

2026 ALBERTA GUIDE TO

FREE OF CHARGE

HUNTING

REGULATIONS



Darryn Epp photo

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Alberta

A collage of 12 photographs showing various law enforcement and military personnel in tactical gear using firearms and optics in various outdoor settings, framed by a large, stylized letter 'V'. The images include: a soldier in a mountainous area; a person in a forest; a soldier with a 'VORTEX' helmet; a person with a spotting scope; a soldier with a rifle; a soldier with a rifle; a person with a spotting scope; a person with a spotting scope; a person with a spotting scope; a person with a spotting scope; a person with a spotting scope; a person with a spotting scope.



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2026 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 game management purposes, we have the following requirements for 2026/27 hunting seasons:

Mandatory requirement to submit DEER harvested in the following WMUs:

- 102, 108, 110, 116, 118, 119, 148, 150, 151, 200, 224, 232, 234, 236, 238, 246, 247, 250, AND
- 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 402, 404, 406, 412, 414, AND
- 503, 504, 505, 506, 508, 509, 510, 514, 515, 728, 730 (see map).

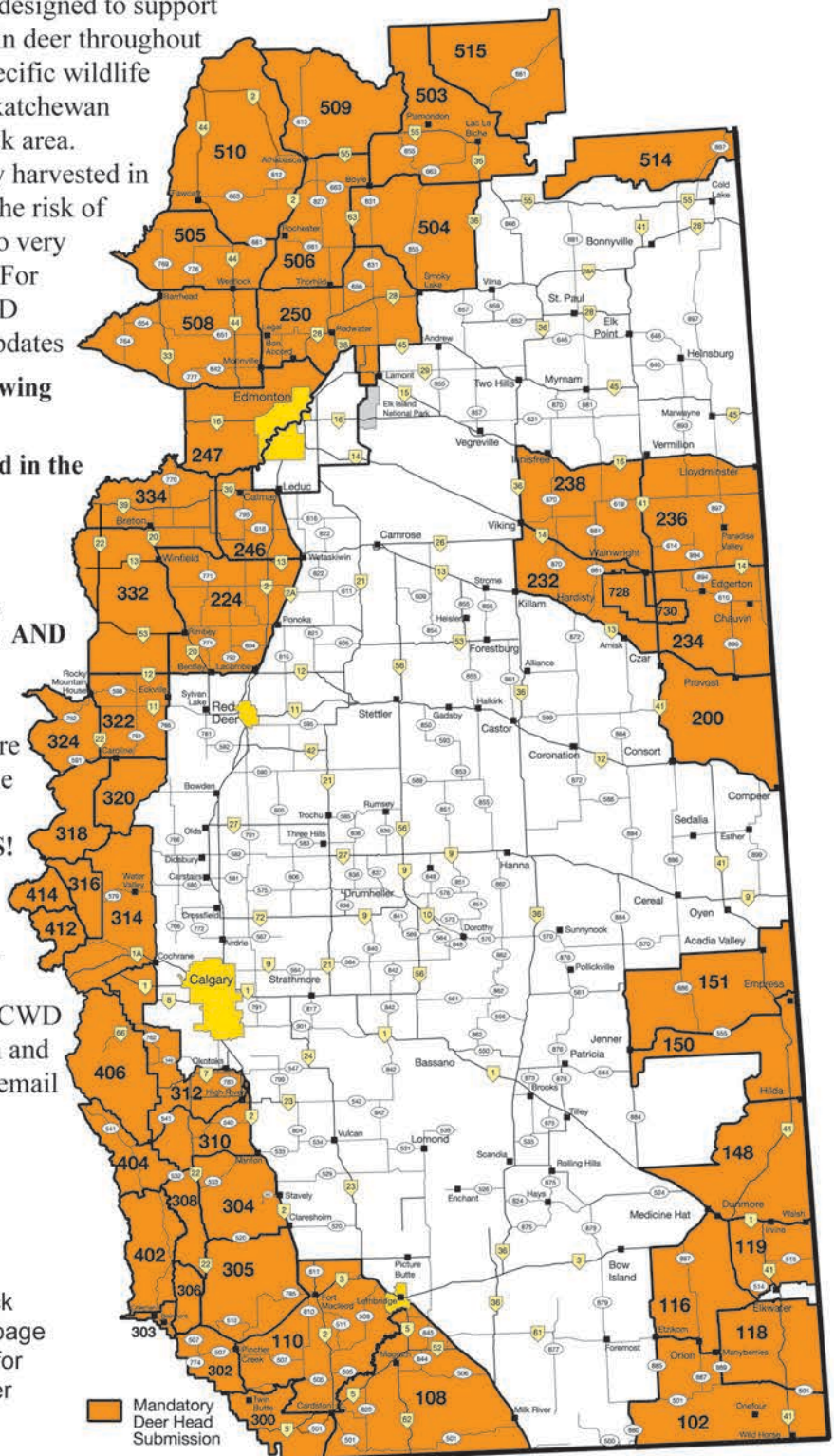
Each head must have a green CWD label. Labels are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at the 24-hour CWD freezers. **DO NOT TAKE EXTRA LABELS FROM THE FREEZERS! TAKE ONLY THE LABEL YOU NEED FOR THE HEAD YOU HAVE!! COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE GREEN LABEL, INCLUDING A PRECISE 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.

Note: Check CWD web page in October for 2026 freezer locations

See page 67 for information regarding carcass disposal.



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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 the Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association (A.H.E.I.A.), 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 A.H.E.I.A. 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.*

A.H.E.I.A. administers all hunting on Capital Power land. For more information or to apply to hunt at Genesee contact:

Allan Orr, allan@aheia.com

Tel. 780-466-6682 Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342

Website: www.aheia.ca

Capital Power



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- Bighorn Sheep Essentials Online Training
- Archery Essentials Online Training
- Identification of Alberta's Game Fish Quiz
- Outdoor Women's Program
- Outdoor Youth Seminar
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For more information
on any of our programs,
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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.

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Message from the Honourable Todd Loewen

Minister of Forestry and Parks

In our province, hunting is more than a seasonal activity. It is a valued tradition that brings families and friends together, bonds us to the land, and supports both conservation and our provincial economy. This tradition continues to provide sustainable, locally sourced food while supporting responsible wildlife management. Across Alberta, hunters can find exceptional opportunities in a range of landscapes, from the foothills to the boreal forest. Whether you are pursuing game birds, filling the freezer, or heading into the bush for your first hunt, there are opportunities suited to all kinds of hunters. For young or first-time hunters in particular, these opportunities mean a life-changing introduction to the outdoors, one that is often guided by family, and helps build confidence, knowledge and a strong foundation for lifelong participation.



Hunting also plays an essential role in conservation across the province. Programs like the Minister's Special Licence continue to generate significant

funding through licence auctions and raffles for species including bighorn sheep, pronghorn, elk, moose, cougar, wild turkey and deer. Revenue from these initiatives is reinvested into habitat restoration, research and education efforts that benefit wildlife and ecosystems throughout Alberta.

I continue to be encouraged by the strong stewardship ethic demonstrated by Alberta's hunters. This community plays a key role in maintaining healthy wildlife populations and conserving our natural landscapes. This shared responsibility helps ensure that Alberta's outdoors can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Alberta continues to refine its approach to wildlife management to reflect current science and evolving best practices. These changes are designed to support safe, sustainable hunting while improving clarity, reducing administrative complexity and ensuring regulations remain practical and effective on the ground.

Before heading into the field, please take the time to understand this year's regulations, including any updates for the season. Mandatory harvest reporting for Special Licences remains a critical part of wildlife management, providing the data needed to guide future decisions and ensure the long term sustainability of hunting in Alberta.

As Minister of Forestry and Parks and a proud hunter, I look forward to the season ahead and all it will bring.

Happy hunting!

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

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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 14).

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IMPORTANT CHANGES AND INFORMATION FOR 2026

GENERAL

- Hosting non-resident hunters – a resident can still host two non-residents (Canadians) annually, but now one of those two must be a family member.
- The printed version of the 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws book indicated that non-resident Canadians could hold partner licences for antlered moose in WMUs that they were eligible to apply for a draw. However, given non-resident Canadians were not eligible to apply for antlered moose draws in 2026, non-resident Canadians are not eligible to hold antlered moose partner licences.

BIG GAME

ELK

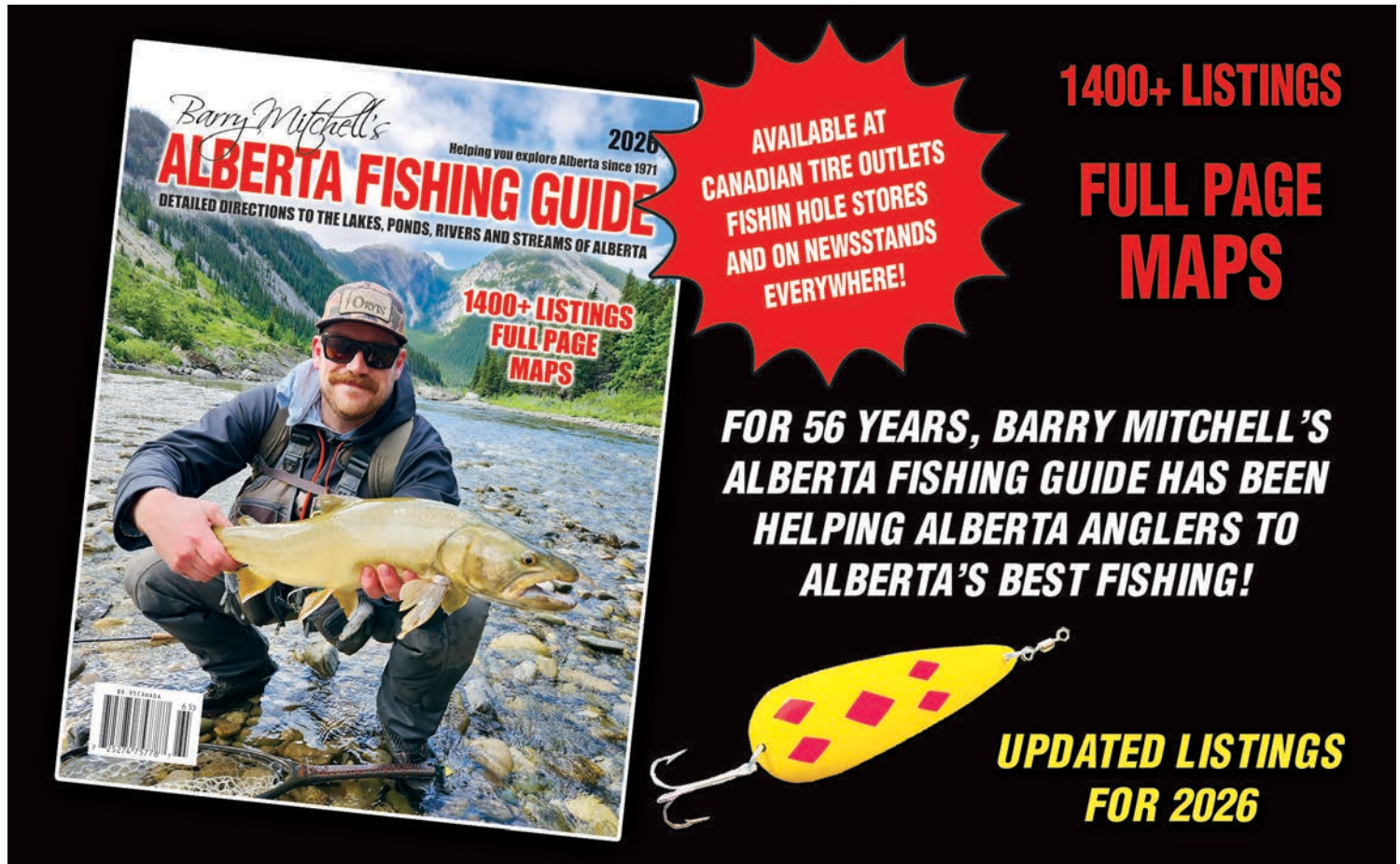
- Late elk seasons have been split into separate draw options in the following WMUs (108-110, 116-128, 132, 136-138, 142-150, 162-203, 212, 216, 221, 232-234, 240-242, 250, 300, 302, 304-314, 320-324, 357-360, 503-506, 509-510, 520-523, 526-528, 535, 537 and 544) make sure to review the season dates when applying for late season elk licences.
- The former four November seasons in WMUs 116, 118, 119 and 624 have been changed to three seasons (excluding Saturday hunting in 624 and Sunday hunting in 116, 118, 119 and 624). See pages 47-50 for the new season dates.
- The archery-only season for antlered and antlerless elk in WMUs 116, 118 and 119 is extended to October 31 (excluding Sundays).
- Elk seasons in WMUs 102, 104 and 108 have been aligned.
- For the WMU 212 antlerless elk special licence, the December to February seasons have had the weapons restriction repealed. Going forward, centre fire rifles (of a calibre legal to hunt big game) are permitted during the December to February seasons. The November season will remain unchanged and restricted to archery-only or to hunting with a shotgun, a cross bow or a muzzle loading firearm of .44 calibre or greater.
- The special licence draw hunting zone in WMU 338 has been repealed and elk may be hunted throughout the WMU.
- Partner licences for elk special licences have been introduced for 2026. See the Partner Licence section on page 19 for details.

