

2024 ALBERTA GUIDE TO

FREE OF CHARGE

HUNTING REGULATIONS



First time hunter, Jenna Quinn, 12-years-old

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2024 Deer Hunters

Your Role in CWD Surveillance

Ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance is designed to support game management decisions. While CWD occurs in deer throughout central and eastern Alberta, the program targets specific wildlife management units (WMUs) along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and along the leading edges of the CWD risk area.

However, as always, we will test any cervid legally harvested in Alberta. Depending on where and what you hunt, the risk of harvesting an infected deer ranges from very low to very high. CWD occurs most often in mule deer bucks. For more information and previous data check the CWD web pages at alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates

For 2024, submission of deer heads is:

- 1) **Mandatory any DEER in WMUs: 148, 150, 151, 200, 234, 236, 728, and 730**
- 2) **Mandatory mule deer and Voluntary white-tailed deer in WMUs: 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 514**
- 3) **Mandatory MULE DEER ONLY in WMUs: 108, 110, 212, 216, 221, 224, 246, 247, 248, 250, 300, 302, 303, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 334, 402, 404, 508**

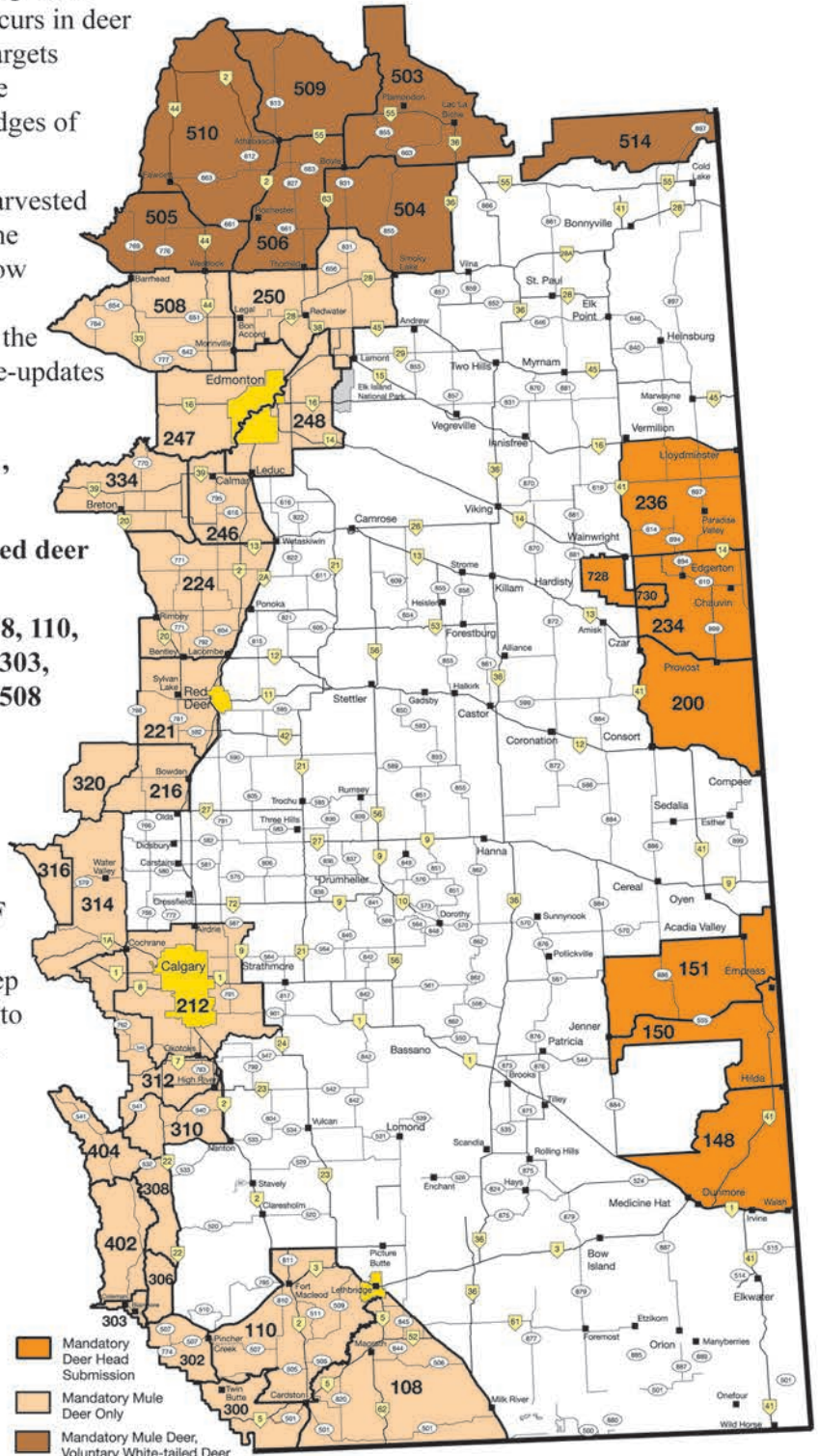
Each head must have a green CWD label. Labels are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at the 24-hour CWD freezers. **DO NOT TAKE EXTRA LABELS FROM THE FREEZERS! TAKE ONLY THE LABEL YOU NEED FOR THE HEAD YOU HAVE!! COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE GREEN LABEL, INCLUDING A PRECISE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

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

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

See page 64 for information regarding carcass disposal.

Note: Check CWD web page in October for 2024 freezer locations





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Genesee Hunting Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Capital Power



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- Alberta Conservation and Hunter Training
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- Archery Essentials Online Training
- Identification of Alberta's Game Fish Quiz
 - Outdoor Women's Program
 - Outdoor Youth Seminar
 - Wildlife Seminars
 - Fishing Seminars

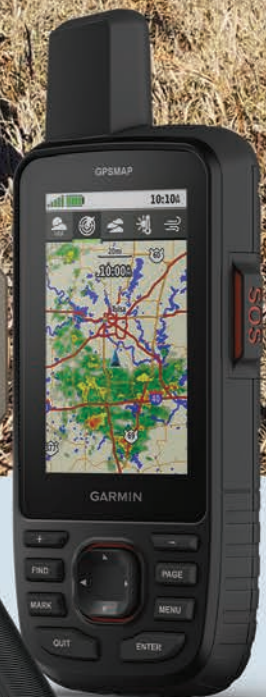
For more information on any of our programs, contact us at:

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Notice to Hunters

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

Message from the Honourable Todd Loewen

Minister of Forestry and Parks

Alberta is proud of our hunting heritage, unique culture, and way of life. We are home to over 150,000 resident hunters who enjoy a broad and generous diversity of hunting experiences and species. Our province is also happy to share these experiences, hosting hunters from across the country and around the world.

Alberta's expansive and diverse natural spaces provide unmatched opportunity for hunters to connect with the great outdoors while helping us meet long-term management goals for our wildlife populations through hunting.

Anyone who spends time exploring the great outdoors in our province knows we have some of the healthiest big game species in the world. We continue to work with a variety of stakeholders within Alberta including recreational hunters, outfitters, landowners, and industry to support enhanced hunting in our province. Alberta continues to be a top hunting destination in North America, with abundant hunting opportunities.



The Ministry of Forestry and Parks works closely with conservation and hunting organizations to ensure the right balance between wildlife management and recreation is attained. This helps us provide hunters of all ages and types with positive hunting experiences in Alberta's forests, mountains, and prairies. I believe that having healthy wildlife populations with mature animals on the landscape is something all Albertans appreciate.

Hunters play a key role in conservation through the purchase of hunting licences and special licence draw applications, with money being used to fund conservation programs and habitat enhancement for many game and non-game species. Additional funds for conservation are raised annually through the sale of Minister's Special Licences. Each year, close to a million dollars is raised through the Minister's Special Licences alone that is reinvested into conservation and hunting programs here in Alberta.

A key organization involved in the conservation of fisheries and wildlife is the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) which is supported through a levy on fishing and hunting licences. In 2023-24 the levy provided just under \$14 million to enable this important work.

For 2024 we've also standardized hunting fees to help everyone plan their season more easily. We've reviewed and adjusted licence fees grouping various licence fees together for a simplified fee structure. As a result of the licence fee review, the ACA will receive an estimated \$1.5 million in additional funding to continue their important work of supporting hunting and fishing initiatives in Alberta.

Personally, I've enjoyed a lifetime of hunting experiences in Alberta, and have shared my passion for the outdoors with my children and grandchildren. There's few things in life I find more exhilarating than hearing an elk bugle, waking up to a frosty morning on a backpack hunt in the Rockies, or sitting in a blind waiting for waterfowl.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and safe hunting season in 2024!

Sincerely,
Todd Loewen

Minister of Forestry and Parks



310-LAND (5263)

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

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

[Alberta.ca/310LAND](https://alberta.ca/310LAND)

Alberta

Alberta

AlbertaRELM

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

Disclaimers

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

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GENERAL

- **Minister's Special Licence.** The Minister's Special Licence for Trophy Antelope, Antlered White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Elk, Antlered Moose, Trophy Sheep, Wild Turkey, Mountain Goat, and Cougar is now available for residents only through the Special Licence Draw. Information on the Minister's Special Licence opportunities can be found at <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/ministers-special-licence.aspx>.

BIG GAME

- The cost for Special Licence Draw applications has increased to \$5.00 per application.
- Licence fees for the 2024 hunting season have been changed. The fees for the 2024 hunting season are identified on pages 43-46 and will come into effect August 1, 2024.

ELK

- Antlerless Elk hunting in WMU 300 (Draw Code 21) has been moved to Antlerless Elk Special Licence (Draw Code 19). There is no change to Antlered Elk hunting under the WMU 300 Elk Special Licence.
- New Elk hunting seasons have been created in WMUs 106, 112, 116, 118, 119, 130, 134, 140, 250, 503, 504, 506, 509, 512, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, and 841.
- A third Antlerless Elk Season in WMU 212 has been created for November 1-30 and the January season now ends January 31.
- Antlerless Elk seasons now end January 31 in the following WMUs: 110, (132, 136, 138), (162, 163, 164, 166), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (200, 202, 203, 232, 234), (252, 254, 258, 260), (236, 238, 256), (206, 222, 226, 244, 246), (208, 210, 220), (204, 228, 230), (240, 242), 214, 216, 221, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 320, 322, 337, 338, 346, 348, 357, 358, 359, 360, 500, 501, 502, 505, 507, 508, 510, 511, 514, 520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 537 and 544.
- Antlerless Elk seasons now end February 8 in the following WMUs (124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150).

SHEEP

- A new season has been created for non-trophy sheep in WMU 404A.
- The non-trophy sheep season in WMU 410 now ends October 31.
- Non-trophy sheep hunters are asked to submit a nasal swab for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* testing. Swabs will be mailed to all successful applicants in the non-trophy sheep draw.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

- Hunting draws are available for 2024 in several Goat Hunting Areas.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

- The archery and general seasons dates have been adjusted in WMUs 326, 328, 330, 429, and 841.
- The Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence has been renamed to WMU 248 White-tailed Deer Licence.
- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence will be issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 258-260, 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360, 440-446, 500-544.

COUGAR

- Cougars must now be registered at designated offices. See page 13 for list of offices.
- Cougar harvest must be reported by email or text within 24 hours of the kill. See mywildalberta.com for details.
- The requirement for physical registration of cougars has changed from 1 day to 5 days after the kill.
- New wildlife management units have been added to cougar management areas allowing hound hunting in more of Alberta. See mywildalberta.com for a map and details.

GAME BIRD

- Alberta now has 2 game bird licences for non-resident alien hunters;
 - If you contract an outfitter to guide you for game birds you must purchase an "Guided NRA Game Bird Licence".
 - If you choose to hunt without the services of an outfitter you must purchase an "Unguided NRA Game Bird Licence". Unguided NRA Game Bird Licences are valid in 3 wildlife management units for 7 continuous days (preselected by the purchaser) and the hunter may purchase 2 unguided NRA game bird licences during a year.

