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2017 ALBERTA GUIDE TO

# Hunting REGULATIONS

Alberta  
Government

Important Changes ... 12  
Licensing ... 15  
Alberta Hunting Report Card ... 26  
Sunrise/Sunset Table ... 48  
Alberta Hunters of the Year ... 88

Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) photo by Duane Rosenkranz



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# 2017 Deer Hunters

## Your Role in CWD Surveillance

The ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program targets CWD risk areas in wildlife management units (WMUs) along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border, as indicated on the map. Although CWD continues to expand geographically and numerically, the risk of harvesting an infected deer remains low. In 2016, 179 of 5112 (3.5%) heads tested had CWD: 154 mule deer, 23 white-tails, 1 unknown deer, and 1 elk. The majority of cases (66%) were male mule deer. Prevalence was 5.4% in 2833 mule deer and 1.5% in 1491 white-tailed deer.

It is **MANDATORY** to submit deer heads from WMUs

102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 138, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 254, 256, 258, 500, 728, and 730

In addition, we would appreciate receiving deer heads from **three units of SPECIAL CONCERN (250, 252, and 260)**, as perspective for a recent case in WMU 250.

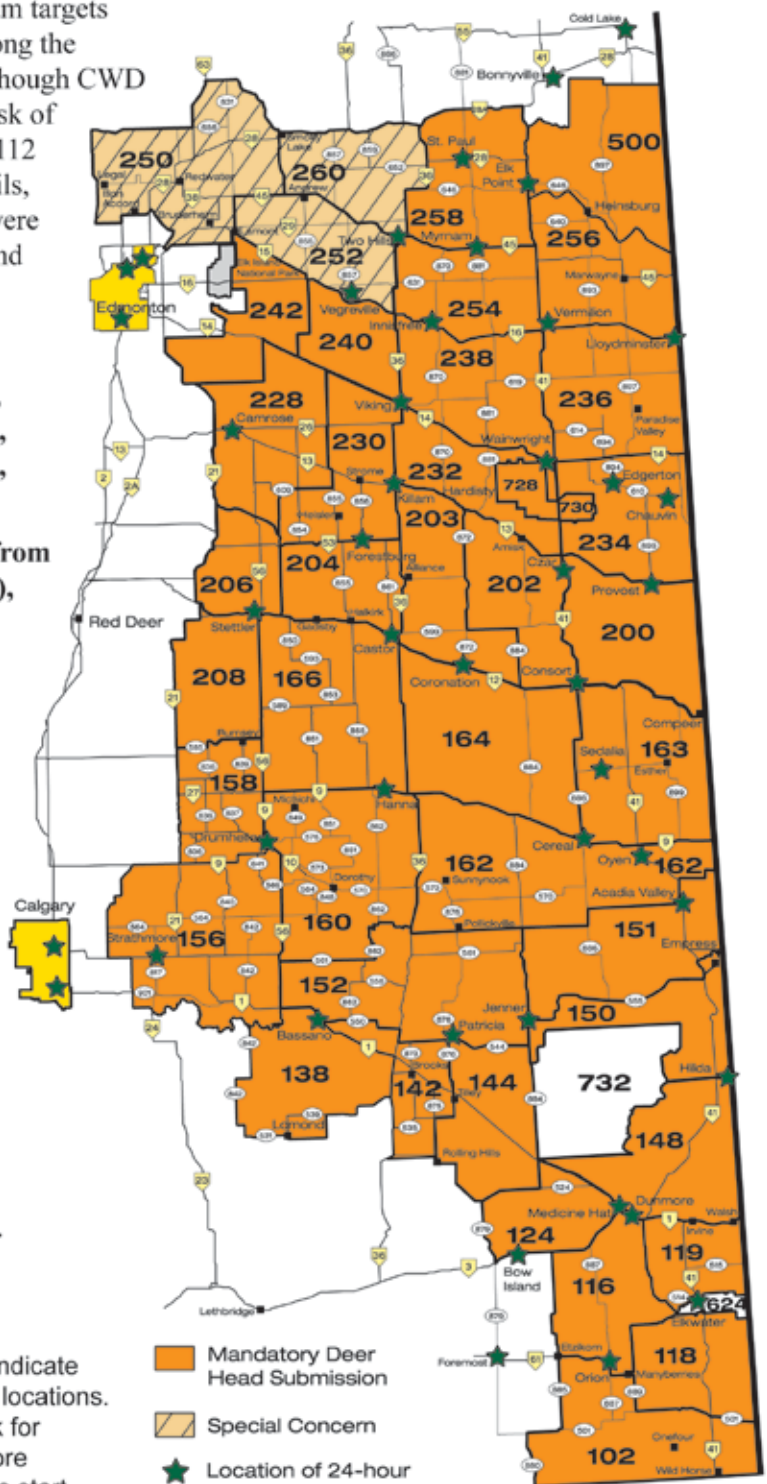
Heads for testing must have a green CWD label that provides a unique identification number for each deer head submitted. Pick up labels and instructions after you shoot your deer. They are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at 24-hour freezers in CWD risk areas. **COMPLETELY FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE GREEN LABEL, PARTICULARLY A PRECISE KILL LOCATION AND YOUR WIN NUMBER.** Heads should be kept frozen and dropped off at any Fish and Wildlife office or any of the freezers. Negative CWD test results are provided via email to hunters as soon as possible.

Hunting opportunities in the border areas are designed to maintain hunting pressure on deer populations and to standardize seasons and opportunities. Check the 2017 *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* for specific details.

For more detailed information about CWD, visit the Alberta Environment and Parks, wildlife diseases website <http://www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/> or contact Dr. M. Pybus (780) 427-3462. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free long distance calls.

**Note:** Stars indicate 2016 freezer locations. Please check for changes before 2017 seasons start.

Orange box: Mandatory Deer Head Submission  
Yellow box: Special Concern  
Green star: Location of 24-hour freezers (2016)



Health authorities state that CWD is not known to infect humans. However, as a precaution authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO), advise against eating animals infected with any prion disease.

More information on human health aspects of CWD available at [health.alberta.ca](http://health.alberta.ca)

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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 bow hunting program is also still active. This program pairs youth participants and first time hunters with a qualified mentor to receive one-on-one bow 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](mailto:chuck@acheia.com)  
Tel. 780-466-6682 Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342  
Website: [www.huntingfortomorrow.com](http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com)

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- ▶ Wildlife Identification
- ▶ Clothing & Equipment
- ▶ Firearms
- ▶ Bow Hunting
- ▶ Survival
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- ▶ Hypothermia
- ▶ Legal Responsibilities



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# Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations – Table of Contents

Minister's Message .....	10
<b>Important Changes for 2017</b> .....	12
WMU Descriptions .....	12
Maps .....	12
Further Inquiries .....	13
Definitions .....	14

## General Regulations

<b>Licensing</b> .....	15
Purchasing a Licence and Requirements .....	15
<b>Federal Firearms Legislation</b> .....	16
Resident Youth Hunting Licences .....	17
Hunters with Disabilities .....	17
Mandatory Suspended Hunter Testing .....	17
Draws for Special Licences .....	17
Landowner Special Licence .....	17
Partner Licence .....	17
Outfitting and Guiding Requirements for Non-Residents .....	18
<b>BIG GAME LICENCES</b> .....	19
Resident Licence Costs and Combinations .....	19
Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability .....	22
Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Costs and Combinations .....	22
Non-resident Alien Licence Availability .....	23
Non-resident Alien Licence Costs and Combinations .....	23
<b>GAME BIRD LICENCES</b> .....	24
Licence Costs .....	24
<b>2016/17 Alberta Hunting Report</b> .....	26
<b>Prohibitions</b> .....	28
General .....	28
Big Game .....	28
Game Bird .....	29
Exporting .....	30
Sale of Wildlife .....	30
Found Dead Wildlife .....	30
Hunting Privileges on Occupied, Private and Public Land .....	32
Hunting in Alberta Provincial Parks & Protected Areas .....	33
<b>Restricted Areas</b> .....	34
All Hunting .....	34
Big Game Hunting .....	37
Game Bird Hunting .....	37
Vehicle Restrictions .....	38

## Big Game Regulations

Big Game Identification .....	40
Evidence of Sex, Species and Class .....	41
Tagging .....	41
Wild Game Processing .....	41
Bowhunting .....	42
Wildlife Compulsory Registration .....	44
<b>Baiting for Wolves and Coyotes</b> .....	58

## Big Game Seasons

Prairie WMUs (100 series & 732) .....	45
Parkland WMUs (200 series & 728, 730, 936) .....	46
Foothills WMUs (300 series) .....	50
Mountain WMUs (400 series) .....	52
Boreal WMUs (500 series & 841) .....	54
<b>Cougar Seasons</b> .....	55
<b>Black Bear Seasons</b> .....	56
<b>Voluntary Black Bear Tooth Submission Program</b> .....	57
<b>Additional Special Licence Draw Hunts</b> .....	58
<b>Other Species</b> .....	58
<b>Hunting with Cross-bows</b> .....	59

## Game Bird Regulations

Please Remember .....	59
Falconry Hunting .....	59
Bowhunting .....	59
Special Hunting Areas .....	59
Waterfowler Heritage Days .....	59
Merriam's Turkey Draw .....	61

## Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

## Game Management

Marked Wildlife .....	62
Chronic Wasting Disease and Deer Management .....	3, 25 & 64

## Additional Information

<b>Sunrise/Sunset Table</b> .....	48
Report A Poacher – <b>1-800-642-3800</b> .....	62
Wild Game Public Health Advisory .....	62
Bill of Lading .....	64
Common Licence Mistakes .....	67
Wild Game for the Foodbank Program .....	83

## Added Content

Message From the Publisher .....	68
Alberta's Prairie Deer Hunt .....	68
Step-by-Step Guide to Antelope .....	72
Who's the King of the Alberta Uplands? .....	76
Bowhunting Elk .....	79
Communicating with Moose .....	82
Alberta Hunter's Directory .....	86
2016 Alberta Hunters of the Year .....	87
2017 Alberta Hunters of the Year Contest .....	87

## Notice to Hunters

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

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## Message from the Honourable Shannon Phillips



As the 2017 hunting season approaches, it is a perfect time to reflect on the important role that hunters play in our province's wildlife management and conservation efforts.

I am proud to share the 2017 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations with you, which are crucial to the long-term success of wildlife management and conservation. With our province's growing population and the ongoing

demand for hunting opportunities, it is important that wildlife management is done in a sustainable, evidence-based manner.

This year, we are offering new elk hunting opportunities. New elk seasons in the prairies and northeast areas will provide exciting opportunities for hunters and will contribute to the management of a healthy and sustainable elk population.

At designated pheasant release sites, the restriction for afternoon hunting has been removed, providing timing consistency for all pheasant release sites, as well as additional hunting opportunities.

The Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring the sustainability of wildlife and hunting in our province. Responsible and ethical hunting practices will play an important role in Alberta's wildlife management and remain part of the province's cultural heritage for generations to come.

I wish Alberta's hunting community all the best and a safe and successful season.

Sincerely,

Shannon Phillips  
Minister of Environment and Parks



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# ONLINE TAGS

To purchase your licence online, you must have a pre-numbered Government of Alberta paper tag and wire before you begin your purchase.

**CALL 1-888-944-5494**  
**to have online tags mailed to you.**

## ONLINE TAGS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS



### In Edmonton and Area:

- Alberta Professional Outfitters Society  
#100, 3802 - 49 Avenue, Stony Plain – 780-414-0249
- Alberta Hunter Education  
#88, 4003-98 Street, Edmonton – 780-466-6682
- Alberta Fish and Game Association  
6924-104 Street, Edmonton – 780-437-2342
- Information Centre Main Floor  
9920-108 Street, Edmonton – 780-422-2079
- Sports Scene Publications Inc.  
10450 - 174 Street, Edmonton – 780-413-0331
- Alberta Conservation Association  
101-9 Chippewa Road, Sherwood Park – 780-410-1999

### In Calgary:

- Alberta Hunter Education  
911 Sylvester Cr. SW, Calgary – 403-252-8474

### In Lethbridge:

- Alberta Conservation Association  
#400, 817-4 Ave South, Lethbridge – 403-388-7769

## ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICES AND LICENCE ISSUERS

**Note:** Lost/Stolen tags can be replaced at any Fish and Wildlife office once you have completed a statutory declaration. See page 13 to find an office near you.



## AlbertaRELM

Alberta Environment 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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ISBN 978-1-927698-09-9

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## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2017

### GENERAL

- Hunters in WMU 400 need to be aware of the establishment of the Castle Provincial Park and the Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Hunting in both of these parks is permitted. Hunting (including bow hunting) in Castle Provincial Park requires a firearms discharge permit. Firearms discharge permits are not required to hunt in Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Firearm discharge permits are available online at: <http://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/visit-our-parks/activities/hunting/firearms-discharge-permits/> For additional information regarding hunting in the Castle Provincial Park please contact (403) 627-1165.
- Alberta Environment and Parks is looking at changes to undersubscribed allocation procedures in 2018 to help improve processes and customer experience.
- Undersubscribed Special Licences will be available Wednesday, August 9, 2017, one week earlier than 2016.
- A 2:00 pm closure on designated pheasant release sites is no longer in effect.

### BIG GAME

- New Antlered and Antlerless Elk hunting seasons have been created in WMUs 110, 132, 136, 138, 500, 501, 502 and 514.
- New seasons have been added for the CFB Suffield Elk hunt.
- WMUs 206, 208, 228, 240 & 242 have been added to the list of mandatory deer head submissions for Chronic Wasting Disease testing.
- Bison hunting within a specified area located within WMU 531 has been closed. For more information please refer to page 57.

## 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 Queen's Printer website ([www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca)) or purchased from The Alberta Queen's Printer at the following address:

#### Alberta Queen's Printer

10611 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Telephone: (780) 427-4952

**NOTE: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.**

## MAPS

Maps providing information about access, topography and land ownership can be purchased at several locations throughout the province. Contact your local Map Dealer. Map Dealer locations are highlighted on the Map Distribution Centre external website at [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca)

### 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.

**All Licences are Non-Refundable and Non-Transferable**



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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:

**Information Centre** ..... 780-944-0313  
 Toll free ..... 1-877-944-0313  
 E-mail: ..... esrd.info-centre@gov.ab.ca

**Websites** – albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.com

### Fish and Wildlife Head Office Mailing Address

Fish and Wildlife  
Great West Life Building  
9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

## Fish and Wildlife District Office Telephone Numbers

Note: These may be offices with Alberta Environment and Parks or Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

For toll-free access within Alberta to most Alberta Government offices, call 310-0000.

**Office hours vary, please contact the individual office for hours of operation.**

### Northwest Region

Fairview ..... 780-835-2737  
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 \*Grande Prairie ..... 780-538-5263  
 \*High Level ..... 780-926-2238  
 High Prairie ..... 780-523-6521  
 Manning ..... 780-836-3065  
 \*Peace River ..... 780-624-6405  
 \*Slave Lake ..... 780-849-7123  
 Spirit River ..... 780-864-4101  
 Valleyview ..... 780-524-3605

### Northeast Region

Athabasca ..... 780-675-2419  
 Bonnyville ..... 780-826-3142  
 Cold Lake ..... 780-594-7876  
 Edmonton ..... 780-427-3574  
 Fort Chipewyan ..... 780-697-3511  
 \*Fort McMurray ..... 780-743-7200  
 \*Lac La Biche ..... 780-623-5247  
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 Evansburg ..... 780-727-3635  
 Fox Creek ..... 780-622-3421  
 Grande Cache ..... 780-827-3356

High River ..... 403-652-8330  
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 \*Rocky Mountain House ..... 403-845-8230  
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 \*Calgary ..... 403-297-6423  
 Camrose ..... 780-679-1225  
 Cardston ..... 403-653-5158  
 Drumheller ..... 403-823-1670  
 Foremost ..... 403-867-3826  
 Hanna ..... 403-854-5540  
 Lethbridge ..... 403-381-5266  
 Medicine Hat ..... 403-529-3680  
 Oyen ..... 403-664-3614  
 Ponoka ..... 403-783-7093  
 Provost ..... 780-753-2433  
 \*Red Deer ..... 403-340-5142  
 Stettler ..... 403-742-7510  
 Strathmore ..... 403-934-3422  
 Vegreville ..... 780-632-5410  
 Vermilion ..... 780-853-8137  
 Vulcan ..... 403-485-6971  
 Wetaskiwin ..... 780-361-1250

\*Area Office



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 hunting@telusplanet.net





## 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-guide. The two-hunter limit does not include Resident hunters.

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

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

**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 his or her 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 him or her 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 Non-resident and Non-resident Alien hunters, through an Outfitter-guide. 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 AND LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Active Network manages the sale of all recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta. Licences are sold through private licence issuers or online at [Albertarelm.com](http://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 you will need:

- Access to a computer and printer with internet connections.
- An email address; free addresses are available from internet providers and services such as Hotmail and Gmail. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to print your licence.
- A valid credit card; Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover are accepted, credit card information is encrypted for added security, credit card numbers are not stored in the database. Albertarelm is protected using a secure internet service known as Digicert.
- If you are purchasing a licence that requires a tag you must obtain a paper tag. Tags are available by calling 1-888-944-5494, at Fish and Wildlife district offices and Licence Issuers.