GAME BIRD

- Unguided non-resident alien game bird licence holders cannot hunt in the same WMUs selected on their first licence when hunting under a second seven-day licence within the same year.

SANDHILL CRANE

- Additional WMUs now include a sandhill crane season – 336, 501-510, 514 and 515



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FURTHER INQUIRIES

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

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

AlbertaReIm Help Desk 1-888-944-5494

Websites – albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.ca

Hunting and Fishing Branch Alberta Government

Forestry Building
9920 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4
email: FP.HuntingAndFishingBranch@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Government Offices

- 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 goat registration office.
- Landowner special licences.

Athabasca (*)	780-675-2419
Bonnyville	780-826-3142
Calgary/Cochrane (*)	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, Fox Creek, Slave Lake, Whitecourt	780-523-6526
	Peace River, Fairview, Fort Vermilion, High Level, Manning	780-624-6405
	Rocky Mountain House, Drayton Valley, Edson, Evansburg, Hinton, Nordegg, Sundre	403-845-8300
Northeast Region	Athabasca, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche	780-675-8169
	Edmonton	780-644-7089
	Spruce Grove, Barrhead	780-960-8190
	Red Deer, Wetaskiwin	403-755-6150
	Smoky Lake, St. Paul ¹	780-656-3556
	Vegreville, Camrose, Ponoka ¹	780-632-5410
South Region	Provost, Stettler, 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

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.

Bear Essentials Program



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and click
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or take the
programs.

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



Archery Essentials Program

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

Hunter Education Certification

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

Bighorn Sheep Essentials Program

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

Eastern Irrigation District PUBLIC ACCESS



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

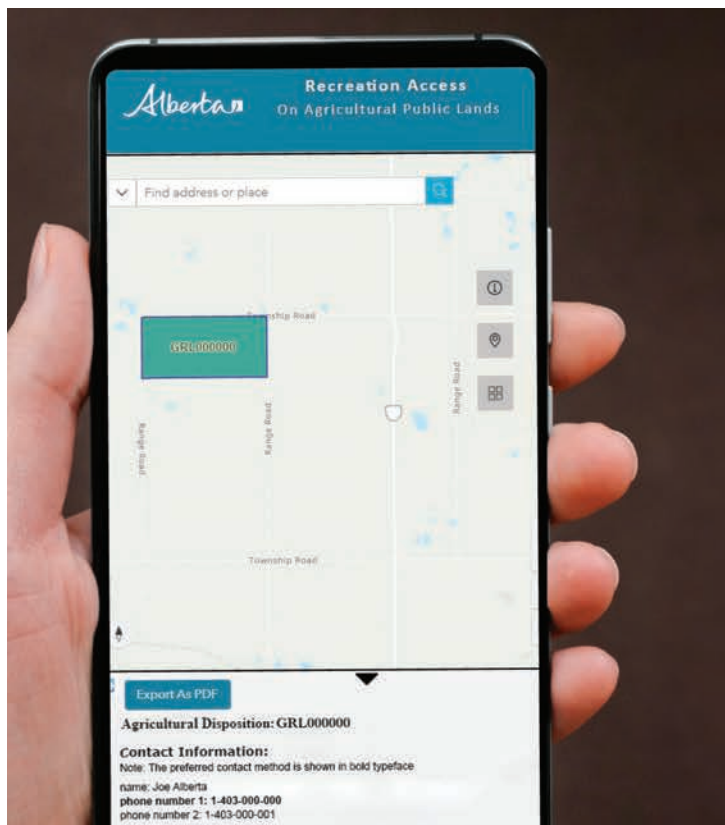
Please help ensure these lands remain open to recreational access by following the rules of access.

The below conditions must be followed:

- Automobiles must stay on designated routes or established trails
- All watercraft must be registered with EID's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program and follow approved prevention procedures
- No off-highway vehicles, camping, or fires
- Do not disturb livestock
- Leave gates as found
- Obey all signs, certain areas have added restrictions

Access to these private lands is a privilege not a right, please use respect.





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, 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 and sanctuaries, useful for planning hunts, can be found at https://geospatial.alberta.ca/FWIMT_Pub/Viewer/?TermsOfUseRequire=d=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 Alberta Chief Firearms Office at 780-401-4140 (toll free at 310-0000) or online at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-chief-firearms-office>.

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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 big game outfitter-guide permit issued by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society and who provides outfitting and guiding services to resident, non-resident and non-resident alien game bird hunters in Alberta.

- Class S outfitter – an outfitter who holds non-resident (Canadian)/non-resident alien allocations for class 1 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 class 1 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 20) for additional conditions and restrictions.

Legal hunting firearm

- Must comply with big game and bird game restrictions listed under general regulations (see pages 30/31).
- Can have any stock design or stock composition.
- Is not limited by the energy its projectile(s) produces (see page 30 for air-pistol velocity limits).
- Can have any bore or calibre size except for restrictions listed under general regulations (see pages 30/31).
- Can hold any amount of ammunition except for restrictions listed under general regulations (see pages 30/31), 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 – means a person whose primary residence has been in Alberta for at least a six-month period immediately preceding the relevant date and who

- 1) is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or
- 2) has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date; or who is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Canada 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 19).

Vehicle – non-motorized mobility aids, such as non-powered wheelchairs, are now exempt from being classified as a vehicle. Users of these devices will not be required to have a weapons discharge permit to shoot from these devices while hunting.

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 AlbertaRelm 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: First-time hunters who completed the Alberta conservation and hunter education course must add their certificate number to their WiN profile to buy a 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 (10 years of age, or older) are exempt from the first-time hunter eligibility requirement if they are accompanied by a hunter host or a designated guide while hunting in Alberta.

Youth first-time hunters must be at least 10 years of age to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta, or to apply for any big game draws. All hunters under the age of 16 years must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. 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. Youth with an RCMP issued Minors Firearm Permit allowing hunting may hunt unsupervised. If a youth turns 18 during the hunting season, they can continue to hunt using their valid licence.

Youth under 10 may hunt game birds without a licence *if* they are supervised by a licensed adult. The youth under 10 does not get their own bag limit and any birds harvested count towards the adult's bag limit. If hunting migratory birds the youth under 10 still needs a federal Youth Migratory Bird Permit which is issued free and the supervising adult also needs a migratory bird permit.

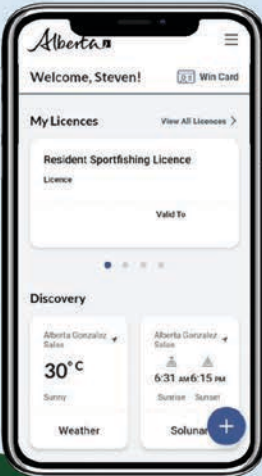
If you are interested in taking the Alberta conservation and hunter education course, call the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association toll-free in Alberta at 1-866-852-4342, Edmonton 780-466-6682, or Calgary 403-252-8474.

STAY CONNECTED ON THE HUNT




Alberta

AlbertaRELM.com



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- Carry and reference your hunting and fishing licences
- Easily access your virtual WiN card. Scannable at Issuer locations
- 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 RELM help desk at 1888.944.5494. 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. The holder of a valid resident youth wildlife certificate between 10 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. **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. Partner licences are also available to resident youths if designated by the holder of any special licence. See below.

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. The holder of a valid resident youth/senior wildlife certificate may also purchase a youth/senior white-tailed deer licence for \$12. 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 to discharge a weapon from an OHV. Eligibility requirements have been slightly relaxed to acknowledge a more expansive list of physical challenges. The crossbow permit itself has been repealed. This means you don't need to get the permit but you do need to complete the medical eligibility form. This form will be considered invalid if improperly filled out or incomplete. See <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/licence-permits-hunters-with-disabilities.aspx>.

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 \$6 (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. With additional elk seasons now extended to February 28, those elk

special licences that end after February 15 must have their harvest reports submitted by March 15. All other special licence mandatory harvest reports must still be submitted by February 15. Failure to report will result in a \$15 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 2026 must have applied by June 25. Refer to the 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for more information on draws. Undersubscribed licences are special licences leftover following the draw. These opportunities go on sale August 4 – visit albertarelm.com for more information.

Draw results – Beginning July 14, 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 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet. NOTE: grazing lease holders are not eligible for a landowner special licence on the lease.

Partner licence

To qualify for a partner licence in a particular WMU, a non-resident (Canadian) must have been eligible to apply for a special licence in that WMU.

The following partner licences are available:

1. A resident holder of an antlerless moose special licence has the option of 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 resident hunter (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.
3. A resident holder of an antlerless elk special licence or either sex elk 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 elk partner licence or either sex elk special licence.
4. A resident holder of an antlered elk special licence has the option of designating one eligible hunter, 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 elk 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 elk special licence 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 elk partner licence.
5. Resident hunters successful in drawing a special licence in any of the other draws may designate one eligible resident youth (10 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 21-25 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

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.

Anyone guiding an Alberta resident hunter or a non-resident (Canadian) or non-resident alien for game bird hunting for gain or reward must be a registered guide and outfitter or working for a registered outfitter. That outfitter must be hunting under a waterfowl privilege in the fall season but does not need a waterfowl privilege when hunting with resident clients in the spring white goose season.

In this section “accompany” or “accompanied” means that the guide knows where the client is at all times. The big game hunter is accompanied by a guide earlier in the day, the guide can then locate the client at all times if they part company, and the client is again accompanied by that guide later in 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 24 and 25.
 - 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 47 to 58 or listed under Additional Special Licence Draw Hunts on page 60.