FURTHER INQUIRIES

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

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

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

AlbertaRem Help Desk 1-888-944-5494

Websites – albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.ca

Hunting and Fishing Branch
Alberta Government

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

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

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

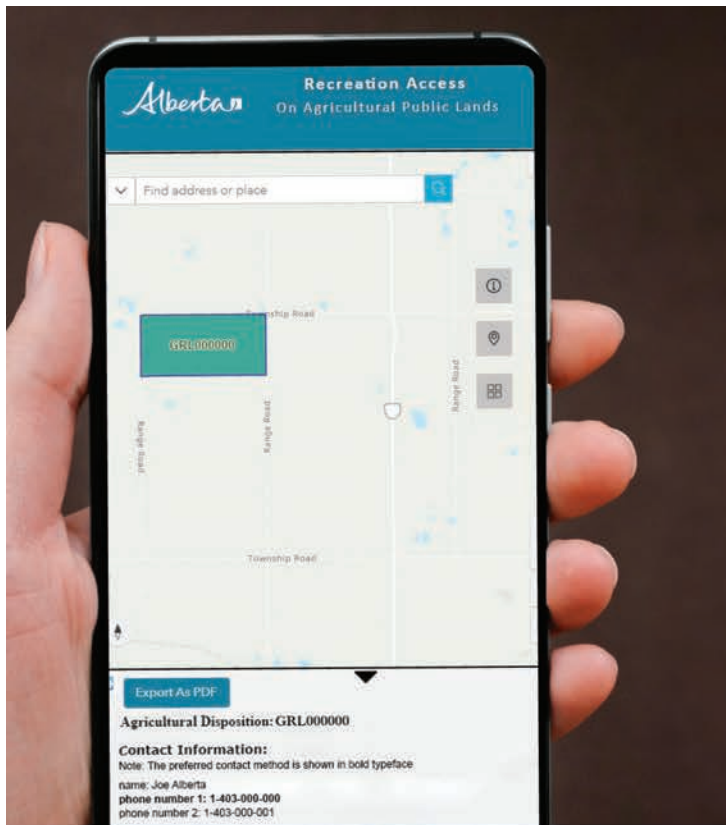
- For non-urgent enforcement or problem wildlife matters see contact information below
- For hunting and fishing violations in progress or imminent public safety risk or significant property loss due to wildlife call **Report A Poacher line 1-800-642-3800**
- Fish and Wildlife Enforcement media requests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

Northwest Region	Grande Prairie, Grande Cache, Spirit River, Valleyview	780-538-5265
	High Prairie, Edson, Fox Creek, Hinton, Slave Lake, Whitecourt	780-523-6526
	Peace River, Fairview, Fort Vermilion, High Level, Manning	780-624-6405
	Rocky Mountain House, Drayton Valley, Evansburg, Nordegg, Sundre	403-845-8300
Northeast Region	Athabasca, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche	780-675-8169
	Edmonton	780-644-7089
	Spruce Grove, Barrhead	780-960-8190
	Red Deer, Ponoka, Stettler, Wetaskiwin	403-755-6150
	Smoky Lake, St. Paul ¹	780-656-3556
	Vegreville, Camrose ¹	780-632-5410
South Region	Provost, Vermilion ¹	780-753-2433
	Calgary, Drumheller, Hanna, Strathmore	403-297-6423
	Cochrane, High River, Oyen	403-932-2388
	Lethbridge, Brooks, Cardston, Medicine Hat, Vulcan	403-381-5266
Blairmore, Claresholm, Pincher Creek	403-562-3289	

Footnotes:
¹ Part time offices – please contact for service hours.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

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



Hunting on agricultural public land

There are over five million acres of public land in Alberta that are held under agricultural leases. Leaseholders are responsible for managing their lease and provide reasonable access for recreational users to enjoy the land while maintaining their working landscape.

Before accessing agricultural public land:

- Contact the leaseholder to discuss your trip plans and access conditions
- Know and follow the rules for use of the lease
- Plan ahead, respect the land and be courteous to other users

Learn more and explore the recreation access on agricultural public lands web map for leaseholder contact information and access conditions at Alberta.ca/AgriculturalPublicLand

For information, call 310-LAND (5263) or visit Alberta.ca/310land



WMU DESCRIPTIONS

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

Alberta King's Printer

10611 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Telephone: (780) 427-4952

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

MAPS

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

Provincial and Federal Maps

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

County and Other Municipal Maps

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

FEDERAL FIREARMS LEGISLATION

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

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following will help you understand terms and definitions in this Guide:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Hunting Firearm

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

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

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

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

OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) – any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh or swamp land, or on other natural terrain. [Exceptions: motor boats, as well as four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles registered in accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*.] OHVs include the following kinds of vehicles when they are designed for cross-country travel as described above:

- four-wheel drive or low pressure tire vehicles,

- motorcycles and related two-wheel vehicles (including bicycles equipped with an electric motor),
- amphibious machines,
- all-terrain vehicles,
- miniature motor vehicles,
- snow vehicles,
- minibikes, or
- any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular power or wind.

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

Resident – a person who either

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

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

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

White Geese – snow and Ross’ geese.

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

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

Month Abbreviations

The following defines the month abbreviations used in this guide:

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



PURCHASING A LICENCE

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

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

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

For Online Purchases:

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

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

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

Licence Issuers

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

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Wildlife Identification Number (WiN)

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

Wildlife Certificate

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

Licensing requirements for first-time hunters

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



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

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

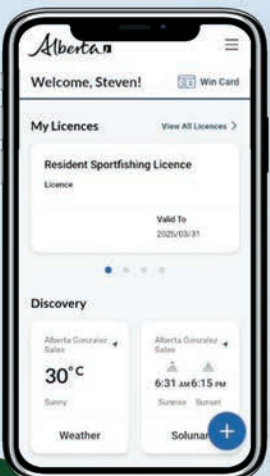
Youth first-time hunters must be *at least 12 years old* (10 years of age for game bird) to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta. All hunters *under the age of 16 years* must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. Hunters who are *11 years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

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

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

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

Resident Youth Hunting Licences

Subject to the age limitations and conditions above, a resident 10 to 17 years of age may purchase a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for \$12.00. The holder of a valid Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate between 12 and 17 who has not yet attained the age of 18 years may also purchase a Youth White-tailed Deer Licence and a Youth Mule Deer Licence, each for \$12.00. **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 \$12.00. Partner Licences are also available to resident youths if designated by the holder of any special licence. See this page.

Resident Senior Hunting Licences

A resident who is 65 years of age or older, at the time of acquiring the following licences may purchase a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for \$12.00. The holder of a valid Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate may also purchase a Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer Licence for \$12.00. These licences are only valid during the seasons that do not require one of the special licences obtained through a draw. Partner Licences are also available to resident seniors if designated by the holder of any special licence.

Hunters with Disabilities

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

Mandatory Suspended Hunter Requirements

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

Licence Suspensions for Unpaid Fines

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

Draws for Special Licences

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

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

Holders of a Special Licence are required to report their harvest and effort by February 15, 2025 for all Special Licences they purchased. Failure to report will result in a \$15.00 survey fee being charged before they can purchase a Wildlife Certificate and participate in the Special Licence draw process.

Draw Application Deadline Dates — Hunters interested in special licence hunts for fall 2024 must have applied by June 24. Refer to the *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for more information on draws. Undersubscribed Licences are special licences leftover following the draw. These opportunities go on sale July 14 – visit albertarelm.com for more information.

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

Landowner Special Licence

A person who qualifies may be eligible to obtain a special licence after having been unsuccessful in some draws. Availability of Landowner Special Licences may be limited or not available at all for some species in certain WMUs. Those available will be issued to eligible persons on a first-come, first-served basis. For details on eligibility and the application process, please consult the *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

Partner Licence

The following Partner Licences are available:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Hunter Host

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

Hunter Host Licence

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

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

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



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BIG GAME LICENCES

Resident Licence Costs and Combinations

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

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate which costs \$30.00 (or \$12.00 for a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate, page 17). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter	
White-tailed Deer	45.00	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first two licences.	A Resident Adult or Youth may obtain one licence from each species for a total of four from this list of 24.	
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	45.00			
Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer	12.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of the last three licences.		
Special Antlered White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Mule Deer	45.00	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first two licences.		
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	45.00			
Youth Mule Deer	12.00	A Resident Senior may obtain only one of the four licences, excluding the Youth licence. A Resident Youth may obtain only one of the last three licences.		
Special Antlered Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Elk*	45.00	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first five licences.		* Holders of a Resident Elk (General) Licence may purchase an undersubscribed Antlerless Elk Licence.
Either Sex Elk Special Licence	45.00			
Antlerless Elk Special Licence	45.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these nine licences.		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	60.00			
WMU 300 Elk Special Licence	60.00	* Holders of a Elk (General) Licence may purchase a undersubscribed Antlerless Elk Licence		
Special WMU 300 Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Either Sex Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Special Antlered Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Moose (Archery)	45.00	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first six licences.	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first six licences. A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these 11 licences.	
Antlerless Moose Special Licence	45.00			
Calf Moose Special Licence	45.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these seven licences.		
Antlered Moose Special Licence	60.00			
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	12.00			
Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence	12.00			
Special Calf Moose Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00			
Trophy Sheep	90.00			A Resident who killed a sheep, except a legal non-trophy sheep, in 2023 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Licence in 2024.
WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00			
WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00			
WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00			
WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00			
WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00			

continued on next page

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Special WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00	<i>see page 19 for restrictions</i>	<i>see page 19 for licences</i>
Special WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence	90.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	A Resident Adult may obtain one of each of these 22 licences (excluding the Youth/Senior licences).
Special Non-trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence	25.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	A Resident Youth may obtain 14 different licences from this list of 22.
Special Antlerless White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer ¹	25.00		
Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212, 247 & 248)	25.00		
WMU 248 White-tailed Deer	25.00		
Foothills Deer	25.00		
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence	25.00	A Resident Youth may obtain only one of the last two licences.	
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Antlerless Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
CFB Wainwright Deer Special Licence	45.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special CFB Wainwright Deer Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery	25.00		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence	45.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Black Bear	25.00		
Supplemental Black Bear ²	25.00		
Youth Black Bear Licence	12.00		
Cougar	25.00		
Goat Special Licence ³	180.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Goat Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Antelope Archery Special Licence	90.00	A Resident Adult may obtain only one of the first three licences.	
Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence	90.00		
Trophy Antelope Special Licence	90.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these six licences.	
Special Antelope Archery Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special Non-trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Special Trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		
Game Bird	15.00		
Pheasant	25.00		
Wild Turkey Special Licence	60.00	A Resident Youth/Senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special Wild Turkey Partner Licence (Youth/Senior)	12.00		

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	10.00		
Hunter Host Licence	30.00		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁵	11.00		

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

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



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 *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet which was made available in May 2024.

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

Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below. Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$30.00. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

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

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	175.00	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	A Non-resident may obtain four different licences from this list of nine, but not more than one licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence ¹	175.00		
Antlered Mule Deer	175.00	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence ¹	175.00		
Antlered Elk	250.00	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence ¹	250.00		
Antlered Moose (Archery)	250.00	A Non-resident may not obtain more than one of these three licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence ¹	250.00		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	60.00		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence ^{1,2}	400.00	A Non-resident who killed a sheep in 2023 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2024.	
Trophy Sheep (Outfitter) Special Licence	500.00		
Wolf/Coyote	15.00	See <i>2024 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations</i> for dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence ³	250.00		
Black Bear Licence	100.00	A Non-resident accompanied by a Hunter Host may obtain both of these licences.	A Non-resident may obtain one of each licence from this list of two. However, Non-residents purchasing one of these two licences may not purchase a Black Bear Special Licence.
Supplemental Black Bear Licence ⁴	100.00		
Black Bear Special Licence ⁵	100.00	Non-residents must purchase these licences through an outfitter.	
Cougar	150.00		One licence only from this list of two.
Cougar Special Licence	150.00		
Game Bird	70.00		
Pheasant	45.00		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	20.00		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁶	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁷	11.00		

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

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

³ Non-resident Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available through an outfitter or through a draw. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 22) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 18).

- 4 This licence is valid only in the following WMUs where two black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841. Please see page 56 for more information.
- 5 These licences are valid for two black bears if the outfitter's allocation is valid for a WMU where the Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid (i.e., two-bear areas).
- 6 All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2.00 fee or online at no charge.
- 7 You are required to bring your licence and identification to a licence issuer and obtain the authorization for the tag replacement. An \$11.00 fee is applicable per licence.

Non-resident Alien Licence Availability

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

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

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

Non-resident Alien Licence Costs and Combinations

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

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$75.00. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered White-tailed Deer	250.00	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	A Non-resident Alien may obtain nine different licences from this list of 14, but not more than one licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	250.00 ¹		
Antlered Mule Deer	250.00	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	250.00 ¹		
Antlered Elk	350.00	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence	350.00 ¹		
Antlered Moose Archery	350.00	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence	350.00 ¹		
Black Bear Licence	150.00	A Non-resident Alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Black Bear Special Licence ²	150.00 ¹		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence ³	500.00 ¹	A Non-resident Alien who killed a sheep in 2023 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2024.	
Cougar Special Licence ³	300.00 ¹		
Wolf/Coyote Licence	15.00 ¹	See page 58 for wolf and coyote season dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence ³	350.00 ¹		
Game Bird – Guided	125.00		
Game Bird – Unguided	175.00		
Pheasant	45.00		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	25.00		
WiN Activation	8.00		
Physical WiN Card	3.00		
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00		
Tag Replacement ⁵	11.00		

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

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

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

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

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

GAME BIRD LICENCES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 15) and a Wildlife Certificate. The Wildlife Certificate costs \$30.00 or \$75.00 for a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, or \$12.00 for a Resident Youth/Senior Wildlife Certificate (see page 17). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit.

Licence Costs

Game Bird Licence	Price (\$)		
	Resident	Non-resident (Canadian)	Non-resident Alien
Game Bird	15.00	70.00	Guided ⁶ – 125.00 Unguided ⁷ – 175.00
Pheasant	25.00	45.00	45.00
Wild Turkey Special Licence ^{1,2}	60.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Special Wild Turkey Partner Licence (Youth/Senior) ¹	12.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bowhunting Permit	10.00	20.00	25.00
WiN Renewal	8.00	8.00	8.00
Licence Reprint ⁴	2.00	2.00	2.00
Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit ^{3,5}	17.00	17.00	17.00

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

² Available only through a draw, page 61.

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

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

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

⁶ If you contract an outfitter to guide you for game birds you must purchase the Guided NRA Game Bird Licence.

