Feb. 15	7:49	5:52	7:41	5:39	7:53	5:44	7:53	5:27	8:22	5:44	8:09	6:00	7:50	
Feb. 20	7:40	6:01	7:31	5:48	7:42	5:54	7:41	5:38	8:09	5:56	7:58	6:10	7:39	
Feb. 25	7:30	6:10	7:21	5:58	7:31	6:03	7:29	5:49	7:56	6:08	7:47	6:20	7:27	

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BIG GAME SEASONS



Foothills WMUs (300 Series)



Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer ¹	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
		S1 - O24	O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	326, 328, 330
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 334, 336, 348
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	352, 353, 355
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 347, 349, 350, 351, 354, 356
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 337, 338
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	357, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 320, 322, 332
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	358
	Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30
Antlered		A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	318, 324, 338, 348
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 308
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346
Antlerless		A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	352, 353*, 355
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	357
Antlerless (calf only)		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	359, 360
Elk		Antlered (3-point or larger) ²	A25 - S16	S17 - N30
	S1 - O24		O25 - N30	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
	S1 - O31		N1 - N30	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	340, 342, 344*
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	330, 352
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2024	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	334, 336
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20	318, 324, 332
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2024	312, 314
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2024	346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2024	320, 322
			■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2024	337, 338*, 348
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20	353, 354, 355, 356
Trophy Sheep ³	Resident		S6 - O31	302 ⁴ , 303, 306, 308

Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.

- * The special licence season for antlerless moose in WMU 353 and antlerless elk in WMUs 338 and 344 applies only to a portion of the WMU.
- ¹ The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. The FIRST tag issued with the licence (but NOT the second tag) is valid for tagging a deer hunted in one of the following WMUs: 302-303, 306, 346-347, 349, 354, and 356. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360.
- ² See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.
- ³ Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 37.
- ⁴ WMU 302 is open only for Full-Curl Trophy Sheep.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Foothills WMUs:

- WMU 300 Elk Special Licence and Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence. Refer to page 58 for season dates or to the *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.



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BIG GAME SEASONS



Mountain WMUs (400 Series)



Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer ¹	Antlered and Antlerless	S6 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S6 - N30		410
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	N1 - N15	400, 402
	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	429	
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S6 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S6 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439
		■ S1 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	S1 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	S6 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406
		S6 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31	412, 414
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	429
		S6 - S23	■ S24 - N30	408
		■ S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S6 - N30		410
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ² and Antlerless	S6 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ²	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	429
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ²	S1 - S16	S17 - N30	400, 402
		S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	438*, 439, 441*, 444*

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Trophy Sheep ³	Resident	S6 - O31		410
		■ S6 - N30		410
			■ A25 - S23 ■ S24 - O31	437
			■ N1 - N10 ■ N11 - N20 ■ N21 - N30	438 ⁴
			A25 - O31	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444 ⁵ , 445
			■ A25 - O31	444 ⁶ , 446
			S6 - O31	400 ⁷ , 402, 404, 406, 408
		■ N1 - N30	408 (west of Highway 40)	
	Non-resident and Non-resident Alien ⁸	■ S6 - N30		410
			■ S1 - O15	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444 ⁵ , 445

Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.

- * The draw season for antlerless elk in WMU 438, 441 and 444 applies only to a portion of the WMU (see draw booklet for maps), however, the antlerless archery season applies to the entire WMU.
- ¹ The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 440-446.
- ² See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.
- ³ Hunting of sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for trophy and non-trophy sheep on page 37.
- ⁴ The draw season for trophy sheep is valid in Area 438C (See *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws Booklet*).
- ⁵ The season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion south of the Beaverdam Road.
- ⁶ The draw season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion north of the Beaverdam Road.
- ⁷ WMU 400 is open only for Full-Curl Trophy Sheep.
- ⁸ These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained Trophy Sheep Special Licences through a Class S Outfitter or through a draw (Non-resident [Canadians] only).

Additional hunting opportunities in the Mountain WMUs:

- Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence, Trophy Sheep Special Licence (portion of WMU 408 lying west of Highway 40 or in WMU 446 and that portion of WMU 444 north of Beaverdam Road or in WMU 438C). Refer to page 58 for season dates or to the *2023 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.
- Castle Provincial Park (part of WMU 400): Hunters in WMU 400 need to be aware of the establishment of the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Although hunting is permitted in both of these parks, hunting (including bowhunting) in Castle Provincial Park requires a firearm discharge permit. Firearm discharge permits are not required to hunt in Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Firearm discharge permits are available online at: albertaparks.ca/media/6493998/2017-castle-permit-to-discharge-a-firearm.pdf. For more information call: 403-627-1165 or visit albertaparks.ca/hunting

**Know the regulations.
Not knowing is not an excuse.
Hunt responsibly.**

REPORT A POACHER
www.reportapoacher.com
1-800-642-3800

BIG GAME SEASONS

Boreal WMUs (500 Series & 841)



Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Bison – Within designated Wildlife Management Units⁴, wood bison are a protected species. No hunting of bison in these areas is allowed, except under the authority of a Bison Special Licence or permit.

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See page 3, 31 and 64 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer ¹	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
	Antlered		S17 - N30	841
	Antlerless		N1 - N30	841
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	500, 501, 503, 505, 507, 508
	Antlered	A25 - A31	S1 - N30	512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 541, 542
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	535
			S17 - N30	841
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	502, 504, 506, 509, 510
		■ A25 - A31	■ S1 - N30	511
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 537
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - N30	520, 524, 525, 544
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	502, 504, 506, 509, 510
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	537
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 507, 508, 509
	Antlered		■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	841
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 536, 541, 542, 544
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	505, 510
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - N30 ²	531, 532, 534, 539, 540
		Antlerless (calf only)	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
	Elk	Antlered (6-point or larger) ³	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30
Antlered (3-point or larger) ³		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 510, 511, 514
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 535, 537, 544

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	A25 - S16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2024 	520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 537, 544
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	504, 506, 509
		S1 - O31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2024 	500, 501, 502, 505, 507, 508, 510, 511, 514
Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.				

¹ The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 500-544.

² If hunting with an outfitter, hunters should note these WMUs are split into two seasons: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.

³ See page 40 for description of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

*Wood Bison are designated as Threatened when found within WMUs 511, 516, 518, 519, 520, 524, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 536, 537 (portion north of Chinchaga River and west of Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement), 539, 540 (portion lying east of the Wabasca River and within the Wabasca Bison Protection Area), 541, and 542.

COUGAR SEASONS

Fall Season

This season is open only to holders of a resident cougar licence. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season, and hunters may harvest one cougar of either sex.

Winter Season

During this season, cougar may be hunted by holders of a resident cougar licence, non-resident cougar licence, or cougar special licence. The use of dogs is allowed. The cougar season in specific WMUs may close prior to the closing date on this table. There is a male quota and a female quota. If either the male quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached, the season will remain open until the other quota is filled. Before hunting cougar in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open by calling the toll-free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly and by calling after

4:30 p.m., hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.

It is unlawful to:

- allow the skin of any cougar to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. See exemption for salvaging skin on page 32 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation.
- hunt a female cougar accompanied by a cougar kitten with spotted fur, or a cougar kitten with spotted fur.

Use of Predator Calls and Bait

Cougar may be hunted using mouth or hand operated calls. The use of electronic calls and bait are prohibited for hunting cougar.

More information on cougar management, including a map of hunting areas, is available at mywildalberta.com.

ATTENTION: ALL RESIDENT COUGAR HUNTERS!

If you purchase a cougar licence for the fall season, it can be used for the winter season.

ATTENTION COUGAR HUNTERS!

If possible, cougars should be brought in for registration in an unfrozen condition so the premolar tooth can be removed. It is also helpful to prop the jaw open with a stick before rigor sets in.

Cougar Season	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery Only	General	
Fall (Use of dogs prohibited) Residents Only	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31, 2024		212, 247, 248
		Sept. 1 – Mar. 31, 2024	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 357, 358, 359, 360, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 508, 514, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
		Aug. 25 – Nov. 30	412-446
Winter	Dec. 1 – Mar. 31, 2024 (Residents Only)		410
		Dec. 1 – Mar. 31, 2024	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 505, 507, 509, 510, 511, 512, 515, 516, 517

BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Black Bear Baiting

Baiting of black bears is permitted in the following WMUs: **322, 330-338, 348, 358-360, 500-506, 509, 510, 512-520, 522, 523, 529-536, 539-544 and portions of WMUs 320, 324, 357, 507, 521, 526 and 528** (Check with local Fish and Wildlife offices, page 13 or visit mywildalberta.com to view the maps where black bear baiting is restricted in these WMUs). However, the following restrictions also apply:

1) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of occupied dwellings. Owners and occupants of dwellings are exempt from this restriction if they have permission to bait from the owners or occupants of all other dwellings within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the bait. Other persons may also bait within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of an occupied dwelling

if the bait has been authorized in writing by the owners or occupants of that dwelling and all other dwellings within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the bait.

2) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of Provincial Parks that are not designated as Wildland Provincial Parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites. For more information on baiting in parks, see page 34.

3) Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name, WiN, Big Game Outfitter Permit number, or Big Game Guide Designation Number.

4) Each bait must be posted with surrounding signs to warn other people of its presence.

5) Baiting is restricted to the open season and the preceding two weeks in each specific WMU.