### Licence Issuers

A list of Licence Issuers and locations can be located on [albertarelm.com](http://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 [albertarelm-support@activenetwork.com](mailto:albertarelm-support@activenetwork.com)

## REQUIREMENTS

### WIN Card

Hunters and anglers in Alberta must possess a 10-digit Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) to apply for draws, purchase wildlife certificates, licences and replacements. The cost is \$8.00 plus GST and is valid for five years; renewal fee is also \$8.00.

If purchasing at an Issuer please bring your WIN Card. 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 and applicable tags must be carried on their person while hunting. A Wildlife Certificate is not required to apply on the hunting draws.

### Licensing requirements for first-time hunters

**NOTE: Effective (2014)** 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 application form, 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 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* 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.

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- Apply for special licence draws



If you forgot your WIN or need additional help, contact the RELM help desk at 1.888.944.5494 from the hours of 6:00am to midnight, 7 days a week. \*Hunters and anglers must carry printed copies of their licences.



## Accessing Agricultural Leased Land

Before entering onto leased land, you must contact the leaseholder. Detailed maps, leaseholder contact information and access conditions for leased land are available on the Environment and Parks website: [recagpublicland.alberta.ca](http://recagpublicland.alberta.ca) or by calling 1-866-279-0023.

With penalties for recreational users ranging up to \$500, failing to follow these regulations can be costly.

Leaseholders must allow reasonable access. Access may be denied if:

- You are not on foot
- Livestock is present in a fenced pasture
- A crop has not yet been harvested
- A fire ban is in effect
- You wish to discharge a firearm or use of an explosive in an area near livestock
- You wish to camp

When on agricultural public land, please be courteous and remember to:

- Pack out all litter
- Park vehicles so they do not block access to the land
- Ask permission before lighting a fire
- Leave gates as you find them – open or closed
- Use care not to damage the land or any property

## Access to Provincial Grazing Reserves

Recreationalists are welcome on grazing reserves but are reminded that use of these areas may be restricted during certain times of the year. For information about seasonal or other restrictions on provincial grazing reserves, contact the regional grazing office or visit [recagpublicland.alberta.ca](http://recagpublicland.alberta.ca).

When visiting grazing reserves, please note:

- All motorized vehicles are required to stay on roads or trails
- Gates must be left as they are found
- Organized recreational groups require a letter of authority from the regional reserve office to use grazing reserves
- Camping is prohibited unless authorized by the regional reserve office.



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.

### ATTENTION: All Black Bear and Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Hunters

If you purchase one of these licences for the spring season, it can be used for the following fall of the same calendar year. This applies for any of the following: Wildlife Certificate, Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]), Black Bear Special Licence (Non-resident [Canadian] or Non-Resident Alien), Supplemental Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]) or a Non-Resident (Canadian)/Non-Resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence.

#### DON'T DISCARD IT!

It can be used for the following fall season.

## 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 <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm>.

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## Resident Youth Hunting Licences

Subject to the age limitations and conditions above, a resident 12 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 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.

## 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. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) for more information or online at [mywildalberta.com](http://mywildalberta.com).

## Mandatory Suspended Hunter Testing

A person whose right to hold a recreational hunting licence has been suspended in Alberta as a result of a conviction is required to pass a hunter-competency test before obtaining another recreational hunting licence. This test, which differs from the test given to first-time hunters, must be taken after the beginning of the suspension period. Mandatory hunter testing is intended to increase outdoor safety, awareness, skills and efficiency and to develop responsible attitudes in the field. Dates and times for testing are available at Fish and Wildlife offices (page 13).

## Draws for Special Licences

When demand for hunting opportunities becomes excessive, 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 antlered mule deer draw areas is to develop a more balanced age structure in the herd by controlling the kill of bucks), 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.

**Draw Application Deadline Dates** — Hunters interested in special licence hunts for fall 2017 must have applied by June 22. Refer to the *2017 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for more information on draws.

Hunters interested in the draw seasons for 2018 should obtain the *2018 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet and apply during the month of June 2018. Copies are available at licence issuers, your local Fish and Wildlife office or online at [mywildalberta.com](http://mywildalberta.com) or [albertaregulations.ca](http://albertaregulations.ca).

**Draw Results** — Beginning July 12, draw results are available online at [albertarelm.com](http://albertarelm.com). Written notification of your draw results are sent in the mail to applicants who do not have an email address. Results for antelope and goat draws are available August 8.

## 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 *2017 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

## Partner Licence

The following Partner Licences are available:

1. A resident holder of an **Antlerless Moose** Special Licence or a **Bison** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible resident hunter (adult or youth) to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence, or a Special Bison Partner Licence.
2. A resident holder of an **Antlered Moose** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible hunter, either a resident (adult or youth) or a non-resident (Canadian) (adult or youth), 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 or youth) 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) 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](http://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.

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## 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-guide. They may hunt game birds without an Outfitter-guide, a guide or Hunter Host. However, those who do choose to hire an outfitter-guide for such a hunt must do so through the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit.

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) he or she may contract the holder of a valid Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit, be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide, and hunt under the authority of a licence allocated to an outfitter-guide (for information on outfitter-guides, contact the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society at apos.ab.ca), **OR**
- 2) he or she 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 22 and 23.
  - 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 his or her intended Hunter Host must apply at a Fish and Wildlife office for their licences and make a statutory declaration that he or she understands the terms and conditions of the licences (see Hunter Host Licence on this page).
  - 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, if not related, must initiate an application at a Fish and Wildlife office for their licences, described above, by **August 31** of the licence year, or by the following **February 28** for the spring black bear hunt.
    - » 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 he or she hosted. A report must be submitted even if the hunter doesn't harvest an animal.**
- must accompany the hunter(s) named on his or her 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](http://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](http://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. Go to a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 13) in person and initiate an application (including statutory declaration). Sign it and have your signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien is not a relative, you must start this process by August 31 or February 28 as described above.
2. Have the Non-resident Alien sign the application and have his or her signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien does not have a WIN, have him fill out a WIN application at the same time.
3. Take the completed application to a Fish and Wildlife office. The application will be reviewed for final approval and keyed into the automated licensing system.
4. When you are notified that your application is approved, go online at [albertarelm.com](http://albertarelm.com) or to any licence issuer and purchase your Hunter Host Licence and the appropriate Wildlife Certificate and licences.



**JANUARY 26-28, 2018**





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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 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 (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter	
White-tailed Deer	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 2 licences.	A Resident Adult or Youth may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 25, but not more than 1 licence from this list for any one species.	
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	39.95			
Youth White-tailed Deer <sup>6</sup>	8.25	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of the last 3 licences.		
Special Antlered White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Mule Deer	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 2 licences.		
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	39.95			
Youth Mule Deer <sup>6</sup>	8.25	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of the last 3 licences.		
Special Antlered Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Elk	39.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences.		
WMU 300 Elk Special Licence	39.95			
Either Sex Elk Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 10 licences.		
Cypress Hills Elk Archery <sup>1</sup>	39.95			
Antlerless Elk Special Licence	39.95			
Antlered Elk Special Licence	39.95			
Special WMU 300 Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special Either Sex Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special Antlered Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Moose (Archery)	44.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences.		
Antlerless Moose Special Licence	44.95			
Antlered Moose Special Licence	44.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 7 licences.		
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)	12.00			
Trophy Sheep	59.95			A Resident who killed a sheep, except a legal non-trophy sheep, in 2016 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Licence in 2017.
WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences.		
WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 11 licences.		
WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	59.95			
Special WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			
Special WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00			

continued on page 20

Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence	29.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Resident Adult may obtain 1 of each of these 15 licences (excluding the Youth licences).
Special Non-trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence	18.70	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Resident Youth may obtain 15 different licences from this list of 22, but not more than 1 licence from this list for any one species.
Special Antlerless White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer <sup>2</sup>	19.15		
Strathcona White-tailed Deer <sup>8</sup>	18.70		
Foothills Deer <sup>3</sup>	18.70		
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (issued to a youth)	21.20 (8.25)	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Antlerless Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 248)	10.70		
Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Camp Wainwright Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery	18.95		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence	39.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Black Bear	20.65		
Supplemental Black Bear <sup>4</sup>	20.65		
Cougar	20.31		
Goat Special Licence <sup>5</sup>	59.95	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Goat Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Bison Special Licence	59.95	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Bison Partner Licence	12.00		
Antelope Archery Special Licence	59.95	None	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 3 licences.
Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence	29.95		
Trophy Antelope Special Licence	59.95		A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 6 licences.
Special Antelope Archery Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Non-trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	9.20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hunter Host Licence	27.00		
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint <sup>7</sup>	2.00		
Replacement WIN Card	4.00		

<sup>1</sup> This licence is only valid during the Cypress Hills Elk Archery Licence season, Sept. 1 - Oct. 15; WMU 116, 118 and 119.

<sup>2</sup> 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: 310-314, 322, 324, 330, 332, 336-349, 351, 354, 356, 357, 360, 436-439, 505, 507-510, 523, 526, 527, 535 and 537. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 350, 352, 353, 355, 440-446, 511, 512, 515-521, 524, 525, 528-531, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542 and 544.

<sup>3</sup> When hunting under the authority of this licence, valid in WMU 212 only, hunters must carry written permission to hunt from a landowner involved.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> As of 2002, drawn applicants cannot reapply in future years (once-in-a-lifetime opportunity).

<sup>6</sup> These licences are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the special licences obtained through a draw.

**Special Licences (listed above) are available only through draws which occurred in June of this year.**

**Please refer to the 2018 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet in June 2018 for information on how to apply in these draws next year.**

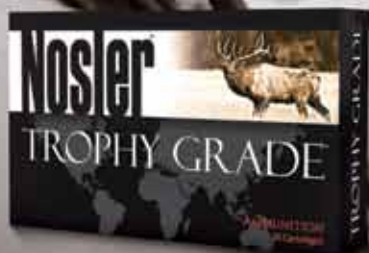


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- <sup>7</sup> You are required to bring your licence to a Fish and Wildlife district office and complete a statutory declaration to authorize the tag replacement. You must then have your licence reprinted with the new tag number(s). Licences can be reprinted at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- <sup>8</sup> See **Additional hunting opportunities** in the Parkland WMUs on page 47 for more information.

## 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 *2017 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet which was made available in June 2017.

**Non-residents contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter-guide** may obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-residents using the services of an outfitter-guide 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-guide. Some are also available through the draw system.

Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	132.24	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 9, but not more than 1 licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	132.24		
Antlered Mule Deer	132.24	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	132.24		
Antlered Elk	154.66	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	154.66		
Antlered Moose (Archery)	164.60	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	164.60		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	44.00		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence <sup>1,2</sup>	366.45	A Non-resident who killed a sheep in 2016 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2017.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 3.
Wolf/Coyote	12.40	See page 58 for dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	213.10	None	
Black Bear Licence	83.90	A Non-resident accompanied by a Hunter Host may obtain both of these licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 2. However, Non-residents purchasing 1 of these two licences may not purchase a Black Bear Special Licence.
Supplemental Black Bear Licence <sup>4</sup>	83.90		
Black Bear Special Licence <sup>5</sup>	83.90	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	Non-residents purchasing this licence may not purchase a Black Bear Licence or a Supplemental Black Bear Licence.
Cougar	135.31	Non-residents hunting with a Hunter Host.	1 licence only from this list of 2.
Cougar Special Licence	135.31	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	16.45	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint <sup>6</sup>	2.00		
Tag Replacement <sup>7</sup>	0.00		
Replacement WIN card	4.00		

Footnotes on next page

*Footnotes on next page*



- <sup>1</sup> These licences are available through the draw system or through an outfitter-guide. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 22) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 18).
- <sup>2</sup> Non-resident Trophy Sheep Special Licences are available through Class S Outfitter-guides 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.
- <sup>3</sup> Non-resident Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available through an outfitter-guide 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).
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> These licences are valid for 2 black bears if the Outfitter-Guide's allocation is valid for a WMU where the Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid (i.e., 2-bear areas).
- <sup>6</sup> All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- <sup>7</sup> You are required to bring your licence to a Fish and Wildlife district office and complete a statutory declaration to authorize the tag replacement. You must then have your licence reprinted with the new tag number(s). Licences can be reprinted at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.

## 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](http://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-guide** must obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-resident Aliens using the services of an outfitter-guide 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 (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	203.84 <sup>1</sup>	None	A Non-resident Alien may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 9.
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	203.84 <sup>1</sup>		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	291.43 <sup>1</sup>		
Antlered Moose Special Licence	310.30 <sup>1</sup>		
Black Bear Special Licence <sup>2</sup>	105.02 <sup>1</sup>		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	366.45 <sup>1</sup>	A Non-resident Alien who killed a sheep in 2016 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2017.	
Cougar Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	254.97 <sup>1</sup>	None	
Wolf/Coyote Licence	12.40 <sup>1</sup>	See page 58 for wolf and coyote season dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	253.02 <sup>1</sup>	None	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	23.20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint <sup>4</sup>	2.00		
Tag Replacement <sup>5</sup>	0.00		

- <sup>1</sup> If purchased through an outfitter-guide or the Alberta Professional Outfitter Society, an additional service fee is charged.
- <sup>2</sup> This licence is valid for 2 black bears where the Resident and Non-resident (Canadian) Supplemental Black Bear Licences are valid (2-bear areas).
- <sup>3</sup> Trophy Sheep, Cougar and Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available to Non-resident Aliens only through an outfitter-guide.
- <sup>4</sup> All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- <sup>5</sup> You are required to bring your licence to a Fish and Wildlife district office and complete a statutory declaration to authorize the tag replacement. You must then have your licence reprinted with the new tag number(s). Licences can be reprinted at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.

## 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 Merriam's Turkey Special Licence and a Game Bird Licence to hunt Merriam's turkey.

(NOTE: Merriam's 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:

- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence, and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day 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:

- an Upland Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- an Upland Game Bird and Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a 6-Day Waterfowl 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 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	46.76	Not Applicable
Upland Game Bird	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	85.50
6-Day Waterfowl <sup>4</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	83.50
3-Day Game Bird <sup>4</sup>	Not Applicable	32.84	Not Applicable
Pheasant	22.38	32.91	32.91
Merriam's Turkey Special Licence <sup>1,2</sup>	29.95	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Special Merriam's Turkey Partner Licence (Youth) <sup>1</sup>	12.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bowhunting Permit	9.20	16.45	23.20
WIN Renewal	8.00	8.00	8.00
Licence Reprint <sup>5</sup>	2.00	2.00	2.00
Tag Replacement <sup>6</sup>	0.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit <sup>3</sup>	17.00	17.00	17.00

<sup>1</sup> A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.

<sup>2</sup> Available only through a draw, page 61.

<sup>3</sup> Available at Post Offices, certain private licence issuers or ordered online at [www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/](http://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/).

<sup>4</sup> A hunter may purchase more than 1 of these licences.

<sup>5</sup> All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.

<sup>6</sup> You are required to bring your licence to a Fish and Wildlife district office and complete a statutory declaration to authorize the tag replacement. You must then have your licence reprinted with the new tag number(s). Licences can be reprinted at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.





# Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Alberta

Alberta began addressing surveillance and management of CWD in 1998. The program evolved to have three primary objectives: detect CWD in wild cervids, try to limit the spread of CWD in wild cervids, and learn about CWD in Alberta landscapes and Alberta ecosystems. In 2012 Fish and Wildlife produced a summary of the programs. The full report is available on the CWD pages of the Wildlife Diseases web site [www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/](http://www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/).



Photo: AB Fish and Wildlife

What follows is a brief overview of the surveillance program and current data.

Hunter harvest samples are the backbone of the wild cervid surveillance program, in addition to opportunistic samples associated with ongoing Fish and Wildlife activities such as responding to found dead, road-kill, and emaciated cervids. In over 60,000 heads tested, 592 cases of CWD were detected: 516 mule deer, 73 white-tails, one unknown deer, one moose, and one elk. This includes 179 cases identified in 5112 heads in 2016 (3.5%): 154 mule deer, 23 white-tails, one unknown deer, and one elk. The disease occurs predominantly in mule deer, males, and proportionately more in deer collected during disease control programs conducted 2005-2008. Using weighted surveillance measures based on patterns in the Alberta data, prevalence in hunter samples is increasing over time with the overall prevalence in mule deer reaching 5.4% in 2016 (up from 2.0% in 2013).

Overall proportion of infected wild cervids remains low; however, as an indication of change over time, in 2011 prevalence in mule deer males in infected WMUs ranged 3-6%; in 2016 the average prevalence in 22 infected WMUs was 10.4%, ranging up to 24.2%.

Highlights of analyses to date include the following. Risk models reveal increased geographic spread, largely in relation to riparian areas and proximity to previous cases. The Battle and Red Deer/South Saskatchewan watersheds are at the highest risk of CWD occurrence (altho CWD now also occurs in N. Saskatchewan, Bow, and Milk river drainages). Mandatory designation significantly increases the number of heads submitted. Approximately 50% of the At Risk WMUs met the criteria for sufficient surveillance for detecting CWD prior to the first report of the disease in that unit. These units were on the immediate periphery of units with previous cases. The results imply that CWD spread into these WMUs.