- 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 class 1 pronghorn 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 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 hunters/year, either non-residents (Canadian), non-resident aliens or a combination thereof. If hosting two non-resident aliens, at least one must be a relative.
- May host non-resident aliens only if the host has not hosted a non-resident alien in the previous two 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 14) 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 entered into the 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.

Resident use of outfitter allocations

Alberta residents may access outfitter allocated licences.

BIG GAME LICENCES

Resident licence costs and combinations

NOTE: The five per cent federal goods and services tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below. The licence combination rules now allow a hunter to purchase one of any available undersubscribed licence, regardless of a licence they already hold. For example, if you draw an antlered elk special licence you may buy an undersubscribed antlerless elk special licence as well. If you draw an antlerless moose, you may buy an undersubscribed antlerless moose special licence, if available, as well.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WiN (see page 17) and a wildlife certificate which costs \$35 (or \$12 for a resident youth/senior wildlife certificate, page 19). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a bowhunting permit (not required for hunting with a crossbow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed deer	50	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	50		
Youth/senior white-tailed deer	12	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of the last three licences.	
Special antlered white-tailed deer partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Mule deer	50	A resident adult may obtain only one of the first two licences.	
Antlered mule deer special licence	50		
Youth mule deer	12	A resident senior may obtain only one of the four licences, excluding the youth licence.	
Special antlered mule deer partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Elk	50	A resident adult, youth or senior may obtain only one of these nine licences.	Residents may buy one undersubscribed licence of any kind, per species, even if that hunter already holds a licence of that type.
Either sex elk special licence	50		
Either sex elk partner licence	12		
Antlerless elk special licence	50		
Antlerless elk partner licence	12		
Antlered elk special licence	65		
Antlered elk partner licence	12		
WMU 300 elk special licence	65		
WMU 300 elk partner licence	12		
Moose (archery)	50	A resident adult may obtain only one of the first six licences.	
Antlerless moose special licence	50		
Calf moose special licence	50	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these seven licences.	
Antlered moose special licence	65		
Special antlered moose partner licence	12		
Special antlerless moose partner licence	12		
Special calf moose partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Class 1 sheep	95	A resident who killed a sheep, except a legal class 2 sheep, in 2025 may not purchase a class 1 sheep licence in 2026.	A resident adult may obtain only one of the first six licences.
WMU 408 class 1 sheep special licence	95		
WMU 410 class 1 sheep special licence	95		A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these 11 licences.
see page 22 for more sheep licences			

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
WMU 437 class 1 sheep special licence	95	see page 21 for restrictions	see page 21 for more sheep licences
WMU 438 class 1 sheep special licence	95		
WMU 444/446 class 1 sheep special licence	95		
Special WMU 410 class 1 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special WMU 408 class 1 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special WMU 437 class 1 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special WMU 438 class 1 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special WMU 444/446 class 1 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Class 2 sheep special licence	95	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	A resident adult may obtain one of each of these 22 licences (excluding the youth/senior licences).
Special class 2 sheep partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Antlerless white-tailed deer special licence	30	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		
Supplemental antlerless white-tailed deer ¹	30		
Antlerless deer (WMUs 212, 247 and 248)	30		
WMU 248 white-tailed deer	30		
Foothills deer	30		
Antlerless mule deer special licence	30	A resident youth may obtain only one of the last two licences.	
Antlerless mule deer special licence (youth)	12		
Special antlerless mule deer partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
CFB Wainwright deer special licence	50	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special CFB Wainwright deer partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
WMU 212 antlerless elk archery	30		
WMU 212 antlerless elk special licence	50	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special WMU 212 antlerless elk partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Black bear	30		
Supplemental black bear ²	30		
Youth black bear licence	12		
Cougar	30		
Goat special licence ³	185	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	
Special goat partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Pronghorn archery special licence	95	A resident adult may obtain only one of the first three licences.	
Class 2 pronghorn special licence	95		
Class 1 pronghorn special licence	95	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these six licences.	
Special pronghorn archery partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special class 2 pronghorn partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Special class 1 pronghorn partner licence (youth/senior)	12		
Game bird	20		
Pheasant	30		
Wild turkey special licence	65	A resident youth/senior may obtain only one of these two licences.	continued on next page
Special wild turkey partner licence (youth/senior)	12		

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Bowhunting permit (not required for crossbows)	10		
Hunter host licence	35		
WiN activation	10		
Physical WiN card	3		
Licence reprint ⁴	2		
Tag replacement ⁵	11		

- ¹ The supplemental antlerless white-tailed deer licences will be issued with one tag and be valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214, 220-246, 248, 258, 260, 332, 334, 440-446, 500-504, 506 and 509-519.
- ² This licence is only valid in the following WMUs where two 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 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 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 14.



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Non-resident (Canadian) licence availability

All non-resident hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require a big game designated guide or a hunter host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 20.

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 and cougar 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 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet which was made available in May 2026.

Non-residents contracting a hunt with a big game outfitter may obtain special licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter. 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 five per cent 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 17) and a wildlife certificate, which costs \$35. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a bowhunting permit (not required for hunting with a crossbow).

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	193	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	193			
Antlered mule deer	193	A non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.		
Antlered mule deer special licence ²	193			
Antlered elk	275	A non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.		
Antlered elk partner licence	66			
Antlered elk special licence ¹	275			
Antlered moose (archery)	275	A non-resident may not obtain more than one of these two licences.		A non-resident may obtain one of each from this list of two.
Antlered moose special licence ²	275			
Class 1 sheep special licence ^{1,3}	440	A non-resident who killed a sheep in 2025 may not purchase a class 1 sheep special licence in 2026.		
Class 1 sheep (outfitter) special licence	550			
Class 1 pronghorn special licence ⁴	275			
Black bear licence	110	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. A non-resident black bear partner licence will be available for outfitters to purchase for clients accompanying the primary allocated licence holder.	
Non-resident black bear partner licence	55			
Supplemental black bear licence ⁵	110			
Black bear special licence ⁶	110	Non-residents must purchase these licences through an outfitter.	Non-residents purchasing this licence may not purchase a black bear licence or a supplemental black bear licence.	
Cougar	165		One licence only from this list of two.	
Cougar special licence	165			
Game bird	77			
Pheasant	50			
Bowhunting permit (not required for crossbows)	22			
WiN activation	10			
Physical WiN card	3			
Licence reprint ⁷	2			
Tag replacement ⁸	11			

see footnotes on next page

- 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 24) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 20).
- 2 These licences are available through an outfitter and an additional service fee may be charged. Please refer to the Outfitting and Guiding Requirements section (page 20).
- 3 Non-resident class 1 sheep special licences are available through class S outfitters or through a draw. Only one licence is available through a random draw, and each hunter successful in the draw must be accompanied by a hunter host. This is a once in a lifetime draw and drawn applicants cannot apply in future years.
- 4 Non-resident class 1 pronghorn 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 24) and outfitting and guiding requirements (page 20).
- 5 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 58 for more information.
- 6 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).
- 7 All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2 fee or online at no charge.
- 8 You are required to bring your licence and identification to a licence issuer and obtain the authorization for the tag replacement. An \$11 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 20.

Non-resident aliens who hunt with a hunter host may obtain antlered white-tailed deer, antlered mule deer, antlered moose, antlered elk and black bear special licences (see table below) online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuers. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 20 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. 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 five per cent 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 17) and a non-resident alien wildlife certificate, which costs \$80. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a bowhunting permit (not required for hunting with a crossbow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered white-tailed deer	275	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	275 ¹		
Antlered mule deer	275	A non-resident alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered mule deer special licence	275 ¹		
Antlered elk	385	A non-resident alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered elk special licence	385 ¹		
Antlered moose archery	385	A non-resident alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Antlered moose special licence	385 ¹		
Black bear licence	165	A non-resident alien may not obtain more than one of these two licences.	
Non-resident black bear partner licence	55		
Black bear special licence ²	165 ¹	A non-resident alien black bear partner licence will be available for outfitters to purchase for clients accompanying the primary allocated licence holder.	
Class 1 sheep special licence ³	550 ¹	A non-resident alien who killed a sheep in 2025 may not purchase a class 1 sheep special licence in 2026.	
Cougar special licence ³	330 ¹		
Class 1 pronghorn special licence ³	385 ¹		
Game bird – guided	138		
Game bird – unguided	193		
Pheasant	50		
Bowhunting permit (not required for crossbows)	28		
WiN activation	10		
Physical WiN card	3		

continued on next page

continued on next page

Licence	Price (\$)	Licence Combination Restrictions	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Licence reprint ⁴	2		
Tag replacement ⁵	11		

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

² This licence is valid for two black bears where the resident and non-resident (Canadian) supplemental black bear licences are valid (two-bear areas).

³ Class 1 sheep, cougar and class 1 pronghorn 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 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 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, ptarmigan and cormorants
 - 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 and sandhill cranes
 - 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 63 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, ptarmigan and cormorants
- 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 and sandhill cranes

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, ptarmigan and cormorants
- 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 and sandhill cranes

NOTE: The five per cent 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 17) and a wildlife certificate. The wildlife certificate costs \$35 or \$80 for a non-resident alien wildlife certificate, or \$12 for a resident youth/senior wildlife certificate (see page 19). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow (but not a crossbow) must also purchase a bowhunting permit.

Licence costs

Game Bird Licence	Price (\$)		
	Resident	Non-resident (Canadian)	Non-resident alien
Game bird ¹	20	77	Guided ⁷ – 138
			Unguided ⁸ – 193
Pheasant	30	50	50
Wild turkey special licence ^{2,3}	65	Not applicable	Not applicable
Special wild turkey partner licence (youth/senior) ²	12	Not applicable	Not applicable
Bowhunting permit	10	22	28
WiN renewal	10	10	10
Licence reprint ⁵	2	2	2
Federal migratory game bird hunting permit ^{4,6}	17	17	17

¹ Youth under 10 are exempt from a provincial game bird licence, however they must be supervised by a licensed adult and birds they harvest are considered part of the adult's limit.

² A resident youth or senior may obtain only one of these two licences.

³ Available only through a draw, page 63.

⁴ Available at post offices, certain private licence issuers or ordered online at permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/.

⁵ All purchased licences can be reprinted either at a licence issuer for a \$2 fee or online at no charge.

⁶ Federal migratory game bird hunting permit is free of charge for youth (under 18) if purchased online.

⁷ If you contract an outfitter to guide you for game birds you must purchase the guided NRA game bird licence.

⁸ 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 three WMUs and for seven continuous days. A person may purchase two of the unguided game bird licences during a year but cannot hunt in the same WMUs on the second licence as they did on the first licence.