6) During November in WMUs or partial WMUs where baiting is permitted, only meat or meat products may be used for bait.

Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) for legal land descriptions or more information.

Hunters are reminded that Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Animal Health Act* and the *Public Health Act* apply to baiting situations. Any livestock dying other than through proper slaughter for human consumption must be disposed of in prescribed ways and may not be used for baiting bears. Containers or wrappings made of paper, cardboard, plastic or other materials should not be left at bait sites. For the safety of others, baits should not be placed near active work sites (e.g., tree planting locations) and all bait sites must be cleaned immediately after the bear season.

Supplemental Black Bear Licences

Supplemental Black Bear Licences are available in the following WMUs: **224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.**

It is unlawful to:

- allow the skin of any bear to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled, or abandoned. See exception for salvaging skin on page 32 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation.
- hunt a black bear under the age of one year or a female black bear accompanied by a cub under the age of one year.

ATTENTION BEAR AND COUGAR HUNTERS!

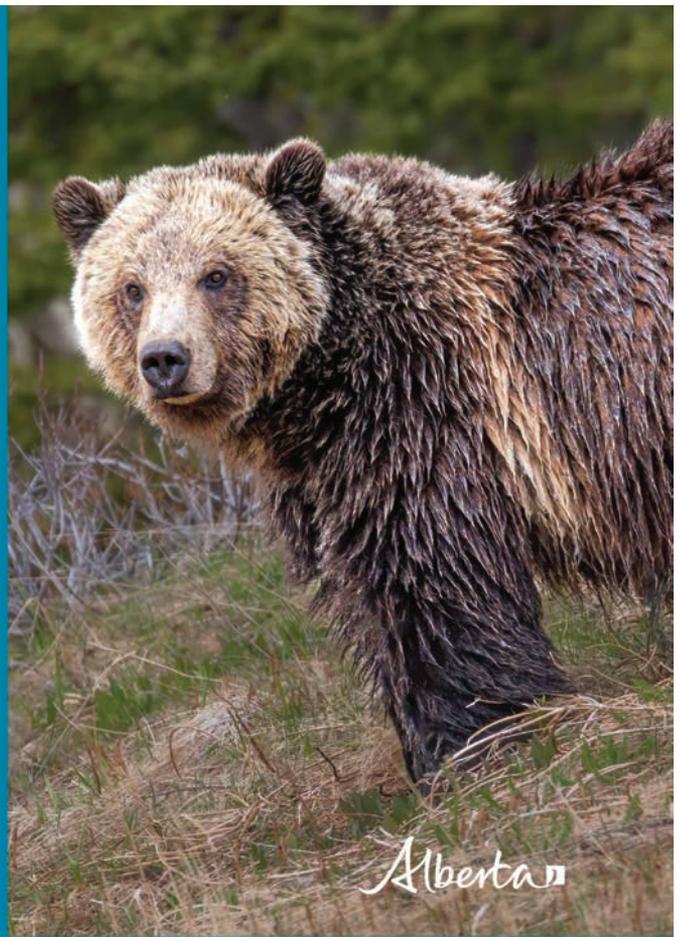
Trichinosis – To prevent possible trichinosis, a parasitic infection, bear and cougar meat should be thoroughly cooked before it is consumed by humans or pets.

Black Bear Season	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery Only	General	
Fall 2023	Aug. 25 – Aug. 31	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30		212
	Sept. 6 – Nov. 30		410
		Sept. 1 – Nov. 30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 400, 402, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 841
		Sept. 6 – Nov. 30	404, 406, 408
Spring 2024 (Requires a new year licence)	Apr. 1 – May 31		212, 410
		Apr. 1 – May 15	400, 404, 406, 408, 841
		Apr. 1 – June 15	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 402, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544

Be Bear Smart

- Carry bear spray year-round, keep it within reach, and know how to use it.
- Bears are most active at dawn and dusk. Watch for fresh scat, tracks, and clawed trees.
- Be mindful of your surroundings so you don't startle a bear. Wind, rain, and flowing water can mask the sound of you approaching.
- Travel in groups.
- Pack out all food and garbage from your trip.

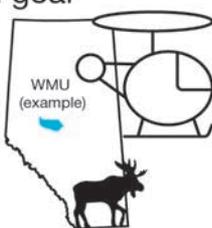
Alberta.ca/BearSmart



How does Forestry and Parks' determine special licenses for big game?

Population goal
2000
Moose

- 500 bulls
- 1000 cows
- 500 calves



Determine pre-hunting season population estimate

Determine harvest goal (%) considering the following factors:

1. Ecological integrity
2. Indigenous rights and harvest
3. Management objectives and harvest goals
4. Herd age and sex structure
5. Hunter density
6. Agricultural conflict
7. Others

500 bull moose multiplied by 10% harvest goal = **Goal to harvest 50 bulls**

50 bulls – 10 killed on average in last 5 years by non-residents and archers = **40 antlered moose available for resident hunters.**

Issue 80 special licences for bull moose. This process is then repeated for antlerless special licenses



Incorporate game harvest survey hunter success



Outfitters (non-resident Harvest)



Subtract archery harvest
Subtract landowner harvest
Subtract outfitter harvest

50% of bull licences sold were associated with an actual kill (data from hunter harvest surveys). To harvest 40 bulls, issue 80 special licences for antlered moose.



Webinar 1: Shared Harvest - Alberta's approach to the sustainable allocation of hunting opportunities



Webinar 2: The science behind your hunting license: Allocating recreational harvest opportunity

Both webinars can be accessed here: alberta.ca/wildlife-management-and-the-vision-for-recreational-hunting-engagement.aspx

Alberta

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LICENCE DRAW HUNTS

Season Dates And Locations (refer to page 14 for month abbreviations)

Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence

Areas 416, 418A*, 418B*, 418C*, 420, 422A*, 426A*, 430B*, 432, 434A*, 434B*, 437, 438A*, 438C*, 438D*, 440, 442, 444, 445A*, 445B*, 446	S10 - O31
Areas (402 – 303, 306)*, 402 – 308*, 402A*, 404B*, 406A*, 406B*, 408A*, 408B*	S10 - O31
Area 410	S10 - N30

*These areas comprise either a portion of one WMU or all of one WMU and a portion of an adjacent WMU. See descriptions in the **2023 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet.

Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader	N30 - D2*
Rifle	D4 - D6*, D7 - D9*, D11 - D13*, D14 - D16*

*Refer to alberta.ca/WainwrightHunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2023 Camp Wainwright Hunt.

Antelope Archery Special Licence

WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166	S1 - S23
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Trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166	S25 - S30
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148	O16 - O21

Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166	S28 - S30, O2 - O4
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148	O19 - O21, O23 - O25

Either Sex Elk Special Licence

WMUs 728 and 730	Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N30 - D2, Rifle D4 - D16
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WMU 300 Elk Special Licence

.....	S6 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - F21, 2024
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Refer to the **2023 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for details on what seasons will be open and how to apply for special licences.

OTHER SPECIES

NOTE: It is unlawful, with the following exceptions, to allow the pelt of any furbearing animal to be wasted:

It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of 1) furbearing animals taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife, or 2) coyotes harvested, by residents, outside of public lands in the Green Area.

Timber Wolf – A Resident may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2024, or until June 15, 2024 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2024.

A Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence may hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2024, or until June 15, 2024 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2024.

Coyote – A Resident, Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote licence may, **except in WMUs 728 and 730, hunt (but not trap)** coyote

- a) throughout the year on privately owned land and on public land in the White Area, to which he or she has the right of access to hunt;
- b) on public lands in the Green Area to which he or she has the right of access to hunt, from the opening day of a big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2024 or until June 15 if the hunting is in a WMU that has a spring season for black bear ending on that date.

In Camp Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730) a Resident may hunt coyote from January 5, 2024 until March 1, 2024.

Baiting for Wolves and Coyotes – On public land, hunters cannot use bait for hunting wolves or coyotes except a) from Dec. 1 to Mar. 31, or b) during an open season for the hunting of black bear where the setting out, use and possession of bait for the purpose of hunting black bear is permitted.

Each wolf or coyote bait site must have a readily observable sign showing the owner’s name, WiN, Big Game Outfitter Permit Number, or Big Game Guide’s Designation Number.

These baiting restrictions do not apply to WMUs 102-166, to persons hunting under authority of a trapping licence, or on any private land.

Red Fox – A Resident may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) red fox on any privately owned land to which he or she has the right of access.

Red Squirrel and Badger – A Resident may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt or trap red squirrel and badger on any privately owned land to which he or she has the right of access.

Bobcat – A resident may, without a licence from November 1 - February 28, 2024, hunt (but not trap) bobcat in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119 and in the portion of WMU 110 that lies east of highway 2 and south of highway 3. The use of dogs is prohibited. All kills must be registered at a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 13).

Other Animals – Porcupine, rabbit, hare, raccoon and woodchuck may be hunted, but not trapped**, without a licence throughout the province, at all times of the year. Skunk may be hunted and trapped.

** Some exceptions apply. Please refer to the **2023 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations**, available in September 2023.

Please Remember

Federal regulations prohibit the use of lead shot or cross-bows for hunting waterfowl.

BE AWARE!