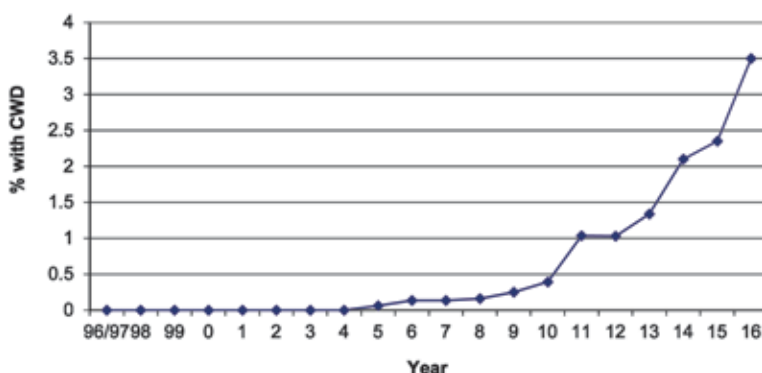
In 2016/17 CWD was detected in an elk in WMU 732 (CFB Suffield) and a white-tailed deer in WMU 250 (nw of Ft Saskatchewan). The finding in CFB Suffield was expected as CWD is well established in local deer populations outside the military base; however, the finding in WMU 250 along the N Saskatchewan River appears to be an outlier.

Many wildlife managers and stakeholders across North America agree that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the most significant disease concern facing big game populations across the continent. It destroys the brain and results in premature death of all infected deer. Long-term monitoring of local deer populations in established disease areas indicates infected populations slowly shift towards younger deer, lower productivity, and fewer trophy males. The declines are attributed directly to the effects of CWD as the disease becomes more established. In Saskatchewan CWD is the single greatest cause of death in adult deer in an infected local population along the South Saskatchewan River.

The patterns of disease are consistent within the CWD risk areas (=mandatory WMUs); however, ongoing surveillance improves our ability to track the occurrence and extent of the disease. With better information big game managers can more fully understand the potential effects of the disease, and hunters concerned about CWD can make fully informed decisions about their hunt.

yr	1996/97	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
yr #	96/97	98	99	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
# tested	75	186	185	385	800	1059	1231	1302	1660	2965	5170	4347	4817	5091	3194	3402	3667	4163	4929	5112
# positive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	7	7	12	20	33	35	49	86	116	179
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.25	0.39	1.03	1.03	1.34	2.1	2.35	3.5

% CWD in hunter surveillance since 1996/97

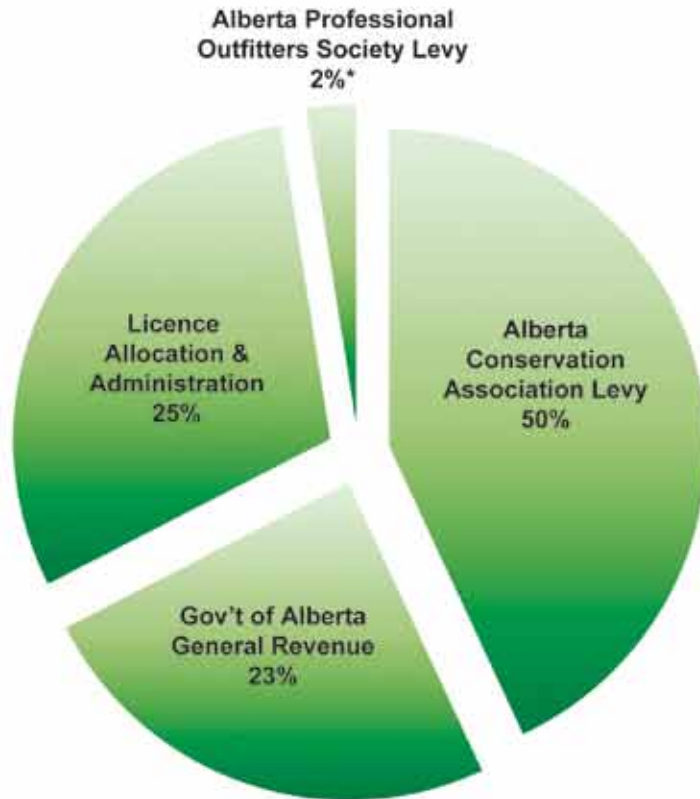


Note that while there was a case of CWD in a road-kill moose near Medicine Hat in 2012, this is considered spillover from infected deer in the area. Thus deer remain the best surveillance sample to indicate disease occurrence. However, as always, the program will test the head of any cervid harvested 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. For more information about CWD contact your local Fish and Wildlife Office or visit: [www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/](http://www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/)

# 2016/17 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT



## Where did your 2016/17 Hunting Licence Dollars go?

- A total of \$18M in revenue was collected from the sale of hunting licences, hunting draw applications and WiN cards.
- Over 47% of hunting licence revenue goes directly to the Alberta Conservation Association levy in support of programming (For more information please visit [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com)).
- Licence allocation and administration fees accounted for just over 25% and provides compensation to licence issuers, pays for licensing services including the annual hunter harvest & effort survey delivered through AlbertaRelm.com
- \*The Alberta Professional Outfitter Society levies are applied solely to non-resident alien licences.

For more information, visit [mywildalberta.com/BuyLicences/AnnualStatistics](http://mywildalberta.com/BuyLicences/AnnualStatistics)

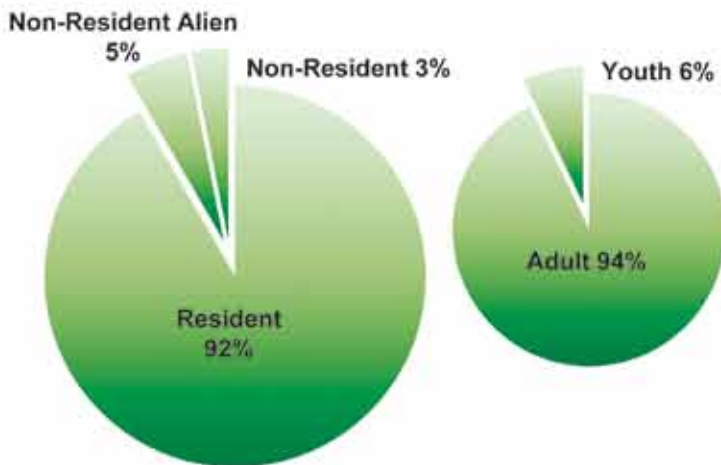
## Alberta Big Game Hunters

- Over 118,000 big game hunters in Alberta.
- 18% purchased Bowhunting Permits.



## Alberta Hunters

- 137,500 hunters hunted in Alberta in 2016.
- 10% of Alberta hunters are women.



## Hunter Hosts in Alberta in 2016

- In 2016, over 2,500 Albertans hosted over 3,000 friends and family to hunt with them in Alberta.
- 90% of hunters hosted were Canadian while 10% were from outside of Canada.

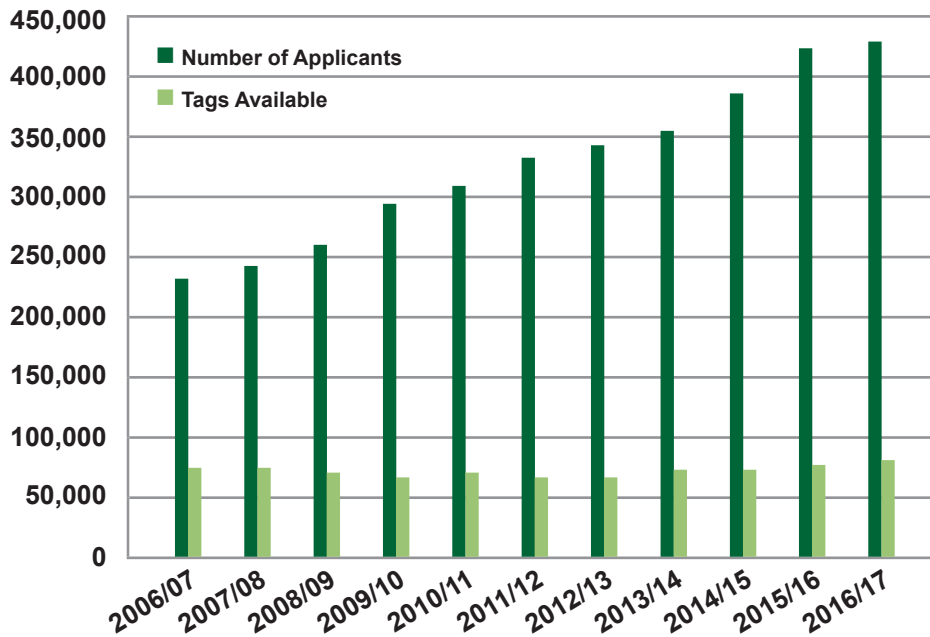
## Youth Hunters in Alberta in 2016

- 8,350 Youth Wildlife Certificates were sold in 2016. A Youth Wildlife Certificate costs \$8.30 and includes a Game Bird Licence.
- 7,000 Youth White-tailed deer and 1,750 Youth Mule Deer Special Licences were sold in 2016 at a very reasonable fee of \$8.25.
- Did you know that you can legally share almost any big game Special Licence opportunity with a youth hunter using the Youth Partner Licence for only \$12.00. In 2016, 128 youth hunters took advantage of this mentorship opportunity allowing them to hunt elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and Merriam's turkey.





# 2016/17 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT



## Alberta Waterfowl Harvest

- Over 350,000 waterfowl were harvested in Alberta.



## Hunter Activity and Harvest Reports

- 32% of Special Licence holders and 26% of General Licence holders completed over 85,000 harvest and effort surveys in 2016.
- Hunter harvest and effort information has been collected every year for over 20 years and is used to assist wildlife managers in making allocation decisions.
- Since 2014, hunters who participate in the survey are given a chance to win a Special Licence opportunity of their choice for either an elk, moose, mule deer or antelope.
- For 2017, submission of hunter harvest information will be more convenient than ever before, allowing hunters to report harvest and effort in real-time at AlbertaRelm.com.
- Please visit mywildalberta.ca to see 2016 survey results.

## Alberta Special Licence Draws

- 104,800 hunters made over 435,000 draw applications with over 85% of applications being made online at AlbertaRelm.com
- Compared to last year, 7% fewer hunters participated; however, each hunter applied on more draws averaging 4.2 applications per hunter.

## ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

### New for the 2017 Hunting Season

- Enforcement Officers have a new tool designed to assist hunter/angler licensing compliance.
- Officers are able to quickly scan a hunter's licences and tags to ensure that they are valid.



In 2016, 14,913 hunters were checked by officers resulting in 998 hunting related enforcement actions.

The top 5 offenses were:

1. Loaded firearm on vehicle/aircraft/boat
2. Fail to carry a licence while hunting
3. Hunting without a licence
4. Possession of a weapon in a wildlife sanctuary/corridor
5. Unlawful possession of wildlife

Source: Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, Justice and Solicitor General.



*Alberta*  
Government

## 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 or obtain recreational licences in Alberta if:**
    - i) **your hunting privileges are under a licence suspension/cancellation in Alberta (or elsewhere) or**
    - ii) **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.
2. harass, injure or kill any wildlife with a vehicle, aircraft or boat.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across:
  - a) a provincial highway (this designation applies to all former primary and secondary highways),
  - b) 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.
10. hunt any wildlife while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
11. hunt any wildlife **or discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. (See sunrise/sunset table on page 48).
12. 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*.
13. 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).
14. possess a firearm of a calibre larger than .22 in a helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
15. 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.
16. disturb traps, sets or trapping cabins.

## Big Game

It is unlawful to

1. 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),
  - an arrow other than an authorized arrow (page 42),
  - a bow other than an authorized bow (page 42),
  - a muzzle-loading firearm of less than .44 calibre,
  - a rifle or shotgun in WMUs 212, 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).
2. discharge a **weapon** at a big game animal while it is swimming.
  3. 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.
  4. be accompanied by a dog while hunting big game or allow a dog to pursue big game except when hunting cougar under the authority of a Cougar Licence, from December 1 to the last day of February (the winter season).
  5. 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*.
  6. 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*.
  7. 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.
  8. 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 grizzly bear and cougar, the evidence of sex must remain attached and be retained until the animal has been registered (page 44).
  9. remove the tag from the carcass of a big game animal until authorized (as outlined on page 41).
  10. 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.
  11. transport big game hunters, except those requiring medical aid, or big game by helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
  12. 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.
  13. hunt big game within 6 hours of having disembarked from an aircraft, except for a jet or turbo-propeller driven aircraft.

14. hunt big game on Sundays:
  - in WMUs 102 – 160,
  - in WMUs 624, 728, 730 and 936.

15. 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 attached to the carcass of the game bird, except for Merriam's turkey for which evidence of sex and species consists of the complete head and beard attached to the carcass (see page 61 for tagging instructions for Merriam's 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 Merriam's 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 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 migratory game birds belonging to others unless the carcasses are affixed with a tag 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 Merriam's 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 Merriam's turkey until authorized (page 61).

## 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:

1. 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 export occurs within 30 days of the date the animal was killed or within 5 days of the close of the season, whichever occurs first, and
  - 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.
2. 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 outfitter-guides 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: <http://www.fws.gov/le/>

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

Persons exporting cougar, grizzly bear, wood bison 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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All Season Cycle – Brooks .....	403-362-8100
Adventure Honda – Calgary .....	403-277-0099
Rocky Mountain Honda Powerhouse – Calgary .....	403-230-7777
Camrose Motorsports – Camrose .....	780-672-4095
Riders Connection – Cold Lake .....	780-594-7433
Honda Extreme – Edmonton .....	780-435-0742
Scona Cycle and Sports – Edmonton .....	780-432-0858
Edson Honda – Edson .....	780-723-6601
Cycle West Ltd. – Fairview .....	780-835-4202
Grande Prairie Powersports – Grande Prairie .....	780-532-8010
High Level Honda – High Level .....	780-926-2291
The Honda Shop – High Prairie .....	780-523-3904
Lac La Biche Sporting Goods Ltd. – Lac La Biche .....	780-623-4145
Lethbridge Honda Centre Ltd. – Lethbridge .....	403-327-2777
Lloydminster Honda Powerhouse – Lloydminster .....	780-875-8355

Medicine Hat Moto-Sports – Medicine Hat .....	403-527-5116
Trackside Sales & Service Ltd. – Olds .....	403-556-6588
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Turtle Bros Ltd. – Red Deer.....	403-346-5238
Glenn's Sports Line – Rocky Mountain House .....	403-845-6906
Grizzly Ridge Honda – Slave Lake .....	780-849-3514
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# 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.

**NOTE: Important changes to the *Petty Trespass Act* took effect in 2004. See this page.**

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 16.**

For more information, please contact your local Alberta Environment and Parks office by dialing 310-0000 or visit [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca)

## 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 16) 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

■ 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. For detailed information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas contact your local Alberta Environment and Parks office or visit [albertaparks.ca](http://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	No
Provincial Recreation Areas (PRA)	No	Big game and game bird seasons in Blue Rapids, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, Fickle Lake, Lakeland, North Bruderheim, Redwater, 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 Bison Hunting Zone	On designated trails in a select number of Wildland Parks. For a complete listing visit <a href="http://www.albertaparks.ca">www.albertaparks.ca</a>
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 <a href="http://www.albertaparks.ca">www.albertaparks.ca</a>	Dependant on access conditions. For a complete listing visit <a href="http://www.albertaparks.ca">www.albertaparks.ca</a>

## 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 [www.albertaparks.ca](http://www.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 in Wildland Provincial Parks is only permitted in the Hay-Zama Wildland Park, within the Bison Hunting Zone. 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 Environment and Parks and grazing lease holders. Hunting is permitted, however entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions. For access conditions please visit [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca), 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. For more information please visit [www.albertaparks.ca](http://www.albertaparks.ca). To find access conditions for Natural Areas that are subject to a grazing lease please visit [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca). Go to Recreation and Public Use.

## 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](http://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 Environment 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](http://albertaparks.ca) or contact your local Alberta Environment and 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;
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

*continued on page 36*





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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.

### Boreal Region

11. 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;
12. 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;
13. Peace River Pulp Mill – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of (a) the portion of secondary road 986 locally known as the Peace River Pulp Road between the Peace River Pulp Mill in township 85, range 21, west of the 5th meridian easterly to its junction with the road locally known as the Peace River Pulp Resource Road in the south-east quarter of section 17, township 85, range 19, west of the 5th meridian.
- (b) 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 14, township 90, range 20, west of the 5th meridian.

### 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.

### 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.

### Other Restricted Areas

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

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- 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.

## Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep

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

- 183 m (200 yards) of the Canada Cement rock quarry at Exshaw.
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 1A between the western boundary of the Stoney 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 Queen's Printer in Edmonton (page 12).

Game bird sanctuaries are located in the following WMUs:

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

## Restricted Rivers

Hunting of migratory game birds on the following rivers, over any islands in these rivers or within 91 m (100 yards) of the edge of the waters of these rivers is prohibited until November 1:

1. Bow River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Calgary to Highway 24.
2. Little Smoky River downstream from Highway 43.
3. Peace River.
4. Red Deer River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Red Deer.
5. Smoky River downstream from the mouth of the Wapiti River.
6. South Saskatchewan River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Medicine Hat.