⁷ If you hunt game birds without the service of an outfitter you must purchase the Unguided NRA Game Bird Licence. The Unguided NRA Game Bird Licence is valid in 3 WMUs and for 7 continuous days. A person may purchase 2 of the Unguided Game Bird Licences during a year.

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- Fuel • Propane • Lottery • Groceries • Pellet Grills
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LETHAL BACTERIA FOUND IN SHEEP

MYCOPLASMA OVIPNEUMONIAE, OR MOVI FOR SHORT, CAN BE FOUND IN SEEMINGLY HEALTHY DOMESTIC SHEEP AND GOATS.

THIS BACTERIA IS TRANSMISSIBLE TYPICALLY FROM NOSE-TO-NOSE CONTACT TO WILD BIGHORN SHEEP. WITH DEADLY CONSEQUENCES, MOST BIGHORN SHEEP ARE DYING WITHIN A WEEK.

THIS CAN HAVE DEVASTATING IMPACTS ON BIGHORN POPULATIONS FOR MANY YEARS TO FOLLOW, DUE TO LOW LAMB SURVIVAL RATES.

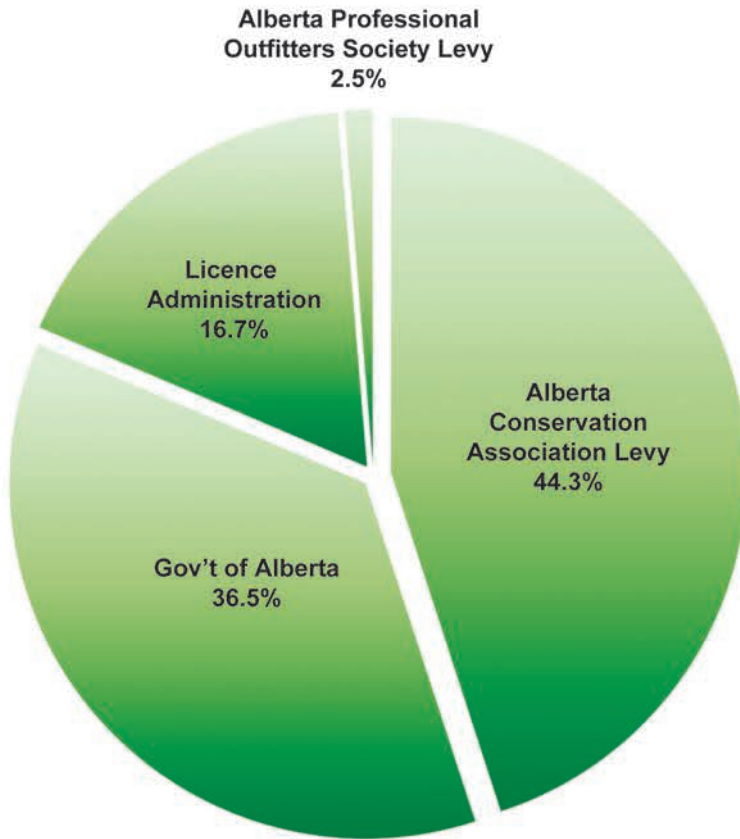
FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM GOA FOR PRODUCERS TO TEST FOR MOVI IN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.



WSFAB.ORG / MOVIFREE.ORG



2023/24 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT



Where did your 2023/24 Hunting Licence Dollars go?

- Over \$19.2M in revenue was collected from the sale of hunting licences, hunting draw applications and WiN cards.
- Over 44% of hunting licence revenue goes directly to the Alberta Conservation Association levy in support of programming (For more information please visit ab-conservation.com).
- Licence and administration fees accounted for just under 17% and provides compensation to licence issuers, pays for licensing services including the annual hunter harvest & effort survey delivered through AlbertaReIm.com
- Over 2.5% Alberta Professional Outfitter Society levies are applied to all outfitted licences.
- The Government of Alberta receives 36.5% of hunting licence revenue collected; 70% goes to General Revenue while 30% goes to a dedicated fund to deliver wildlife management programs such as annual ungulate surveys. For more information visit: Alberta.ca and search "wildlife survey".

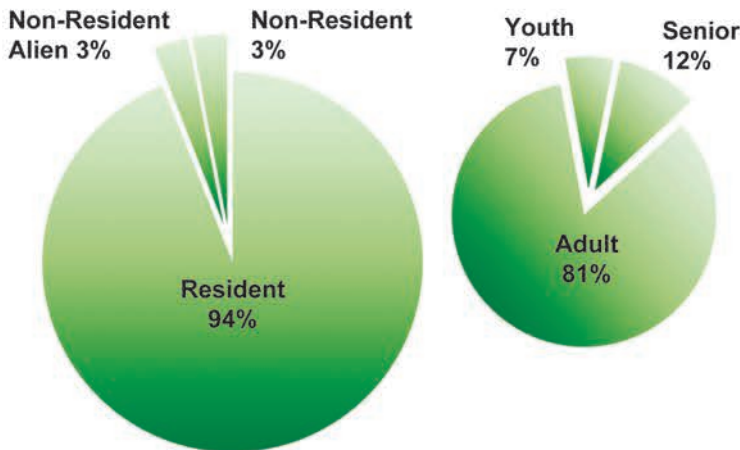
For more information, visit mywildalberta.ca/BuyLicences/Annual-Sales-Statistics

Resident Hunters in Alberta in 2023

- There were 151,085 resident hunters in Alberta.
- 15% purchased Bowhunting Permits.
- 52% purchased Game Bird Licences.

Hunters in Alberta in 2023

- 164,985 total hunters hunted in Alberta.
- 5,896 Non-Residents
- 8,004 Non-Resident Aliens



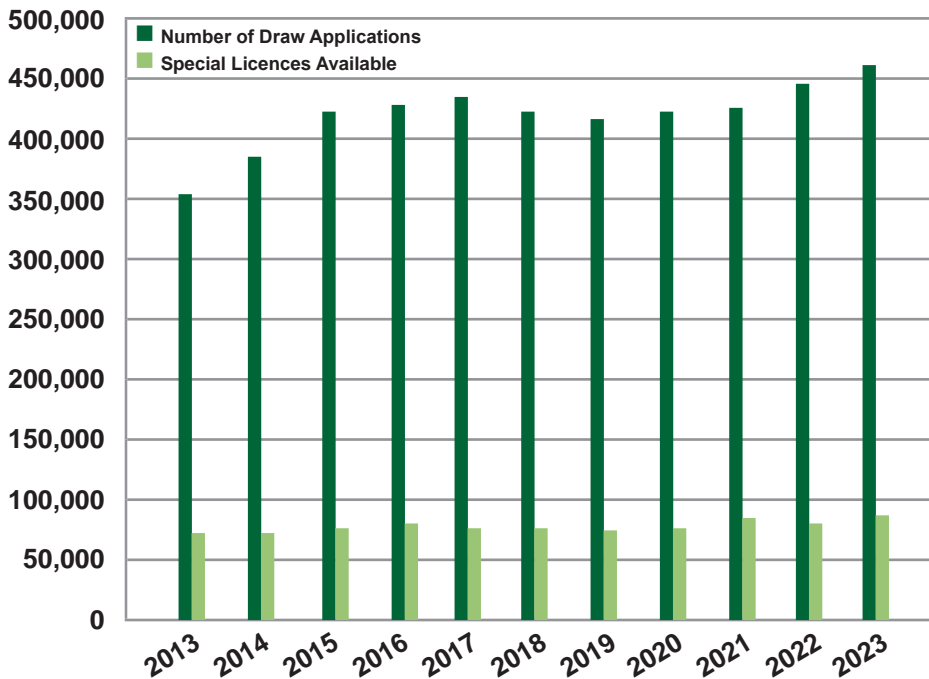
Hunter Hosts in Alberta in 2023

- Over 2,950 Albertans hosted over 7,600 friends and family to hunt with them in Alberta.
- Over 4,300 hosted hunters were Canadian.

Youth and Senior Hunters in Alberta in 2023

- Youth/Senior Wildlife certificates, which include a Game bird licence, are available for \$12.00 in 2024. Over 30,000 were sold, 11,200 Youth and 19,600 Senior.
- Youth/Senior White-tailed Deer and Youth Mule Deer are available for \$12.00. Over 20,100 White-tailed Deer were sold, 7,500 Youth and 12,500 Senior. Over 800 Youth Mule Deer licences were sold.
- Did you know that you can legally share almost any big game Special Licence opportunity with a Youth or Senior hunter using the Partner Licence for only \$12.00. Over 250 youth and 500 Senior hunters took advantage of this opportunity allowing them to hunt elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and wild turkey.

2023/24 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT

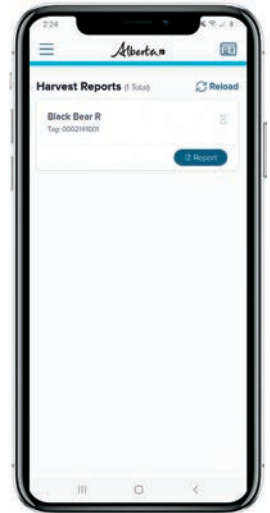


Mandatory Harvest and Effort Reporting

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

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

Hunters failing to submit harvest and effort survey results for 2024 special licences purchased will be subject to a \$15 survey surcharge payable on their next wildlife certificate purchase.



Congratulations to the lucky hunter that has been awarded a free 2024 special licence just for completing their 2023 hunter harvest and effort survey!.

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

Please visit mywildalberta.ca to see 2023 hunter harvest and effort survey results.

ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

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

In 2023, the top 5 offenses were:

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



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

Poachers steal your draw.

Take a stand against poaching.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

Prohibitions

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

General

It is unlawful to:

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

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

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

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

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

Big Game

It is unlawful to

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

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

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

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

Game Bird

It is unlawful to:

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

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

continued on next page

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

EXPORTING

Alberta Export Permit

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

- Hunters who lawfully harvest game birds, coyotes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, pronghorn antelope or black bear* under the authority of a hunting licence or a right that is protected under Canadian Constitution, may export those species without an Alberta export permit if
 - in the case of upland game birds, the bird has been processed as a mounted specimen, or
 - the shipment is accompanied by the hunter who killed the animal, and
 - the appropriate licence is carried by the hunter who killed the animal being exported.
 * Alberta prohibits the export of gall bladder and paws of black bear. You may export red meat, hide with claws attached, head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. See CITES Export Permit at right.
- Coyote that have been lawfully hunted by residents do not require a provincial export permit.

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

Commercial Export of Wildlife to the U.S.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SALE OF WILDLIFE

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

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

FOUND DEAD WILDLIFE

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



ABHuntLog

- **Log observations and harvests**
- **Contribute to trackable trends in wildlife populations in WMUs**

- **Plan future hunts and draws**
- **Promote the value of hunting to Alberta's economy**

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Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance in Alberta

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

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

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

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

Clear patterns in the data include:

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



AB# 405: Most deer with CWD look healthy.

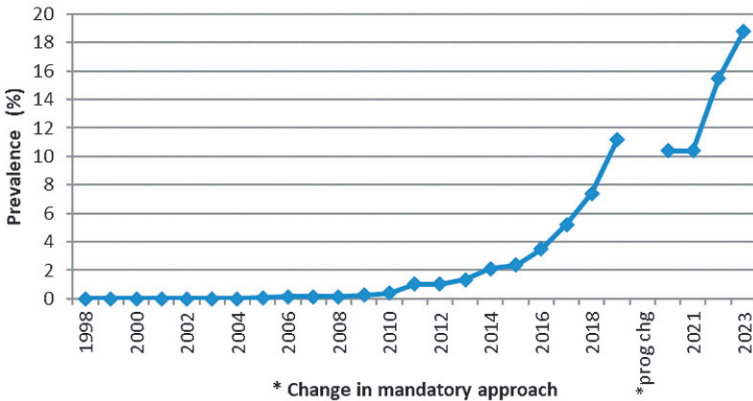
In over 114,000 heads tested since 1998, we detected CWD in 5179 mule deer, 930 whitetails, 39 elk, and 15 moose. This includes 708 cases identified in 3758 heads tested in 2023 (18.8%): 576 mule deer, 112 whitetails, 13 elk, and 7 moose.

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

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

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

Overall Prevalence since 1996/97



Hunters are encouraged to take a close look at the CWD Surveillance Program details. The modified approach taken by game managers since 2020 better informs their deer management decisions, and your hunting decisions.

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

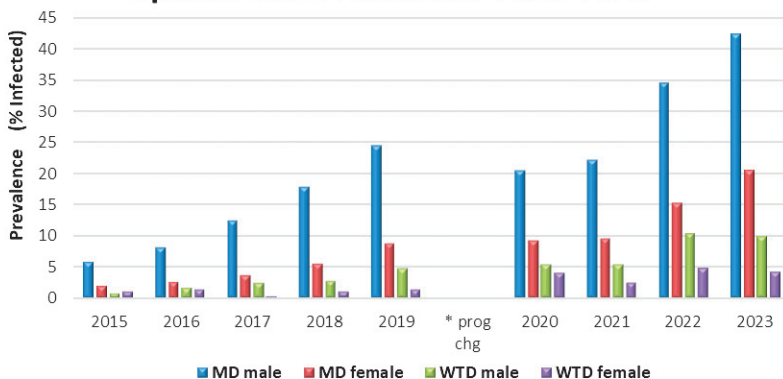
In Alberta, long-term surveillance improves our ability to track CWD occurrence and patterns. Armed with this information, big game managers more fully understand the potential effects of the disease, and hunters concerned about CWD can make informed decisions about their hunt.