IN ALBERTA WHOOPING CRANES ARE PROTECTED

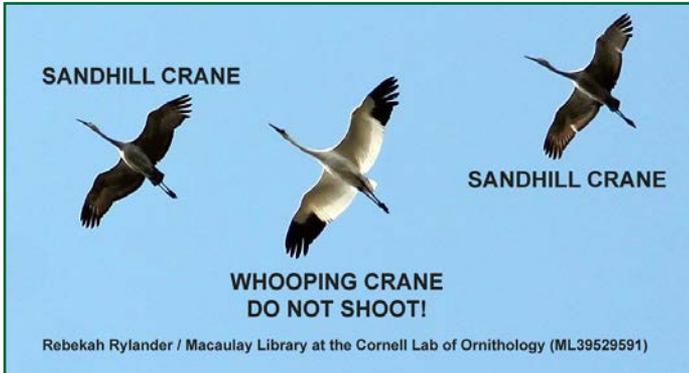
Whooping Cranes are listed as an Endangered Species in Alberta. Be sure your target is not a whooping crane.

IN ALBERTA SAGE GROUSE ARE PROTECTED

Sage grouse are listed as an endangered species in Alberta. Be sure your target is not a sage grouse.

IT IS PROHIBITED TO HUNT SHARP-TAILED GROUSE IN MANY WMUS WITHIN ALBERTA (see page 60 for allowed WMUs) Be sure of your target. For a more detailed description of Sharp-tailed Grouse, please go to: mywildalberta.ca/hunting/game-species/default.aspx

All birds are protected except the following: Starlings, Crows, Pigeons, House (English) Sparrows, Magpies, Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Ravens (hunted on private land by residents and public land under an agricultural disposition) and any other birds for which an open season has been declared by the regulations as indicated in this summary.



Whooping Cranes

- White body with black wing tips. Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers with black wing tips.
- Wingspan – 7 feet.
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes.

Red Mask



WHOOPING CRANE

Sandhill Cranes

- Grey or brown body.
- Wingspan – 5 feet.
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds.

Red Crown



SANDHILL CRANE

Falconry Hunting

Falconers are permitted to hunt upland game birds and migratory birds, by means of falconry, in all areas of the province except in national parks and those restricted areas identified on pages 34 to 37.

To hunt any game birds by means of falconry, Recreational Falconry Permit holders must possess all the same hunting licence(s) as those who would hunt game birds with firearms are required to possess (see page 24).

Seasons

The open season to hunt upland game birds by means of falconry is from August 15, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (page 60).

Bowhunting

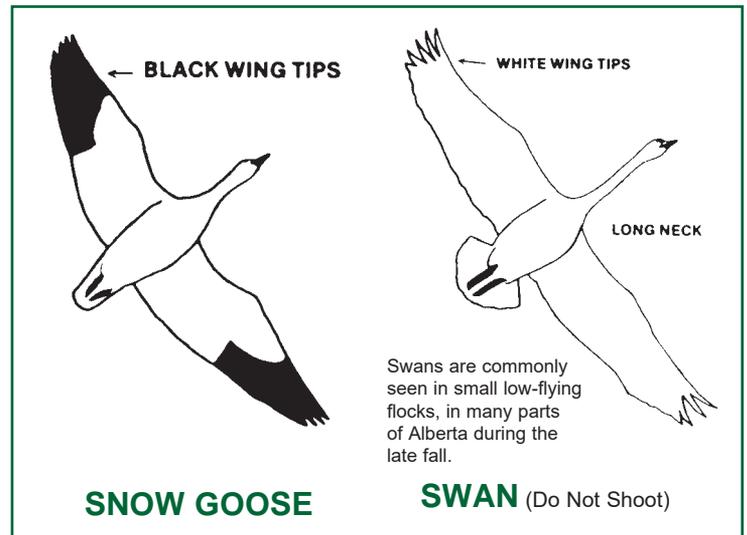
Hunters wishing to hunt game birds with a bow and arrow, other than a cross-bow, require a Bowhunting Permit in addition to the other applicable licences.

In accordance with federal regulations, cross-bows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.

Special Hunting Areas

In WMUs 212, 247 and 248 the hunting of game birds is only permitted with bows and arrows, cross-bows, shotguns or a falconry bird. Cross-bows cannot be used to hunt migratory birds.

In WMU 410 the hunting of game birds is permitted only with bows and arrows or a falconry bird.



Spring Snow/Ross's Goose Hunting Season

Alberta has a spring snow/Ross's goose hunting season from March 15 through June 15 annually. Please refer to the game bird hunting table on page 60 for valid WMUs. Regular fall hunting restrictions and daily bag limit (50) apply. As in the fall hunting season, there is no longer a possession limit for snow/Ross's geese.

NOTE: While it is illegal to hunt migratory game birds with a single projectile (e.g. .22 rim fire, or center fire rifle), it is legal to use them to hunt upland game birds (this does not apply to hunting on game bird shooting grounds or hunting for wild turkey).

GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

Where a dash (-) is used between WMUs in the following table, the dash is to be interpreted as including all WMUs that have numbers falling between the two WMUs listed.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2023 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	WMUs	Season Date	Requirements
Snow or Ross's Geese	50 combined	No Limit	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16 / M15 - Ju15	(a) of which not more than two ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens. (b) of which not more than six ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens. (c) may harvest with a special licence only. Month Abbreviations A – August S – September O – October N – November D – December J – January F – February M – March Ap – April Ma – May Ju – June
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S1 - D21 / M15 - Ju15	
Canada or White-fronted Geese	8 combined	24 combined	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
Ducks, Coots and Snipe	8 (a) each	24 (b) each	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
Sandhill Crane	5	15	200-208, 220, 222, 226-244, 247-260, 500	S1 - D16	
			102-106, 112-166, 210	S8 - D21	
Male Pheasant	2	6	200-260, 314-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			102-166, 300-312	O15 - N30	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
Ruffed Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
			728, 730 (Camp Wainwright)	S2 - S4	
Spruce Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	15	102-246, 252-256, 300-314, 334, 400-402, 518-520, 524, 525, 528-542, 936	O1 - O31	
			728, 730 (Camp Wainwright)	S2 - S4	
Ptarmigan	5	15	300-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410	S8 - J15	
Blue Grouse	5	15	300-402, 412-446	S1 - J15	
			404-410	S8 - J15	
Gray Partridge	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			936	S8 - J15	
Wild Turkey	1 (c)	1 (c)	300-308, 400, 402	■ Ma1 - Ma31, 2024	

ATTENTION WMU 936 HUNTERS: All hunters for WMU 936 must review an online hunter information package and require a firearms discharge permit. Information packages and firearms discharge permits may be obtained online at albertaparks.ca. Please contact the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area office, (780-922-3293) in order to receive more information.

ATTENTION WMU 728 & 730 (Camp Wainwright) HUNTERS: WARNING: Hazards in the form of unexploded military munitions may exist throughout Camp Wainwright. Hunters are advised not to touch any foreign objects. **Camp Wainwright officials have advised that all hunters using shotguns to hunt game birds at Camp Wainwright must use non-toxic shot. Lead shot is not allowed.**

ATTENTION PHEASANT HUNTERS: A map and description of all pheasant release sites, including time restrictions can be found on the Alberta Conservation Association website at ab-conservation.com/programs/wildlife/provincial-pheasant-release-program/ or by calling 1-877-969-9091.

ATTENTION LATE SEASON BIRD HUNTERS: Later season dates for bird game may overlap with active trapping in some areas. Please take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of hunting dogs.

ATTENTION BIRD HUNTERS

Due to concerns surrounding HPAI (avian flu) there may be restrictions importing harvested birds to the USA. See <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-and-animal-products-imports>.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

Environment Canada has repealed Waterfowler Heritage Days. Instead, youth (age 10-17) may apply online for a FREE migratory game bird hunting permit, valid for the duration of the hunting season. To hunt with this permit, youth must be accompanied by a permitted adult (mentor) who has also possessed a permit in previous years. The mentor may accompany up to two (2) youth while hunting, and may also have in their possession, a firearm and participate in the hunt. See <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries/alberta.html>

WILD TURKEY DRAW

Please refer to items 1, 11 and 12 of Prohibitions, Game Bird section (page 29) for additional requirements concerning weapons and evidence of sex and species for wild turkey.

Differentiating Between Males and females

The gobbler (male) has a fleshy growth (wattle) which hangs from the under side of the throat or chin. Males also exhibit fatty growths (caruncles) located on the side and back of the neck and on the lower throat. A fleshy projection above the bill of males (snood, or dew bill) will also distinguish males from females.

Common Characteristics to Differentiate Males and Females		
Characteristic	Female	Male
Beard	Very rare, short	Regularly, up to 25cm (10") long
Gobble	Never	Frequently, especially in spring
Head Colour	Grey-brown, grey-blue	Bright turquoise blue, bright red, bright blue, sometimes grayish white

It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife or **discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

Sunrise/Sunset Table (Mountain Daylight Time)		
Date	Sunrise	Sunset
May 01, 2024	6:12 AM	8:54 PM
May 05, 2024	6:06 AM	9:00 PM
May 10, 2024	5:58 AM	9:07 PM
May 15, 2024	5:51 AM	9:14 PM
May 20, 2024	5:45 AM	9:21 PM
May 25, 2024	5:39 AM	9:27 PM
May 30, 2024	5:34 AM	9:34 PM

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

Fish and Wildlife will be conducting a hunter harvest survey after the fall hunting season to obtain information required for turkey management. Your cooperation and assistance in collecting and providing the necessary information is required. We request that you keep track of the number of days hunted in each WMU.