## Restricted Lakes

Hunting game birds on the following lakes, over any island in these lakes or within 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of the edge of the waters of these lakes is prohibited until November 1 (Note additional restrictions below for Saskatoon Lake and Ministik Lake). Efforts are made to post signs near these lakes, but not all lakes may be so identified. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the restrictions in the area he or she hunts.

### Prairie WMUs

- 160 Little Fish Lake (28-16,17-W4)
- 162 Berry Creek Reservoir (Carolside Dam) (26,27-12-W4)
- 162 Blood Indian Creek Reservoir (26-9-W4)
- 162 Birkenshire Lake (23,24-28-11-W4)
- 163 Currant Lake (33-3-W4)
- 163 Grassy Island Lake (33-3-W4)
- 163 Misty Lake (33-3-W4)
- 163 Sounding Creek Reservoir (30-5,6-W4)
- 164 Fitzgerald Lake (3,4-33-8-W4)
- 164 Kirkpatrick Lake (33,34-9,10-W4)
- 164 Rushmere Lake (33-8-W4)
- 164 Syson Lake (35-12,13-W4)
- 164 Grays Lake (28,32,33-32-7-W4)
- 164 Wiste Lake (2,11-33-7-W4)
- 164 Unnamed Lake (23 to 27-33-8-W4)
- 164 Unnamed Lake (31,32-33-8-W4)
- 164 Polly Lake (7-31-1-W4)
- 164 Willowbend Reservoir (K-B Lake) (1-31-13-W4)
- 166 Dowling Lake (31,32-14,15-W4)
- 166 Sullivan Lake (34 to 37-14,15-W4)

### Parkland WMUs

- 200 Sounding Lake (36,37-3,4-W4)
- 202 Armstrong Lake (42-10-W4)



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- 202 Unnamed Lake (8,9-38-10-W4)  
 203 Bellshill (Goose) Lake (42-11-W4)  
 206 Buffalo Lake (40,41-20,21,22-W4\*\*)  
 221 Cygnet Lake (38-1-W5 and 38-28-W4)  
 228 Driedmeat Lake (44,45-19,20-W4)  
 232 Blackburn Lake (10,11-43-10-W4)  
 234 Dolcy Lake (26,35-42-4-W4)  
 234 Gillespie Lake (39,40-2-W4)  
 234 McIntyre Lake (16,17-44-1-W4)  
 236 Kenilworth Lake (50-4-W4)  
 242 Beaverhill Lake (that portion lying in 50,51-17,18-W4 – approx. southern 1/2 of lake)  
 242 Ministik Lake\* (50-21-W4)  
 242 Oliver Lake (50-21-W4)  
 242 Lake 'A' (50,51-17-W4) adjacent to Beaverhill Lake  
 252 Whitford Lake (56-15,16-W4)

\* **Hunting of game birds in the Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.**

\*\* Hunting of upland game birds only is permitted in 9-40-21-W4.

### Foothills WMUs

- 357 Saskatoon Lake\* (including Little Lake) (71, 72-7,8-W6)  
 \* **Hunting of game birds in Saskatoon Lake Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.**

### Boreal WMUs

- 502 Stebbing Lake (63-7-W4)  
 523 Winagami Lake\* (76,77-18,19-W5)  
 523 Kimiwan Lake (78-19-W5)  
 523 Lac Magloire (79-21-W5)

\* Winagami Lake is within Winagami Lake Provincial Park. Hunting is prohibited on the lake and islands.

## 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 Environment and Parks office or visit [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca), see Recreation and Public Use Section.

### 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 Environment and Parks or visit [www.albertaparks.ca/](http://www.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: 102-166, 200-260, 300-351, 354-360, 400-446, 507, 508, 514, 521, 522, 526 and 841. 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.



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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.

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

## 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).

## 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.



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
McLean Creek Off-Highway	Permitted with conditions	406
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

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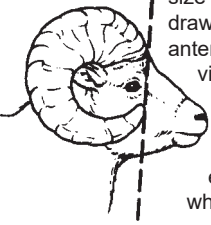
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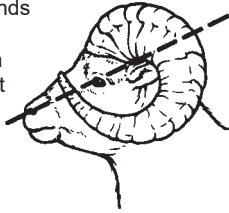
# BIG GAME REGULATIONS

## — 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.

**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.



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

### 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.

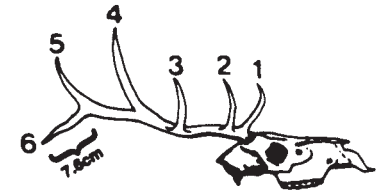


male

**THERE IS NO OPEN SEASON FOR CARIBOU.**

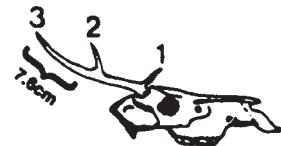


female



**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.



**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.

### GRIZZLY

Hump

There is No Season for Grizzly Bear.



Dished Face Profile

14 cm



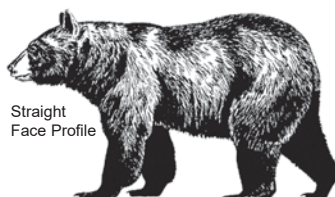
13 cm



24.5 cm

No Hump

### BLACK BEAR



Straight Face Profile

9.5 cm



9 cm



18 cm

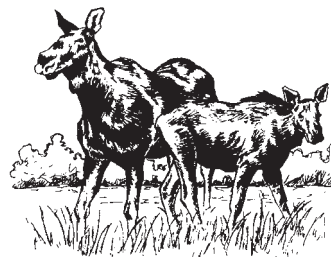
Go to [bearsmart.alberta.ca](http://bearsmart.alberta.ca) for more information on distinguishing black bears from grizzly bears.



## 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.



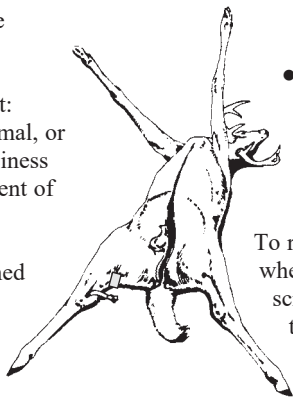
## EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

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

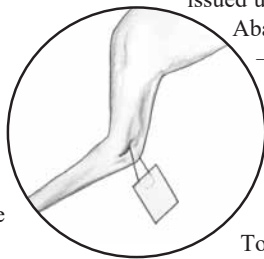
NOTE: Antlered moose, elk and deer must **NOT** be tagged around the antler base. Please review the following instructions.

**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 or non-trophy sheep** – 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*,
  - 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, and the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption.
- 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 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.

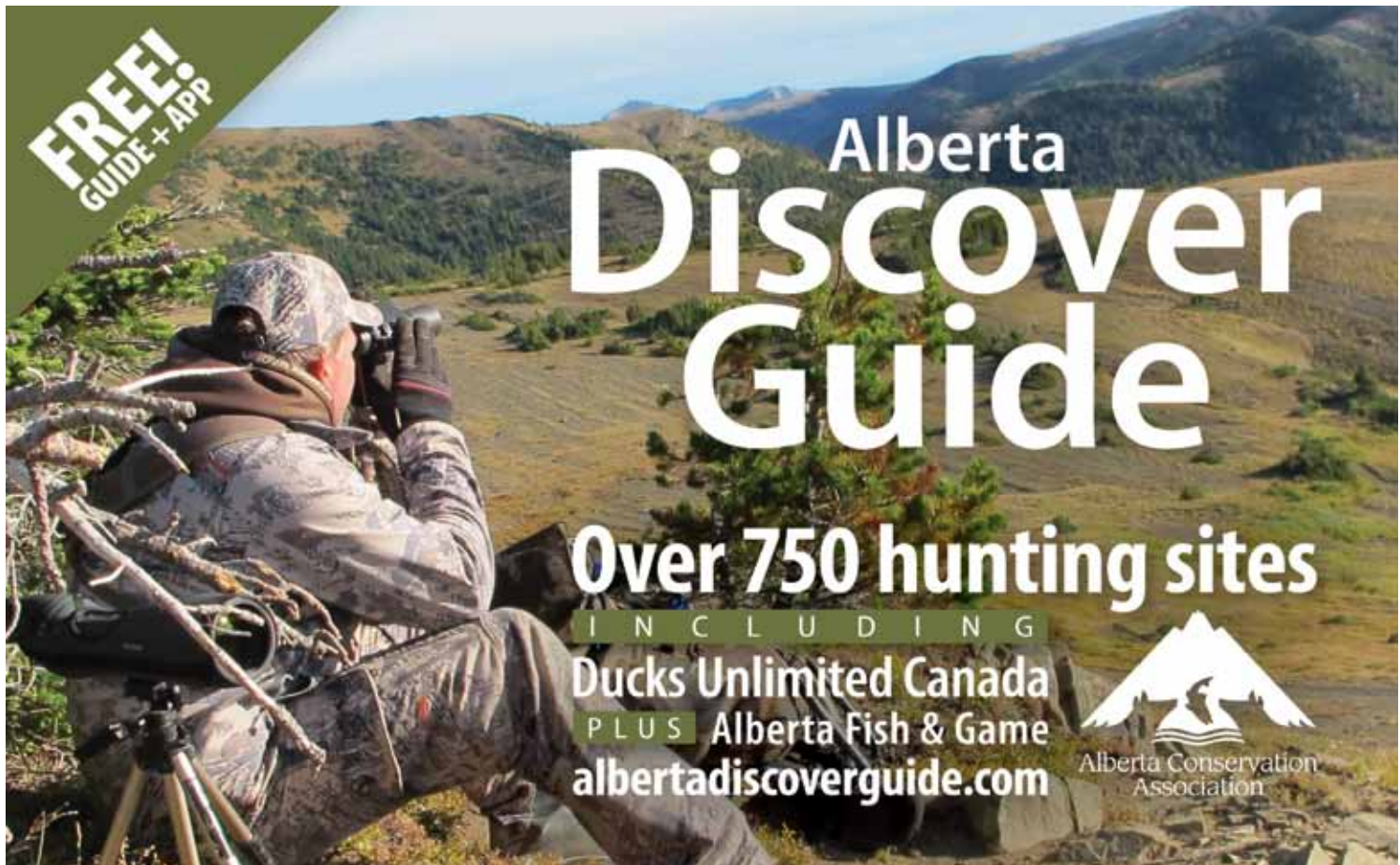


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## WILDLIFE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

After harvesting **any** of the animals listed below, a 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 must be submitted);
- Wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 to 318, 324 to 330, 339 or 400 to 434 under any authority;
- 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** – 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-guide, 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** – not later than the end of the fifth usual business day after the animal was killed.
- **Wolves taken in any of the WMUs indicated earlier in this section** – not later than 30 days after the date on which the wolf 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, bobcat and wolf are required to provide the following information:

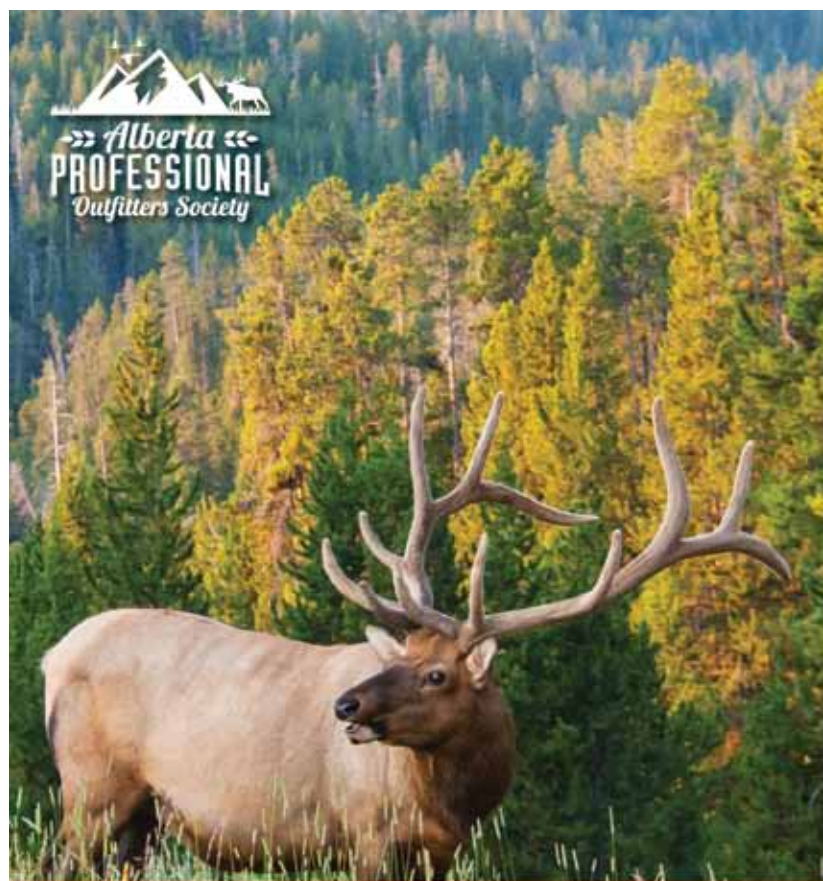
- species and sex of the animal,
- date and location of the kill.

As part of the registration process, trophy sheep horns will be fitted with a permanent identification marker. 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, 25 and 64 for details.

Summaries that include additional information on registering game animals taken under Constitutionally recognized hunting rights can be viewed at <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/fishing-hunting-trapping/aboriginal-rights-responsibilities.aspx>



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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 2017 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, 25 and 64 for details.**

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered	S1 - N1	(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 - N1	■ (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 - N1	■ (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 - N1	■ (Wed – Sat only) N1 - N4, N8 - N11 N15 - N18, N22 - N25	104, 108, 110, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 156
	Antlerless	S1 - N1	■ (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, 2018	(124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150)
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J20, 2018	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlered and Antlerless		■ N13 - N16 ■ N20 - N23 ■ N27 - N30 ■ D4 - D7 ■ J15 - J18, 2018 ■ J22 - J25, 2018 ■ J29 - F1, 2018 ■ F5 - F8, 2018	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 **2017 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for further details.
- Cypress Hills Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 elk, either antlered or antlerless, with a bow and arrow in WMUs 116, 118 and 119 during the archery season, S1 - O15.

# 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 2017 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, 25 and 64 for details.**

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	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, 248
		O17 - O31	N9 - N30	936 <sup>1</sup>
	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, 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, 248
			■ N30 - D2 <sup>2</sup> ■ D4 - D9 ■ D11 - D16	728, 730
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 <sup>1</sup>
			■ O25 - D7 <sup>3</sup>	248 (Strathcona County and Leduc County portions only)
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N30		212, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 <sup>1</sup>
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>4</sup>	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, 2018	(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
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2018	214

*Big Game Seasons in PARKLAND WMUs continued next page*



Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2018	216, 221
			■ D1 - D20 ■ J2 - J20, 2018 Mon. - Fri. only (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	212
Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.				