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

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

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

Species-Sex Prevalence 2015-2023



HUNTING PRIVILEGES ON OCCUPIED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

Access to Public and Private Lands

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

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

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

Access to Public Lands

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife Act

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

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

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

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

Petty Trespass Act

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

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

Legend:
■ Potentially Occupied Lands
X Residence

Federal Criminal Code

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

Access for Guiding

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

Access for Control of Livestock Predation

Black Bear and Coyote*

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

Timber Wolf*

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

*Cougar

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

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

HUNTING IN ALBERTA PROVINCIAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Alberta's Parks Division provides hunting opportunities on over 85% of the land base managed as a Provincial Park or Protected Area. In protected areas where hunting is allowed some activities are restricted in order to protect sensitive areas and species or to address public safety or wildlife management issues. Section 15 of the Provincial Parks (General) Regulation prohibits dogs off leash in Provincial Parks, Wildland Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas. Dogs need to be controlled via a restraining leash not greater than 2m long, with some exemptions to support the use of dogs in the lawful hunting of cougars and game birds in Wildland Provincial Parks and Castle Provincial Park. For detailed information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas contact your local Alberta Forestry and Parks office or visit [albertaparks.ca](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/provincial-parks-general-directive) and as it relates to hunting with dogs visit <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/provincial-parks-general-directive>.

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

Ecological Reserves

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

Wilderness Areas

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

Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

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

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

Provincial Recreation Areas please visit albertaparks.ca

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

Wildland Provincial Parks

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

Willmore Wilderness Park

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

Heritage Rangelands

Heritage Rangelands preserve and protect natural features that are representative of Alberta's prairies and grazing is used to maintain the grassland ecology. Two heritage rangelands have been established in Alberta - Black Creek Heritage Rangeland in the Whaleback area and OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland near Longview. These lands are cooperatively managed with Alberta Forestry and Parks and grazing

lease holders. Hunting is permitted, however entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions. For access conditions please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use.aspx>, select Recreation and Public Use, then select Recreation on Agricultural Public Land.

Natural Areas

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

Kananaskis Country

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

Hunters – Please be Aware:

Baiting

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

Provincial Park. Both exceptions are managed through permits and approvals issued by Alberta Forestry and Parks. For more information contact your local Parks Division office.

Found Dead Wildlife in Parks

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

Hanging and Storage of Big Game

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

Be Respectful of Others

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

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

Edmonton: 780-427-3582

Northwest Region: 780-538-5350

Northeast Region: 780-623-5235

West Central Region: 780-960-8170

East Central Region: 403-340-7691

Kananaskis Country: 403-678-5508

South Region: 403-382-4097

RESTRICTED AREAS

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

ALL HUNTING

Wildlife Sanctuaries

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

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

Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries

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

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

Mountain and Foothills

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



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

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

Close to the national park boundary?

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

It is illegal to:

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

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

To report incidents, wounded animals or for more information:

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

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

Wood Buffalo: 1-867-872-0404

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

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

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

À proximité de la limite d'un parc national?

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

Il est illégal :

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

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

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

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

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

Wood Buffalo : 1-867-872-0404

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



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

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

Boreal Region

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

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

Seasonal Sanctuaries

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

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

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

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

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

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

Métis Settlements

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

Forest Recreation Areas

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



National Parks

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

Bison Protection and Special Bison Areas

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

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

For more information and detailed map/description of the Bison Protection Areas, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/wood-bison-regulation> or contact the Peace River Fish and Wildlife Office.

Other Restricted Areas

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

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

BIG GAME HUNTING

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

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

Saskatoon Mountain Primitive Weapons Area

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

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ALBERTA OUTDOORS

Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep

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

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

GAME BIRD HUNTING

Game Bird Sanctuaries

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

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

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

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VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

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

Vehicle Use and Restrictions

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

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

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ)

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

Wildland Provincial Parks

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

Hunting with Motorized Vehicles

It is unlawful to

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

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

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

Use of Aircraft

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

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

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

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

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

Recreation Trails

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

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

Trappers’ Trails

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





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- **Trapping**
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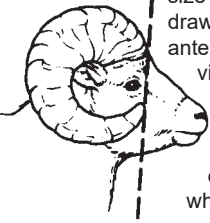
Visit our website for more information

www.winefredlakeoutfitters.com

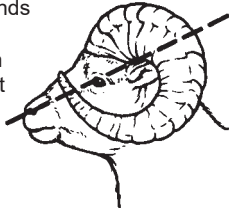
BIG GAME REGULATIONS

— 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. For more details on Sheep Registration, Procedures and Curl visit www.mywildalberta.com.



lamb



yearling ewe

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



yearling ram
(illegal)



adult ewe

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



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



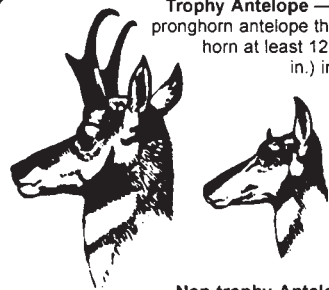
Antlered

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

Antlerless

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

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

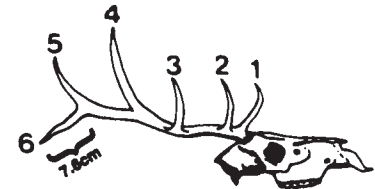


Non-trophy Antelope – A female pronghorn antelope or a male pronghorn antelope having horns not more than 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

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

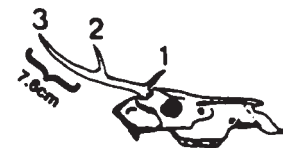


THERE IS NO OPEN SEASON FOR CARIBOU.



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.



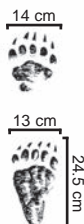
Three-point Elk – A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than two tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

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

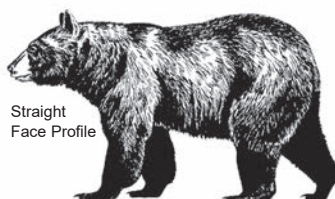
GRIZZLY Hump There is No Season for Grizzly Bear.



Dished Face Profile



No Hump **BLACK BEAR**



Straight Face Profile

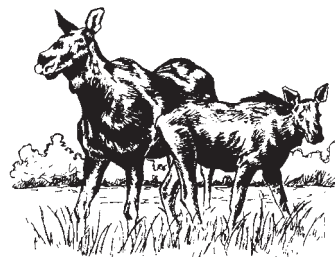


Go to bearsmart.alberta.ca for more information on distinguishing black bears from grizzly bears.

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.



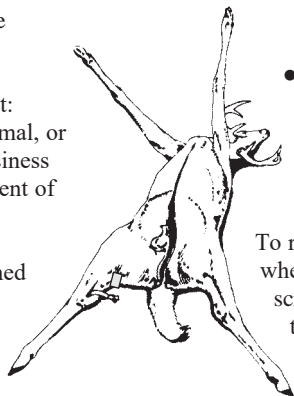
EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

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

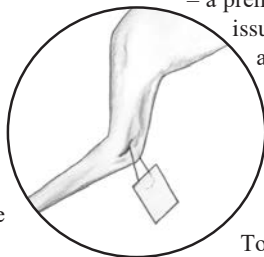
NOTE: Antlered moose, elk and deer must **NOT** be tagged around the antler base. Please review the following instructions.

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

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

WILD GAME PROCESSING

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

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

BOWHUNTING

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

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

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

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

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

HUNTING WITH CROSS-BOWS

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

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

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

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



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WILDLIFE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

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

- Goat;
- Male sheep over 1 year of age (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact, and cape and lower jaw removed) to a designated Fish and Wildlife Office. See page 13 for Designated Offices for registering sheep. You must call ahead to arrange a time to complete the registration process;
- Cougar (the skull and skin must be submitted, complete with evidence of sex attached and visible, to a designated Fish and Wildlife Office. See page 13 for designated offices). 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 any other authority, within 5 business days of the date of the kill.
- **Bison taken in WMU 536 or 539 (NO SEASON FOR 2024)** – not later than the end of the fifth usual business day after the animal was killed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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BIG GAME SEASONS



Prairie WMUs (100 Series & 732)



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

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

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

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

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

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered	S1 - N5	(Wed – Sat only) N6 - N9, N13 - N16, N20 - N23, N27- N30	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 - N5	■ (Wed – Sat only) N6 - N9, N13 - N16, N20 - N23, N27- N30	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 - N5	■ (Wed – Sat only) N6 - N9, N13 - N16, N20 - N23, N27- N30	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 - N5	■ (Wed – Sat only) N6 - N9, N13 - N16, N20 - N23, N27- N30	104, 108, 110, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 156
	Antlerless	S1 - N5	■ (Wed – Sat only) N6 - N9, N13 - N16, N20 - N23, N27- N30	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 - F8, 2025	(124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150)
			■ N4 - N9 ■ N11 - N16 ■ N18 - N23 ■ N25 - N30	116, 118, 119, 624 (WMU 624 – Monday to Friday only)
			■ D1 - D31	116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
			■ J1 - J31, 2025	116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
		S1 - O15		116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ¹	S1 - O31		106, 112, 130, 134, 140
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J31, 2025	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)

Big Game Seasons in PRAIRIE WMUs continued next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ J11 - J13, 2025 ■ J19 - J21, 2025 ■ J27 - J29, 2025 	732 (CFB Suffield)

¹ See page 40 for descriptions of 3 point or larger elk.

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 **2024 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for further details.

BIG GAME SEASONS



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



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

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

- Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

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

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

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		O17 - O31	N9 - N30	936 ¹
	Antlered	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	210
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	210
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
	Antlered	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 ¹
			■ O25 - D7 ²	248
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N30		212, 247, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 ¹
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ³	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), 250, (252, 254, 258, 260)
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J31, 2025	(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 - O31		■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025	250	

Big Game Seasons in PARKLAND WMUs continued next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J31, 2025 	214
		S1 - O31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J31, 2025 	216, 221
		S1 - N30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N1 - N30² ■ D1 - D31² ■ J1 - J31, 2025² 	212 ⁴

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

- ¹ 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).
- ² This season is open to hunting only by means of archery, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun.
- ³ See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.
- ⁴ WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery Licence will be issued with 2 tags; WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence will be issued with 1 tag.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:

- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 258-260.
- Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212, 247 and 248) Licence. Holders of this licence may kill two antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMUs 212, 247 and 248 during the archery-only season, S1 – N30.
- Foothills Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, shotgun, or muzzle loader in WMU 212 on the following dates: D1 – D20 (Monday to Friday only). When hunting, they must carry written permission from the landowner involved.
- CFB Wainwright Deer Special Licence. Refer to alberta.ca/WainwrightHunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2024 CFB Wainwright Hunt.
- WMU 248 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 WMU 248 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. Hunters are reminded to ensure the discharge of their weapon is not prohibited by county or municipal by-laws.

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

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SUNSET TABLE

Biche Set	Lethbridge		Medicine Hat		Peace River		Red Deer		Whitcourt	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
8:18	6:48	8:13	6:39	8:05	6:54	8:42	6:48	8:21	6:52	8:32
8:08	6:54	8:05	6:45	7:57	7:02	8:32	6:54	8:12	6:59	8:22
7:56	7:01	7:54	6:52	7:46	7:12	8:18	7:02	8:00	7:08	8:10
7:43	7:08	7:43	6:59	7:35	7:22	8:05	7:11	7:49	7:17	8:57
7:30	7:16	7:32	7:07	7:24	7:32	7:52	7:19	7:37	7:26	7:45
7:17	7:23	7:21	7:15	7:13	7:42	7:38	7:27	7:25	7:35	7:32
7:05	7:31	7:11	7:22	7:02	7:52	7:25	7:36	7:13	7:44	7:20
7:02	7:32	7:08	7:24	7:00	7:54	7:22	7:37	7:11	7:46	7:17
6:52	7:38	7:00	7:30	6:51	8:02	7:12	7:44	7:02	7:53	7:08
6:40	7:46	6:49	7:38	6:40	8:12	6:59	7:53	6:50	8:03	6:56
6:28	7:54	6:39	7:46	6:30	8:22	6:46	8:02	6:39	8:12	6:44
6:16	8:02	6:29	7:54	6:20	8:33	6:34	8:10	6:29	8:22	6:32
6:05	8:10	6:20	8:02	6:11	8:43	6:22	8:19	6:18	8:31	6:21
5:54	8:18	6:11	8:10	6:02	8:54	6:11	8:29	6:09	8:41	6:11
5:50	8:21	6:08	8:14	5:58	8:59	6:06	8:32	6:05	8:45	6:07
4:42	7:28	5:01	7:20	4:52	8:07	4:58	7:39	4:58	7:53	4:59
4:33	7:36	4:54	7:29	4:44	8:18	4:48	7:48	4:49	8:03	4:50
4:24	7:44	4:47	7:37	4:38	8:28	4:39	7:57	4:42	8:12	4:42
4:17	7:52	4:42	7:45	4:32	8:39	4:31	8:06	4:36	8:22	4:35
4:11	8:00	4:37	7:52	4:27	8:48	4:24	8:14	4:30	8:31	4:29
4:06	8:06	4:34	7:59	4:24	8:57	4:19	8:22	4:26	8:39	4:24
4:05	8:08	4:33	8:01	4:23	8:59	4:18	8:23	4:26	8:40	4:24
4:03	8:13	4:32	8:06	4:22	9:05	4:15	8:29	4:24	8:46	4:21
4:01	8:18	4:31	8:11	4:21	9:11	4:13	8:34	4:22	8:52	4:20
4:01	8:22	4:31	8:15	4:21	9:17	4:13	8:39	4:22	8:57	4:20
4:02	8:26	4:33	8:19	4:23	9:20	4:14	8:42	4:24	9:00	4:21
4:05	8:28	4:36	8:21	4:26	9:22	4:17	8:44	4:27	9:02	4:24
4:10	8:28	4:40	8:21	4:30	9:22	4:22	8:45	4:32	9:03	4:29
4:12	8:28	4:42	8:21	4:32	9:22	4:24	8:45	4:34	9:02	4:31
4:18	8:28	4:47	8:21	4:36	9:20	4:30	8:44	4:38	9:01	4:36
4:25	8:26	4:53	8:18	4:43	9:16	4:38	8:41	4:45	8:58	4:43
4:34	8:22	5:00	8:15	4:50	9:11	4:47	8:37	4:53	8:53	4:52
4:43	8:18	5:08	8:10	4:58	9:04	4:57	8:32	5:01	8:48	5:01
4:53	8:12	5:16	8:05	5:06	8:57	5:07	8:26	5:10	8:41	5:10
5:03	8:06	5:24	7:58	5:14	8:48	5:18	8:18	5:19	8:33	5:20
5:07	8:03	5:27	7:56	5:18	8:44	5:22	8:15	5:23	8:29	5:24
5:15	7:57	5:34	7:49	5:25	8:36	5:31	8:08	5:31	8:22	5:32
5:26	7:49	5:43	7:41	5:33	8:25	5:42	7:59	5:40	8:12	5:42
5:36	7:40	5:51	7:32	5:42	8:14	5:54	7:50	5:50	8:02	5:53
5:47	7:31	6:00	7:23	5:50	8:02	6:05	7:40	5:59	7:51	6:03
5:57	7:21	6:08	7:13	5:59	7:50	6:15	7:29	6:08	7:39	6:13