Know the regulations.
Not knowing is not an excuse.
Hunt responsibly.

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Remember to always fully extinguish your campfire and never leave it unattended. Soak the ashes with water, stir it, and soak it again until it's cool to the touch.

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Alberta

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND DEER MANAGEMENT

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a chronic degenerative and ultimately fatal prion disease of cervids (primarily mule deer in Alberta). It is not known to infect humans but health authorities advise against eating any animal known to have any prion disease. CWD occurs throughout much of eastern and central Alberta. Current previous information, including maps of known cases is available at alberta.ca/chronic-wastingdisease-updates.

Hunters and outfitters are key in assisting big game management by helping to reduce deer numbers and by providing heads from harvested deer in designated areas for the CWD surveillance program. Alberta began looking for CWD in wild deer in the hunting seasons in 1998. Since then, we have tested over 111,000 heads and found CWD in 4,603 mule deer, 818 white-tailed deer, 26 elk, and 8 moose.

FOR 2023 : It is mandatory to submit the head of DEER harvested in the following WMUs: 148, 150, 151, 200, 234, 236, 728 and 730.

For game management purposes, we are interested in ANY DEER heads from WMU 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 514.

MULE DEER heads from WMU 108, 110, 212, 216, 221, 224, 246, 247, 248, 250, 300, 302, 303, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 402, 404, 508.

Antlers and skull plate can be removed from bucks before the head is submitted. For European mounts, in separate bags, collect a piece of brainstem from INSIDE the back of the skull AND all the tissues from the back of the throat. Put the two bags in a third bag and freeze.

All heads for testing, including samples (as above), must have a green CWD label which gives each head a unique identification number. **Be sure to include either GPS or land location as well as WMU and your WiN number for each head.** When available, test results for each head are sent to the email address in the hunter's AlbertaRELM account.

CARCASS DISPOSAL

All hunters should properly dispose of their harvested carcasses, particularly animals taken in the CWD Risk Area. Where possible, debone meat making sure you keep the required evidence of sex and species. Hunters may prefer to avoid the spinal cord when deboning. Leave remainder of carcass at the kill site. If the carcass is transported elsewhere, remove all useable meat, then burn, bury, or dispose of the remains in a landfill.

For more information about CWD, contact your local Fish and Wildlife office or visit alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease.

Alberta Health recommends that deer from the CWD mandatory areas be tested for CWD. For more information about potential human health risks associated with CWD contact health authorities.

BILL OF LADING – WILDLIFE (To be used when transporting wildlife taken by others)

DATE: _____

I _____ address: _____ Ph. # _____
(print hunter's name)

give permission to _____ address: _____ Ph. # _____
(print name of person transporting wildlife)

to transport _____
(description of shipment including sex and species)

date of kill: _____ W.I.N. #: _____ Lic./Tag # _____

taken under authority of my _____
(describe type of hunting licence)

This wildlife is to be transported from _____
(point of origin)

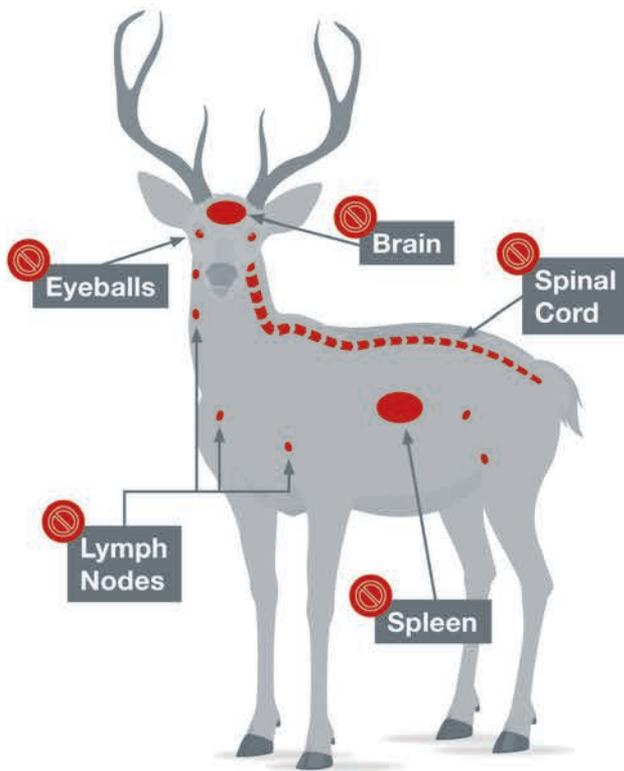
to _____ on _____
(destination) (date)

(signature of hunter)

(signature of person transporting the wildlife)



Carcass Transportation and Handling



Meat Processing:

- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling the eyeballs, brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Limit the amount of bodily fluids going to an area, such as a floor drain, that cannot be properly sanitized after use.

Disposal:

- Deer parts should not be rendered for use in feed for other animals, or used as compost.
- Recommended disposal methods for unwanted portions of carcasses (bones, organs, etc.) are:
 - Leave at the harvest site;
 - Double-bag and send to an approved, lined landfill; or
 - Deep burial (8 feet or deeper).

Equipment Cleaning:

- Clean processing equipment between each deer.
- Thoroughly sanitize all equipment and workstations with a 50:50 solution of bleach and water.
- Soak tools for one hour in the bleach solution, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water.

Field Dressing:

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.
- When field dressing an animal, leave internal organs and inedible parts at the site of harvest.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Store all portions of the animal to be transported in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak bodily fluids into the environment.

COMMON LICENCE MISTAKES

GENERAL MULE DEER LICENCE

This general licence is valid during the “archery only” season, which precedes the general season. It is valid during the general season in the following WMUs: 352, 353, 355, 440-446, 512-519, 528-534, 536, 539-542 and 841. This licence is not valid during a season in which a Special Licence is required. In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

SUPPLEMENTAL ANTLERLESS WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with two tags. The FIRST tag issued with the licence (but NOT the second tag) is valid for tagging a deer hunted in one of the following WMUs: 302-303, 306, 346-347, 349, 354, and 356. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 250-260, 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360, 440-446, and 500-544.



YOUTH MULE DEER LICENCE

This general licence is available for resident hunters who are 12-17 years of age and who are eligible to hunt. It is a general licence that is valid during the “archery only” season, which precedes the general season. It is valid during the general season in the following WMUs: 352, 353, 355, 440-446, 512-519, 528-534, 536, 539-542 and 841. This licence is not valid during a season in which a Special Licence is required. In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

YOUTH/SENIOR WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

This licence is valid for resident hunters who are 12-17 and 65 years of age and over who are eligible to hunt. It is a general licence and is valid during a general season (archery or rifle). Because it is a general licence, it can not be used during the rifle season in WMUs 404, 406 and 408 (a special licence is required). In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

SUPPLEMENTAL BLACK BEAR LICENCE

This licence is only valid in WMUs 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.

SPECIAL LICENCES

If you are drawn for a special licence, your draw priority returns to zero and that draw cannot be cancelled. You may not be able to purchase a particular general licence once you have been drawn for a special licence of that same species. Example: if you are drawn for Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered White-tailed Deer or Antlered, Antlerless, or Calf Moose you will not be able to purchase a general licence for that species. If you are drawn for Either Sex Elk, WMU 300 Elk, Antlered or Antlerless Elk, you will not be able to purchase a general elk licence. Resident hunters are able to purchase an elk licence in combination with the WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery and the WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence. See licence combinations on page 19.



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- Mike Gause photo

THE RISK OF **Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae** to Bighorn Sheep

A SILENT THREAT TO WILD POPULATIONS

by Dr. Mark C. Ball, Wildlife Disease Specialist, Environment and Protected Areas

Introduction:

The delicate balance between wildlife and infectious disease is a concern for conservationists and researchers worldwide. A recent disease die-off in bighorn sheep in Blue Rock Wildland Provincial Park stressed the importance of preventing disease transmission between domestic and wild populations. This article aims to shed light on the threat posed by *M. ovipneumoniae*, a causative agent of severe infectious pneumonia, and its implications for bighorn sheep conservation in Alberta. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAWFA) considers pneumonia the single, greatest threat to wild sheep in North America.

What is *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* and why is it a concern?

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (aka *M.ovi.*) is a bacterium that causes outbreaks of pneumonia, and often death, in wild sheep. Bighorn sheep are highly susceptible due to several factors, including no previous exposure to *M.ovi.*, and their gregarious nature, facilitating high transmission within a herd.

The bacterium spreads from infected individuals through respiratory droplets (e.g., coughing/sneezing, and close contact <100m), making it easy for the disease to disseminate within herds. Once infected, bighorn sheep experience reduced lung function (e.g., difficulty breathing, chronic coughing, and/or nasal

discharge/runny nose), weakened immune responses, and increased vulnerability to secondary viral, bacterial, and parasitic infections. Mortality rates can reach alarming levels during outbreaks, posing a substantial threat to the long-term survival of affected populations. *M.ovi* does not survive in the environment, removing the risk of range contamination.