- <sup>1</sup> 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).
- <sup>2</sup> From D1 - D3, this season is open to hunting only by means of archery or muzzle loader.
- <sup>3</sup> This season is open to hunting only by means of archery, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun.
- <sup>4</sup> See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

#### **Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:**

- Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 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 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.
- WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 antlerless elk with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMU 212 during the archery only season, S1 – N30.
- Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence. Refer to page 58 for season dates or the *2017 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.
- 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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		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
M D T	Sept. 1	6:50	8:21	6:36	8:10	6:43	8:20	6:29	8:17	6:49	8:46	6:58	8:36	6:33	8:11
	Sept. 5	6:56	8:12	6:43	8:01	6:49	8:11	6:37	8:07	6:57	8:34	7:05	8:27	6:40	8:15
	Sept. 10	7:04	8:01	6:51	7:50	6:58	7:59	6:47	7:54	7:08	8:20	7:14	8:15	6:49	8:15
	Sept. 15	7:12	7:49	6:59	7:38	7:06	7:47	6:56	7:41	7:19	8:06	7:22	8:03	6:58	8:15
	Sept. 20	7:20	7:38	7:07	7:26	7:15	7:34	7:06	7:27	7:29	7:52	7:31	7:51	7:07	8:15
	Sept. 25	7:27	7:27	7:16	7:13	7:24	7:22	7:16	7:14	7:40	7:38	7:39	7:39	7:16	8:15
	Sept. 30	7:35	7:15	7:24	7:02	7:32	7:10	7:26	7:01	7:51	7:24	7:48	7:27	7:25	8:15
	Oct. 1	7:37	7:13	7:25	6:59	7:34	7:08	7:28	6:58	7:53	7:21	7:50	7:25	7:27	8:15
	Oct. 5	7:43	7:04	7:32	6:50	7:41	6:59	7:36	6:48	8:02	7:10	7:57	7:15	7:34	8:15
	Oct. 10	7:52	6:53	7:41	6:39	7:50	6:47	7:46	6:35	8:13	6:56	8:06	7:03	7:43	8:15
	Oct. 15	8:00	6:43	7:49	6:28	7:59	6:36	7:56	6:22	8:24	6:42	8:15	6:52	7:53	8:15
	Oct. 20	8:08	6:32	7:58	6:18	8:08	6:25	8:06	6:10	8:35	6:29	8:24	6:41	8:02	8:15
	Oct. 25	8:17	6:23	8:07	6:07	8:17	6:14	8:17	5:58	8:47	6:16	8:33	6:30	8:12	8:15
	Oct. 30	8:26	6:13	8:16	5:58	8:27	6:04	8:28	5:47	8:59	6:04	8:42	6:20	8:22	8:15
M S T	Nov. 1	8:29	6:10	8:20	5:54	8:30	6:00	8:32	5:43	9:03	5:59	8:46	6:16	8:25	8:15
	Nov. 5	8:36	6:03	8:27	5:47	8:32	5:59	8:40	5:34	9:13	5:50	8:54	6:09	8:33	8:15
	Nov. 10	7:45	4:55	7:36	4:39	7:47	4:44	7:51	4:24	8:24	4:39	8:03	5:00	7:43	8:15
	Nov. 15	7:53	4:48	7:45	4:32	7:57	4:36	8:01	4:15	8:36	4:29	8:12	4:53	7:53	8:15
	Nov. 20	8:01	4:42	7:53	4:26	8:05	4:30	8:12	4:07	8:47	4:20	8:21	4:46	8:02	8:15
	Nov. 25	8:09	4:37	8:01	4:21	8:14	4:24	8:21	4:01	8:57	4:13	8:29	4:40	8:11	8:15
	Nov. 30	8:16	4:33	8:09	4:17	8:22	4:20	8:30	3:55	9:07	4:07	8:37	4:36	8:19	8:15
	Dec. 1	8:18	4:33	8:10	4:16	8:23	4:19	8:32	3:55	9:09	4:05	8:39	4:35	8:20	8:15
	Dec. 5	8:23	4:31	8:16	4:15	8:29	4:17	8:38	3:52	9:15	4:02	8:44	4:33	8:26	8:15
	Dec. 10	8:29	4:29	8:21	4:14	8:35	4:15	8:44	3:49	9:23	3:59	8:50	4:31	8:32	8:15
	Dec. 15	8:33	4:30	8:26	4:14	8:39	4:15	8:50	3:49	9:28	3:58	8:55	4:31	8:37	8:15
	Dec. 20	8:36	4:31	8:30	4:16	8:43	4:17	8:53	3:50	9:32	4:00	8:59	4:33	8:41	8:15
	Dec. 25	8:39	4:34	8:32	4:19	8:45	4:20	8:55	3:53	9:34	4:03	9:01	4:36	8:43	8:15
	Dec. 30	8:39	4:38	8:32	4:24	8:46	4:24	8:56	3:58	9:34	4:08	9:02	4:40	8:43	8:15
	Jan. 1	8:39	4:40	8:34	4:23	8:45	4:26	8:55	4:01	9:33	4:10	9:01	4:42	8:43	8:15
	Jan. 5	8:38	4:45	8:31	4:28	8:44	4:31	8:53	4:06	9:31	4:16	9:00	4:47	8:42	8:15
	Jan. 10	8:36	4:52	8:29	4:35	8:42	4:38	8:50	4:14	9:27	4:25	8:58	4:54	8:39	8:15
	Jan. 15	8:33	4:59	8:25	4:43	8:37	4:46	8:45	4:23	9:21	4:35	8:53	5:02	8:34	8:15
	Jan. 20	8:28	5:07	8:20	4:51	8:32	4:55	8:38	4:32	9:14	4:45	8:48	5:11	8:29	8:15
	Jan. 25	8:22	5:15	8:14	5:00	8:26	5:04	8:31	4:43	9:05	4:56	8:42	5:20	8:22	8:15
	Jan. 30	8:15	5:24	8:07	5:09	8:18	5:13	8:22	4:53	8:55	5:08	8:34	5:29	8:14	8:15
	Feb. 1	8:12	5:28	8:04	5:12	8:15	5:17	8:18	4:58	8:51	5:13	8:31	5:33	8:11	8:15
	Feb. 5	8:06	5:35	7:57	5:20	8:08	5:25	8:10	5:06	8:42	5:22	8:24	5:41	8:03	8:15
	Feb. 10	7:57	5:44	7:48	5:29	7:59	5:34	8:00	5:17	8:31	5:34	8:15	5:50	7:54	8:15
	Feb. 15	7:48	5:53	7:39	5:38	7:49	5:44	7:49	5:28	8:19	5:46	8:05	6:00	7:43	8:15
	Feb. 20	7:39	6:02	7:28	5:48	7:38	5:54	7:37	5:39	8:06	5:58	7:54	6:10	7:33	8:15
	Feb. 25	7:28	6:10	7:18	5:57	7:28	6:03	7:25	5:50	7:53	6:10	7:44	6:19	7:21	8:15

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# SUNSET TABLE

Biche	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Peace River	Red Deer	Whitcourt
Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Set
8:14	6:45	8:10	6:35	8:03	6:53
8:04	6:51	8:01	6:41	7:55	7:01
7:52	6:58	7:51	6:49	7:44	7:11
7:39	7:05	7:40	6:56	7:33	7:20
7:27	7:12	7:30	7:04	7:22	7:30
7:14	7:19	7:19	7:11	7:11	7:40
7:02	7:27	7:08	7:19	7:00	7:50
7:00	7:28	7:06	7:21	6:58	7:52
6:50	7:34	6:58	7:27	6:49	8:00
6:38	7:42	6:48	7:35	6:38	8:10
6:26	7:49	6:38	7:42	6:28	8:20
6:15	7:57	6:28	7:51	6:18	8:31
6:04	8:05	6:19	7:59	6:09	8:41
5:53	8:13	6:10	8:07	6:00	8:52
5:49	8:16	6:07	8:10	5:56	8:56
5:41	8:22	6:00	8:17	5:50	9:04
4:32	7:30	4:53	7:25	4:42	8:15
4:24	7:38	4:47	7:34	4:35	8:26
4:17	7:46	4:41	7:41	4:30	8:36
4:11	7:53	4:37	7:49	4:25	8:45
4:07	8:00	4:34	7:56	4:21	8:54
4:06	8:01	4:33	7:57	4:21	8:56
4:03	8:06	4:31	8:02	4:19	9:02
4:02	8:11	4:31	8:08	4:18	9:08
4:02	8:16	4:31	8:12	4:18	9:14
4:03	8:19	4:33	8:16	4:20	9:17
4:06	8:21	4:36	8:18	4:23	9:19
4:11	8:22	4:40	8:19	4:27	9:20
4:13	8:22	4:41	8:19	4:29	9:19
4:18	8:22	4:46	8:18	4:23	9:17
4:25	8:20	4:52	8:16	4:40	9:14
4:33	8:17	4:59	8:12	4:47	9:09
4:42	8:12	5:06	8:08	4:55	9:02
4:52	8:07	5:14	8:03	5:03	8:55
5:01	8:01	5:22	7:56	5:11	8:46
5:05	7:58	5:26	7:53	5:15	8:42
5:13	7:52	5:32	7:47	5:21	8:34
5:24	7:45	5:41	7:39	5:30	8:24
5:34	7:36	5:49	7:30	5:39	8:13
5:44	7:27	6:57	7:21	5:47	8:01
5:54	7:18	6:05	7:11	5:56	7:49
					6:14
					7:26
					6:05
					7:37
					6:10

These times apply only to the specific location and specific day (not numerous days).

If hunting in between two listed communities, hunters can calculate what time would apply in their location.

To establish specific times for sunrise/sunset, refer to the National Research Council Canada (<http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/sunrise/advanced.html>)

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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 2017 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 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	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 360
	Antlered	A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	358, 359
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N7	358, 359
		A25 - S23	N1 - N30	316
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 334, 336, 348
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	352, 353, 355
		A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 354, 356
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	338
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 337
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	357, 359, 360
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 337
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	358
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337
	Antlered	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	338, 348
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 308
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330
	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) <sup>2</sup>	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O24	O25 - N30	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 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, 2018	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, 2018	312, 314
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2018	346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2018	320, 322
			■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2018	337, 338*, 348
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20	353, 354, 355, 356
Trophy Sheep <sup>3</sup>	Resident		S6 - O31	302 <sup>4</sup> , 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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: 310-314, 322, 324, 330, 332, 336-349, 351, 354, 356, 357 and 360.

Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 350, 352, 353 and 355.

<sup>2</sup> See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.


<sup>3</sup> Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 37.

<sup>4</sup> WMU 302 is open only for full-curl rams.



**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 *2017 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 2017 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	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, 429, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	N1 - N15	400, 402
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S6 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S6 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 432, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 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) <sup>2</sup> and Antlerless	S6 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
	Antlered (6-point or larger) <sup>2</sup>	■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 428, 430
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 426, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>2</sup>	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	429
		S1 - S16	S17 - N30	400, 402
Goat	Not Applicable		■ S10 - O31	440, 442, 444
			■ S17 - O31	400, 402



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

<sup>1</sup> 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: 436-439.

Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 440-446.

<sup>2</sup> See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

<sup>3</sup> The season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion south of the Beaverdam Road.

<sup>4</sup> The draw season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion north of the Beaverdam Road.

<sup>5</sup> Hunting of sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for trophy and non-trophy sheep on page 37.

<sup>6</sup> WMU 400 is open only for full-curl rams.

<sup>7</sup> These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained Trophy Sheep Special Licences through a Class S Outfitter-guide or through a draw (Non-resident [Canadians] only).

<sup>8</sup> The draw season for trophy sheep is valid in Area 438C (See *2017 Alberta Hunting Draws Booklet*).

#### 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 *2017 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: <https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/6493998/2017-castle-permit-to-discharge-a-firearm.pdf> For more information call: 403-627-1165 or <http://www.albertaparks.ca/hunting>



## 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 2017 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

**Bison** – In the area west of highway 35 and north of the Chinchaga River and the Keg River Metis Settlement, bison is a protected species. No one is allowed to hunt bison in this area, except under the authority of a Bison Special Licence.

**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, 25 and 64 for details.**

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	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, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	522
			S17 - N30	841
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N7	522
			N1 - N30	841
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	500, 501, 503, 505, 507, 508
		A25 - A31	S1 - N30	512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 541, 542
	Antlered	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
			■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	841
	Antlered	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 <sup>2</sup>	531, 532, 534, 539, 540
	Antlerless (calf only)	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	505, 510
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
Elk	Antlered (6-point or larger) <sup>3</sup>	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	509
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>3</sup>	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 510, 511, 514
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	520, 521, 522, 523, 525, 526, 527, 528, 535, 537, 544



Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2018	520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 537, 544
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	504, 506, 509
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2018	500, 501, 502, 505, 507, 508, 510, 511, 514
Cougar and Black Bear Seasons – See pages 55 and 56.				

- 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: 505, 507-510, 523, 526, 527, 535 and 537.  
Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 511, 512, 515-521, 524, 525, 528-531, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542 and 544.
- If hunting with an Outfitter-Guide, hunters should note these WMUs are split into two seasons: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.
- See page 40 for description of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

## 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](http://mywildalberta.com).

#### Radio Collared Cougars

Cougars are being radio collared in parts

of Alberta to better inform population management. It is legal to shoot a radio collared cougar. If you harvest a collared cougar, please return the collar to a local Fish and Wildlife office (page 13). If you have the opportunity to shoot a collared cougar and choose not to, please record the location and phone Paul Frame at (780) 422-8411 with this information, which will be important for the study.

### 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	Sep. 1 – Dec. 31		212, 248
	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30		410
		Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	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
		Sept. 17 – Nov. 30	420-446
Winter	Dec. 1, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018		410
		Dec. 1, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018	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 [www.mywildalberta.com](http://www.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-guide 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.

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.

Type	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery Only	General	
Fall 2017	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. 1 – Nov. 30	404, 406, 408
Spring 2018 (Requires a new year licence)	Apr. 1 – May 31		212, 410
		Apr. 1 – May 15	404, 406, 408, 841
		Apr. 1 – May 31	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, 348, 400, 402, 429, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		Apr. 1 – June 15	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 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



## VOLUNTARY BLACK BEAR TOOTH SUBMISSION PROGRAM

The department has initiated a 3-year pilot voluntary black bear tooth collection program in two parts of the province. Data generated from laboratory tooth analysis will allow biologists to determine black bear age structure, reproductive statistics, and better inform black bear management. Laboratory aging of an animal is based on the cementum annuli growth in the tooth.

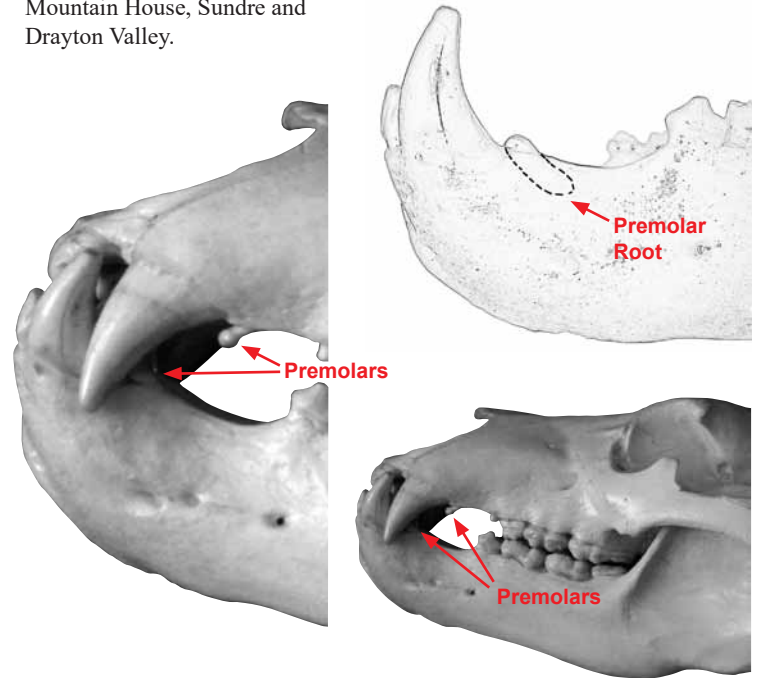
Fish and Wildlife are asking successful hunters to take the skull to an identified Fish and Wildlife office where staff will extract a premolar tooth. The premolar tooth is a small peg-like tooth located just behind the canines. Skulls submitted in a frozen state will be kept for a period of time to allow for thaw and extraction, whereupon the skull will be frozen and returned to the hunter. Extraction of a premolar tooth will not impair the display quality of a skull.

Alternatively, hunters can extract a premolar tooth in the field or request it of a taxidermist. The tooth can either be presented with the necessary harvest information to an identified Fish and Wildlife office or mailed in using a tooth submission envelope. Extraction is easily done just after the bear has been harvested when the jaw is still pliable. The tooth is easily loosened by running a knife blade on all sides of the tooth below the gum line and rocking the tooth back and forth. The tooth can then be removed with pliers. Care should be taken to ensure the root remains intact. Ensure that the tooth is free of tissue and dry prior to submission.

Information required as part of the program are harvest date, sex of bear, WIN, WMU where harvested, and either legal land location or latitude/longitude of kill site. When available, results for each tooth will be accessible online under your WIN number on the My Wild Alberta website ([mywildalberta.com](http://mywildalberta.com)). Only WMUs 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332,

500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 529, 530, and 531 are open to this program.

Fish and Wildlife offices accepting skulls or tooth submissions are: Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche, Athabasca, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Sundre and Drayton Valley.



## Attention Hunters

**Bison hunting is closed in the area until further notice.**

As per the Wildlife Regulation, Alberta Regulation 143/97, the area shown on this map has been **CLOSED TO ALL BISON HUNTING** until further notice.

The closure does not affect the hunting of bison for subsistence by persons who hold a constitutional right to do so in this area.

For more information, contact the Fort McMurray Fish and Wildlife office at 780-743-7200.

To report illegal or suspicious activity, call the Report-A-Poacher hotline at 1-800-642-3800.



## 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*, 420, 422A*, 426A*, 430A*, 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 **2017 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

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

### Either Sex Elk Special Licence

WMUs 116, 118, 119 and 624 .....	Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, N7 - D1
WMUs 116, 118 and 119 .....	Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, D1, 2017 - J1, 2018
WMUs 728 and 730 .....	Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N30 - D2, Rifle D4 - D16

### WMU 300 Elk Special Licence

WMU 300 .....	S6 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - F21, 2018
---------------	--------------------------------------

Refer to the **2017 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, 2018, or until June 15, 2018 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2018.

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, 2018, or until June 15, 2018 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2018.

**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**

- 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;
- 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, 2018 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 until the end of February.

**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-guide 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, 2018, 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 **2017 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations**, available in September 2017.



## 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 as described under the heading "Bowhunting" on page 42.

## GAME BIRD REGULATIONS

### Please Remember

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

### BE AWARE!

#### 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: [www.mywildalberta.com/hunting/GameSpecies](http://www.mywildalberta.com/hunting/GameSpecies)

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 any other birds for which an open season has been declared by the regulations as indicated in this summary.

### 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, 2017 to March 31, 2018. Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (page 60).