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

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 (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 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
		S1 - O24	O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 334, 336, 348
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	352, 353, 355
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 347, 349, 350, 351, 354, 356
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 337, 338
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	357, 359, 360
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 320, 322, 332
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	358
■ S1 - O31		■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 322, 332, 334, 336, 337	
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 322, 332, 334, 336, 337
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	Antlered	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	318, 324, 338, 348
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 308
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	352, 353 ¹ , 355
	Antlerless	■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	357
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	359, 360
Elk	Antlered (3-point or larger) ²	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	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, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
	Antlerless		■ S4 - O24 ■ O25 - D24 ■ D25 - F21, 2025	300

Big Game Seasons in FOOTHILLS WMUs continued next page


Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	340, 342, 344 ¹
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	330, 352
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025	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 - J31, 2025	312, 314
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025	346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J31, 2025	320, 322
				■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025
A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20	353, 354, 355, 356		
Trophy Sheep ³	Resident		S4 - O31	302 ⁴ , 303, 306, 308

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

- 1 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.
- 2 See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.
- 3 Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 37.
- 4 WMU 302 is open only for Full-Curl Trophy Sheep.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Foothills WMUs:

- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360.
- WMU 300 Elk Special Licence and Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence. Refer to page 58 for season dates or to the *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.






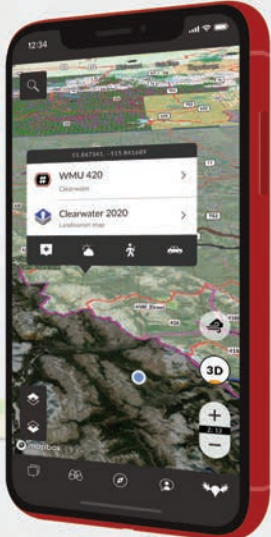
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BIG GAME SEASONS



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 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S4 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S4 - N30		410
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	429, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
S1 - S23		N1 - N15	400, 402	
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S4 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S4 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439
		■ S1 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	S1 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	S4 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406
		S4 - 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
		S4 - S23	■ S24 - N30	408
■ S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402		
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S4 - N30		410
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ¹ and Antlerless	S4 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ¹	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	429
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ¹	S1 - S16	S17 - N30	400, 402
Antlerless		S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	438 ² , 439, 441 ² , 444 ²

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Trophy Sheep ³	Resident	S4 - O31		410
		■ S4 - N30		410
			■ A25 - S23 ■ S24 - O31	437
			■ N1 - N10 ■ N11 - N20 ■ N21 - N30	438 ⁴
			A25 - O31	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444 ⁵ , 445
			■ A25 - O31	444 ⁶ , 446
			S4 - O31	400 ⁷ , 402, 404, 406, 408
		■ N1 - N30	408 (west of Highway 40)	
	Non-resident and Non-resident Alien ⁸	■ S4 - N30		410
			■ S1 - O15	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444 ⁵ , 445

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

- ¹ See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.
- ² The draw season for antlerless elk in WMU 438, 441 and 444 applies only to a portion of the WMU (see draw booklet for maps), however, the antlerless archery season applies to the entire WMU.
- ³ Hunting of sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for trophy and non-trophy sheep on page 37.
- ⁴ The draw season for trophy sheep is valid in Area 438C (See *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws Booklet*).
- ⁵ The season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion south of the Beaverdam Road.
- ⁶ The draw season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion north of the Beaverdam Road.
- ⁷ WMU 400 is open only for Full-Curl Trophy Sheep.
- ⁸ These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained Trophy Sheep Special Licences through a Class S Outfitter or through a draw (Non-resident [Canadians] only).

Additional hunting opportunities in the Mountain WMUs:

- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 440-446.
- 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 *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.
- Castle Provincial Park (part of WMU 400): Hunters in WMU 400 need to be aware of the establishment of the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Although hunting is permitted in both of these parks, hunting (including bowhunting) in Castle Provincial Park requires a firearm discharge permit. Firearm discharge permits are not required to hunt in Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Firearm discharge permits are available online at: albertaparks.ca/media/6493998/2017-castle-permit-to-discharge-a-firearm.pdf. For more information call: 403-627-1165 or visit albertaparks.ca/hunting.

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

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BIG GAME SEASONS

Boreal WMUs (500 Series & 841)



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

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

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Bison – Wood Bison are designated as Threatened when found within WMUs 511, 516, 518, 519, 520, 524, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 536, 537 (portion north of Chinchaga River and west of Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement), 539, 540 (portion lying east of the Wabasca River and within the Wabasca Bison Protection Area), 541, and 542. Within these areas, no person shall hunt bison within a Bison Sanctuary (Northwest Bison Protection Area or Wabasca Bison Protection Area) at any time without a bison special license. Persons who may be beneficiaries of a constitutionally recognized right may hunt bison in connection with those rights within the prescribed areas when a bison is not within a bison sanctuary. For further details refer to the factsheet available from <https://www.alberta.ca/wood-bison-regulation>.

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

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

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered (3-point or larger) ²	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 535, 537, 544
		S17 - N30		841
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025 	520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 537, 544
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	503
	S1 - O31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2025 	500, 501, 502, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 514	
Cougar, Black Bear, and Mountain Goat Seasons – See pages 55, 56, and 58.				

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

² See page 40 for description of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Boreal WMUs:

- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 500-544.

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. The harvest of all cougars must be reported by email or text within 24 hours of the kill. Please see: mywildalberta.com for details.

It is unlawful to:

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

cougar kitten with spotted fur, or a cougar kitten with spotted fur.

Use of Predator Calls and Bait

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

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

ATTENTION: ALL RESIDENT COUGAR HUNTERS!

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

ATTENTION COUGAR HUNTERS!

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

General Season	WMUs
September 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 ¹ Residents only	102-106, 112, 124-130, 134-166, 200-210, 220, 222, 226-244, 250-260, 500-502, 504, 520, 528, 530-534, 536, 539-541
August 25 – November 30 ¹ Residents only	108, 110, 116-119, 132, 214, 216, 221, 224, 246, 357-360, 412-446, 503, 506, 508, 514, 518, 519, 521-527, 529, 535, 537, 542, 544
December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 ²	108, 110, 116-119, 132, 214, 216, 221, 224, 246, 300-360, 400-408, 412-446, 503, 505-519, 521-527, 529, 535, 537, 542, 544

Archery-only Season	WMUs
November 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 ^{1,3}	212, 247, 248
December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 ^{2,3}	410

¹ The use of dogs to hunt cougars is prohibited during this season.

² From December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, hunters must call 1-800-661-3729 (toll free) prior to hunting each day to determine if the season remains open. Please see mywildalberta.com for details.

³ Residents only are allowed to hunt during this season.

BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Black Bear Baiting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supplemental Black Bear Licences

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

It is unlawful to:

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

ATTENTION BEAR AND COUGAR HUNTERS!

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

Black Bear Season	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery Only	General	
Fall 2024	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. 4 – 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. 4 – Nov. 30	404, 406, 408
Spring 2025 (Requires a new year licence)	Apr. 1 – May 31		212, 410
		Apr. 1 – May 15	400, 404, 406, 408, 841
		Apr. 1 – June 15	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 402, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544

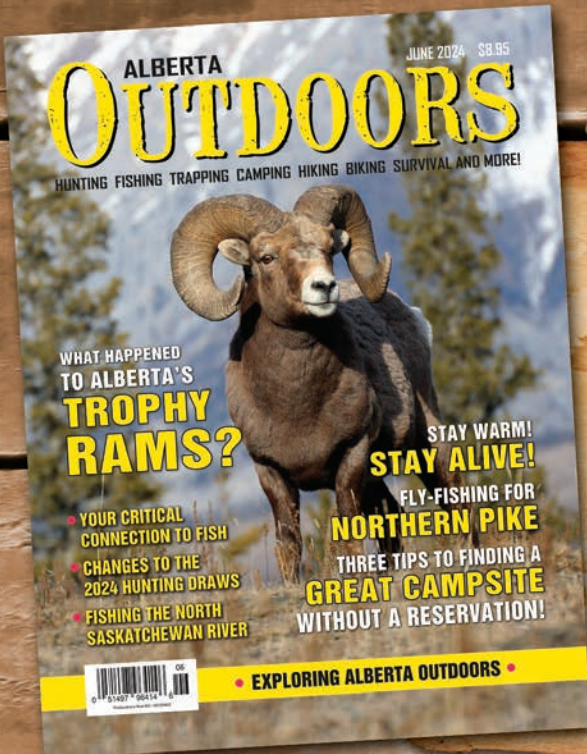
Be bear smart when hunting

- Carry bear spray year-round and keep it within reach.
- Practice drawing your bear spray and removing the safety to be better prepared if it is needed quickly.
- Using cover scents and calling game may attract bears.
- Be cautious in areas where bears might feed such as berry patches and grain fields.
- Be alert when handling a harvested animal. Remove the carcass quickly.
- If a bear finds your kill site, or if the carcass has been buried or moved, leave the area immediately and call Fish and Wildlife to report it by calling 310-0000.
- When black bear hunting, always be sure of your target. Grizzly bears can be found in the black bear range. Colour and size alone are not good indications of a bear's species.

[Alberta.ca/BearSmart](https://alberta.ca/BearSmart)



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ALBERTA OUTDOORS

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LICENCE DRAW HUNTS

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

Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence

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

*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 *2024 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

CFB Wainwright Deer Special Licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N28 - N30*
Rifle D2 - D4*, D5 - D7*, D9 - D11*, D12 - D14*

CFB Wainwright Moose Special Licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N28 - N30*
Rifle D2 - D7*, D9 - D14*

*Refer to alberta.ca/WainwrightHunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2024 CFB Wainwright Hunt.

Antelope Archery Special Licence

WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S1 - S28

Trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S30 - O5
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O21 - O26

Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 O3 - O5, O7 - O9
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O24 - O26, O28 - O30

Either Sex Elk Special Licence

WMUs 728 and 730 Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N28 - N30, Rifle D2 - D14

WMU 300 Elk Special Licence

S4 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - F21, 2025

Mountain Goat Special Licence

Areas E, I, K S10 - O31
Areas O, T, U S17 - O31

Refer to the *2024 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, 2025, or until June 15, 2025 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2025.

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, 2025, or until June 15, 2025 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2025.

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

- a) throughout the year on privately owned land and on public land in the White Area, to which he or she has the right of access to hunt;
- b) on public lands in the Green Area to which he or she has the right of access to hunt, from the opening day of a big game season in a

particular WMU to May 31, 2025 or until June 15 if the hunting is in a WMU that has a spring season for black bear ending on that date.

In CFB Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730) a Resident may hunt coyote from January 5, 2025 until March 1, 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

Bobcat – A resident may, without a licence from November 1 - February 28, 2025, 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 *2024 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations*, available in September 2024.