Bighorn sheep that survive may continue to carry *M.ovi* at low levels and infect others within the herd or adjacent herds. These individuals, particularly female bighorn sheep (ewes), are still able to transmit disease to susceptible lambs, triggering die offs within nursery groups. As a result, affected populations take many years (>10) to recover, if at all.

Several factors increase the vulnerability of bighorn sheep to *M.ovi*: Habitat fragmentation, encroachment of human activities, and the spread of domestic sheep and goat populations near bighorn habitats are primary concerns. Domestic sheep can serve as carriers of *M.ovi*, showing few, if any, symptoms. When bighorn sheep encounter domestic sheep, the chances of infection increase significantly, leading to potentially devastating outbreaks of pneumonia in wild sheep.

History of pneumonia die-offs in Alberta

Since the 1980s, Alberta has experienced pneumonia outbreaks in bighorn sheep on three primary ranges: Yarrow Castle, Livingstone, and Sheep River. During each outbreak, these populations experienced significant declines and took years (10 to 20) to recover and stabilize. In 2017, the department of Environment and Protected Areas began *M.ovi* surveillance throughout Alberta's bighorn sheep home ranges. Testing was performed with the assistance of bighorn sheep hunters during compulsory registration of rams, and researchers. Over 500 samples have been collected between 2017 and 2022, and all tests were negative for *M.ovi*.

ATTENTION: NON-TROPHY SHEEP HUNTERS WANT TO HELP CONSERVE BIGHORN SHEEP?

- Testing for *M.ovi* is important for preventing disease transmission.
- Nasal swabbing is a simple and effective way to test both bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats.
- Since 2017, the Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta (WSFA), with funding from the Minister's Special Licence Grant, has supported *M.ovi* testing in bighorns.
- All 500+ bighorn sheep sampled to date have been negative for *M.ovi*. Almost all these samples were from hunter-killed rams.
- The incidence of *M.ovi* is often highest in ewes and young sheep. Ewes may become "chronic carriers" that survive the disease but continue to spread *M.ovi* to others within or amongst herds.
- To help better monitor *M.ovi* in bighorn sheep, nasal swab kits and instructions will be sent to all non-Trophy sheep hunters successful in the draw. Hunters may also bring their non-Trophy sheep into an EAP office for testing.



- Mike Grue photo

Please help conserve bighorns by participating in this program!



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ATTENTION: DOMESTIC SHEEP AND GOAT PRODUCERS INTERESTED IN FREE *M. ovi.* TESTING AND PROTECTIVE FENCING?

- Funding may be available for producers in high-risk areas (~50 km from bighorn sheep range; <https://www.alberta.ca/pneumonia-and-bighorn-sheep.aspx>).
- Infected domestic sheep and goats may have nasal discharge, weight loss, and other signs that can be confused with other diseases.
- Many infected domestic animals do not show any visible signs and the disease often goes undetected without testing.
- *M.ovi.* is not a notifiable or reportable disease. NO restrictions will be imposed upon infected flocks or herds. All results and inquiries are strictly confidential.
- *M.ovi.* is fatal to bighorn sheep. Maintaining physical separation between domestic sheep and goats, and bighorn sheep is critical.
- Funding may also be available for no-contact fencing and other preventative measures in high-risk areas.

For more information on these voluntary programs and to see if you qualify, please talk with your veterinarian and visit: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae-in-domestic-sheep-and-goats-significance-to-and-roll-of-alberta-producers>



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Recent Outbreak at Blue Rock Wildland Provincial Park

In mid-February of 2023, local wildlife officials and researchers noticed coughing and respiratory distress among a group of 16 bighorn sheep rams living in the park. Laboratory tests confirmed the presence of *M.ovi.* in affected individuals. Of the 16 rams in this group, 9 were found deceased and the remaining 7 were exhibiting signs of respiratory distress. As a result, to contain the spread of the disease and under the advisement of leading experts on this disease, a very difficult decision was made to euthanize the remaining rams. Of the 7 rams that were euthanized, 6 were confirmed positive for *M.ovi.* and all showed pathological evidence of early to late-stage pneumonia.

After the removal of the sick sheep, attention turned to determining if the disease had spread to other wild sheep groups in the area. The closest population contained 95 individuals comprised of adult ewes, young rams and juvenile sheep. Live testing was performed on 42 members of this population and confirmed that *M.ovi.* was not present and the herd was not exposed.

Prevention

Preventing the introduction of *M.ovi.* into Alberta's bighorn sheep populations is a priority for wildlife management. As a result, a significant collaboration between wild sheep managers and domestic sheep and goat owners is critical. Various tools can be used to prevent *M. ovipneumoniae* from entering Alberta's bighorn sheep population, including:

- Education and outreach for domestic sheep and goat producers, veterinarians, and the public about *M. ovipneumoniae* and how they can help to reduce the threat.
- A comprehensive disease surveillance plan to assess risk by identifying where infected animals are located for both domestic and wild populations.
- Mitigation measures (e.g., fencing, guardian dogs) to prevent contact between wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats.
- Required testing of domestic sheep and goats when they are moved in or around wild sheep home ranges.
- Policy to maintain separation of domestics from wild sheep and their ranges. The current policy in Alberta, prevents industry (e.g., energy, forestry, and recreational operators) from using domestic sheep and goats for any purpose within 50km from bighorn sheep range.

There is currently no effective treatment against *M. ovipneumoniae* in wild sheep. Several antibiotic treatments are available to reduce clinical signs and infections in domestic sheep and goats; however, these do not provide long-term protection.

In 2022, a collaborative research project examining wild sheep movements and disease risk was started with funding and assistance from the Minister's Special License, Alberta government, University of Alberta (Boyce Lab) and the Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta. This research, under the direction of PhD student Ian Gazeley, has now deployed >150 satellite collars, and these locations will help evaluate the most effective management strategies to prevent disease transmission and maintain healthy wild sheep populations throughout Alberta.

Hunters' Role in Conservation

Hunters can play a crucial role in mitigating the risk of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* transmission and conserving bighorn sheep populations by:

1. Observing and Reporting: If you observe individuals displaying symptoms such as coughing, nasal discharge, or difficulty breathing, report your findings

to your local wildlife biologist by calling **310-0000**. Timely reporting can aid in monitoring and implementing appropriate measures to contain the spread. In addition, it is critical to report any wild sheep on private land within 5 km of domestic sheep or goats, and conversely, report any domestic sheep on public land, near sheep ranges.

2. Testing harvested sheep: Since 2017, our surveillance program has largely targeted trophy sheep due to their accessibility during registration. However, the testing of non-trophy sheep is especially welcomed. Nasal swab kits and instructions will be sent to all non-Trophy sheep hunters successful in the draw. Hunters may also bring their non-Trophy sheep into an EAP office for testing. Refer to the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations for office locations: <https://albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/>. Testing of trophy sheep will be performed during the mandatory registration process.

3. Promoting Education and Awareness: Help spread awareness about *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* and its impact on bighorn sheep. Encourage fellow hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, and the public to follow responsible practices when interacting

with wildlife, including reporting sick animals. For more information visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-sheep-disease-surveillance.aspx>

Going Forward

The outbreak of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in Blue Rock Wildland Provincial Park, Alberta, serves as a stark reminder of the threats facing bighorn sheep populations. Urgent action is required to mitigate the impact of *M. ovipneumoniae* and prevent further devastation. By implementing comprehensive surveillance, public awareness initiatives, and collaborative research efforts, we can strive to protect Alberta's bighorn sheep populations and ensure their long-term survival in the face of this formidable disease.

See Links for More info:

<https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-sheep-disease-surveillance.aspx>