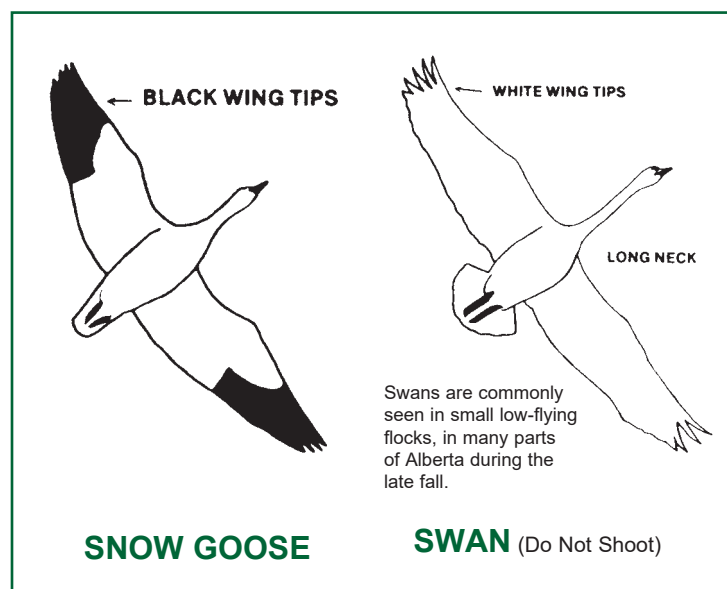
### Bowhunting

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.

### Special Hunting Areas

In WMUs 212 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.

*Alberta*  
Government

## WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS

The first Saturday and Sunday in September are designated as Waterfowler Heritage Days in Alberta. Youth (age 12-17) may hunt waterfowl on these dates without a licence (provincial or federal) provided they are qualified to do so (see Licensing requirements for first-time hunters, page 15 and 17) and are accompanied by an adult migratory game bird hunting permit holder. The adult permit holder may not have in their possession or use a firearm, or accompany more than 2 minors at one time while mentoring youth. The youth can only hunt waterfowl species for which there will be an open season in that WMU. Regular bag limits and possession limits apply.

## 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.

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 five may be white-fronted geese.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S1 - D21 / M15 - Ju15	
Canada or White-fronted Geese	8 (a) combined	24 (b) combined	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	(b) of which not more than fifteen may be white-fronted geese.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
Ducks	8 (c,d) each	24 (e,f) each	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	(c) of which not more than four ducks may be pintail.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
Coots and Snipe	8 each	16 each	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	(d) of which not more than two ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
Male Pheasant	2	6	200-260, 314-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	(e) of which not more than twelve ducks may be pintail.
			102-166, 300-312	O15 - N30	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
Ruffed Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	(f) of which not more than six ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens.
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
			728, 730 (Camp Wainwright)	S2 - S4	
Spruce Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	(g) may harvest with a special licence only.
			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	
Merriam's Turkey	1 (g)	1 (g)	300-308, 400, 402	■ Ma1 - Ma31, 2018	

### Month Abbreviations

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

**ATTENTION WMU 936 HUNTERS:** All hunters for WMU 936 must attend a safety orientation and require a firearms discharge permit. Please contact the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area office, (780-922-3293) in order to receive information regarding orientation dates and requirements for obtaining your discharge permit.

### 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 [www.ab-conservation.com/programs/wildlife/provincial-pheasant-release-program/](http://www.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.



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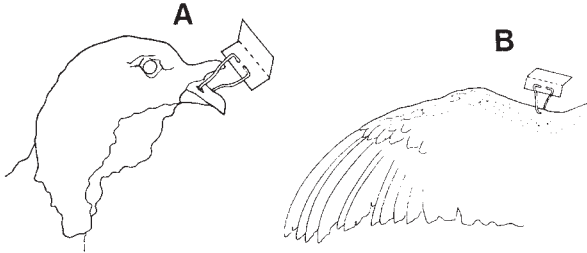
# MERRIAM'S TURKEY DRAW

Merriam's Turkey Special Licences are issued through a draw and one bearded male is permitted per special licence holder.

Each Merriam's turkey harvested must be tagged

- immediately after the bird is killed, and
- in the manner described below with the paper tag supplied with each licence. All instructions on the back of the paper tag must be followed.

## Merriam's Turkey Tagging Instructions



Tagging Instructions: (A) place wire through the nares, or (B) through the patagium between the tendon and the bones of the wing.

Tags must remain affixed until the carcass is delivered to

- the usual residence of the person who killed it, and is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
- 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*.

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 Merriam's 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. Males also have a pronounced "beard" on the lower neck up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) long. The beard is usually absent or very small in 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, 2018	6:15 a.m.	8:52 p.m.
May 05, 2018	6:08 a.m.	8:58 p.m.
May 10, 2018	6:01 a.m.	9:05 p.m.
May 15, 2018	5:54 a.m.	9:12 p.m.
May 20, 2018	5:47 a.m.	9:19 p.m.
May 25, 2018	5:42 a.m.	9:25 p.m.
May 30, 2018	5:38 a.m.	9:30 p.m.

## 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.



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## Marked Wildlife

Some species of wildlife are banded, collared or marked by other means in an ongoing effort to gain additional population biology information. You can assist and cooperate in these programs by reporting encounters with any marked animal to the nearest Fish and Wildlife office (page 13).

Some of these marked wildlife, as well as certain nuisance animals (e.g.,

some black bears), may have received drugs for research purposes or to facilitate their capture and handling. Any such animal will be marked with a tag advising that the meat of the animal should not be consumed before contacting Fish and Wildlife of Alberta Environment and Parks.

### Report Waterfowl Leg Bands by Telephone or Internet

All waterfowl leg bands recovered in North America can now be reported by telephoning the toll-free number **1-800-327-BAND** (1-800-327-2263). Band recovery can also be reported by internet at the website [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov).

## Wild Game Public Health Advisory

The wild game public health advisory for the Swan Hills area – originally issued on December 13, 1996, by the Provincial Health Officer – has been revised as a result of more extensive wild game testing. While recent test results confirm that eating wild game from the Swan Hills area poses no immediate threat to human health, it is recommended that individuals limit the amount of wild game eaten.

For more information contact Alberta Health and Wellness at 780-427-7164 or visit My Wild Alberta at <http://mywildalberta.com/Hunting/SafetyProcedures/HarvestedWildlifeHumanHealth.aspx>

### Swan Hills Treatment Centre

15 km radius around Swan Hills Treatment Centre



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**1-800-642-3800**

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

Report A Poacher can be reached all day, every day.  
**1-800-642-3800.**

- All calls are kept strictly confidential and you can remain anonymous.
- If you see something that may be poaching, record as much information as possible:
  - Date and time
  - Location
  - Vehicle description and licence number
  - Description of who was involved in the crime
  - Details of the violation and any other details you can think of, no matter how insignificant they might seem
- The information you provide could lead to a conviction (and possibly a reward for your help).
- Poaching covers a wide range of violations including:
  - Fishing or hunting out of season
  - Night hunting
  - Hunting from the road
  - Exceeding limits
  - Hunting while intoxicated
  - Illegal sales of wildlife or fish
- The Report A Poacher line can also be used for reporting major violations to land and habitat such as tree harvesting or destruction of stream beds.
- Please familiarize yourself with Alberta's Hunting and Fishing regulations to help protect Alberta.





## **Hunting in Alberta supports conservation**

When you hunt in Alberta, a portion of every licence sold supports research for the conservation of wildlife and fish populations and their habitat.

Thank you for your continued support and respect for Alberta's wildlife, fish, and habitat.



## 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. In Alberta, CWD occurs in eastern and east central regions and particularly in the Battle River and Red Deer/South Saskatchewan watersheds. Up to date information, including maps of previous cases, is available on our wildlife disease web pages at <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease/default.aspx>

Hunters and outfitters play a key role in assisting big game management by helping to reduce deer numbers and by providing heads from harvested deer for the ongoing CWD surveillance program. Alberta began looking for CWD in wild deer in the hunting seasons in 1998. Since then, we have tested over 60,000 heads and have found CWD in 516 mule deer, 73 white-tailed deer, 1 unknown deer, 1 elk, and 1 moose.

**Note :** It is a mandatory requirement to submit the head of all deer harvested in the following WMUs: 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 138, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 254, 256, 258, 500, 728, and 730. New WMUs of special concern include WMUs 250, 252 and 260. Antlers and skull plate can be removed from bucks before the head is submitted. For European mounts, keep the top portion of the skull and submit the lower portion including the lower jaw, the tissues at the back of the throat, and the part of the skull that contains the connection between the spinal cord and the brain.

All heads for testing, including the partial skull 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 NEGATIVE head are sent to the email address in the hunter's AlbertaRELM account. AEP directly contacts each hunter who harvests an animal with CWD.

For more information about CWD, contact your local Fish and Wildlife office or visit [aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca).

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 visit [health.alberta.ca](http://health.alberta.ca)

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

DATE: _____	
I _____ (print hunter's name)	address: _____ Ph. # _____
give permission to _____ (print name of person transporting wildlife)	address: _____ Ph. # _____
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 _____ (destination)	on _____ (date)
_____ (signature of hunter)	_____ (signature of person transporting the wildlife)

Alberta  
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## UNSOLVED CASES: Drumheller, Alberta

On November 12, 2016, a group of hunters came across a shot and left bull moose just off a designated trail in the Rumsey Grazing lease (approximately 50 km north of Drumheller and east of Hwy 56, in WMU 166). The bull moose was bloated and appeared to have been dead for a couple of days; nothing was taken from the animal.

Fish & Wildlife Enforcement investigated the scene and located a spent shell casing and extracted a single bullet from the bull moose carcass. The bull moose appeared to have been shot once from a designated trail that cuts through the grazing lease which would have been accessed east of Rumsey off Secondary Hwy 585. The moose carcass was found along some bush approximately 15 meters south of the trail but was clearly visible from this trail.

If you have any information, please call the Drumheller Fish & Wildlife office at 403-823-1670 or the Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. Callers can remain anonymous and could be eligible for a reward.

## REPORT A POACHER NOW.

**CALL THE RAP HOTLINE TOLL-FREE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

All calls are kept strictly confidential, and the information you provide can lead to an arrest, fines and jail time. The Report A Poacher program is delivered in joint partnership between Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and Alberta Conservation Association.



## 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: 316, 352, 353, 355, 412, 414, 432, 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: 310-314, 322, 324, 330, 332, 336-349, 351, 354, 356, 357, 360, 436-439, 505, 507-510, 523, 526, 527, 535 and 537. Both tags are valid for tagging a deer(s) hunted in any of the following WMUs: 350, 352, 353, 355, 440-446, 511, 512, 515-521, 524, 525, 528-531, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542 and 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: 316, 352, 353, 355, 412, 414, 432, 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 WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

This licence is valid for resident hunters who are 12-17 years of age and 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.

A full-page advertisement for the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE). On the left, a woman in a yellow firefighter's jacket and red helmet carries an axe over her shoulder. On the right, a black box contains white text. The text reads: "THIS IS AUPE YOUR WORKING PEOPLE", "Stewarding our natural resources, protecting Alberta's wilderness and ensuring the safety of all who use it – it's all in a day's work for members of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees.", the AUPE logo, and social media links: "www.aupe.org", "facebook.com/yourAUPE", and "Twitter: @\_AUPE\_".

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## MESSAGE from the PUBLISHER



Rob Miskosky

**T**he 2017 Alberta Hunting Season brings with it the excitement of adventure, the camaraderie of good friends, campfire tales and the fresh smells of beautiful country.

This is the time of year that all Alberta hunters have been eagerly waiting for and with a little luck, the chance to harvest an impressive animal awaits each of us.

Alberta is well known for its abundance of wildlife, making it a great province to be a hunter. From the mountains to the foothills, parkland, boreal and prairies, no other province provides the hunting opportunities that Alberta does. We are blessed to live in a province where we can hunt deer, moose, elk, sheep, antelope, bears, cougar, wolves, coyotes, turkey, upland birds and waterfowl—no other province can make this claim.

And if you enjoy hunting elk, 2017 could be your year. New antlered and antlerless elk seasons have been added in several Wildlife Management Units (see page 12) and if you drew a tag for the CFB Suffield elk hunt, new seasons have been added there as well (see page 45).

It's hunting season!

Three hunters from our 2016 season need to be recognized—John Adkins of Okotoks, Gerald Lawrence of Red Deer County, and Glen Pickering of Cayley—all had a tremendous 2016 season.

John arrowed a trophy mule deer buck that stretched the tape to 200 2/8 after deductions, making him our 2016 Alberta Hunter of the Year. John's buck scored within 97% of the current Alberta record mule deer.

Gerald took an incredible whitetail buck that scored an impressive 186 6/8 after seeing deductions that reached 11 inches—a very handsome deer.

And Glen too had an incredible season after he harvested a bull elk that scored an amazing 372 2/8.

You can see a photo of each of our hunters with their trophies on page 88.

If you have a successful 2017 hunting season, don't forget to send your entries in for typical white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk. Your entry could give you bragging rights around the campfire next hunting season.

You can read more about the contest and its rules also on page 88.

Good luck during 2017 everybody! ■



"Take to the chase when hunting mule deer on Alberta's prairies."

## Alberta's Prairie Deer Hunt

**A**lthough I've hunted deer in Alberta's foothills, aspen parkland, boreal forest and Rocky Mountains, a prairie deer hunt has been my go-to destination for many years.

Over the past several years, I've hunted primarily in the eastern prairies for both mule and white-tailed deer. Earlier, I spent many years hunting the southern prairies along the Milk River Ridge, the hauntingly spectacular Milk River Canyon, and the unspoiled area surrounding the Cypress Hills.



by Duane Radford

There are many reasons why I like hunting on Alberta's prairies which, contrary to popular belief, are not flat; rather, they're characterized by picturesque and varied landforms—badlands, coulees, sweeping river valleys with cottonwood forests, copses of aspen peppered among rolling hills, sloughs and creek

bottoms—that are a haven for wildlife. It's not unusual to see bald and golden eagles, badgers, foxes, coyotes, porcupines, pronghorn antelope, elk and moose.

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Unless deer numbers have been adversely affected by a hard winter, I often see dozens of deer daily, something unheard of elsewhere in Alberta. As well, there's always a chance to tag a wall hanger based on records that are kept by the Alberta Fish and Game Association. It's also easier to pattern deer on the prairies than in other parts of the province and perhaps this is why success rates can be higher than usual.

An examination of the following 2016 success rates for various Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) illustrates that the average harvest percentages on the prairies (i.e., 100 and 200 WMU Series) are usually higher than anywhere else for mule deer, although there isn't much difference for white-tailed deer except for the 400 Series.

**Mule Deer:** 100 Series – 56 %; 200 Series – 48 %; 300 Series – 25 %; 400 Series – 10 %; 500 Series – 21 %.

**White-tailed Deer:** 100 Series – 29 %; 200 Series – 28 %; 300 Series – 28 %; 400 Series – 17 %; 500 Series – 30 %.

Notable is that Alberta's 2016 prairie deer population was but a shadow of its former self. The winter of 2010-2011 took a heavy toll on



*"Pre-season scouting will help you become familiar with your deer hunting territory."*

Alberta's mule deer and more so on white-tailed deer, which are recovering slowly. Record snowfalls in many parts of eastern and southern Alberta in 2010-2011 reduced mule deer populations by 50% or more, so the glory years of high deer numbers became a thing of the past. That winter, up to four feet (1.2 metres) of snow fell in some parts of the province with devastating effects on deer, the most snow Alberta had seen since 1974. Matters were made worse by another heavy snowfall and bitter winter in 2013.

Alberta's prairie deer season extends throughout November when the weather can be highly variable. I've experienced weeklong hunts where daytime highs were 25C, other years daily temperatures dipped to -25C. Some years, there was no snow on the ground whereas in other years, there was so much snow most trails were blocked. That's what Alberta's weather conditions can be like in November, a month of transition.

*continued on next page*

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Mike Miller

















*"White-tailed bucks are creatures of the bush, even on the prairies."*

Snow usually comes by Remembrance Day and untold flocks of mallards, Canada geese, snow and speckled belly geese can be seen winging south by mid-month. The first snows signal high gear for deer hunting because they're much easier to pattern and spot, and they often become more active during the daylight hours. Consequently, you have to hedge your bets on hunting gear, hunting strategies along with clothing and be prepared for the worst. It could be downright pleasant or sheer murder if a blizzard springs up.

While global warming seems to be delaying the rut; typically, Alberta's white-tailed deer rut from November 9 to 19, whereas mule

deer rut from November 15 to 30, although mule bucks will often still search out does until December 15.

While binoculars are a matter of personal choice, I've been using 10x40 and 10x50 optics for years, which are ideal for spotting deer on the prairies.

Mule deer are creatures of open spaces while white-tailed deer favour cover. It always amazes me just how little cover mule deer need to stay hidden. I've seen a buck and his harem virtually disappear in small stands of silverberry (wolf willow) and rose bushes.

However, mule deer bucks will often bed down in the morning in the open with good

sight lines, whereas white-tailed deer will stick to cover. However, after the rut, it's not uncommon to spot white-tailed bucks while they're bird-dogging at any time of the day searching out receptive does, so keep your eyes open in late November.

"Stand hunting" near scrapes and travel lanes beside pinch points is my go-to hunting technique for white-tailed deer compared with "spot-and-stalk hunting" for mule deer. Any successful white-tailed deer hunter will tell you the secret to success is generally to ambush bucks. If white-tailed bucks have a weakness, it would be deer calls that can bring them in from great distances before and after the rut. For mule deer, patience and glassing are the secrets to success; however, you have to take the chase to mule deer and cover a lot of ground to search them out.

