**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.

**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).

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

**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**GRIZZLY**

- **Humped**
  - Dished Face Profile
  - There is No Season for Grizzly Bear.

- **No Humped**
  - Black Bear
  - 9.5 cm
  - Straight Face Profile
  - 14 cm

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Go to bearmart.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

- **trophy sheep, goat** – attached to the same part of the animal to which the tag is affixed:
  - 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 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 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, or
    - 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** – 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).

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.
Note: The following applies to bowhunting other than with a crossbow. For information about hunting with crossbows, see page 59.

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

Persons hunting big game must use an authorized bow and an authorized arrow. An authorized bow is one that is held, drawn and released by muscular power and has a draw weight of not less than 18 kg (40 lb.). This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 in.) to its head. An authorized arrow is one that is not less than 61 cm (24 in.) in length that has a tip that bears a head that is not intentionally designed to resist being withdrawn after it has penetrated an object. Furthermore, it must either have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.

Hunters are asked to remove their tree stands at the end of the hunting seasons unless permission has been granted by the landholder to do otherwise.
After harvesting any of the animals listed below, a hunter must register the kill at a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) within the specified time period. Where parts are required to be submitted, they must be submitted at the time the animal is registered in person by the hunter who killed the animal. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 13) for further information.

- Goat (the incisor bar must be submitted);
- Male sheep over 1 year of age (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact must be submitted);
- Wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 to 318, 324 to 330, 339 or 400 to 434 under any authority;
- Cougar (the skull and skin must be submitted, complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible). A premolar tooth will be retained for aging.
- Bobcat (the skin must be submitted complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible);

Registration Deadlines — Deadlines for registering harvests are:

- Male sheep over 1 year of age — not later than 7 days after the close of the open season in which the animal was killed or 14 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first.
- Goat — not later than 14 days after the close of the open season in which the animal was killed or 30 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first.
- Cougar — if taken on privately owned land by a landowner or occupant, see page 32 for requirements; if taken under a licence allocated to an Outfitter-guide, within 5 business days of the date of the kill; if taken under any other authority, within one business day following the date of the kill.
- Bison taken in WMU 536 or 539 — not later than the end of the fifth usual business day after the animal was killed.
- Wolves taken in any of the WMUs indicated earlier in this section — not later than 30 days after the date on which the wolf was killed.
- Bobcat — before the skin is sold, processed or exported from Alberta or before the expiration of the period of 30 days after the bobcat was killed, whichever event comes first.

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

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

As part of the registration process, trophy sheep horns will be fitted with a permanent identification marker. Other animals may be marked in another manner or retained for examination.

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

It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes within 30 days of when it was killed. See pages 3, 25 and 64 for details.

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