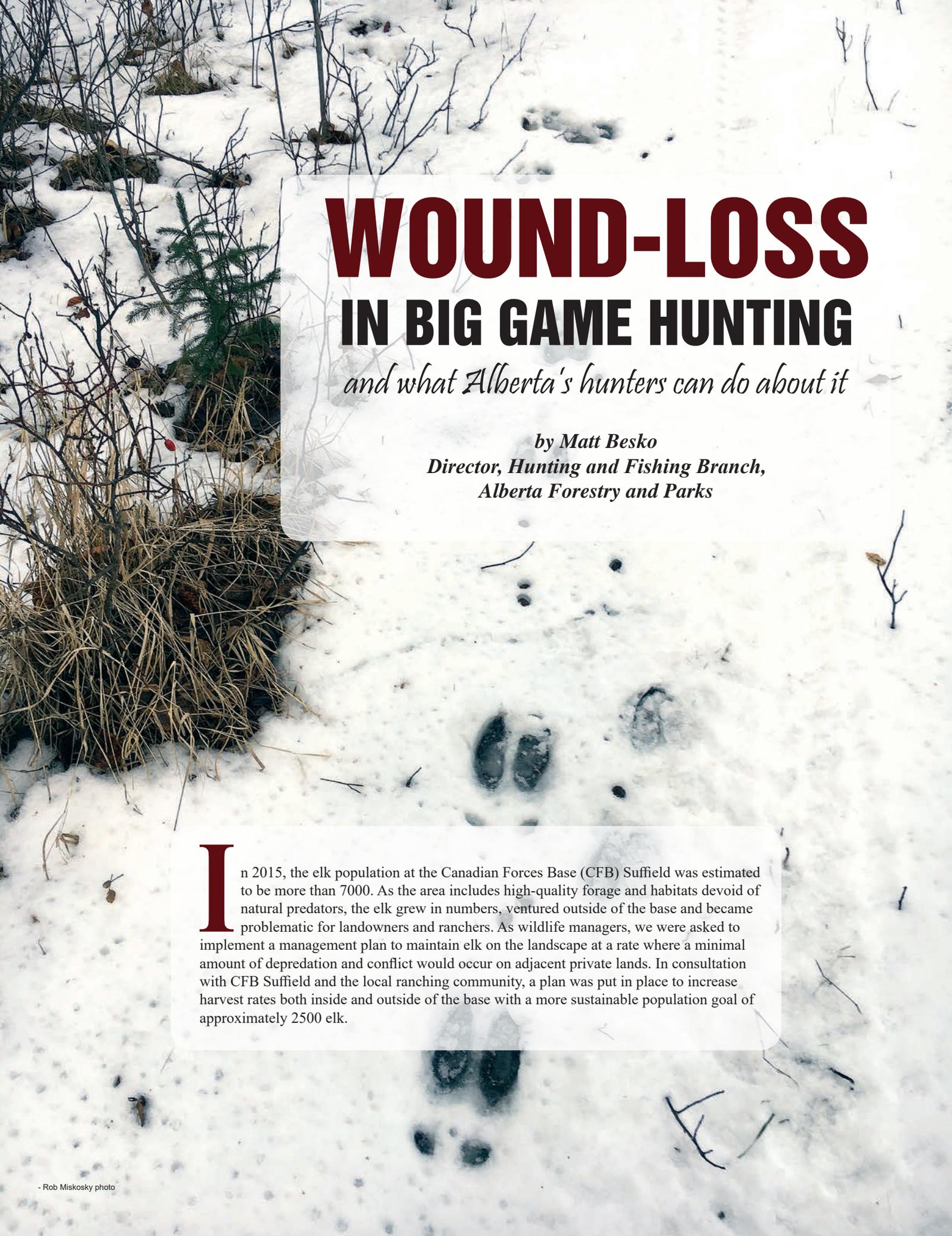
<https://wsfab.org/>

Transmission Documentary: <https://youtu.be/zO8M6eRG0tU>

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WOUND-LOSS IN BIG GAME HUNTING

and what Alberta's hunters can do about it

by Matt Besko

*Director, Hunting and Fishing Branch,
Alberta Forestry and Parks*

In 2015, the elk population at the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield was estimated to be more than 7000. As the area includes high-quality forage and habitats devoid of natural predators, the elk grew in numbers, ventured outside of the base and became problematic for landowners and ranchers. As wildlife managers, we were asked to implement a management plan to maintain elk on the landscape at a rate where a minimal amount of depredation and conflict would occur on adjacent private lands. In consultation with CFB Suffield and the local ranching community, a plan was put in place to increase harvest rates both inside and outside of the base with a more sustainable population goal of approximately 2500 elk.

Since then, the harvest of elk has occurred at high rates of success. In fact, in some years we achieved more than 70 per cent harvest success for both cows and bulls. We have also monitored hunting on the base and were informed by a Fish and Wildlife Officer that an estimated 12 per cent of elk shot by hunters were wounded and lost. Some of these elk ended up on closed areas of the base and required officers to euthanize wounded animals or retrieve elk that had succumbed to their wounds.

After receiving several similar reports of wound-loss occurring in other controlled hunts across the province, we conducted a literature review to estimate the seriousness of the problem. Studies conducted over longer periods of time found wound-loss rates for deer in several jurisdictions ranged from 7 to 20 per cent for all hunting methods including bow, rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun. Wound-loss rates for archery were slightly higher than rifle hunters but well within the average range for all hunting methods. These rates differed by species, with elk showing slightly higher wound-loss rates than deer in similar areas and ranges.

To account for wound-loss in game populations, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) recommends jurisdictions use standard rates to estimate post-hunting season populations. For deer, the rate used to estimate wound-loss is 10 per cent. For elk, 15 per cent. This does not account for deer and elk that may survive their wounds, with studies indicating that as many as 91 per cent of archery-shot deer survive for longer than one year following being wounded.

As hunters, this can be an uncomfortable topic to discuss, as it is difficult to admit that we have wounded and lost big-game. However, as hunters who appreciate the great outdoors, it is important we acknowledge this fact and determine the actions we can take as responsible conservationists.

In his book, *Hunting, Fishing and Environmental Virtue (Reconnecting Sportsmanship to Conservation)*, Dr. Charles List identifies three specific actions that demonstrate virtue in hunting and fishing:

1. Environmental Awareness
2. Competency
3. Civic and Community Service



“Just how serious are wound-loss rates in Alberta?”

In the context of wound-loss, I believe “Competency” is critical. As hunters, we are responsible for maintaining strong ethics and environmental stewardship while showing that we are skilled, knowledgeable and able to hunt with confidence and proficiency. By doing things well, we are able to achieve a successful and enjoyable hunting experience while demonstrating that we take great care to minimize suffering in the game we hunt and prevent wound-loss.

To be competent, we need to be proficient and knowledgeable, and we must maintain these skills throughout our hunting careers. So, what can we actively do to be competent? Well, we can start with our shooting. Many of us will go to the shooting range a month or two before the start of big-game season to make sure our rifle is zeroed at the bench and loads are optimized for precision and accuracy. We may shoot a few rounds or even a 100, and then declare ourselves to be ready for our

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"As hunters we need to ensure our skills are at their peak."

hunt. We may practice with our archery gear and pace off 20, 30 or 40 meters to make sure our pins are in place, our release is good, and we're ready to hit the target. What we generally don't do is practice hunting situations in a dynamic setting.

Most spot and stalk hunting requires shooting from a variety of dynamic situations and positions with time

constraints built-in for added stress. We often need to shoot from sitting, prone or offhand positions using improvised rests like packs, tree limbs or rocks. In archery hunting, shooting is often done from tree-stands, behind a decoy, kneeling or in ground blinds with little room to establish a good stance. We also shoot in challenging conditions, often in the

cold with wind, sun, rain, ambient heat or snow affecting our consistency. We are in situations where time is of the essence and if a shot is not taken, the animal will run, hide or become blocked from view by the terrain.

If we are in a vehicle and driving in the field and spot an animal, we might jump out, load the rifles and let fly with abandon, with the adage "if there's lead in the air, there's hope!" Others will use drives to push deer out of a stand of trees, waiting for animals to run out while the shooters attempt running shots. Some hunters will use their equipment at long ranges without the practice needed to develop skills and confidence to consistently achieve lethal shots.

I am not saying that any of these conditions or methods are unethical, but preventing wound-loss requires competence and competence requires practice. No one is saying you cannot shoot moving game or a deer at 550m, but before you do, be proficient at it and know your limits. My good friend, Frederic Hanner, is a regular hunter on the television program "Wild Boar Fever" where wild boars in Europe are hunted on drives and running flat out. From an early age, Frederic practiced hunting on moving targets and developed a skillset where he can accurately shoot running game consistently and ethically. Knowing that this is a perishable skill, he practices frequently and does so under pressure to emulate hunting conditions as precisely as possible. If you ever watch Wild Boar Fever, Frederic and his colleagues demonstrate great skill and competence in their hunting and the consistency they have when shooting.

Another way we can help manage wound-loss is to use the right gear. The rifles and bows we use should be of sufficient accuracy, range and power to achieve quick and ethical kills. They should fit us rather than us fitting to them. Rifles need to have the right length of pull, comb and heel height, and cast to achieve a solid sight picture using a natural point of aim. In dynamic shooting situations, it is important your rifle fits you like a shotgun is fitted to a bird hunter. Use good optics to identify and see game clearly, coupled with a laser range-finder, ballistic turret or ballistically matched reticle. Be aware of

continued on page 76



ALBERTA'S WILDLIFE RECORDS

Rifle records supplied by the Alberta Fish and Game Association

Bowhunting records supplied by Ryk Visscher

BIG GAME RECORDS				
Species	Score	Hunter	Location	Year
Bighorn Sheep	209 4/8	Picked Up	Longview	2010
Bighorn Sheep	208 3/8	Guinn Crousen	Luscar Mtn.	2000
Non-Typical Elk	447 5/8	Shawn O'Shea	Minburn Cnty	2020
Typical Elk	419 5/8	Clarence Brown	Panther River	1977
Non-Typ. Mule Deer*	355 2/8	Ed Broder	Chip Lake	1926
Typical Mule Deer	206 2/8	Tyson Smigelski	Oyen	2017
Non-Typ. Whitetail	279 6/8	Neil Morin	Whitemud Creek	1991
Typical Whitetail	204 2/8	Stephen Jansen	Beaverdam Creek	1967
Canada Moose	226 7/8	Tim Harbridge	Whitecourt	1978
Black Bear	22 9/16	Jason Johansson	WMU 360	1997
Grizzly Bear	26 5/16	Bella Twin & Dave Auger	Slave Lake	1953
Grizzly Bear	26 5/16	Wilfred Hartfelder	Swan Hills	1974
Pronghorn Antelope	90	Tannis R. Piotrowski	Manyberries	2013
Cougar	16 2/16	Joe Gore Jr.	Sundance Lake	2005
Mountain Goat	54	Native American	Bow Summit	1907
Bison	133 4/8	Mike Dempsey	Slave Lake	1935
Wolf	18 6/16	Leigh Mckain	Anselmo	2001