The popular .270, .308 and 30.06 calibres will all do the job on mule and white-tailed deer, with 150-grain bullets being more than adequate. I've taken many deer with a .270 Winchester calibre rifle loaded with 130-grain bullets, most times with just one killing shot.

A range finder is a definite asset but contrary to popular belief, long-range shots are not the norm on the prairies. I researched my hunting journal and tallied the ranges of the last 30 mule deer and white-tailed deer that I or someone else in my hunting party shot. This sample size being considered statistically significant. The average range of killing shots was as follows, with the sample size in brackets: white-tailed deer (20) – 122 yards and mule deer (10) – 167 yards. Statistics don't lie so be prepared for close-in shots on white-tailed deer and mid-range shots on mule deer. I think you'd be fine if your rifle is zeroed in at 100 yards for either species under most circumstances.

I also studied my hunting journal to see what time of the day mule deer and white-tailed deer were shot. For example, were they shot before or after 12:00 Noon. Using a sample size of 30 downed deer, for mule deer, 40% of them were taken before 12:00 noon and 60% after 12:00 noon (sample size 10). For white-tailed deer, 80% were taken before 12:00 noon and 20% after 12:00 noon (sample size 20).

Further, over 80% of the white-tailed deer were shot before 9:00 am. On the other hand, 90% of the mule deer were shot after 9:00 am—ample proof that the early white-tailed deer hunter gets his/her deer whereas sleepyheads will do okay on mulies.

I've always advised mule deer hunters to hunt all day, especially during the rut because single bucks are on the move throughout the day and wander around their home range in search of does.

And that fellow hunters is the skinny on Alberta's prairie deer hunt. ●

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For the most up-to-date maps showing Designated Access Trails, and downloadable GPS coordinates visit [www.teck.com](http://www.teck.com)

Have a safe and happy hunting season.

Photo by Brian Carnell

**Teck**





## Step-by-Step Guide to Antelope



by TJ Schwanky

**Y**es, they are more properly called pronghorn but most Albertans just call them antelope and they are without question an iconic species in the southeast corner of the province.

Antelope are at the northern extent of their range in Alberta and populations are subject to wild fluctuations depending on the winter. The opportunity to hunt them in Alberta can be limited because of this.

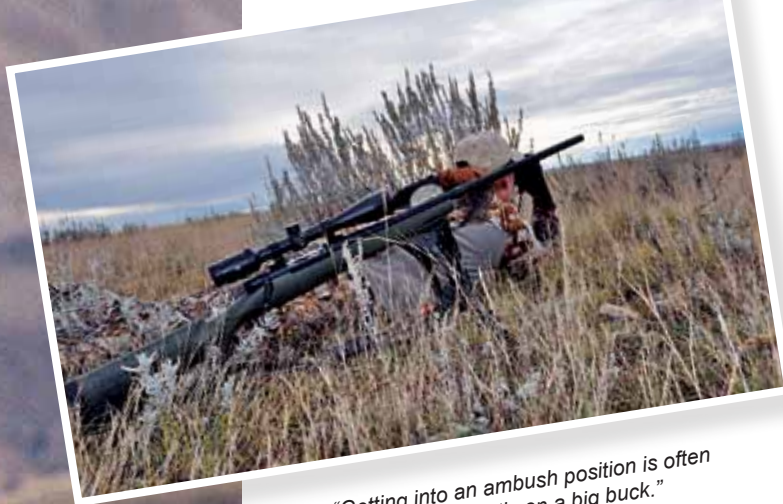


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*"Getting into an ambush position is often the best tactic on a big buck."*

found that if you can find that happy balance of a rebounding population and not an overabundance of tags, it's perfect.

I'd say some of the best quality bucks are taken two or three years after a bad winter die-off. At the end of the day, there really is no bad time to draw but a discussion with a local biologist will help in your decision-making. Personally, I'd avoid the first year or two after a severe winter die-off if you are seeking a high-scoring antelope. If it's just a high-quality hunt with low hunting pressure you are after, then it may well be the perfect time.

You also need to consider what WMU you are going to apply for. There are a few things to consider here but distance from home is a big one. The closer the WMU the easier it is to dedicate more time to scouting.

You should also consider access. Some zones are primarily private property and

will require considerable legwork to attain permission while others offer more general access. Again, getting there early and getting all your permission lined up is critical. There's little sense in scouting where you can't hunt. Access is typically easy to obtain for those that show up early but often not for those that wait until the last minute.

## Step 2 – Learn to Judge Them

Antelope are extremely difficult to judge, so if getting a high-scoring buck is important to you, you'll need to put some time into perfecting this skill. Maybe hard to judge is the wrong thing to say but most of us see so few of them that we have very little experience. For the actual score, you will need to judge the length of the horn, the length of the prong, and the mass.

I find the simplest way to judge length is to look where the prong sits in relation to the ear. If the bottom of the prong is above a fully erect ear, the buck is likely over 16 inches and if the ear tip is above the top of the prong, the buck is likely less than 14 inches. Obviously, this is not a hard and fast rule but it's a quick and surprisingly accurate means of field judging length. Another guide is that an antelope's ear is about six inches in length.

Prong length is measured from the rear of the horn so a buck with plenty of mass can actually have a long prong even though little is protruding forward. A quick reference here is the eye. It's about two inches wide so for

*continued on next page*

However, I can honestly say it's one of my favourite hunts and with it taking several years to draw a tag, it's more critical than ever that hunters maximize their efforts to enjoy what may be a once-in-lifetime opportunity.

So, here is my step-by-step guide to ensuring you get the most out of your antelope hunt.

## Step 1 – Draw the Tag

While this may seem an obvious step, it's critical to draw during the right year and in the right location. As this tag is coveted and takes a long time to draw, it's important that you draw on a year where you have the proper amount of time to dedicate to the hunt. While the rifle season is short, you will need to plan an early scouting trip or two. I'd say that unless you can dedicate two weeks to the hunt, don't draw the tag. The great thing about the 999 option in our draw system is that it allows you the luxury of deciding when you draw.

There is some benefit to knowing how antelope populations are doing as well, although it's a double-edged sword. On years with high populations, large numbers of tags are typically given out so even though antelope are plentiful, so too are hunters. I've



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*"Plenty of pre-scouting will go a long way in helping you choose the buck you want to put your tag on."*

quick comparison, the prong should stick out further than the width of the eye. And for mass, if the horn is the same width as the ear at the widest point, you are looking at a heavy buck.

### Step 3 – Scout and Secure Permission

In the northern zones, you'll still be hunting the tail end of the rut in rifle season, so scouting in August will give you a good idea of where the bucks will be. While they can move considerable distances during the rut, I've found them to be primarily homebodies

so if you see them in August, you'll likely find them there in late September.

The more southerly zones can be a bit more challenging. If the weather stays consistent, then the antelope will stay fairly stationary but if things turn nasty, as they did last season, many of the bucks may head south to Montana and many new bucks from farther north could show up. Spots that hold antelope seem to always hold antelope but your target bucks may suddenly disappear.

When my hunting partner drew her tag last year, a huge snowstorm blew through the week prior to the season opener and we quickly readjusted our plans and headed down four days prior to the season to begin scouting all over again. We'd already done the bulk of legwork securing permission so these days were used primarily to find our target bucks. Many of the bigger bucks we'd seen in September had disappeared but several new ones had shown up.

### Step 4 – Hunt Them Properly

The perfect antelope hunt is over about an hour after the season opens. This means you put your time in scouting and developed a good plan to get your target buck. The rules change drastically after the first day and all your scouting kind of goes out the window. That's not to say that you can't still score on a great buck later in the week, but you really need to start scouting all over again.

The perfect antelope hunt sees you putting your target buck to bed the night before opener and being in position at first light to spot him on opening day. If you've done your homework, you'll have a good idea of the terrain and you'll know where the wind will be coming from. You'll have the stalk planned and just need to confirm his location and any nearby antelope.



*"Often when antelope hunting the daytime weather can be warm. Make sure you get your antelope cooled as soon as possible."*

Getting in on antelope is rarely an issue if you aren't competing with other hunters. While Alberta's prairies look flat, there is typically enough topography to conceal your approach. Antelope are constantly on the move so the ideal situation is to monitor his movement and set up on an intercept course in front of him. The key here is patience. Rush the stalk, and you'll likely blow it.


If you've never hunted antelope before, it's a true treat here in Alberta. Their numbers are good, hunting pressure is relatively low if you plan properly, and landowners are typically gracious about granting access to those that ask well in advance. The real key is to treat this hunt as the unique opportunity it is and really put the time into it.

There's little doubt that you can still take a buck by just showing up the morning of the hunt but to me, those hunters miss the real point of this hunt in one of Alberta's most diverse ecosystems. Enjoy the hunt for sure, but also enjoy this unique region of the province. ●

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# Who's the King of the Alberta Uplands?



by Neil Waugh

**F**or someone who has spent a significant portion of my hunting life looking at the north end of a Labrador retriever going south, it's fair to say I'm hooked on upland bird hunting.

The Chablis scent of the boreal woods in October or the hot wind of the high plains with the crunch of prairie wool under my boots are persuasive landscapes.

And the province of Alberta has an incredible storehouse of upland-bird hunting habitat. While there are seven legally hunt-able species to choose from (sage grouse are now a listed species at risk and Merriam turkeys are a different situation), the bird of choice for a large number of Alberta shotgunners comes down to a two-species stand-off—ruffed grouse versus ring-necked pheasants.

So, who is the King of the Alberta Uplands? That's a compelling question for which there is no easy answer. But it provides an endless amount of enjoyment trying to solve it. Here I present my case.



*"Checking the forest canopy is a good way to locate late season ruffed grouse."*

## Ruffed Grouse

There's much mythology surrounding the bush chicken or "pa'tridge" as they're known in the New England states where the beatification of the ruffed grouse first began.

The story goes the King Ruffie is a denizen of the deep woods and the preferred way to hunt him is to wade through impenetrable second growth known there as "popple" with a brace of Gordon setters somewhere up

ahead. There's no doubt that a bird dog with a good nose and plenty of bush savvy can kick up your flush rate exponentially (after that the shooting success is yours alone).

But ruffed grouse hunting in Alberta is often a completely different world than what "orthodox" American grouse looks like. Randomly cruising the open woods will produce birds there's no doubt. But Alberta grouse hunters have learned that a specific kind of habitat called "edge" holds a great attraction for ruffies. Especially if it's closely associated with their favourite fall food source, the succulent leaves of red clover that grouse key on almost to the exclusion of other bush tucker like wild rose hips, snowberries, highbush cranberries and hazelnut buds sometimes called "mast".

Edge can be found where woods meet pastures or along old logging trails. But the greatest source of "edge" in Alberta is the thousands of kilometres of lease roads, seismic lines and pipeline rights-of-way that are collectively called "oil patch." Which are for the most part located on Crown land and thus open to public access.

Of course, grouse hunters should always be aware that this is a working industrial landscape and it's best to focus on the less traveled roads and be overly cautious about safety at all times.

Last fall, I was hunting with my fox red Lab Penny on some old oil roads south of Lodgepole in the sprawling Pembina Oil Field. This highland aspen country had been drilled out 60 years ago, the wells were

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Whether it is kept in check for a moment while you wait for that final turn before they cup their wings, or those interminable months waiting for opening day of deer season to arrive. Perhaps it is the excitement of waiting for a tom turkey to fly down from roost at dawn, or to respond to your plaintive calls. No matter the game, it is a feeling understood and shared by Kent Cartridge.

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mostly shut in, and road maintenance was down to a minimum.

Part of the revegetation requirement of the Alberta government is to over-seed the roadside ditches with a mixture that almost always contains clover. So the edge was luxuriant with the stuff. A perfect combination for a ruffed grouse encounter.

We'd hardly gone 50 metres before the dog cut a scent and followed it back into the poplars. Which is when I heard the rush of the flush. I shouldered the over-and-under and squeezed off two rounds of 12-gauge bird shot. But the drummer beat me to the woods.

Penny found the second bird at the corner of a T-junction—habitat points are a favourite hangout for ruffed grouse and should be hunted thoroughly.

I was too far behind with the first barrel but the second string of 7 1/2-shot found its mark and the little brown bird tumbled into the underbrush.

Several more flushes followed and three more birds went into my upland vest game pouch before I'd hunted out the area.

Committed hunters can usually find a few birds even in the worst of times if they are persistent. Plus the extended season to January 15 offers more opportunity.



*"Edge" is the thousands of kilometres of lease roads, seismic lines and pipeline rights-of-way."*

But every seven years or so for still unexplained reasons, Alberta ruffed grouse experience a population explosion. And for a few weeks during the peak hunting season between when the leaves come off the trees and the first permanent snow, which drives the birds off the forest floor and into the aspens, it's Ruffed Grouse Heaven. Where

harvesting a five-bird daily limit is too easy at times.

Hunting can be done with shotguns over dogs. Or the old school Alberta method of quietly stalking edge habitat on the lookout for a familiar grouse silhouette and picking them off with a .22.

*continued on next page*

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*"Cock pheasants like to hangout in rough, gnarly country."*

While ruffed grouse are most at home in the boreal forest, which cloak the undisturbed northern half of the province, they can also be found as far south as the US border in the foothills and nodes of poplar cover in the parkland region. Which has made them an Alberta upland favourite.

### Ring-necked Pheasant

Albertans instinctively know—whether it's competing professional sports, two rival metro-areas or the province's distinctive landscapes—that there are two Alberta's.

Where the north is wild and wooded, the signature of the south is its wide-open plains.

And where ruffed grouse dominate in the north, it's the prairie birds—sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge and most of all, ring-necked pheasants that are the big sky country super stars.

The big gaudy roosters aren't technically native to the southern coulees and irrigation ditches but because they've been on the landscape for more than 100 years since being introduced by far-sighted pioneer uplanders, they're now a distinctly Albertan species.

And thanks to the recent efforts of the hunting-and-fishing-licence-funded Alberta Conservation Association, after taking over the struggling pheasant release program, they now can be hunted on several release sites in the central and northern regions of the province. Where wild pheasant populations, which were abundant 60 years ago, have disappeared because of changing agricultural practices and other factors.

Because almost all of the land in the southern pheasant belt is under private disposition, finding a place to hunt is always going to be an issue.

But the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) allows hunting access to many thousands of acres around Brooks, as long as uplanders respect a few common sense rules designed to protect the delicate short-grass prairie.

There are several release sites in the area too and the EID produces a handy map outlining the accessible lands.

Like with ruffed grouse, cock pheasants (it's illegal to shoot hens) like to hang out in rough country. The gnarlier the better. Places like wet coulee and creek bottoms, old irrigation ditches and weedy field corners are places to focus on.

Access to nearby field crops enhances the possibility of a flush further.

Last fall, I was hunting an overgrown EID ditch with some nearby cattail flats, another favourite rooster haunt. Penny led me up one bank, getting birdy a couple of times before the scent petered out, and then crossed to the north side on a mule deer crossing. We here half way back to the truck when she hit a hot trail again and crashed into a snowberry tangle. A big bird came busting out cackling but went silent when the second string of 5-shot pheasant load caught up and tumbled it into the ditch.

Fortuitously, I'd reloaded before sending the dog to fetch the first bird out of the water because a second rooster rose out of the cover. On the roar of the shotgun, it folded too.

A limit of ring-necks is less than a minute, just like the great old days when Brooks billed itself as the Pheasant Capital of North America.

So, which bird is the ruler of Alberta's upland kingdom—the ruffie or the ring-neck?

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## Bowhunting Elk



by Kevin Wilson

**R**aising my call, I bugled and chuckled in the pre-dawn darkness. Instantly cut off, a bull bugled back. Waiting only a few seconds, I responded and was greeted with a second response. With only a couple of minutes until shooting light, I told my partner to follow and stay close—we needed to pressure the bull by closing the distance fast!

I wasn't concerned about noise. Snapping branches underfoot can be a good thing. Estimating him to be 200 metres away, after covering a little more than half the distance, we stopped and strained to listen. Offering a soft cow call, he abruptly bugled again, but this time he was close and moving in fast. I motioned to my partner to get down,



nock an arrow, and go to full draw. Only 20 metres apart, no sooner had I knelt down and grabbed an arrow from my quiver, when I heard a snap! Standing before us just 15 metres away was a magnificent 300-class bull. Lip curled and neck extended, he bugled within spitting distance! It was one of the most spectacular things I've ever

witnessed in the wild. Looking to my left, I saw my partner taking aim. In an instant, he released. Sadly, the excitement got the best of him. Releasing prematurely, his arrow struck a tree high above the bull's back. Dazed and confused, the big bull bolted, never to be seen again. Such is one experience of hunting elk with a bow.





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*"Old and new elk sign like this rub is a prime indication that you are in the right area."*

## Plenty of Opportunity

With thriving populations in many WMUs, elk can be found in the foothills, throughout the Peace Country, in our boreal forests, in many parkland zones and yes, even in a growing number of Alberta's prairie regions. The great news is that the early archery season coincides with the rut.

The award-winning question is where to bowhunt elk? This should be determined first by learning which WMUs require a draw permit, and which allow bowhunting under the authority of an over-the-counter tag.