WILD TURKEY DRAW

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

Differentiating Between Males and females

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

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

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

Sunrise/Sunset Table (Mountain Daylight Time)		
Date	Sunrise	Sunset
May 01, 2025	6:13 AM	8:54 PM
May 05, 2025	6:06 AM	9:00 PM
May 10, 2025	5:58 AM	9:07 PM
May 15, 2025	5:51 AM	9:14 PM
May 20, 2025	5:45 AM	9:21 PM
May 25, 2025	5:40 AM	9:27 PM
May 30, 2025	5:35 AM	9:32 PM

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

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

GAME BIRD REGULATIONS

Please Remember

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

BE AWARE!

IN ALBERTA WHOOPING CRANES ARE PROTECTED

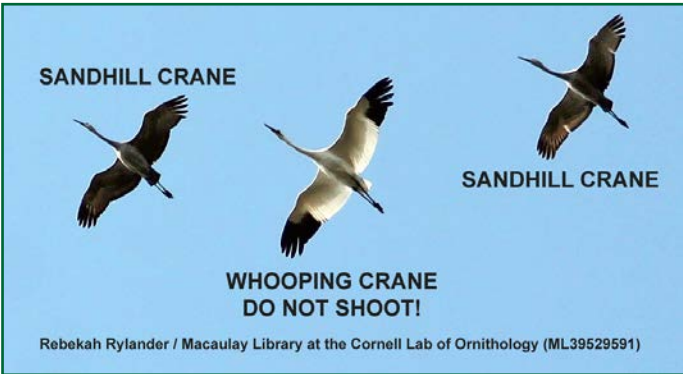
Whooping Cranes are listed as an Endangered Species in Alberta. Be sure your target is not a whooping crane.

IN ALBERTA SAGE GROUSE ARE PROTECTED

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

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

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



Whooping Cranes

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

Red Mask



WHOOPING CRANE

Sandhill Cranes

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

Red Crown



SANDHILL CRANE

Falconry Hunting

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

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

Seasons

The open season to hunt upland game birds by means of falconry is from August 15, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (page 60).

Bowhunting

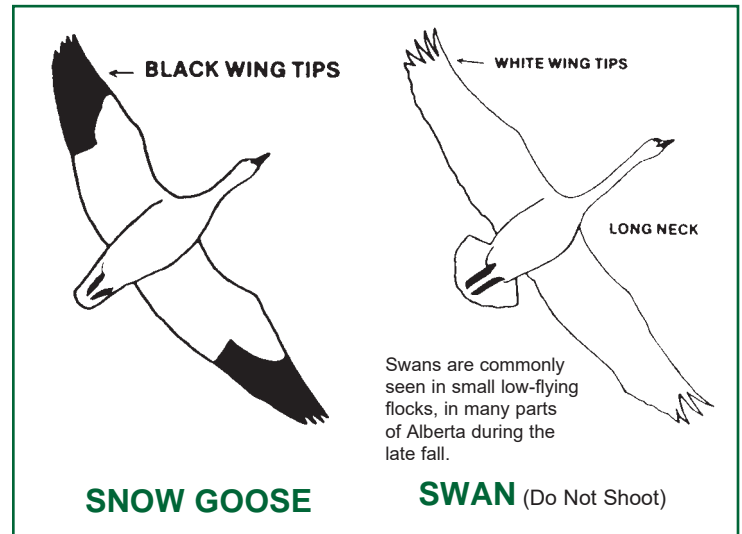
Hunters wishing to hunt game birds with a bow and arrow, other than a cross-bow, require a Bowhunting Permit in addition to the other applicable licences.

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

Special Hunting Areas

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

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



Spring Snow/Ross's Goose Hunting Season

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

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

GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

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

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. *Refer to the 2024 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.*

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	WMUs	Season Date	Requirements
Snow or Ross's Geese	50 combined	No Limit	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16 / M15 - Ju15	(a) of which not more than two ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens. (b) of which not more than six ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens. (c) may harvest with a special licence only. Month Abbreviations A – August S – September O – October N – November D – December J – January F – February M – March Ap – April Ma – May Ju – June
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D23 / M15 - Ju15	
Canada or White-fronted Geese	8 combined	24 combined	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D23	
Ducks, Coots and Snipe	8 (a) each	24 (b) each	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D23	
Sandhill Crane	5	15	200-208, 220, 222, 226-244, 247-260, 500	S1 - D16	
			102-106, 112-166, 210	S8 - D23	
Male Pheasant	2	6	200-260, 314-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			102-166, 300-312	O15 - N30	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
Ruffed Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
			728, 730 (CFB Wainwright)	A31 - S2	
Spruce Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - J15	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	15	102-246, 252-256, 300-314, 334, 400-402, 518-520, 524, 525, 528-542, 936	O1 - O31	
			728, 730 (CFB Wainwright)	A31 - S2	
Ptarmigan	5	15	300-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			404-410	S8 - J15	
Blue Grouse	5	15	300-402, 412-446	S1 - J15	
			404-410	S8 - J15	
Gray Partridge	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	
			936	S8 - J15	
Wild Turkey	1 (c)	1 (c)	300-308, 400, 402	■ Ma1 - Ma31, 2025	

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION BIRD HUNTERS

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

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

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

Marked Wildlife

Some species of wildlife are banded, collared or marked by other means in an ongoing effort to gain additional population biology information.

A person who kills a wildlife animal or finds a dead wildlife animal that has been fitted with a device for the purpose of tracking the animal's movements must submit a completed report provided by Fish and Wildlife.

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 Forestry 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 reportband.gov.

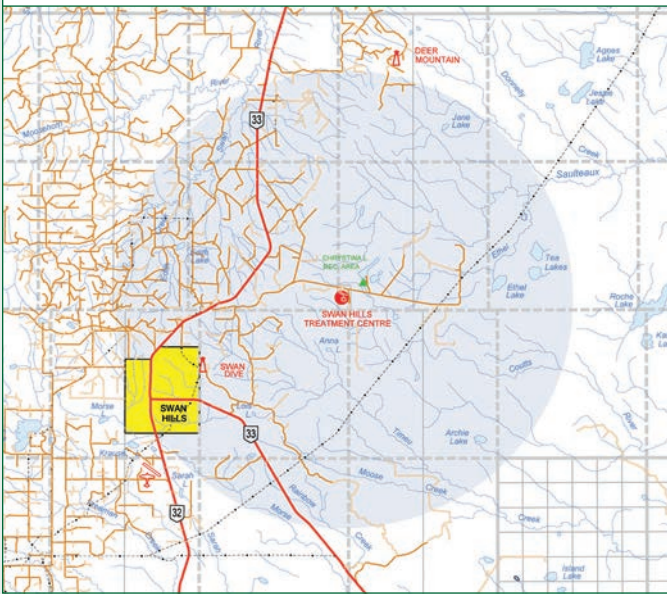
Wild Game Public Health Advisory

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 mywildalberta.ca/hunting/safety-procedures/harvested-wildlife-human-health.aspx.

Swan Hills Treatment Centre

15 km radius around Swan Hills Treatment Centre



REPORT A POACHER

www.reportapoacher.com

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.

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND DEER MANAGEMENT

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

Hunters and outfitters are key in assisting big game management by helping to reduce deer numbers and by providing heads from harvested deer in designated areas for the CWD surveillance program. Alberta began looking for CWD in harvested wild cervids in 1998. Since then, we tested over 114,000 heads and found CWD in 5,179 mule deer, 930 white-tailed deer, 39 elk, and 15 moose.

FOR 2024: Mandatory DEER: WMUs 148, 150, 151, 200, 234, 236, 728, and 730.

Mandatory mule deer and Voluntary white-tailed deer: WMUs 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 514.

Mandatory MULE DEER ONLY: WMUs 108, 110, 212, 216, 221, 224, 246, 247, 248, 250, 300, 302, 303, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 334, 402, 404, 508.

Antlers and skull plate can be removed from bucks before the head is submitted. For European mounts, watch some YouTube videos and then collect the obex **AND** both retropharyngeal lymph nodes. The Alberta surveillance program uses all three tissues.

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

CARCASS DISPOSAL

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

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

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

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

DATE: _____

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

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

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

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




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


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

to _____ on _____
(destination) (date)

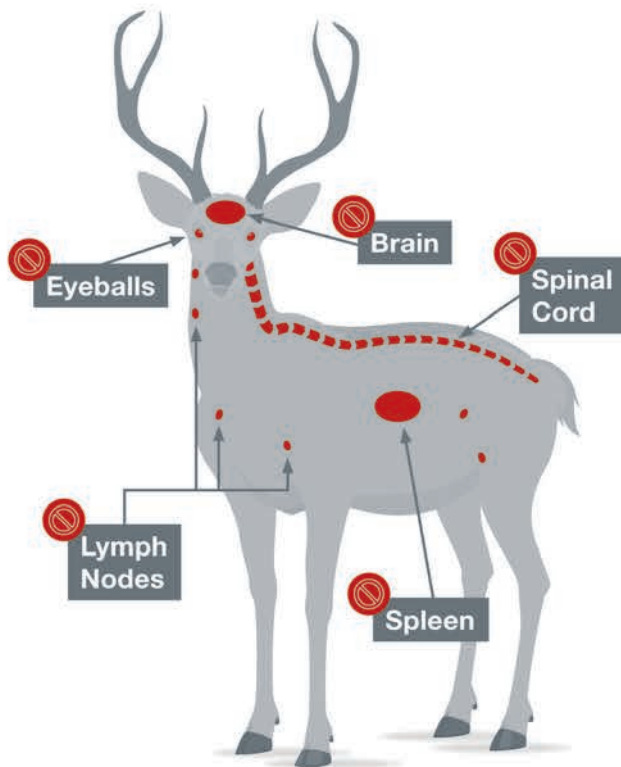
(signature of hunter)

(signature of person transporting the wildlife)



Carcass Transportation and Handling



Meat Processing:

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

Disposal:

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

Equipment Cleaning:

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

Field Dressing:

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

COMMON LICENCE MISTAKES

GENERAL MULE DEER LICENCE

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

SUPPLEMENTAL ANTLERLESS WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is issued with one tag. This tag is valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-246, 248, 258-260, 300, 304-305, 310-314, 320-322, 332-337, 344, 348, 350-353, 355, 357-360, 440-446, and 500-544.



YOUTH MULE DEER LICENCE

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

YOUTH/SENIOR WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

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

SUPPLEMENTAL BLACK BEAR LICENCE

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

SPECIAL LICENCES

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



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ALBERTA'S WILDLIFE RECORDS

Rifle records supplied by the Alberta Fish and Game Association
Bowhunting records supplied by the Alberta Bowhunters Association

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

* World Record

BIG GAME RECORDS (ARCHERY)			
Species	Score	Hunter	Year
Bighorn Sheep	200 6/8	Todd Kirk	1998
Non-Typical Elk*	447 5/8	Shawn O'Shea	2020
Typical Elk	402 5/8	Will Huppertz	2004
Non-Typical Mule Deer	238 3/8	Cole Johnson	2020
Non-Typical Mule Deer Velvet	254 7/8	Bradley Lynk	2022
Typical Mule Deer	200 2/8	E. John W. Adkins	2016
Typical Mule Deer Velvet	201 1/8	Levi Shipton	2021
Non-Typical Whitetail	241 2/8	Dean Dwernychuk	1984
Non-Typical Whitetail Velvet	207 4/8	Andrew Halliwell	2020
Typical Whitetail	197 1/8	Don McGarvey	1991
Typical Whitetail Velvet	181 6/8	Jack McNaughton	2013
Canada Moose	217 2/8	Frederick Gimbel	1994
Canada Moose Velvet	169 0/8	Travis Peterson	2003
Black Bear	22 3/16	Chester Dodgson	2015
Grizzly Bear	23 7/16	Richard Michalski	1981
Antelope	84 4/8	Shaun Steidel	2002
Cougar	15 13/16	Glen Roberts	2007
Bison	108 2/8	David A. Sjodin	2015
Mountain Goat	48 2/8	Chris Kroll	1962

* World Record

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Message from the Executive Director, Hunting and Fishing Branch

Matt Besko



Hello Everyone, and welcome to the hunting season of 2024-25. Alberta is blessed with a wealth of hunting opportunities, and it is important that all hunters actively take part in this important experience and share it with their family and friends. The relevance of hunting to most Albertans is rooted in our cultural histories, memories, stories and events of hunters past and present. We recognize the value of hunting not only as a tool for the conservation and management of game species, but as an important recreational experience by which a hunter becomes an active participant in a primeval act, and as such takes a great deal of responsibility to bear upon themselves to ensure that their actions are humane, ethical, and serve the broader needs of Albertans and their families. When we realize that hunting is more than the simple act of harvesting a game animal is when we recognize that hunting is critical to conservation, profiles public awareness of an important natural resource, and helps lead us into the study of natural history and ecology of Alberta as a whole.

With the above in mind, Alberta made changes to the government structure which administers and manages fish and game species. In early 2023, the responsibilities for the management and allocation of fisheries and game species was consolidated into a single branch within the Department of Forestry and

Parks. We are called the Hunting and Fishing Branch (HFB), and are the first government agency in North America referencing the words “Hunting and Fishing” in our title. Our focus and mandate is primarily on the allocated resources that anglers and hunters value, and that is what we live and breathe every day. We also manage the licensing program, aquaculture, and human-wildlife co-existence. Our former Department, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, continues to be accountable for the inventory and monitoring of fish and game species, and HFB is responsible for working with them to use their data to allocate our resources responsibly. We are incredibly grateful and proud that our branch is there to focus directly on the needs of hunters and anglers, and we welcome questions, queries and requests for information from the broader Alberta public who are interested in the work we do. When our Minister introduces us to stakeholders, he often calls us “the Huntin’, Fishin’ and Lovin’ Everyday branch” in reference to the song by the artist Luke Bryan, and we love it.