* World Record

BIG GAME RECORDS (ARCHERY)			
Species	Score	Hunter	Year
Bighorn Sheep	200 6/8	Todd Kirk	1998
Non-Typical Elk*	449 4/8	Shawn O'Shea	2020
Typical Elk	402 5/8	Will Huppertz	2004
Non-Typical Mule Deer	238 3/8	Cole Johnson	2020
Non-Typical Mule Deer Velvet	249 5/8	Rye Johnson	2020
Typical Mule Deer	200 2/8	E. John W. Adkins	2016
Typical Mule Deer Velvet	198 6/8	Cyril Paquin	2004
Non-Typical Whitetail	241 2/8	Dean Dwernychuk	1984
Non-Typical Whitetail Velvet	207 4/8	Andrew Halliwell	2020
Typical Whitetail	197 1/8	Don McGarvey	1991
Typical Whitetail Velvet	181 6/8	Jack McNaughton	2013
Canada Moose	217 2/8	Frederick Gimbel	1994
Canada Moose Velvet	169 0/8	Travis Peterson	2003
Black Bear	22 3/16	Chester Dodgson	2015
Grizzly Bear	23 7/16	Richard Michalski	1981
Antelope	84 4/8	Shaun Steidel	2002
Cougar	15 13/16	Glen Roberts	2007
Bison	102 2/8	David A. Sjodin	2015
Mountain Goat	48 2/8	Chris Kroll	1962

* World Record

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wind, lead distance and round trajectory. With archery, use bows and crossbows that have well-fitted draw length, weight and arrows with broadheads that are sharp and reliable. Be confident using

pins set at ranges to shoot steadily. Use ammunition loaded with cartridges using sufficient power to be effective on the game species being hunted at a variety of ranges. Projectiles should

be constructed to expand consistently at a variety of impact-velocities while maintaining a sufficient mass upon exit or travel through tissue and bone.

Lastly, hunters need to understand game behaviour and anatomy to carefully pick shots and ensure quick and ethical kills. Hunter Training Class taught us the placement of vital organs in big game is key for lethal shots. A central nervous system hit on a big game animal may be lethal and anchor the quarry quickly, but the shot needs to be precise to minimize wounding. For example, shots to the brain-pan of animals are lethal and very effective, but there exists a high margin of error between missing the animal completely or wounding it unless the shot is made with great skill. Conversely, lung shots offer a greater margin for error but often result in the animal running a short distance until collapsing. Shoulder shots or taking shots at angle may also be effective but need skill and confidence to be done ethically and consistently. The range of the animal, its position and its movement should determine where and when your shot may or may not be taken.

Armed with competency and confidence, it's time to hunt. You go out on opening day, find a great animal you are legally licensed to harvest and take your shot. The animal doesn't drop and runs off. You go to check for blood, can't find the animal, give it some time and then follow. After a while, you lose the track of the animal and there are no signs of bleeding. Now what? At this point, there are a number of skills and methods you can use, including:

1. Using visual cues. Go back to where you shot and re-play the scenario in your head. Where was the animal standing? What was your sight picture at time of shot? Did you flinch? If so, was it up, down or to the side? How did the animal react? Did it hunch up, was it favouring a leg when running? Think it through.

2. Revisit the scene. Try to remember where the animal was at the time of shot. Look for blood and note the colour. If it's dark red, it may be venous or muscle wounding. If it's bright red, it may be arterial or pulmonary. Was the blood in

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A woman with long blonde hair, wearing an orange beanie, a green jacket, and a bright orange safety vest, is looking through red binoculars. She has a rifle slung over her shoulder. The background is a snowy, hazy landscape.

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2023 WILD GAME FOR THE FOODBANK PROGRAM

Only Elk, Moose, Deer and Antelope are eligible for donations.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest with the Foodbank Program in 2022. This is the twenty-seventh year of our program that has seen more than 315,000 pounds of high quality wild game donated to the Alberta Foodbanks. Please help us feed those in need again in 2023. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate.

Important Information:

1. We now accept donations from Oct 15, 2023 to Dec 15, 2023.
2. There are no extra wild game tags allotted for this program. You are asked to share the harvest from any one of the general season, supplementary or undersubscribed elk, moose, antelope or deer tags that are available.
3. Only elk, moose or deer that have been harvested between October 15 and December 15, 2023 during the regular hunting seasons are eligible for this program.
4. The elk, moose, deer or antelope cannot be completely frozen and it must be delivered to a participating meat processor within 72 hours from the time of harvest.
5. Please contact the processor to ensure whether the elk, moose, deer or antelope can be brought in skinned or unskinned.
6. There are no processing costs charged to the donating hunter. The processing costs are paid by the **Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest** association through financial donations by hunting organizations including our primary sponsors: **Alberta Chapters of Safari Club International and Alberta Conservation Association.**

To find the complete donation guidelines and the list of participating meat processors, please call our 24 hour information line at 780-443-6006. Or you can visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at www.huntingfortomorrow.ca. Our wild game donation information is found under their **Resources and Fact Sheets** section under **Wild Game Foodbank Donation Program.**

You can also contact the **Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest** Supervisor. Please contact: Ryan Grajczyk at 587-983- 6687 or Jim Thomson at 780-691-8907.

Thank you for sharing your harvest with those in need!!



large splatters or in drops? When tracking, did the animal stop to bed? Did blood pool? Knowing this information can help determine how the animal was hit, where it was hit, how lethal the hit may be and your search radius and distance. If the pattern of blood is large splatters and bright red, chances are the search radius will be within 150 metres, depending on the animal. If slight drops of dark blood, the search radius may be several kilometres.

3. Ask for help. Get your hunting partners and responsible friends to come out and look with you. If they spot an animal that looks wounded, it is your responsibility to then go to where they are and confirm that information.

Pushing an animal with venous or muscle tissue wounds is often not productive, and animals will increase distance between you. Sometimes it may be useful to allow time for the animal to bed or to use a circular search pattern to stay ahead of the animal. You may be required to go out to search for your animal the following day. If the animal has expired, you will be able to look for crows, raven and magpies circling or clumped in a certain area and feeding on the carcass.

If you have made all reasonable efforts to find the animal and ultimately cannot do so using all resources at your disposal, then you use that experience to learn and grow. You can beat yourself up about it but that won't do anything to change the event. You can, however, better define what your future actions may be when facing a similar scenario, adapt your expectations or limits, and practice specific skills allowing you to simulate situations to gauge what you may have done differently.

It is important to remember: We are human beings. We are imperfect. We make mistakes but we can learn from our mistakes to adapt and grow as hunters and conservationists. We do so by acting ethically, establishing a common understanding of our natural world, being competent in our skills and abilities, and being actively involved in our communities as advocates for hunting and wildlife stewardship.

Minimizing wound-loss is one of these elements that help us along our learning continuum, and ultimately help us become better hunters.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable hunting season. ●

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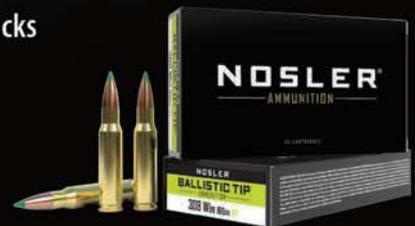
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*by Grant Chapman
Provincial Big Game Specialist*



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Whether this is your first or seventieth season, each day should be cherished as very few jurisdictions enjoy the plethora of opportunities and liberties we do in Alberta. We all have our own reasons for hunting and our satisfaction is rooted in shared values, experiences, and outcomes. While there certainly isn’t a perfect place to have it all, there are ways to increase the likelihood of finding more of what drives you each season.

I have the pleasure and privilege of discussing hunting with thousands of hunters over the years, and I have fielded many questions, and provided many tips that I hope you find helpful on your next hunt.



“Mentoring first-time pheasant hunters.”

For the first timers who are eager to experience hunting in Alberta

Find a mentor: Find a friend, group, or formal mentorship program like the Alford Lake Conservation Camp or Women in the Outdoors Program.

Practice shooting: A fancy weapon in the hand of an inexperienced hunter who can’t ethically and consistently hit their mark is of little value. Proficiency reduces anxious shots and eliminates the risk of wounding an animal or coming home empty-handed.

Eastern Irrigation District

Public Access

The Eastern Irrigation District (EID) manages its land with a multi-use concept. Hunting is generally permitted on **EID owned Community Pastures** during the legal recreational hunting season by individuals with written permission and in possession of the appropriate recreational hunting licences.

The below conditions must be followed:

- Automobiles **must stay** on designated routes or established trails
- No off-highway vehicles
- Participation in the EID aquatic invasive species prevention program
- No camping or fires
- No hunting near livestock
- Leave gates as you found them
- **Obey all signs**, some areas have added restrictions

Access to these private lands is a privilege not a right, please **“USE RESPECT AND HUNT WITH CARE”**.

Contact our office in Brooks for further information at 403-362-1400 or eid@eid.ca www.eid.ca





“A successful late-season cow elk hunt.”

Read: Knowledge is one hundred times more powerful than your legs, heart, gear, and pick-up truck combined. There is a lot of information out there, but I’ve included some of our favourites at the end of this article to point you in the right direction.