Next, consider the general area you want to hunt. Consult the regulations to find 3-point or 6-point zones, and whether you can harvest a cow with your archery tackle.

## Pre-Season Scouting

As abundant as elk are in Alberta, they live in pockets. In boreal forest areas for instance, elk will often shy away from the low-lying muskeg areas, instead favouring the higher aspen ridges. Find the pockets of ground holding one or multiple herds and you have a good start. Call local Fish and Wildlife district offices, talk with officers and biologists, and then speak with area landowners. Be sure to ask if any landowners are having depredation problems. If they are, you may have a lead for access right there.

Whether you are hunting Crown land or private property, it's always smart to do some pre-season scouting. Tracks and droppings—especially fresh ones—are a good indicator,

but it's important to remember that elk will often shift to certain areas within their territory during the rut. Commonly referred to as rutting corridors, if you find these areas, the signposts are obvious. Trails worn deep into the ground, plenty of old rubs, and the odd wallow (or 'rut pit') demonstrate that bulls are spending their time there during the rut. If you are scouting in late August and early September, fresh rubs will be evident, as the first stages of the rut get underway. Find these and you could be in a good spot. Strategically place a few trail cameras, and you'll soon confirm your prospects.

## Timing Your Hunt


Bowhunters are notorious for getting out in the field at the earliest opportunity. I know those who consistently experience success calling in eager bulls, even giant ones, as early as the August 25 opener in some zones. In my own experience, the action can be hit and miss at this time. Elk have what I describe as the most prolonged rut period of any ungulate species in North America. Bulls will eagerly respond as early as the last week in August and as late as the second week in October.

For most archers, the game is usually about cow calling and bugling a bull into bow range. With this in mind, the action really starts to pick up around September 5 and continues to heat up until the first estrus peaks around the third week of the month. While cows can go into heat at variable times throughout the rut period, in my experience, the majority go into heat between the 15th and 20th of September. The interesting thing is that the calling action can still be very productive for several days after that. Some of the best elk bow hunts I've been on have occurred between the 20th and 25th of September and I've even called some in the first week of October as well.


Deer and moose undergo a second and periodically subsequent estrus cycle; generally, a couple of weeks after their first if the does or cows don't get bred the first round. Elk are the same with the second round often being rather pronounced, but much shorter lived and usually the beginning of the second week of October.

## Bowhunting Tactics

As far as strategy goes, archers tend to see the most success employing one of three different strategies. I know several who spend weeks sorting out where a resident herd lives. They learn where their bedding area is and, especially in agricultural areas, where the feeding fields are. With oat or alfalfa fields, pinpoint heavily worn entrance and exit trails, and then either set up a tree stand or ground blind to intercept them traveling to and from these areas. This can be a productive way to bowhunt but it can limit you to the waning minutes of legal light in the evening and the



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very first few minutes of light in the morning.

Another productive bowhunting strategy involves sitting at a natural mineral lick. Find these spots and you've got yourself a spectacular place to again set a stand or blind and ambush any number of big game animals. Particularly active when the weather is warm in late summer and early September, elk frequently visit these seeping, usually muddy places in the ground to drink and lick the mineral-rich mud and water. These mineral licks are often discovered on well-covered hillsides near drainages. Again, placing trail cameras on these natural licks can quickly reveal regular visitors.

Walking and calling is the most common and arguably the most exhilarating way to bowhunt elk. The name of this game is much like hunting turkeys in the spring. Cover ground, probe with calls, get a response, and move in.

Many hunters bugle too much. There's no denying the romance and sensational interaction of bugling back and forth with a bull; however, the truth is many bulls are fairly quiet, bugling only when the mood hits them. Generally, when I get a response, the bugle is put away and I move in using only a cow call. Sometimes a bull will challenge a faux bugle but more often, they're all about



*"Natural mineral licks like this one are frequently visited by elk, not to mention deer, moose, bears, and other wildlife – especially in the early season when the weather is still very warm."*

the breeding opportunity. Enticing them in with a sexy cow call can be many times more effective. When bulls are in the mood, it's not uncommon to bring them in close using a cow call. On many occasions, I've had entire herds of cows and bulls lingering less than 20 metres from me, as I crouched down waiting for a shot opportunity.

In the end, bowhunting elk is about the prospect of filling the freezer with truly delectable meat, and interacting in close range with one of North America's most majestic big game animals. Practice shooting, pick the right spot and hunt at the best times, and you're sure to increase your odds of tagging an elk. ●

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# Communicating With Moose



by Brad Fenson

**C**alling a bull moose is the ultimate way to bring a bull right to you. It is like opening the forest and making moose visible, in a habitat where they can hide without trying. I've been fortunate to call many moose over the years and have a realistic calling routine. Using a horn fashioned out of birch bark, I bellow like a cow moose desperate to find her Prince Charming.

It isn't uncommon for a bull with cows to signal his location by banging his antlers in the trees. Of course, I want the bull to come to me and have some tricks I use to persuade him to do so.

Some of my most memorable hunts have been for bull moose during the rut. I've often described it as hours or days of mind-numbing boredom followed by a few minutes of adrenaline-spiking excitement.

## Cow Moose

If you're hunting during the rut, the trick to locating bull moose is learning where the cow moose hang out—find them, and you're in the right spot. And the more the better. However, don't get discouraged if you don't see antlers



"When the rut starts, it's like somebody turned on the light switch. Bull moose can be vulnerable during this time."

right off the bat. One bull can breed upwards of 25 cows, so if you have cows and calves in your immediate hunting area, rest assured, the bulls will be there. Think of it as having live decoys making it more likely to get bulls coming in to investigate your calls. And, the more bulls there are in the area, the more competition there is to breed, so they'll respond to your calls if you sound realistic.

## Calling

Being able to call a bull to your location is often the only way to find a mature one in a sea of endless forest. It literally can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Using a birch bark or fibreglass horn will help amplify your calls and give you the deep, guttural tones of a real cow.

Start with three long bawls ending with a woof or soft grunt. If you've been fortunate to watch cows call before, you know they stretch their heads out in front of their bodies and sway their head back and forth as they call. The movement helps send the call to a wide area and potential audience. Cows call every 20 to 30 minutes, but no more. Even if a bull responds, cows don't automatically start being more vocal. It's a game of patience.

If you're lucky, the bull will come to you within a couple of hours. I've had it take days but there are plenty more tricks to try to bring the bull in sooner. A cow being pestered by a younger bull will whine and call with an annoyed, wavering bawl. A mature bull may feel threatened by thinking a younger bull is in his territory and has come to claim the cow.

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*"Being able to call a bull to your location is often the only way to find a mature one in a sea of endless forest."*

### Pouring water

I've used my calling horn to make realistic sounds like a cow peeing in the water. Fill the horn with water and slowly let it pour out of the small end of the horn and into the lake or wetland. The more realistic you sound, the better, and a cow coming into heat will often urinate so potential suitors can test it for the right hormones or pheromones.

### Moose are noisy

I remember stalking up on three moose during the bow season in mid-September. It was a still day and I could hear twigs snapping and clunking sounds off in the distance. I carefully snuck up on the culprits and found two moose doing what they do every day—eating drying leaves and twigs and stumbling through the thickets of their favourite browse. I learned a valuable lesson that day and have always been as noisy as a moose when trying to call a bull. The last thing a cow will do is call and stand perfectly still. They are moving, eating, and often avoiding young bulls. If you aren't snapping twigs, stepping on dry branches and occasionally stomping your feet, you don't sound like a real moose.

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photographed by christine hells



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Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest with the Foodbank Program in 2016. This is the twenty-first year of our program that has seen more than 270,000 pounds of high quality wild game donated to the Alberta Foodbanks. Please help us feed those in need again in 2017. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate.

### Important Information:

1. We now accept donations from Oct 15, 2017 to Dec 15, 2017.
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 or deer tags that are available.
3. Only elk, moose or deer that have been harvested between October 15 and December 15, 2017 during the regular hunting seasons are eligible for this program.
4. The elk, moose or deer cannot be completely frozen and it must be delivered to a participating meat processor within 24 hours from the time of harvest.
5. Please contact the processor to ensure whether the elk, moose or deer 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, Alberta Conservation Association, and APOS Legacy Fund**

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.com](http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com). Our wild game donation information is found under their **Facts and Fiction** section under **Fact #11**.

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!!**





*"Always make sure you are ready for an advancing bull. They can often come in fast looking for a fight."*

With any calling sequence, I walk back and forth through the brush, snapping twigs, stomping the ground, and trying to make sounds that imitate moose. Keep your eyes and ears open, as moose can come in silent. Always be vigil and stay alert.

### Timing is critical

The moose rut occurs during a very specific period but calling doesn't always work. I've hunted the rut in most western provinces and the Yukon and know that when the rut hasn't kicked in, you can call until your voice is raspy. However, when the rut starts, it's like somebody flipping a light switch on and hunting the same area you've been calling in for days can suddenly come alive.

Depending on where you hunt, specifically, what latitude you are at, the rut could start anywhere from September 18th to October 1st. The important thing is being out there on the right days.

### Calls

Although there are several commercial blow-through calls for moose hunting, most hunters prefer to use a birch bark or fibreglass megaphone-style horn to enhance a simple voice call. The trumpet design helps to enhance your voice and directionally focus your call. A fibreglass call can double as an antler to rub on trees like a thrashing bull. You can also save, clean and dry a shoulder blade from a moose or elk to be used as an antler for raking the trees. The bone reproduces the realistic sounds of antlers being raked through the brush.

### Antlers

Big bulls will often hang up when you are trying to call them in. Displaying antlers can often generate an immediate response from a bull and bring him in. Antler replication can be done by carrying two dried shoulder blades that can double as bush rakes. Antler

replicas can also be cut out of thin plywood or cardboard and painted a cream colour to show up and reflect light. Hold the antlers high and wave them back and forth slowly. Make sure you are ready for an advancing bull. They can come in hot and ready for a fight. Moose communicate with their antlers and the way they sway them back and forth serves to intimidate other bulls and charm the ladies. Cows often look for a suitor with large antlers and complain greatly when being harassed by a small-antlered bull. Never underestimate the communication powers of antlers.

### Downwind

Always try to set up downwind of the trails, wallows, wetlands or feeding areas you plan on hunting. I also spray my stand and gear with scent eliminator, while managing my human scent as much as possible. A moose has a big, keen nose for detecting predators so don't think you can beat the flaring nostrils of an adult bull. The key is to set up smart in the first place.

### Give it a Try

No two moose sound the same. Some hunters can be intimidated thinking they don't sound like a real moose. The only way to learn is to do it. The feedback you get from moose will tell you if you're doing it right. Moose don't come in every time you call, so try it often, as the more encounters you have, the better your calling and communication strategies will become.

### Put it all together

Being in the right place at the right time is always part of the moose hunting equation. However, calling and appealing to all the senses a bull moose uses to locate cows in the big forest is the surest way to be successful. Make it realistic and keep trying different tactics and techniques without appearing desperate or unnatural. Moose are patient creatures and sometimes you just can't rush them. ●



*Where Water  
Works Wonders*

## Eastern Irrigation District

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 hunting season by individuals in possession of the appropriate recreational hunting licences, but the below guidelines must be followed:

- Automobiles must stay on designated routes or established trails
- No off-highway vehicles
- No camping or fires
- No hunting near livestock
- Obey all signs, some areas have added restrictions



[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

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



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# ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN MAGAZINE

# presents the 2016 ALBERTA HUNTERS OF THE YEAR

*Congratulations Overall Champion John Adkins!*

John Adkins of Okotoks, Alberta wins \$500.00 and is Alberta's 2016 Hunter of the Year!



**White-tailed Deer**  
**Gerald Lawrence (\$250)**

Gerald Lawrence of Red Deer County, Alberta is our 2016 Alberta White-tailed Deer Hunter of the Year. Gerald took his buck in WMU 220 near Delburne. Gerald's buck netted 186 6/8 after 11-inches in deductions... wow!

Gerald wins \$250 for his awesome buck. Congratulations Gerald on an excellent 2016 hunting season!



**Mule Deer**  
**John W. Adkins (\$500)**

John Adkins is our 2016 Alberta Mule Deer Hunter of the Year and overall Hunter of the Year Champion. John arrowed his trophy buck near his home of Okotoks, Alberta. John's buck grosses 203 2/8 and nets 200 2/8 after losing a minimal 3 0/8.

John wins \$500 for his incredible trophy mule deer buck. Congratulations John on having an awesome 2016 hunting season!



**American Elk**  
**Glen Pickering (\$250)**

Glen Pickering of Cayley, Alberta is our 2016 Alberta Elk Hunter of the Year. Glen took this massive bull in WMU 406 near Longview. Glen's bull elk grosses 382 1/8 and nets 372 2/8 after deductions.

Glen wins \$250 for his excellent trophy elk. Congratulations Glen on having a super 2016 hunting season!

## ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN MAGAZINE presents the 2017 ALBERTA HUNTERS OF THE YEAR

### RULES

- Any Alberta resident hunting legally in Alberta may enter.
- Typically scored White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer and Elk are the eligible species. Non-Typical scores will not qualify.
- A hunter may enter only one animal per species.
- All qualifying game must be taken under "Fair Chase" as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club.
- All qualifying game must be scored by an Official Measurer and cannot be scored until after the trophy has dried for a period of 60 or more days after harvest date.
- Each entrant must submit a photo (landscape if possible) of themselves with their trophy, as well as a photo of the trophy by itself. All photos

become the property of Sports Scene and may be reproduced at Sports Scene's discretion.

- Each entrant must follow all Boone and Crockett Trophy Entry Requirements and a copy of the original score chart, signed and dated by the Official Measurer, must be sent to Sports Scene along with photos.
- Sports Scene Publications Inc. reserves the right to reject or accept any entry and all decisions will be final.
- The Grand Prize will be awarded to the hunter whose trophy won its category and came closest (on percentage basis) to the current provincial record for that species.
- All prizes must be accepted as awarded.
- Contest opens 2017 hunting season start and closes June 9, 2018.

## PRIZES

The winner in each category will receive a cheque for

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as well as have his or her picture with their trophy, published in next years regulations. The Grand Prize winner will also receive an extra \$250 for a grand total of

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### 2017 HUNTER OF THE YEAR ENTRY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION: Whitetail ☐ Mule Deer ☐ Elk ☐  
WMU where trophy was taken: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nearest Town or City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date trophy was taken: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rifle ☐ Bow ☐

Entry form must be completed entirely and submitted with entry.

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# NO HUNTING AROUND FIRE LOOKOUTS

In Alberta, fire lookouts are considered a residence as well as a workplace. These sites may be occupied from April to October.

**Here's what you need to know if you plan to hunt near fire lookouts:**

- It is your responsibility to know your distance from a residence, and the safe distance for discharging firearms.
- It is unlawful to discharge a weapon within 183m (200 yards) or cause a projectile from a weapon to pass within 183m (200 yards) of any occupied building.

For more information, please consult the appropriate sections of the Petty Trespass Act and the Wildlife Act.

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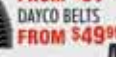
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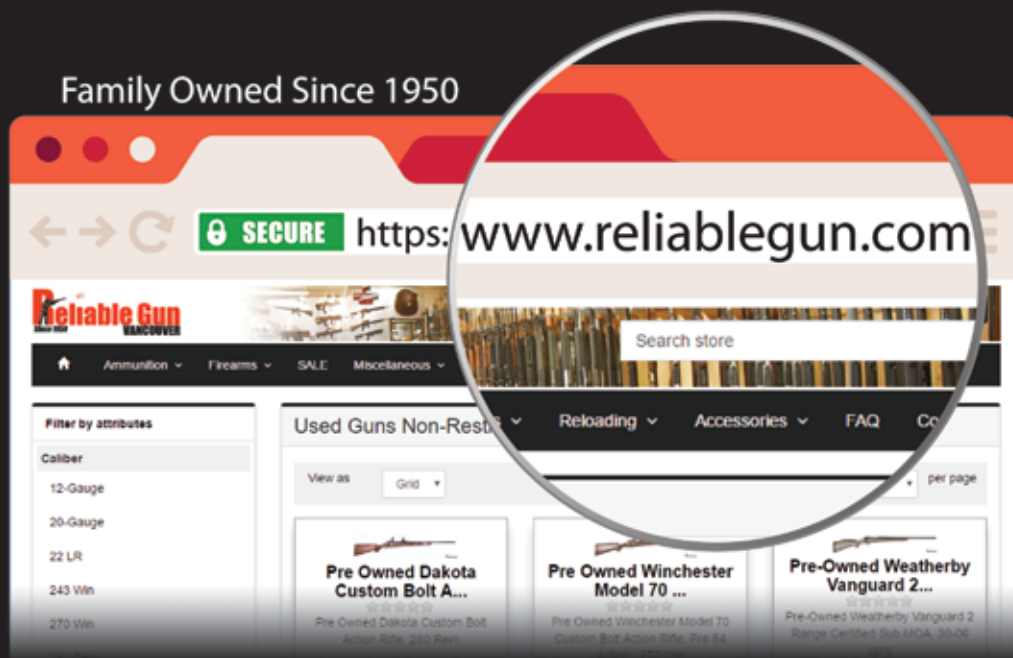
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