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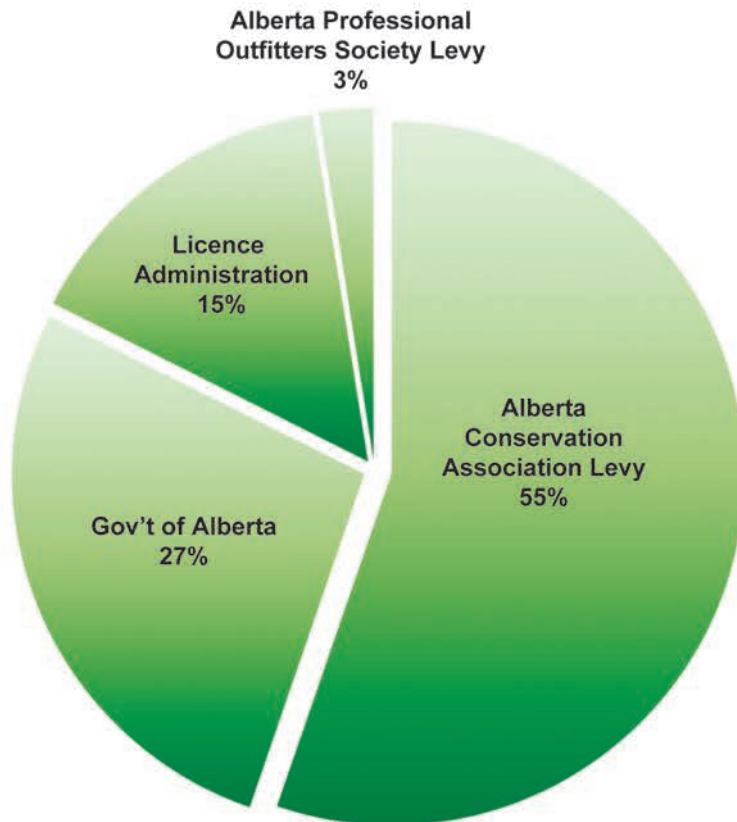
WSFAB.ORG // MOVIFREE.ORG

2025/26 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT

Where did your 2025/26 hunting licence dollars go?

- Over \$22.1 million in revenue was collected from the sale of hunting licences, hunting draw applications and WiN cards.
- 55 per cent of hunting licence revenue goes directly to the Alberta Conservation Association levy in support of programming (For more information please visit abconservation.com).
- Licence and administration fees accounted for 15 per cent and provides compensation to licence issuers, pays for licensing services including the annual hunter harvest & effort survey delivered through AlbertaRelm.com.
- The Government of Alberta receives 27 per cent of hunting licence revenue collected; 70 per cent goes to General Revenue while 30 per cent 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



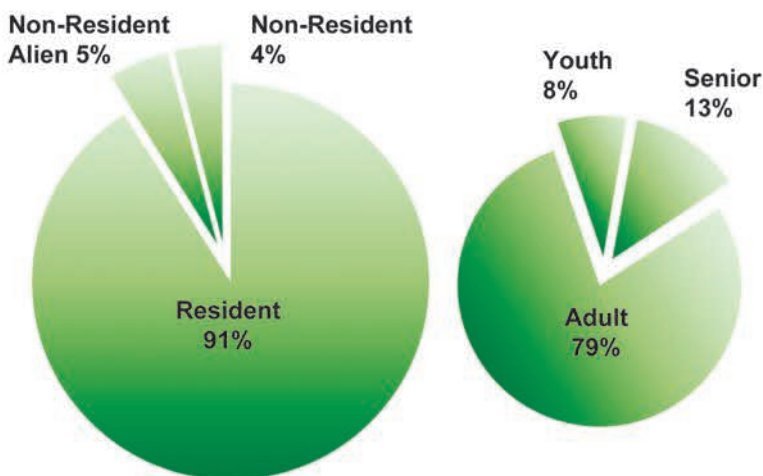
Resident hunters in Alberta in 2025

- There were 159,498 resident hunters in Alberta.
- 13 per cent purchased bowhunting permits.
- 47 per cent purchased game bird licences.



Hunters in Alberta in 2025

- 174,688 total hunters hunted in Alberta.
- 6,018 non-residents.
- 9,172 non-resident aliens.



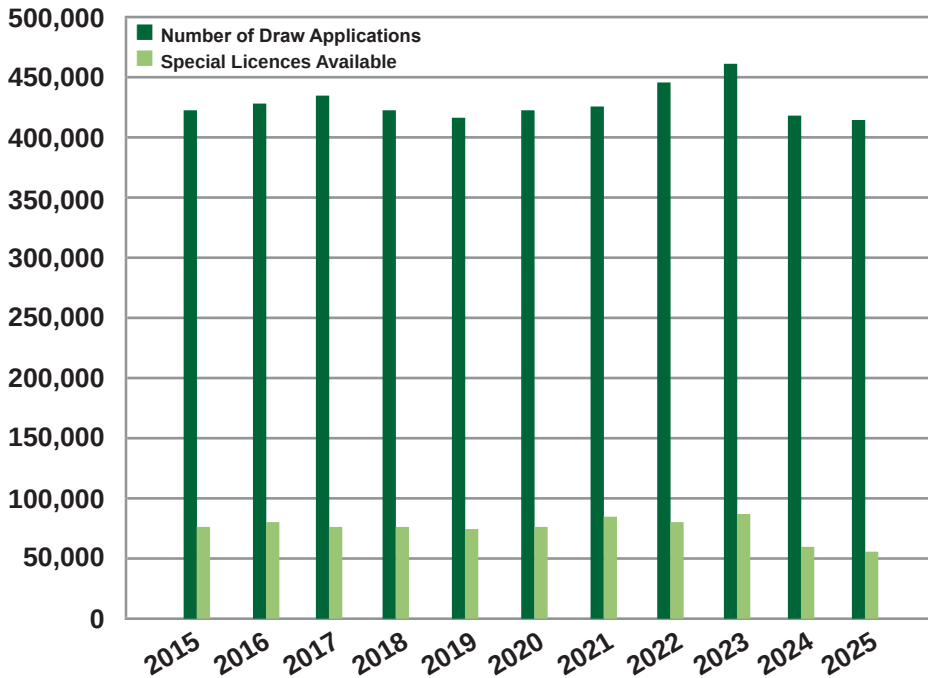
Hunter hosts in Alberta in 2025

- Over 2,900 Albertans hosted 7,138 friends and family to hunt with them in Alberta.
- Over 6,000 hosted hunters were Canadian.

Youth and senior hunters in Alberta in 2025

- Youth/senior wildlife certificates, which include a game bird licence, were available for \$12 in 2025. Over 33,850 were sold, 12,680 youth and 21,160 senior.
- Youth/senior white-tailed deer and youth mule deer were available for \$12. Over 22,800 white-tailed deer were sold, 9,230 youth and 13,600 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. Over 260 youth and 500 senior hunters took advantage of this opportunity allowing them to hunt elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pronghorn and wild turkey.

2025/26 ALBERTA HUNTING REPORT

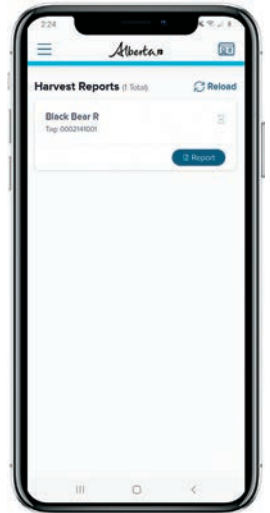


Mandatory harvest and effort reporting

Regulation requires mandatory reporting of harvest and effort on all special hunting licences purchased. Visit albertarelm.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 2026 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 2026 special licence just for completing their 2025 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, pronghorn or elk for each harvest and effort survey completed.

Please visit mywildalberta.ca to see 2025 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 2025, the top 5 offenses were:

1. Unlawful possession of wildlife/controlled animal.
2. Have loaded firearm on vehicle/boat/aircraft.
3. Hunt wildlife without a licence.
4. Fail to retain evidence on sex/species on animal carcass.
5. Unauthorized/Discharge firearm/enter on occupied land.



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

Poaching is not hunting.
Know the regulations.
Hunt responsibly.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

Prohibitions

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

General

It is unlawful to:

1.
 - Apply on draws, obtain or use recreational licences in Alberta if:
 - i) your hunting privileges are under a licence suspension/cancellation in Alberta (or elsewhere) or
 - ii) if you fail to pay your fine after being convicted of a provincial hunting or provincial sportfishing offence.
 - Carry or use another person's licence or tag or allow another person to use your licence or tag.
 - Fail to carry a hunting licence when the hunter is hunting under the authority of that licence or when the hunter is transporting game taken under it.
 - Fail to produce a licence when requested by a wildlife officer.
 - * For hunters that carry licences electronically (instead of paper), the AlbertaRELM 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.
2. Harass, injure or kill any wildlife with a vehicle, aircraft or boat.
3. Hunt any wildlife with or from an aircraft, or communicate, for the purpose of hunting, the signs or whereabouts of wildlife seen during a flight on an aircraft, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.
4. Transport dead wildlife taken by others without an accompanying bill of lading (see page 66) 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.A bill of lading is no longer required if sharing legally hunted game animal parts after the tag has been removed. A tag may only be removed at a residence or facility, such as a butcher, when the animal is processed.
5. Set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of hunting any wildlife:
 - an arrow equipped with an explosive head
 - a firearm that is capable of firing more than one bullet during one pressure of the trigger or a firearm that can be altered to operate as such
 - a light
 - a shotgun of a gauge greater than 10
 - a device designed to deaden the sound of the report of a firearm
 - recorded wildlife calls or sounds, or an electronically operated calling device except: 1) when hunting migratory game birds with the use of calls or sounds that mimic snow geese, or 2) using electronic calls to hunt crows, magpies, coyote, red fox and wolf (using sounds that mimic these animals, rabbits, hares or rodents).
 - a pistol or revolver unless
 - the person is a licensed trapper (holding a federal authorization) who is dispatching an animal caught in a trap, or
 - it is an air powered pistol or revolver that discharges a projectile at less than 500 feet per second (often used for hunting small game).
 - live wildlife
 - a swivel set or spring gun, or
 - a poisonous substance or an immobilizing drug.

6. Abandon, destroy or allow the four quarters, the loins and the neck flesh on big game animals, or breasts on game birds to become unfit for human consumption (except for cougar or bear if salvaging the hide).
7. Have a loaded firearm (live ammunition in breech, chamber or magazine) in or on, or discharge a weapon from
 - a boat that is moving due to the momentum imparted by a motor or sail, or
 - any kind of aircraft or vehicle whether it is moving or stationary.

Note: Ammunition may be carried in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm. Refer to page 16 for contact information regarding federal firearms legislation.
8. Discharge a weapon within 183 m (200 yards) or cause a projectile from a weapon to pass within 183 m (200 yards) of any occupied building. Owners, occupants, or persons authorized by the owner or occupant are excepted, subject to local bylaws.
9. Discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across:
 - a) a provincial highway (this designation applies to all former primary and secondary highways)
 - b) a road that is paved, oiled, graded or regularly maintained, unless
 - the road is held under any active disposition under the *Public Lands Act* or under an order under the *Surface Rights Act*, or
 - the person is hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence.

Note: if there is no identifiable ditch or fence to mark the outside edge of the roadway, then the roadway extends 20 feet from the edge of the traveled portion.
10. Hunt any wildlife while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
11. Hunt any wildlife or discharge a firearm between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
12. Alter, destroy or remove any sign or notice that has been posted under the authority of the *Wildlife Act*, *Petty Trespass Act* or the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.
13. Hunt any wildlife or discharge any firearm on or over occupied land or enter onto such land for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land (page 34).
14. Possess a firearm of a calibre larger than .22 in a helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
15. Hunt with a firearm if you are under 18 years of age and not in possession of a federal minors firearm permit, or are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian. See page 16 for Canadian Firearms Centre contact information..
16. Disturb traps, sets or trapping cabins.
17. Feed black bears, grizzly bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes, unless while legally hunting where baiting is permitted.
18. Be accompanied by domestic sheep or goats (e.g. 'pack goats') while hunting in Wildlife Management Units 302, 303, 306, 308 and 400 through 446.