Know where to go: It is important to know where you can hunt, season structures, and required land permissions. Grazing reserves, natural areas, Alberta Conservation Association conservation sites, forest reserves, and grazing leases are publicly owned and accessible lands; however, private grazing leases and private land require permission and privilege to hunt. Don’t be shocked if you can’t access certain areas with abundant game as they are in high demand and can be saturated with requests.

For hunters that don’t want to wait or for hunts on a budget

Avoid the competition: Hunt early

season and try local but, if local is crowded, find a distant place with great game abundance, fewer people, and focus on areas where there is riparian habitat or topography and native prairie or farmland interface as these habitats hold the highest densities of big game. When it comes to caring for your venison, save on costs by learning to butcher. Another quick tip: Every Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) in the province has a general season for most species via archery. Take a look at WMUs where draw wait times for special licenses are short (I recommend 212, 247 or 248).

Pack less: Spend time afield with what you have before buying fancy stuff. Hunting seasons and vacations are limited and while gear might make it more comfortable, it isn’t always necessary. With as little as 1 bag of decoys and 12ga, a local pothole can likely be found within 10 minutes of

your home on any weekday afternoon. Travel costs can be high, so consider taking a fuel-efficient vehicle as long as it allows you to quarter and care for your harvest with room for a light tent camp.

For the experienced or physically limited

Partner: Bring a friend, youth, or adult on your next adventure. Hunt early in warm weather seasons in areas accessible by boat, off-road vehicle, or e-bike. Obtain a crossbow license if you aren’t able to use archery equipment. Share your knowledge with a keen youngster that can help in the hunt and share the cost, effort, and meat.

For those who are new to Alberta

Understand: It is important to know where you can hunt and any requirements before heading out on the landscape. Always ask an officer to clarify the regulations if you have any questions or confusion. Start with high success rate hunts with fewer limitations, like mule deer antlerless hunts or waterfowl. Follow the first timer recommendations above and plan to complete the first time hunter’s course well before the season begins.

For the aspiring elk hunter

Elk is a favourite species to pursue and can be challenging (or frustrating!) given their movement patterns and large herd sizes. To maximize success, start with late antlerless seasons and progress to bulls and rut hunts once you are more comfortable. Elk will always seek visual and escape security and proximity to food. They can cover an area the size of >40sq km² or as little as a 10-acre patch. As hunters increase in abundance, elk become more crepuscular, vigilant, and avoidant. Always be prepared to adjust to changing food source availability due to weather and agricultural crop harvest progress.

For aspiring sheep hunters

Find a way to connect to knowledgeable hunters: Start with summer scouting or day hunts to learn how sheep behave. Many sheep are found within a half-day walk of the roads end. Hunt early in the fall or in late October, and read our new Trophy Sheep Registration Procedures Guide to field judge legal rams. Focus on grassy and south west aspect slopes within 200

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to 300 metres of rocky escape terrain and above treeline. And remember: you find sheep with your eyes and optics, not your boots. Try to search efficiently while glassing from the strategic viewpoints where the best habitat can be observed from and within 2 to 3 kilometres. Lastly, glass and re-glass, and enjoy the mountains while being BEARSMART. (www.wsfab.org).

For those seeking mature animals

Understand harvest rates: The harvest rate is the percentage of animals harvested from the 2023 pre-season population estimate. This rate determines the age structure of the herd. If you are looking for an older animal, you will need to search harder and find areas that a wise old buck, bull, or ram seeks. White-tailed and mule deer, elk, moose, and sheep reach maximum antler or horn growth at ages of ~7-8, ~10-11, and ~12 years respectively. Statistically, becoming older is a privilege. With very high natural mortality few animals live to old age in many hunted populations. The management objectives established



“Butchering a late-season cow elk.”

- C. Chapman photo

for each species define what that herd structure is and its corresponding male to female ratio. Read management plans and study online maps to locate these areas where your chances are higher. See links below to aerial survey reports and hunting draw results.

For the adventurer or those looking for something different

Don't be afraid to try something new: Hunt river float trips or places where you can fish, hunt and combine species like bear, deer, elk, and moose. Visit sandhills in the southeast, mountains

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- Bear Fare
- Essentials of Bear Encounters
- Bear Biology
- Bear Ecology
- Bear Encounters: Coming Face to Face



Archery Essentials Program

- Archery Myths
- Archery in History and Popular Culture
- Archery Equipment
- Archery Primer
- Archery Basics

Hunter Education Certification

- The Role of the Hunter
- Hunting Ethics
- Wildlife Management Conservation
- Wildlife Identification
- Clothing and Equipment
- Legal Responsibilities
- Bow Hunting
- Survival
- Field Techniques
- First Aid
- Hypothermia
- Firearms

Bighorn Sheep Essentials Program

- Habits and Lifestyle
- Harvest Strategy
- Shoot or Don't Shoot?
- Legal Requirements
- Tagging and Registration
- Equipment
- Bighorn Sheep Physiology (Head/Body)
- Evidence of Sex, Species and Class
- Physical Fitness/Preparations for Sheep Hunting
- Bighorn Sheep/Dall's Sheep/Stone Sheep/Desert Sheep



"Antlerless animals have a shorter draw interval and are easier to harvest."

in the west, or waterfowl in the pothole counties of central Alberta. Want to get into waterfowl but don't have the gear? Find an outfitter who can teach you more in a day than you can learn in years of hunting. The Alberta Professional Outfitters Society has many members that are licensed to guide resident hunters, in addition to non-residents.

For the person that wants the best meat

Consider archery or hunt early season young males or late season antlerless:

Take meticulous care to prevent any contact with your hands or viscera, or meat with hide, hair and scent glands. Avoid mature animals, breeding seasons, extreme hot weather, and shot placements that damages bone or abdominal tissues. When stomach contents contact edible flesh it's like pouring gasoline, diesel or perfume on your hands: You can never get the smell off of your hands nor the taste out of the meat. Very few people want to eat poorly cared for meat so take the time to make a good shot, and preserve and preventing unlawful wastage. If you are avoiding CWD, refer to info sources or if you find

something odd when butchering, refer to our fact sheets and learn about diseases.

Hunt antlerless: Antlerless animals have shorter draw intervals and are easier to harvest. Focus on areas with abundant game and where agricultural conflict with ungulates or waterfowl is high. Agricultural conflict maps have shown that the Parkland 200 series WMUs and the Peace Region have the highest conflict, and usually landowners are much more supportive of antlerless hunters that seek permission.

For all hunters

Understand predicted habitat use or resource selection function: Know where game species exists in greater densities to increase your chances of encountering game. Focus your efforts on food sources, riparian areas, and adjoining travel routes.

Stay informed: Read the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sheep, Goat, Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Moose Proceedings to see the latest species research and jurisdictions management. They provide endless

research findings and videos of seminars assembled by experts. Don't forget to read our department management plans or those of many other jurisdictions that provide detailed ecology summaries for each species.

Be Respectful, helpful and lawful:

Remember that your actions are always observed by landowners whom may choose to reduce access and other hunters, mentees, the public and your conscience. Even if you don't think someone is watching, the landowners and caretakers see your tracks and hear gunshots and may be less willing to provide access due to hunter's actions. I hope you've found some of this stimulating or it prompts you to share your extensive knowledge with someone that you know or encounter afield that may not be as fortunate as you.

Suggested Reading:

Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council Proceeding and Videos <http://www.nwsgc.org/proceedings.html>

WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group Fact Sheets <https://wafwa.org/publications/mdwg-factsheets/>

WAFWA Conference Proceedings <https://wafwa.org/wpdm-package/2021-wafwa-deer-elk-workshop-proceedings/>
Moose ALCES Journal <https://alcesjournal.org/index.php/alces/issue/view/93>

Aerial Survey Reports - <https://www.alberta.ca/aerial-wildlife-survey-reports.aspx>

Hunter Harvest Surveys - <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/hunters-harvest.aspx>

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/0864997337>

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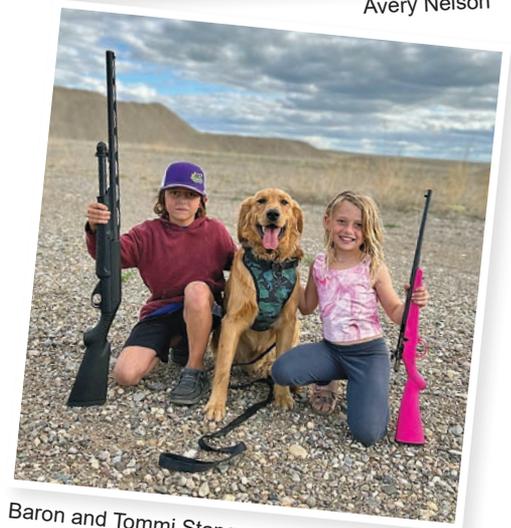


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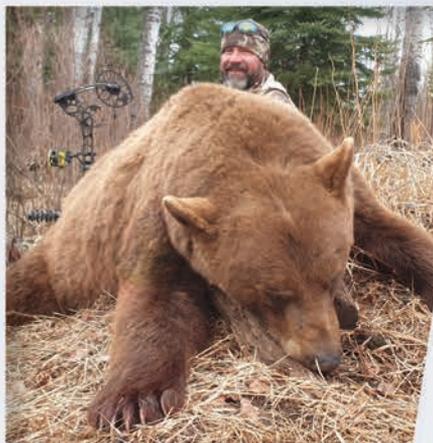


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