In 2024, Alberta’s landscapes and the species that inhabit them are showing some dynamic changes that the Hunting and Fishing Branch has identified as requiring an adjustment in the hunting regulations and the quotas allotted for special harvest licences (draws). Mule Deer populations are showing declines in several areas provincially, principally in the southeast Wildlife Management Units (WMU’s), as well as other areas in central and northwest regions. As a result, quotas for both antlered and antlerless mule deer have been reduced substantially and will be reviewed and adjusted during the recovery process to ensure that populations are healthy and robust. Moose quotas have been adjusted as well, with concerns over populations in the northern boreal regions as well as in the central Alberta Parkland habitats. We have also reduced the number of tags from 2 to 1 for our white-tailed deer supplemental licences, and will continue to monitor our populations using Environment and Protected Areas’ survey reports.

That being said, this year we have offered Minister’s Special Licences (MSL’s) for Alberta residents using the AlbertaRELM licensing system, with over \$400,000 being raised to help fund conservation programs provincially. The MSL program has raised

over \$9 million since its inception in the late 90’s, all of which has been used to supplement conservation programs, and all of them funded through the contributions of hunters. In addition, we are offering more opportunities for hunting this year, and are re-introducing a limited number of mountain goat permits which have been absent from our allocations over the last few years. We hope that goat permits will continue to be offered and we will ensure that our populations are managed sustainably. We have also offered additional seasons for elk, and recognize that their populations are growing in several regions provincially. Our sheep harvest is also very sustainable, with data from 2023 showing that we harvested 202 rams which is up from previous years of 140-160 ram harvests. We harvest these rams reliably with no changes in our age-class structure through the decades with 8% aged 4-5 years, 23% - 6 years, 28% -7 years, 23% - 8 years, and 19% > 9 years and we are doing so with a mix of special harvest and general licences which maximizes hunter opportunity and is supported by Alberta’s 2500 trophy sheep hunters.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and happy hunting season. Please hunt with the attitude that all Albertans are aware of us on the landscape, and that our actions represent who we are as conservationists and people who care about our environment. Hunt with integrity, passion and the desire to share in the experience with those who may not have had the privilege of hunting for themselves. Share your bounty, and discuss the benefits of eating game to those not fortunate enough to hunt their own. Hunt with competence; practice your skills and craft, and learn as much as possible about the game you seek and the habitats upon which they are found. Ensure that when you are out in the field, you practice all the safe handling and discharge of firearms to keep everyone around you safe from harm. And above all, go out and hunt and share the happiness you feel with people you know, value and trust.

All the best,

Matt Besko

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



"Fatima Dhooma practicing her shooting skills."

The Changing Demographics of NEW HUNTERS

A new hunter's journey to self-harvesting wild food.

by *Brad Fenson*

Hunters are often stereotyped with Elmer Fudd impressions or as camouflage cowboys. In the 1950s and 60s, hunters were recognized when decked out in red and black plaid wool clothing worn head to toe. However, the modern hunter is changing, and some may be hard to discern at first glance.

The change isn't due to hunters wearing solid colours or high-tech hunting gear. New hunters don't fit a genre but share a common goal:

harvesting their own food. A good example of today's new hunter is Fatima Dhooma.

Fatima Dhooma is from Ontario but spent most of her school years in Alberta. She refers to Toronto as "The Concrete Jungle". She fondly remembers the outdoors in northern

Alberta, where the landscape was a magical mix of spruce and pine trees and flowing rivers. The northern exposure provided a deep appreciation for her love of the outdoors.

Where does someone derive inspiration to hunt? It is an important question, especially for those who grow up in a

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"Food can often be the inspiration for new hunters."

home where hunting has no tradition or history. In Fatima's case, food was the inspiration. Fond and loving memories of cooking and eating with her grandmothers are likely the root of her desire to acquire her own meat. Nobody in Fatima's family hunted, so what ignited her inner hunter to start a new quest?

Educational facilities play a big role in shaping people's minds and exposing them to different things. Fortunately for Dhooma, professors showed her both the anti-hunting side and the benefits side of the activity in some of the classes she took studying to be a nutritionist. Seeing both sides of the equation opened her mind to new ways to feed her mind and body.

Wildfires ravaged the boreal forest she fondly recalled growing up near, which led to new exploration. The first step was when Fatima signed up for an experience at a liberal arts college in California where her instructor was a hunter. She packed 25 kilometres to get into camp and wondered halfway there what she was thinking. During the event, the crew ran out of food. However, they did come prepared with fishing licences and equipment. Long story short, Fatima caught her first fish, which she had to dispatch and cook. It generated mixed emotions but is lovingly remembered as the best trout she ever ate. There is a story on Fatima's webpage, "What the flopping fish taught me", and it was a profound moment in her life that changed the way she looked at food and hunting. Becoming a hunter was now a quest and not a complex question in her brain.

As fortune would have it, Fatima met Allan Orr from the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA), who filled her in on the required education programs. Orr also planted a seed regarding a mentorship program where he could help with the first hunt.

It took a year to prepare and complete Hunter Education and then the AHEIA mentorship program came to fruition. Fatima sat behind a rifle focused on a deer on a cold November day. The time spent preparing, shooting at the range,

continued on page 72





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**"Fatima with
mentor Allan Orr."**

and working hard to get within shooting distance of a deer created some nervous anxiety. Her mentor, Allan Orr, touched her shoulder and told her she should still consider the event a success if she didn't want to shoot. Overcoming emotion, Fatima did harvest her first deer, and tears soon followed.

A special meal was prepared with the tenderloins of her deer with a recipe from one of her grandmas. It was special in many ways. The journey had been an emotional rollercoaster but there was no doubt that Fatima would hunt again. She has now harvested three deer and loves the self-harvested proteins, unique taste, and opportunity to source her meat naturally.

One of the challenges Fatima faced was finding good wild game recipes. Her recollection of searching for ways to prepare wild game only yielded stew and roast recipes. As an educated nutritionist with a diverse background, she describes herself as, "I'm half Syrian-Turkish, half Indo-South African, with a bit of every corner of the globe in my blood—a bit of Burmese, and a bit of Bolivian. I'm very mixed."

Fatima is a certified health and food educator, guiding women to navigate their relationship with food for holistic nourishment. Currently completing her education in Environmental Studies with a focus on food and society at the University of Alberta, she's a conscious food enthusiast keen on understanding the relationship between food, people, and the environment. Her education and background make her a nutrition coach, blogger, storyteller, wild game recipe creator, historian, motivator, and all-around foodie.

There is pride and passion in the fact that she can hunt in Alberta's landscape for ethical meat. To see a sample of her blogs and recipes, check out Mufeed Nutrition at www.mufeednutrition.com. Mufeed is a play on words meaning "good for you". Her grandma's used to cook and encourage Fatima to eat, as it was mufeed for her.

The changing demographic of this Alberta hunter includes a personal perspective shift after a devastating

continued on page 74



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

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2024 WILD GAME FOR THE FOODBANK PROGRAM

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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest with the Foodbank Program in 2023. This is the twenty-eighth year of our program that has seen more than 320,000 pounds of high quality wild game donated to the Alberta Foodbanks. Please help us feed those in need again in 2024. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate.

Important Information:

1. We now accept donations from Oct 15, 2024 to Dec 15, 2024.
2. There are no extra wild game tags allotted for this program. You are asked to share the harvest from any one of the general season, supplementary or undersubscribed elk, moose, antelope or deer tags that are available.
3. Only elk, moose or deer that have been harvested between October 15 and December 15, 2024 during the regular hunting seasons are eligible for this program.
4. The elk, moose, deer or antelope cannot be completely frozen and it must be delivered to a participating meat processor within 72 hours from the time of harvest.
5. Please contact the processor to ensure whether the elk, moose, deer or antelope can be brought in skinned or unskinned.
6. There are no processing costs charged to the donating hunter. The processing costs are paid by the **Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest** association through financial donations by hunting organizations including our primary sponsors: **Alberta Chapters of Safari Club International and Alberta Conservation Association.**

To find the complete donation guidelines and participating meat processors, please visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at www.huntingfortomorrow.ca. Our wild game donation information is found under their **Resources and Fact Sheets** section under **Wild Game Foodbank Donation Program**.

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

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



forest fire in northern Alberta in 2016 that challenged Fatima's connection with nature. A reflective backcountry camping trip turned into a necessary fishing trip in the California mountains, which prompted her to question her eating habits, leading to a journey of hunting white-tailed deer in Alberta. The journey is far from that of someone who grew up hunting with family or friends and speaks to the importance of nutrition, food ethics, and security.

Fatima likes to share her hunting narrative in sessions exploring women's empowerment, nutrition, and food ethics/security themes. Her reflective journey challenges stereotypes, emphasizes values, embraces vulnerability, and fosters community.

Fatima has delivered dynamic sessions for numerous women's programs in Alberta, collaborating with organizations such as the AHEIA summer camps, Alberta Wildlife Federation, and, most recently, at the ATA Women in Leadership Summit in Edmonton in March of this year.

CBC featured Fatima's story, highlighting her relationship with harvesting ethical food. You can read and watch her story at www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/fatima-dhooma-allan-orr-hunting-ahcia-1.6358613.

Fatima recognizes the value of AHEIA programs, especially the mentorship-hunting opportunities that gave her first-hand experience. Many hunters learn from family and friends, but for those who don't have support, it is challenging to get into hunting and be successful.

Alberta hunters who want to help with the next generation of harvesters should consider becoming mentors. AHEIA can always use more volunteers and attributes the upturn in new hunters to organizations seeking to demystify hunting for those who have never done it before. ●

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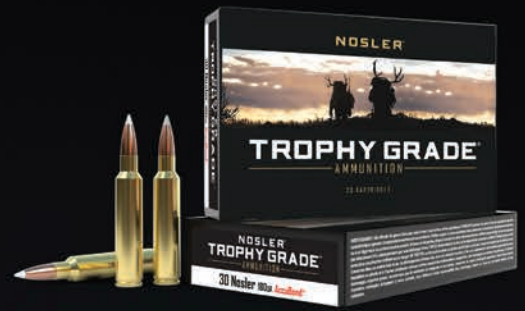
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by Russ Meades

BEAR AWARENESS

Life Saving Knowledge

Imagine this: You've spotted a prize buck some considerable distance away and are stealthily stalking across the undulating ground to get in range. Suddenly, there's the sound of crashing to your left. As you turn you vaguely register a large black bear charging towards you like a freight train!

Surprising a mother bear with cubs or any bear on a kill can be a deadly situation. Even invading a bear's personal space, sometimes as far away as a hundred metres or more can elicit a negative response, such as a charge. Bears are unpredictable and dangerous wild animals, and the stealth necessary for your hunt is likely to be the very thing that gets you into trouble.

Bears are, pound for pound, the strongest animals on the continent and can out-sprint a horse, uphill or down. They have an uncanny sense of smell (one of the best in the animal kingdom), although their hearing is also better than ours and their sight is arguably just as good. Highly intelligent with amazing memories, once something is experienced, such as food associated with a hunting camp, a backpack, or a vehicle, bears will



"An up-close encounter. Avoid these situations if at all possible. Neither you nor the bear will have time to process."

likely retain that knowledge forever and remember that such places and items can be a food source. And while they eat mostly vegetation, as omnivores they are also opportunistic scavengers and predators.

Grizzlies are far less numerous than black bears are in Alberta—black bears are everywhere except the province's southeast. Both species have visibly distinct features.

Grizzly bears tend to be considerably larger than black bears and often have a shaggy appearance (although there is a size overlap between smaller grizzlies and larger black bears). The grizzly's claws are significantly longer and its snout is usually concave in appearance, whereas a black bear's snout is straight. Grizzlies have a pronounced hump between their shoulders, which is



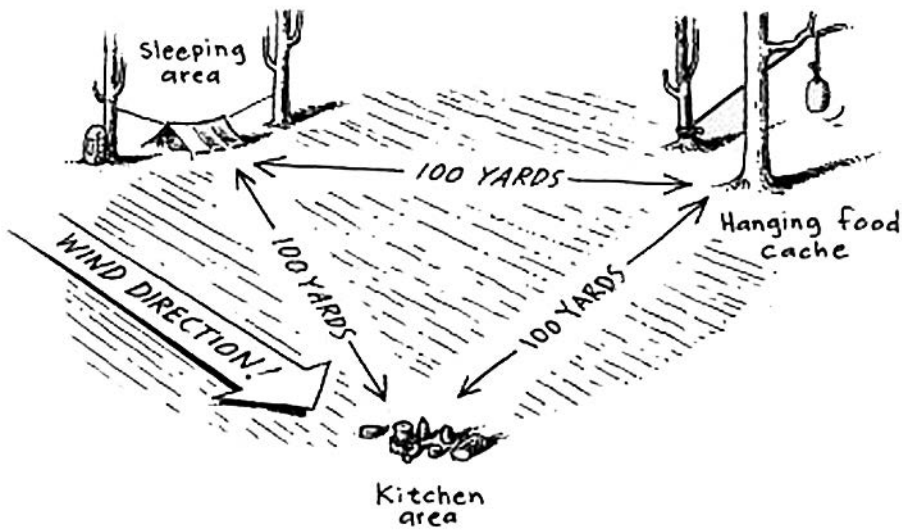
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"Ensure your cooking and food storage areas are 100 metres from your camp."

absent in black bears. Grizzly bears have smaller, more rounded ears, while a black bear's appear larger, longer, more erect, and pointed. Seventy percent of black bears are actually black, while a near-black grizzly is rare. Both species can vary in colour from blonde to cinnamon to chocolate browns and greys, so colour is not a very good way of telling the difference. Rather, a combination of all of the characteristics indicative of the species is required.