Big game

It is unlawful to:

1. Hunt big game with any weapon other than:
 - a bow or crossbow, and arrow or bolt, that are lawful for hunting big game (see page 44)
 - 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.
2. Set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of hunting big game:
 - all rimfire ammunition. Any centrefire ammunition with a bullet less than .22 calibre
 - ammunition that contains non-expanding bullets
 - an auto-loading firearm that has the capacity to hold more than five 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 58)
 - 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, crossbow, muzzle loader or shotgun)
 - a trap
 - a crossbow and arrow that is not authorized (see page 44).
 3. Discharge a weapon at a big game animal while it is swimming.
 4. Discharge an arrow from a bow or crossbow at big game, from, along or across a highway or road specified in Item 9 on page 30.
 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 metres 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)
 - when hunting black bear in September and October under the authority of a black bear licence, in WMUs 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 511, 524, 525, 527 and 537
 - When using a leashed tracking dog that is brought into the area only after a big game animal has been shot at and that remains leashed at all times while in the field during an open big game season.
 6. Possess the carcass of a male elk, male pronghorn or male class 2 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 if the edible portions of the meat of those animals are not recovered. A hunter may thus abandon the skin or meat of a cougar or black bear, but not both. If skins are abandoned, the meat must be tagged like other big game animals, such as deer, elk or moose. See exception for salvaging skin on page 34 – 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 a 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 46).

10. Remove the tag from the carcass of a big game animal until authorized (as outlined on page 43).
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 six 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 a pronghorn.

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 crossbow
 - a shotgun that is of a larger size than 10 gauge.
3. Hunt any game bird (including turkey) 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 11 (next page) 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.

continued on next page

6. Hunt game birds in WMU 212, 247 or 248 with other than a bow and arrow, a crossbow, shotgun or falconry bird.
7. Exceed the daily or possession limit for any game bird (see game bird bag limits on page 63).
8. Hunt game birds within 400 metres (1/4 mile) of a bait/feeding station.
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. Remove the tag from a wild turkey until authorized (page 43).
12. Hunt or guide for migratory game birds within six 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 plus GST) when they are to be conveyed beyond the borders of Alberta, except under the following conditions:

1. Hunters who lawfully harvest game birds, coyotes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, pronghorn 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 of black bear. See CITES export permit at right.
2. Coyotes 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 14).

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 licensed 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 taxidermied trophies. All provincial export requirements still apply (see Alberta export permit section) and the trophy and documentation must be presented to customs agents at the border when the hunters exit. Alberta prohibits the export of the gall bladder 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 taxidermied 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. Wildlife parts approved for sale will be permanently marked for sale. Once marked, the wildlife parts may be sold immediately. The processed skins of grizzly bear or cougar, or the horns or antlers of a big game animal that have been registered for sale may be sold as is or as part of an artisan product. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 14).

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

Albertans 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. All tracking devices attached to animals that are found dead must be reported and returned to Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services.

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 initially limited the rate at which this prion disease moved into eastern Alberta in the early 2000s. However, in 2008 the province switched to monitoring the spread and effects of CWD in deer populations. 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 long-term 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 web 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 south of Edmonton, extending into the foothills in the southwest, and the boreal forest fringe in the north.
- Most CWD occurs in mule deer, particularly bucks
- Prevalence differs among WMUs and changed significantly after 2010. Maps of prevalence by WMU are available on the CWD web pages

In over 124,000 heads tested since 1998, we detected CWD in 5982 mule deer, 1200 whitetails, 78 elk, and 29 moose. This includes 654 cases identified in 6768 heads tested in 2025 (overall 9.6%): 450 mule deer, 167 whitetails, 30 elk, and 7 moose. Many of the heads tested in 2025 were whitetails from the western edge of the CWD distribution. Disease prevalence is lower in this species and in this area than in mule deer and eastern Alberta.

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. Similarly, rising prevalence in does is reducing fawn production in such areas.

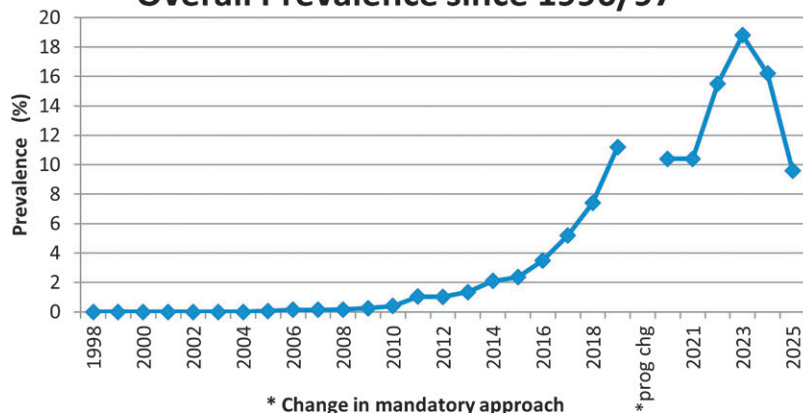
Risk models using Alberta data reveal ongoing geographic westward and northern spread, particularly in proximity to previous cases. CWD is well-established throughout eastern and central Alberta. As CWD becomes more common in mule deer males, prevalence increases in mule deer females and spills over into more whitetails, elk, and some moose.

What comes next? Mule deer populations in the southern foothills seem at greatest risk of invasion with CWD. On the northern edge of the CWD area, 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.



AB# 405: Most deer with CWD look healthy.

Overall Prevalence since 1996/97



Hunters are encouraged to take a close look at the CWD Surveillance Program details. The 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 exceeds the monthly laboratory testing capacity. All testing generally is completed in March.

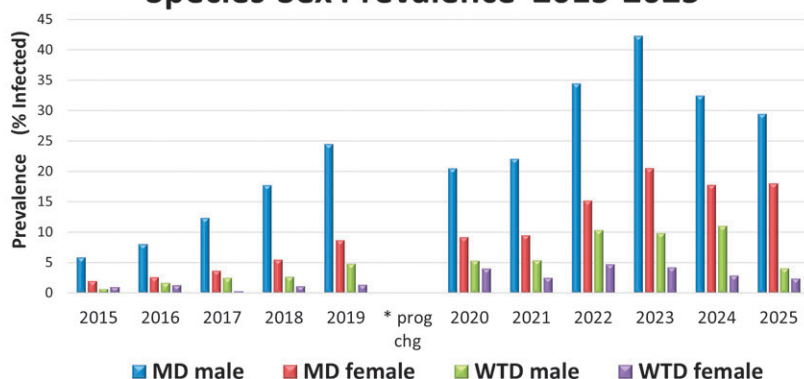
In Alberta, long-term surveillance improves our ability to track CWD occurrence and patterns. Armed with this information, big game managers more fully understand the potential effects of the disease, and hunters concerned about CWD can make informed decisions about their hunt.

The few cases of CWD in elk and moose 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 2015-2025



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 16.

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* now refers directly to the access conditions described in section 2 of the *Petty Trespass Act*. A person shall not hunt wildlife or discharge a firearm on or over land to which entry is prohibited under the *Petty Trespass Act* or enter onto that land for the purpose of doing so unless that person has permission of the owner or occupier of the land to enter the land as well as express consent of the owner or occupier of the land to hunt or discharge any firearm on or over that land. This means that you need permission to access private or occupied land and when asking permission you must also be clear that you intend to hunt and shoot.

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*.

Petty Trespass Act

Amendments to the *Petty Trespass Act* came into force June 1, 2004. While it is still possible for a landowner to prohibit entry on to his or her land by giving oral or written notice or by posting signs prohibiting entry, the amendments now set out certain kinds of property where entry is prohibited without any notice required. These lands include those privately owned lands (and leased public lands not associated with grazing or cultivation – these are addressed on page 16) that are under cultivation, fenced or enclosed by a natural boundary or enclosed in a manner that indicates the landholder's intention to keep people off the premises or animals on the premises. **Importantly, hunters or others who access those lands must have permission before entering.**

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. It may be prudent for a guide to identify themselves as such to a landowner.

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 eight kilometres (five miles) 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, or authorized in writing by the owner or occupant, 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 14). 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 60 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 per cent 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 two metres 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 within 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 metres (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road in a designated road corridor wildlife sanctuary (a corridor 730 metres 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 travelling 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 metres (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 metres (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 metres (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 metres (400 yards) of the centre-line of 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 metres (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Cutoff Creek Road between Highway 734 and the Cutoff Creek Equestrian Staging Forest Recreation Area;
6. North Ram – within 365 metres (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 metres (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 Highway 734;
8. Kootenay Plains – within 365 metres (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 metres (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 metres (400 yards) of the centre-line of Highway 11 from where it intersects Highway 734 to where it crosses Shunda Creek;
10. Highway 40/Little Smoky/Simonette – within 365 metres (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 one kilometre (1094 yards)
 - (a) west of the centre-line of Highway 40 between the intersection of 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 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 Highway 40 between the intersection of 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 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 metres (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 metres (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;



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14. Peace River Pulp Mill – within 365 metres (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 southeast quarter of section 17, township 85, range 19, west of the 5th meridian northerly to the centre of the northeast 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, west of the fourth meridian;
2. The unnamed island in Namur Lake in sections 35 and 36, township 97, range 17, west of the fourth meridian;
3. The unnamed island in Beaverhill Lake in section 5, township 52, range 17, west of the fourth meridian;
4. The unnamed island in the unnamed lake in section 8, 9, 16 and 17, township 95, range 17, west of the fourth meridian;
5. The unnamed island in Scope Reservoir in LSD 2 and 3, section 10, township 13, range 14, west of the fourth meridian.

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, west of the fourth meridian;
2. That portion of Lower Therien Lake in section 2, 3, 10 and 11, township 57, range 10, west of the fourth meridian;
3. The unnamed islands in the Slave River in the SW quarter of section 30, township 126, range 10, west of the fourth meridian, and the SE quarter of section 25, township 126, range 11, west of the fourth meridian;
4. The island known as Bird Island in Buffalo Lake in section 30, township 40, range 20, west of the fourth meridian;
5. The unnamed island in Joseph Lake in section 12, township 50, range 22, west of the fourth meridian.

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 kilometres west of Grande Prairie on the north side of Highway 43 (see enclosed Wildlife Management Unit Map). For a more detailed map/description of area, please contact the Grande Prairie Fish and Wildlife office.

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Restricted areas for class 1 and class 2 sheep

It is unlawful to hunt class 1 or class 2 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 5th 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 16). 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 pronghorn from within 46 metres (50 yards) of a vehicle
- use motorized travel within Willmore Wilderness Park, and
- carry a weapon (see definition on page 17) 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 travelling 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 areas 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 or guide for migratory game birds within six 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.

*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 Public Lands at 310-LAND (5263) (see page 14).

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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NEW

TAN w/ BLACK WEBBING / HHSSL308TAN
4LBS 15OZ

SUB 5LBS SUB MOA



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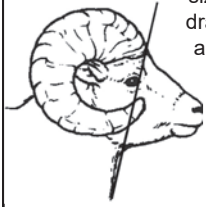


H-S PRECISION®

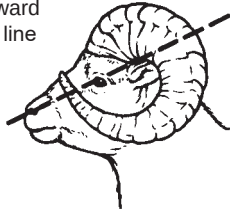
BIG GAME REGULATIONS

— Big Game Identification —

Class 1 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 class 1 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! Some rams may not be legal even if they are old due to having horns severely broomed. For more details, hunters should review the 13-page "Registration procedures for bighorn sheep" which was developed in 2021 and updated in 2025. This can be found on Open Alberta by searching the above term.

White-tailed deer – Body colour 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 colour 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.



Class 1 pronghorn – a male pronghorn that has a horn at least 12.6 cm (5 in.) in length.



Class 2 pronghorn – a female pronghorn or a male pronghorn 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.



male

female

GRIZZLY

Hump

There is no season for grizzly bear.



Dished face profile

14 cm



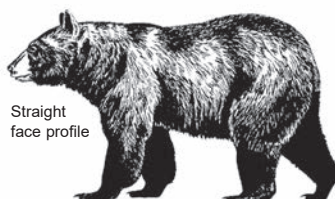
13 cm



24.5 cm

No hump

BLACK BEAR



Straight face profile

9.5 cm



9 cm



18 cm

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



lamb



yearling ewe

Class 2 sheep – a female bighorn sheep or a male bighorn sheep under one year of age.



yearling ram (illegal)



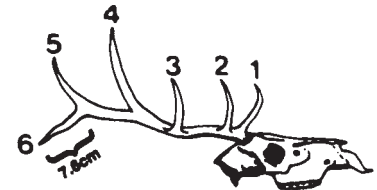
adult ewe

Antlered

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

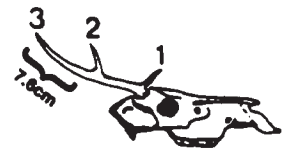
Antlerless

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



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.



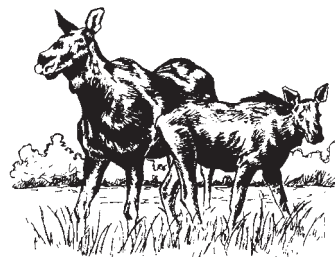
Three-point elk – A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than two tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

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

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 centred between tip of nose and top of head; squarish body proportions; 1.2 m (4 ft.) high at the shoulder; seldom found alone.



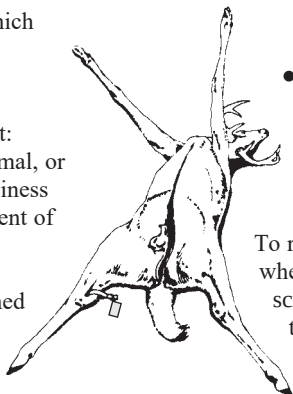
EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

In the case of moose, elk, deer, pronghorn, bison and class 2 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, pronghorn, bison and class 2 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 pronghorn, male elk or male class 2 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.

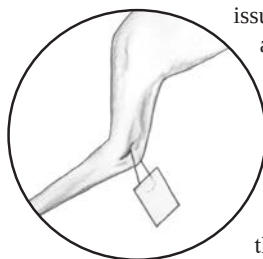
Deboning: a hunter can debone a carcass while in the field and still follow the requirements described above for moose, elk, deer, pronghorn, bison and class 2 sheep. It's not necessary for the full hind quarter of meat to remain intact while still bearing the required evidence, provided that portion 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:

- Class 1 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, pronghorn, bison and class 2 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 or if retaining only the meat, tag as with deer, elk and moose described above.



Tags must remain affixed until, in the case of

- Class 1 sheep, goat – the animal is registered (page 46) and the skin is processed.
- moose, elk, deer, pronghorn, bison, class 2 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. If only the meat is retained, affix tag 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.

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 19 for more information).

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 including the sex of big game animals.

BOWHUNTING

Note: The following applies to bowhunting other than with a crossbow. For information about hunting with crossbows, see page 62.

Except for the hunting of black bear, coyote, cougar or wolf under the circumstances outlined on page 34, 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 16 kilograms (35 pounds). This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 inches) to its head. An authorized arrow is one that is not less than 61 cm (24 inches) 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 CROSSBOWS

Crossbows may not be used to hunt big game during archery-only seasons. The only exception is for an eligible handicapped hunter who is in possession of a properly completed medical assessment form signed by an authorized medical practitioner.

A bowhunting permit, as required by bowhunters using conventional archery equipment, is not required by persons who are hunting with crossbows.

In accordance with federal regulations, crossbows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.

Persons hunting big game with a crossbow must use an authorized crossbow and arrow (bolt). An authorized crossbow is one that requires 45.4 kilograms (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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photo: ACA, Colin Eyo

A close-up, low-angle shot of the front of a red and white ATV. The vehicle is muddy, suggesting it has been off-road. A small yellow flame icon is positioned near the front tire. The background is a blurred forest.

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Stop often and clear debris. Built-up materials can heat up and spark fires. Always carry a shovel, collapsible pail or fire extinguisher.

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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 14) within the specified time period. For a male sheep killed under the authority of an allocated licence, a hunter or a third party designate may deliver the head provided that the designate carries a bill of lading. For all other species, 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. In order to register an animal, hunters must call one of the designated Fish and Wildlife offices (see page 14) to book an appointment date and time prior to arriving.

The following parts are required to be submitted:

- Male sheep over one year of age (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact, and cape and lower jaw removed). See page 14 for a list of designated sheep registration offices. You must call ahead to schedule an appointment.
- Cougar (the skull and skin must be submitted, complete with evidence of sex attached and visible, to a Fish and Wildlife office. See page 14 for 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 one year of age – 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.
- 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 34 for requirements; if taken under any other authority, within five business days of 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.
- 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, class 1 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 and class 1 sheep 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, 33 and 66 for details.

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

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- Contribute to trackable trends in wildlife populations in WMUs
- Promote the value of hunting to Alberta's economy

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BIG GAME SEASONS



Prairie WMUs (100 Series & 732)

Alberta

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, crossbow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable special licences. Refer to the 2026 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, 33 and 66 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
White-tailed deer	Antlered	S1 - N3	(Wed – Sat only) N4 - N7, N11 - N14, N18 - N21, N25 - N28	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 - N3	■ (Wed – Sat only) N4 - N7, N11 - N14, N18 - N21, N25 - N28	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 - N3	■ (Wed – Sat only) N4 - N7, N11 - N14, N18 - N21, N25 - N28	102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 158, 160
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	162, 163, 164, 166
	Antlered	■ S1 - N3	■ (Wed – Sat only) N4 - N7, N11 - N14, N18 - N21, N25 - N28	104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 156
	Antlerless	S1 - N3	■ (Wed – Sat only) N4 - N7, N11 - N14, N18 - N21, N25 - N28	104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 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 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16 ■ N17 - D31	102, 104, 108
			■ S1 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16 ■ N17 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	(124, 128, 142, 144, 148, 150)
			■ N1 - N10 ■ N11 - N20 ■ N21 - N30	116, 118, 119, 624 (WMU 624 – Monday to Friday only)
			■ D1 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
		S1 - O31		116, 118, 119 (Monday to Saturday only)
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	110, (132, 136, 138), (151, 152), (156, 158, 160), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlerless		■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	102, 104, 108
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ¹ and antlerless	S1 - O31		106, 112, 130, 134, 140

Prairie WMUs continued of page 50

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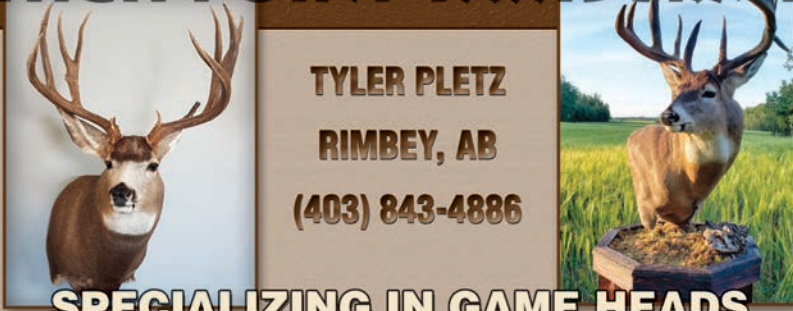
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	DATE	Calgary		Coronation		Edmonton		Ft. McMurray		High Level		Hinton		Lac La	
		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
M D T	Sept. 1	6:50	8:22	6:38	8:13	6:43	8:23	6:29	8:21	6:48	8:48	7:00	8:39	6:35	8:35
	Sept. 5	6:56	8:13	6:44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

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SET TABLE

Biche	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Peace River	Red Deer	Whitecourt
Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise
8:19	6:47	8:14	6:38	8:06	6:53
8:09	6:53	8:06	6:44	7:58	7:01
7:57	7:00	7:55	6:51	7:47	7:11
7:44	7:08	7:44	6:59	7:36	7:21
7:31	7:15	7:33	7:06	7:25	7:31
7:19	7:22	7:22	7:14	7:14	7:40
7:06	7:30	7:12	7:21	7:03	7:51
7:03	7:31	7:09	7:23	7:01	7:53
6:53	7:38	7:01	7:29	6:52	8:01
6:41	7:45	6:50	7:37	6:41	8:11
6:29	7:53	6:40	7:45	6:31	8:21
6:17	8:01	6:30	7:53	6:21	8:32
6:06	8:09	6:21	8:01	6:12	8:43
5:55	8:17	6:12	8:10	6:03	8:53
5:51	8:21	6:09	8:13	5:59	8:58
5:43	8:27	6:02	8:20	5:52	9:06
5:34	8:35	5:55	8:28	5:45	9:17
5:25	8:43	5:48	8:36	5:38	9:27
5:18	8:51	5:42	8:44	5:32	9:38
5:11	8:59	5:38	8:52	5:28	9:47
5:07	9:06	5:34	8:59	5:24	9:56
5:06	9:07	5:33	9:00	5:23	9:58
5:03	9:12	5:32	9:05	5:22	10:04
5:01	9:18	5:31	9:11	5:21	10:11
5:01	9:22	5:31	9:15	5:21	10:16
5:02	9:25	5:33	9:18	5:22	10:20
5:05	9:28	5:35	9:21	5:25	10:22
5:10	9:28	5:40	9:21	5:29	10:22
5:12	9:28	5:42	9:21	5:31	10:22
5:17	9:28	5:46	9:21	5:36	10:20
5:24	9:26	5:52	9:19	5:42	10:17
5:33	9:23	5:59	9:15	5:49	10:12
5:42	9:18	6:07	9:11	5:57	10:05
5:52	9:13	6:15	9:06	6:05	9:57
6:02	9:07	6:23	8:59	6:13	9:49
6:06	9:04	6:26	8:56	6:17	9:45
6:14	8:58	6:33	8:50	6:24	9:37
6:25	8:50	6:42	8:42	6:32	9:26
6:35	8:41	6:50	8:33	6:41	9:15
6:46	8:32	6:59	8:24	6:50	9:03
6:56	8:22	7:07	8:14	6:58	8:51

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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Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - J31, 2027	(151, 152), (156, 158, 160)
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30 ■ D1 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	110, (132, 136, 138), (162, 163, 164, 166)
	Antlered and antlerless		■ N18 - N20 ■ N26 - N28 ■ J13 - J15, 2027 ■ J21 - J23, 2027	732 (CFB Suffield)

¹ See page 42 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Prairie WMUs:

- Either sex elk special licence, pronghorn archery special licence, class 2 pronghorn special licence and class 1 pronghorn special licence. Refer to page 60 for season dates or to the 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for further details.

BIG GAME SEASONS



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

Alberta

Archery-only seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General seasons are those where either a firearm, crossbow or a bow and arrow may be used.

- Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2026 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, 33 and 66 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, 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, 242
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 242
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
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 ¹
		S1 - N30	■ 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)

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30 ■ D1 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	(200, 202, 203, 232, 234), (240, 242)
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - J31, 2027	(204, 228, 230), (206, 222, 226, 244, 246), (208, 210, 220), (236, 238, 256), (252, 254, 258, 260)
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	224
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	250
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	214
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	216, 221
		S1 - N30	■ N1 - N30 ² ■ D1 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	212 ⁴
		Cougar and black bear seasons – see pages 57 and 58.		

- 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, crossbow, muzzle loader or shotgun.
- ³ See page 42 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.
- ⁴ WMU 212 antlerless elk archery licence will be issued with two tags; WMU 212 antlerless elk special licence will be issued with two tags.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:

- The supplemental antlerless white-tailed deer licences will be issued with one tag and be valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214, 220-246, 248 and 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 crossbow) in WMUs 212, 247 and 248 during the archery-only season, S1 – N30.
- Foothills deer licence. Holders of this licence may kill two antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow, crossbow, 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 mywildalberta.ca/wainwrighthunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2026 CFB Wainwright hunt.
- WMU 248 white-tailed deer licence. Holders of this licence may kill three white-tailed deer, only one of which may be antlered, with a bow and arrow, crossbow, muzzle loader or shotgun in WMU 248 between the following dates: O25 – D7. Information about this hunt is available from the Alberta government office in Edmonton (see page 14) 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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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, crossbow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2026 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, 33 and 66 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
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	352, 353, 355
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 347, 349, 350, 351, 354, 356
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 337, 338
		■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	357, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	314, 320, 322, 332
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	358
Moose	Antlered and antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 316, 320, 322, 332, 334, 336, 337
	Antlered	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	318, 324, 338, 348
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 308
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346
	Antlerless	A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	352, 353 ¹ , 355
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	357
	Antlerless (calf only)	■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	359, 360
Elk	Antlered (3-point or larger) ²	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	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		■ S9 - O24 ■ O25 - D24 ■ D25 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	300
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	340, 342, 344 ¹
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	330, 352
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	302, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O24	■ O25 - D31 ■ D21 - J31, 2027	303
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	312, 314
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20	318, 332
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	324
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	334, 336
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027	346
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D31 ■ J1 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	320, 322
			■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027	337, 338, 348
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20	353, 354, 355, 356
Class 1 sheep ³	Resident		S9 - O31	302 ⁴ , 303, 306, 308
Cougar and black bear seasons – see pages 57 and 58.				

¹ The special licence season for antlerless moose in WMU 353 and antlerless elk in WMU 344 applies only to a portion of the WMU.

² See page 42 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

³ Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for class 1 and class 2 sheep on page 39.

⁴ WMU 302 is open only for full-curl class 1 sheep.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Foothills WMUs:

- The supplemental antlerless white-tailed deer licences will be issued with one tag and be valid in the following WMUs: 332 and 334.
- WMU 300 elk special licence and class 2 sheep special licence. Refer to page 60 for season dates or to the 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for further details.



Our efforts focus on education, safety, and the restoration and revitalization of trails and associated facilities on public and private land throughout Alberta. JOIN US – our membership is open to motorised and non-motorised user groups as well as individuals.

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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, crossbow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2026 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, 33 and 66 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
White-tailed deer	Antlered and antlerless	S9 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S9 - 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	S9 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S9 - 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	S9 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406
		S9 - 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
		S9 - S23	■ S24 - N30	408
		■ S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
Elk	Antlered and antlerless	S9 - N30		410
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ¹ and antlerless	S9 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
	Antlered (6-point or larger) ¹	■ A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered (3-point or larger) ¹	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	429
		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	
Class 1 sheep ³	Resident	S9 - O31		410
		■ S9 - 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
			S9 - O31	400 ⁷ , 402, 404, 406, 408
			■ N1 - N30	408 (west of Highway 40)
	Non-resident and non-resident alien ⁸	■ S9 - 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 57 and 58.				

¹ See page 42 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 class 1 and class 2 sheep on page 39.

⁴ The draw season for class 1 sheep is valid in Area 438C (See 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws Booklet).

⁵ The season for class 1 sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion south of the Beaverdam Road.

⁶ The draw season for class 1 sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion north of the Beaverdam Road.

⁷ WMU 400 is open only for full-curl class 1 sheep.

⁸ These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained class 1 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 licences will be issued with one tag and be valid in the following WMUs: 440-446.
- Class 2 sheep special licence, class 1 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 60 for season dates or to the 2026 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)

Alberta

Archery-only seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General seasons are those where either a firearm, crossbow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2026 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 page 3, 33 and 66 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
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 535, 537, 540, 544
		S17 - N30		841
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 528, 535, 537, 544

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery-only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	503
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027	500, 501, 502, 507, 508, 511, 514
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J31, 2027 ■ F1 - F28, 2027	504, 505, 506, 509, 510
Cougar, black bear and mountain goat seasons – see pages 57, 58 and 60.				

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 42 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 licences will be issued with one tag and be valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214, 220-246, 248, 258, 260, 332, 334, 440-446, 500-504, 506 and 509-519.
- For bison hunting opportunities see the 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet, the bison protection and special bison areas section on page 39 of this book and alberta.ca/wood-bison-regulation.

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 unless the edible portions of meat are recovered. See exemption for salvaging skin on page 34 – 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	Archery-only Season	WMUs
September 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027 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	September 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027 ^{1,3}	212, 247, 248
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, 2026 – March 31, 2027 ^{2,3}	410
December 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027 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, 624		

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

² From December 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027, 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 14 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

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.

as wildland provincial parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites. For more information on baiting in parks, see page 36.

3) Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name and phone number or a 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 14) 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.

Black bear hunting with dogs is now permitted in Wildlife Management Units 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 511, 524, 525, 527 and 537 in September and October during an open season. This is being done in order to support predator management in areas where caribou recovery is a concern.

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 black bear to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned unless the edible portions of meat are recovered. See exemption for salvaging skin on page 34 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation. Refer to the Important Changes and Information for 2026 section at the beginning of this guide for more information.
- 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.

Black Bear Season	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery-only	General	
Fall 2026	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. 9 – Oct. 31		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
Spring 2027 (Requires a new year licence)		Sept. 9 – Nov. 30	404, 406, 408
	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, 348, 402, 429
		Apr. 1 – June 30	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 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

Do not shoot wild boar

Report all sightings to help stop their spread

Hunting and trapping wild boar is illegal in Alberta, except for:

- Owners and occupants of land, and those assisting them, who are hunting or trapping wild boar on their own land to control wild boar
- Commercial operators with a permit who are providing wild boar control services
- Indigenous harvesters with a permit

Alberta.ca/wildboar | wildboar@gov.ab.ca | 310-FARM

Alberta



Be BearSmart 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, grain fields and near dead stock.
- 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 Enforcement Services 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



ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LICENCE DRAW HUNTS

Season dates and locations (refer to page 17 for month abbreviations)

Class 2 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 2026 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet.

CFB Wainwright deer special licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N26 - N28*
Rifle N30 - D2*, D3 - D5*, D7 - D9*, D10 - D12*

CFB Wainwright moose special licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N26 - N28*
Rifle N30 - D5*, D7 - D12*

*Refer to mywildalberta.ca/wainwrighthunt for important information for hunters participating in the 2026 CFB Wainwright hunt.

Pronghorn 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 - S26

Class 1 pronghorn special licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S28 - O3
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O19 - O24

Class 2 pronghorn special licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 O1 - O3, O5 - O7
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O22 - O24, O26 - O28

Either sex elk special licence

WMUs 728 and 730 Bow and arrow or muzzle loader N26 - N28, Rifle N30 - D12

WMU 300 elk special licence (3-point or larger) S9 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - J31, 2027, F1 - F28, 2027

Mountain goat special licence

Areas C, E, F, H, I, J, K S10 - O31
Areas O, Q, T, U S17 - O31

Refer to the 2026 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, cougars and bears taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife; 2) coyotes harvested, by residents, outside of public lands in the Green Area; or 3) cougars and bears if the edible portions of the meat are recovered.

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, 2027, or until June 15, 2027 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2027.

A non-resident or non-resident alien who holds a valid wildlife certificate may hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2027, or until June 15, 2027 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2027.

Coyote – A resident, non-resident or non-resident alien who holds a valid wildlife certificate may, except in WMUs 728 and 730, hunt (but not trap) coyote

- throughout the year on privately owned land and on public land in the White Area, to which he or she has the right of access to hunt;
- on public lands in the Green Area to which he or she has the right of access to hunt, from the opening day of a big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2026 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, 2027 until February 28, 2027. A range safety briefing is required as a condition of access and will be done at Range Control (Building 581) on an as required basis. Access may be restricted to allow military training to occur. For further information please email wrtBaseHunt@forces.gc.ca.

Baiting for wolves and coyotes – On public land, hunters cannot use bait for hunting wolves or coyotes except a) from December 1 to March 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, 2027, 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 14).

Muskrats and double-crested cormorants – A resident may, without a licence and at all times of year, hunt muskrats and double-crested cormorants on private land by the owner, an occupant, or a resident authorized in writing by the owner or occupant.

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 2026 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations, available in September 2026.

WILD TURKEY DRAW

Please refer to items 1, 11 and 12 of Prohibitions, Game Bird section (page 31) 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

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.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

Double-crested cormorants are a game bird and can be legally hunted during duck seasons with a provincial game bird hunting licence. Their flesh may be abandoned or wasted but dead birds must be recovered and disposed of.

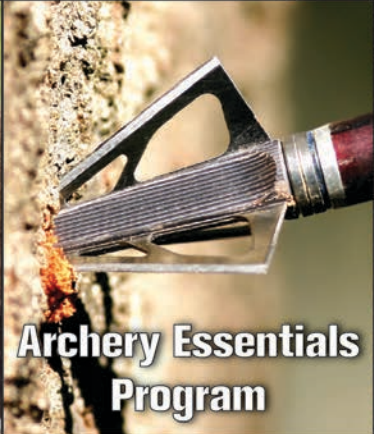


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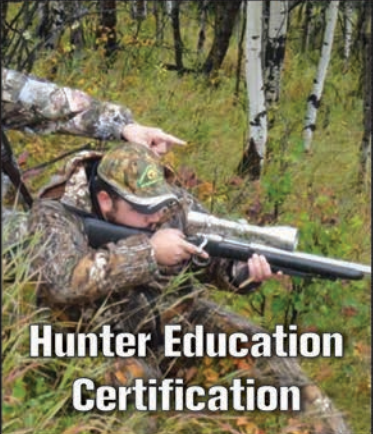




Bear Essentials Program



Archery Essentials Program



Hunter Education Certification



Bighorn Sheep Essentials Program

Please Remember

Federal regulations prohibit the use of lead shot or crossbows 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.

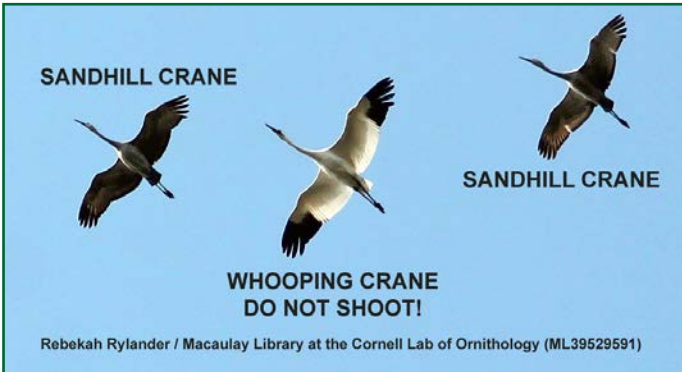
IN ALBERTA SAGE GROUSE ARE PROTECTED

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 63 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 36 to 39.