So, how do you balance the necessary stealth with caution when hunting in bear country? Well, first and foremost, you need heightened awareness. Your hunting skills

can be good bear defense skills. Don't just focus on your quarry. Keep your head up and be vigilant. Look through the bush, not just at it. Learn to recognize sign, such as tracks, clawed trees, torn up trunks, digs for roots and insects, rubs (hair), scat, beds, and buried carcasses. If you find yourself in a berry patch, especially with bear sign in it, backtrack out of there observing all the way. The same approach is necessary if you encounter a gut pile left by another hunter. Have a rolling plan of action that moves with you and scan the forest in front and from side-to-side.

Avoid foods with a strong smell such

as bacon or fish. Cook, eat, and store your food 100 metres downwind from your campsite (see illustration). Hang your food and toiletries in an airtight container on a highline. Keep your campsite meticulously clean. Wash dishes by the cooking area. Don't wipe your hands on your clothing and don't sleep in the clothes you cook in (in fact don't even have them in your tent). Take your bear spray and firearm with you when moving from your campsite to your cooking area and vice versa. Your bear spray should always be readily accessible on your belt or attached to a shoulder strap of your pack, and your firearm should never be more than an arm's length away. Double bag and pack out all garbage. If a black bear comes into your camp, you may be able to scare it away with loud noises. Don't try this with a grizzly or a black bear with cubs.

If you see a bear at a distance, try to keep it in sight and back out quietly. Stay downwind if possible and walk out the way you came or make a wide detour. If you're unable to stay undetected, give a shout (but not so loud as to startle the bear). The bear may identify you as a human and depart, or act indifferently if it doesn't recognize you as a threat. But if the bear comes towards you, look for a tree to shin up and get your bear spray ready. But remember, a bear can cover a lot of ground very quickly and black bears can certainly climb faster than you can.

If you startle a bear up close, stand still, give the bear time to process the situation, and maybe move away. If the bear comes towards you, perhaps leave a piece of clothing behind and back away slowly, speaking in soft tones, not making any sudden movements and don't make eye contact. Don't shout and definitely don't run, as you'll likely trigger the bear's predatory chase instinct. If the bear is closer than 30 metres, get your bear spray ready and prepare to use it, or be prepared to shoot as a last resort if you have a firearm.

Bear aggression and threat displays include: Hackles up, ears back, mouth snapping, growling, hissing, huffing, baring teeth, head lowered and ears back, slapping vegetation or the ground, popping jaws, and bluff charges. It may swing its head from side-to-side or stand sideways as if not interested. If the bear charges, only you can decide if it's a bluff charge or the real thing. If the bear is within 20 metres and you feel you have to shoot, shoot to kill. A wounded bear is very dangerous.

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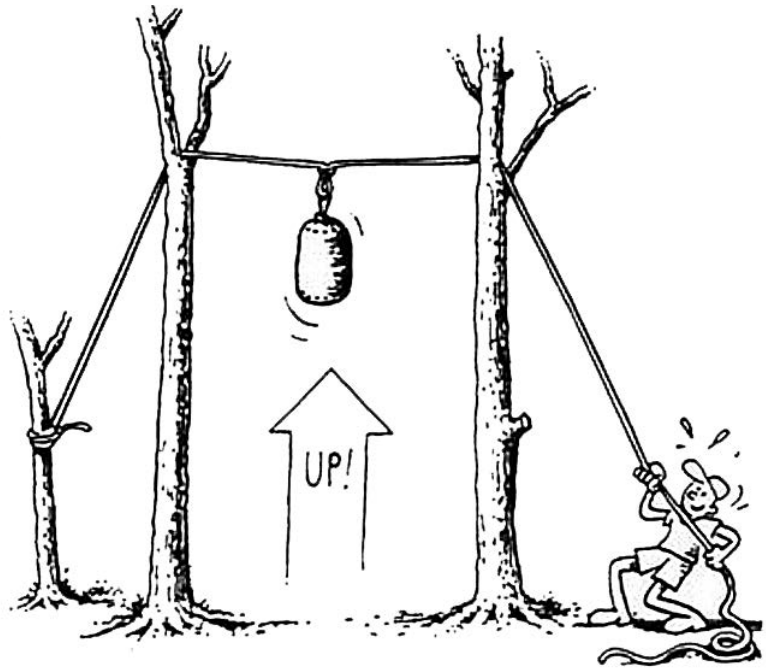
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One thing is for sure: You will have very little time to consider your options!

If the bear is a grizzly and is very close, drop to the floor, assume the fetal position (knees to chest), and protect your neck with your hands. The bear may well claw and bite you, but might depart after a short time.

If the bear is a black bear or a clearly predatory bear of either species, defend yourself. The decision is yours, whether you fight or not and there are arguments for both approaches depending on the species. It will take immense courage and presence of mind to think clearly and make a decision in such a situation. If it's obvious that the bear is going to try to eat you, fight with everything you have. You will literally be fighting for your life. Go for the eyes, nose, and throat. Use your knife, or a thick stick as a club, or your fists, or rocks. When it's over and you think the bear has gone, wait at least 20 minutes and remain in the protective posture during that time. Then leave the area, seek medical help, and report the incident.



"Hang your food and toiletries in an air-tight container at least 10-feet high and 4-feet from each tree."

While we should all be able to enjoy the outdoors, a little knowledge, common sense, and awareness can mean the difference between a well-managed bear encounter and a tragedy. Hunt with caution!

For more information, attend a bear awareness course or read *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*, by Stephen Herrero, Lyons Press; 3rd edition (April 1 2018). ●

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Small Game Hunting in Alberta

by Kevin Wilson

Alberta offers up a roster of small game hunting prospects. While ungulates, birds, and predators are a mainstay with harvests controlled through season dates or harvest quotas, most of our province's small game species like snowshoe hare and red squirrel can be hunted year-round without a licence and with no harvest limits. If you're looking for a great way to spend a mid-winter day, and put some alternative food on the table, this is for you.



"The author waiting close to a heavily used bunny trail, as beagles work through the woods."

Snowshoe Hare

Many of us cut our teeth hunting rabbits or, more accurately, hares in our younger days. Alberta has a healthy population of jackrabbits, and cottontail as well, but snowshoe hares are most

abundant throughout the province, where suitable habitat exists.

Indeed, snowshoe hares can be hunted year-round, but most small game hunters target them from late October when their fur turns from brown to white, on through

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

Please help ensure these lands remain open to recreational access by following the rules of access.

The below conditions must be followed:

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- No off-highway vehicles, camping, or fires
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"The author with a few hares taken during a mid-winter small game hunt."

the winter months when there is snow on the ground and no leaves on the trees. While hunting with beagles tends to be a more popular pastime in Canada's eastern provinces, relatively few hunters use them here in Alberta. By comparison, a more common hunt strategy involves a walk-and-stalk approach. In late fall and winter, visibility is much better in the woods. Like hunting other animals, looking for the best habitat will help you find what you're looking for. With snowshoe hares, mixed forests almost always hold variable densities of hares. Messy aspen parkland areas with varying terrain including willows and other mid-

sized shrubs are my favourite types of habitat for bunny hunting. Know that hares thrive where there is good cover and food. In younger coniferous forests, look for areas of regrowth, bogs, and shrubs. Dead tree trunks, blowdown, and raspberry bushes for example, create excellent protective cover for hares.

To find hares, look for sign. Tracks are unique from any other small game animal with their two longer hind feet slightly splayed and front feet leaving two smaller parallel imprints in the snow. Again, if you can find well-worn bunny trails with tracks going both directions, you're probably in a

great spot. Look around some more and you're sure to locate small lighter-coloured round droppings. Find these, and you're in the zone.

Bunnies will often hold tight, particularly if you're moving slowly. In my experience—especially in soft snow—if you slowly move a few steps, then stop and carefully scan your surroundings, you can often get within easy shooting range. Move too quickly, and they'll scamper off before you get a shot opportunity. Slow and easy is the name of this game.

Hares are dainty animals, so it doesn't take much to kill them. Either a single-shot or over-and-under 20-gauge shotgun is considered by many to be the rabbit hunters' firearm of choice, but in most situations, a .410 will do just fine as well. Using a smaller shotshell, like number 6, 7, or 8 shot is ideal. I've actually found that using a lighter 1-1/8 oz. 2-3/4" #7 1/2 shot (akin to a skeet load) in my 12-gauge works fine as well. Alternatively, a .22 LR rimfire loaded with a hollow point round, or even a newer higher muzzle velocity air rifle, can be perfect for shooting hares as well.



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"Few meals are as tasty as a well-made 'rabbit' stew."

As far as table fare is concerned, it's tough to beat a good stew. Hares don't have a lot of meat, so you may need to collect two or three to make a full meal.

Red Squirrel

With few exceptions, most small game hunters in Alberta will target our province's abundant red squirrels as a unique, and potentially challenging small game hunting opportunity. It's important to note that they too can be hunted year-round without a licence, and with no harvest limit, but *only* on private land.

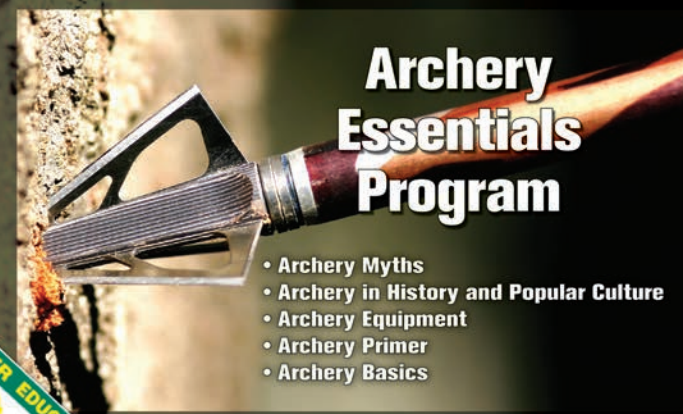
Tiny targets, most hunt them with either rimfire rifles like a .22 LR or .17 HMR, or alternatively with a smaller shotgun like a .410. Squirrels are abundant throughout the province, in wooded areas, but locate stands of old-growth coniferous trees and you'll




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"In Alberta, red squirrels may be hunted on private land only."

surely find squirrels in short order. Look for piles of shucked pine cones,

Red squirrels follow a bimodal activity pattern for most of the year. This means that they become more visibly active, a few hours after sunrise and a few hours before sunset. Mid-winter, this often shifts to once a day. Squirrels are normally abundant in mixed forests, but to localize your search, look for those old, tall, spruce trees.

In Alberta, their main source of nutrition comes from things like hazelnuts, pine nuts, and seeds from pine cones, but as omnivores, they will also eat flowers, berries, mushrooms, bugs, mice, eggs, and even small birds. They commonly cache food, so look for mounds of pine cone remnants at the base of trees as one of the most visible signs that there are squirrels nearby.

Then keep an eye out for tree cavities, brush piles, and dens, as they use these as their storage pantries.

Squirrels are territorial and don't like intruders, so listen for their chatter as you walk through an area. If you hear them, slowly move in closer, and keep a sharp eye both in the trees and on the ground. If you see one, set up for a shot. If it disappears in a tree, sit down and wait it out. Their inquisitive nature, at least in part, keeps them moving. They may even sit and chatter incessantly at you. The one caution I offer is that if you're shooting up into a tree, always ensure there is a solid backdrop. If you miss your shot, especially with a rimfire bullet, sending a projectile into open sky is never a good idea, as the projectile has the potential to travel well over a kilometre.

Some folks love the taste of squirrel, most prepared in either a soup or stew. As a rule, though, most squirrel hunters recommend eating them only if taken during the colder winter months. Some consider them unsafe during the summer due to mites and parasites that they carry during this time.

Regardless of preference, Alberta's red squirrels do indeed offer another unique small game hunting opportunity.

Other Small Game

While most small game hunters will focus on the more abundant species, Alberta also has other small game hunting opportunities for porcupine, raccoon, woodchuck, skunk, gophers and ground squirrels. Often viewed by landowners as nuisance species, when prepared properly, porcupine in particular, can be very tasty. The rest of these generally aren't seen as table fare, so hunting them typically falls more within the category of pest control.

Each of these species can be hunted, but not trapped (see exceptions in the *2024 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations*), without a licence throughout the province at all times of the year. The only exception is that skunk may be hunted and trapped.

Gophers and Ground Squirrels

If you want to become a rancher's new best friend, offer to go shoot gophers or, in some areas, ground squirrels, for them. Most see them as pests, and welcome shooters to help control their numbers.

As soon as the snow melts and before the grass greens up is a perfect window to hunt these abundant rodents. Active cattle pastures with small tell-tale dirt mounds and holes can sustain high populations.

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