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 26).

Seasons

The open season to hunt upland game birds by means of falconry is from August 15, 2026 to March 31, 2027. Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (page 63).

Bowhunting

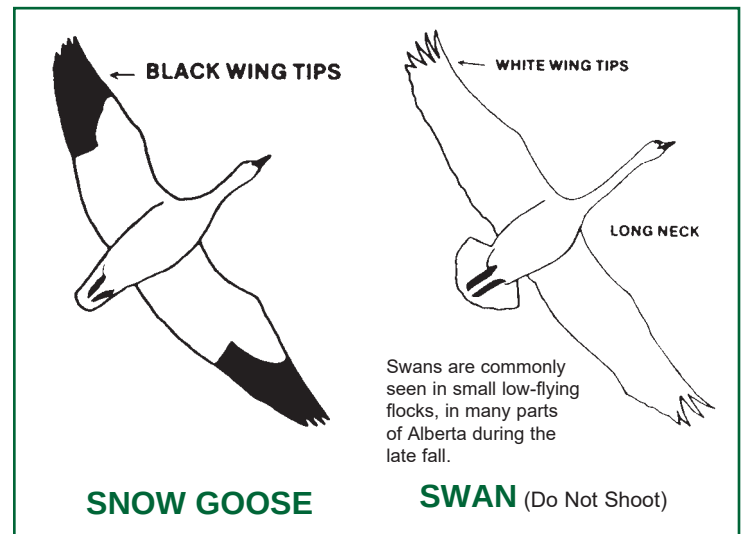
Hunters wishing to hunt game birds with a bow and arrow, other than a crossbow, require a bowhunting permit in addition to the other applicable licences.

In accordance with federal regulations, crossbows 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, crossbows, shotguns or a falconry bird. Crossbows 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 63 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 centre fire rifle), it is legal to use them to hunt upland game birds and 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 2026 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.
			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	(b) of which not more than six ducks may be goldeneye for non-resident aliens.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D23	
Ducks, coots, snipe, cormorants	8 (a) each	24 (b) each	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 841, 936	S1 - D16	(c) may harvest with a special licence only.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D23	
Sandhill crane	5	15	200-208, 220, 222, 226-244, 247-260, 336, 500-510, 514, 515	S1 - D16	(c) may harvest with a special licence only.
			102-106, 112-166, 210	S8 - D23	
Male pheasant	2	6	200-260, 314-402, 412-544	S1 - J15	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, 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)	S5 - S7	
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)	S5 - S7	
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, 2027	

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:

All hunters and non-hunters are required to attend a mandatory 7:00 am safety briefing before entering the hunting area on their first day. Briefings will be offered every day if required. Signs will direct hunters to the Hunter Check Station (HCS) from the main gate of CFB Wainwright. The range safety briefing will last approximately 45 minutes and the HCS doors will open to hunters at 6:00 am for registration and signing of indemnification waivers. **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.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

Youth under 10 are exempt for the need for a provincial game bird licence while hunting game birds. However, they must be supervised by a licensed adult and any birds they harvest are considered part of the adult's limit.

Youth under 18 may apply online for a free migratory game bird hunting permit. To hunt with this permit, youth must be accompanied by a permitted adult who has also possessed a permit in previous years. The adult may accompany up to two (2) youth while hunting, and may also have in their possession, a firearm and participate in the hunt.

Although youth under 10 are exempt from a provincial game bird licence, they will need a youth migratory game bird permit to hunt migratory birds and will have to share a single limit with the supervising adult licence holder.

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 report and return the device to Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services.

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 Enforcement Services or 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.

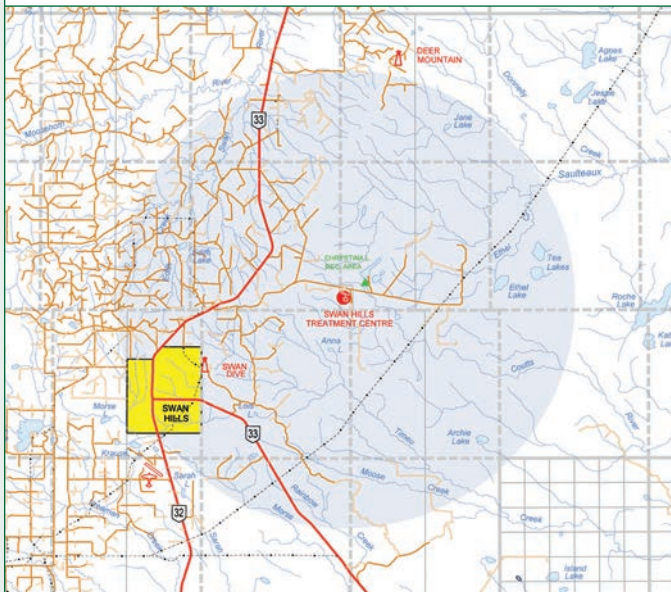
Wild Game Public Health Advisory

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



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1-800-642-3800



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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 in deer 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 have tested over 124,000 heads and found CWD in 5,982 mule deer, 1,200 white-tailed deer, 78 elk and 29 moose.

For 2026: Mandatory requirement to submit DEER harvested in the following WMUs:

102, 108, 110, 116, 118, 119, 148, 150, 151, 200, 224, 232, 234, 236, 238, 246, 247, 250 and

300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 402, 404, 406, 412, 414 and

503, 504, 505, 506, 508, 509, 510, 514, 515, 728 and 730 (see map on page 3 of this guide).

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

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)

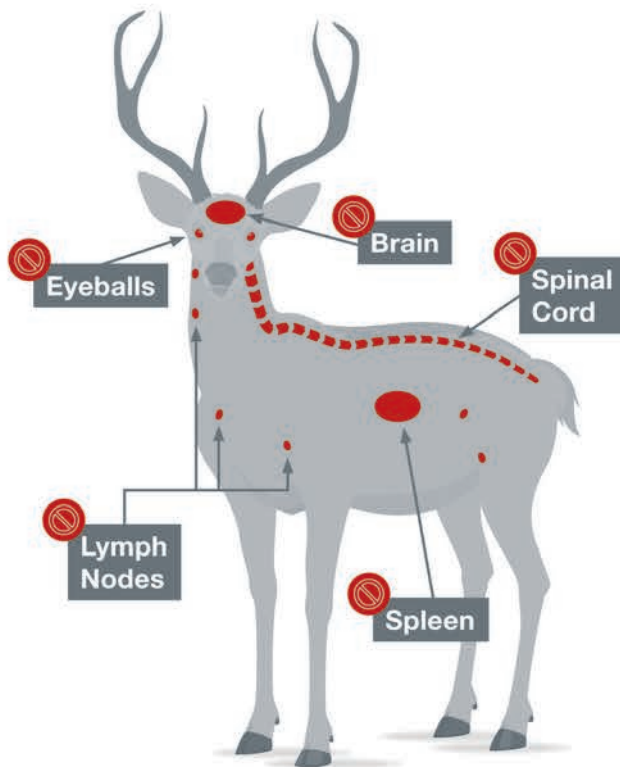
to _____ on _____
(destination) (date)

(signature of hunter)

(signature of person transporting the wildlife)

Alberta

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 licences will be issued with one tag and will be valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214, 220-246, 248, 258, 260, 332, 334, 440-446, 500-504, 506 and 509-519.



YOUTH MULE DEER LICENCE

This general licence is available for resident hunters who are 10-17 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 10-17 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 cannot 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 21.

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ALBERTA'S WILDLIFE RECORDS

Rifle records supplied by the Alberta Wildlife Federation
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	449 4/8	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	182 4/8	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
Pronghorn 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



On behalf of the Hunting and Fishing Branch at the Ministry of Forestry and Parks, it is my pleasure to welcome hunters from across our province, and those visiting from beyond, to the 2026–27 hunting season. Alberta remains one of the premier hunting jurisdictions in North America, grounded in sound wildlife science, a strong conservation ethic and a community of hunters who deeply value the land, wildlife and traditions that define this province.

Each year, the release of the Alberta

Guide to Hunting Regulations is an opportunity not only to outline the rules that guide responsible harvest, but also to reflect on our shared accomplishments, adapt to emerging challenges and reaffirm our commitment to sustainable wildlife management. As we move into the 2026–27 season, I would like to highlight a number of important regulatory updates, as well as some meaningful progress and insights gained through engagement here at home and through international collaboration abroad.

Supporting a Strong and Sustainable Hunting Tradition

Alberta's hunting community plays a vital role in conservation. Through licence fees, the efforts of organized associations, foundations and federations, habitat stewardship and ethical harvest, hunters contribute directly to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and landscapes.

The coming season builds on long-standing principles:

- Science-based management informed by rigorous population monitoring and research.
- Opportunity balanced with sustainability to ensure viable wildlife populations for future generations.
- Fair and equitable access for resident hunters.

Our objective remains clear: To provide meaningful hunting opportunities while ensuring Alberta's wildlife populations continue to thrive.

Key Regulatory Changes for 2026–27

For the upcoming season, hunters will notice several important updates. These changes reflect ongoing monitoring, stakeholder feedback and adaptive management approaches.

1. Targeted Adjustments to Season Allocations

Several wildlife management units (WMUs) have undergone refinements to season lengths and licence allocations in



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response to recent population trends:

- Selective antlerless harvest adjustments for white-tailed and mule deer in areas experiencing population decline.
- Expanded opportunities in specific northern WMUs for elk where population data supports increased harvest.
- Continued adaptive elk management with localized changes to either reduce agricultural conflict or bolster herd recovery.

Hunters are strongly encouraged to carefully review WMU specific regulations, as changes may vary significantly across the province.

2. Mule Deer Research to assess Survival and Movements

Mule deer declines remain one of the most significant long-term challenges facing wildlife agencies throughout western North America.

This season includes:

- Continuing and expanding the mule deer collaring project in southern and central Alberta to assess the many factors affecting mortality and population dynamics.
- Expanding surveillance zones for Chronic Wasting Disease, with mandatory sample submission requirements.
- Adjustments to special license quotas for mule deer throughout the province.

The cooperation of hunters is essential to effectively assess populations, monitor the spread of disease and provide a boots-on-the-ground report of what they see on our lands. Every submitted harvest report and submitted CWD sample contributes to safeguarding Alberta's cervid populations.

3. Emphasis on Hunting Opportunity and Allowing New Hunting Methods

The 2026–27 regulations place renewed emphasis on hunting opportunities, including:

- More allocations for mountain goats in identified zones.
- Increased number of elk hunting opportunities.
- Including all elk licenses as eligible for partner-use.
- More bison available for allocation in the Hay Zama bison hunting zone.

Public confidence in hunting depends on not only provision of hunting opportunities, but by ethical actions and stewardship, and Alberta hunters continue to lead by example.

Achievements and Insights from Meetings and Public Events

In 2026, I had the privilege of representing Alberta at forums, including major conservation and hunting events in North America. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships and showcase Alberta's leadership in wildlife management.

1. Advancing Mountain Ungulate Conservation

Meetings with international partners showcased the importance of collaborative conservation strategies for wild sheep. Alberta's experience with bighorn sheep management, particularly in balancing disease risks, habitat pressures and hunting opportunity, drew significant interest.

Key takeaways included:

- The growing importance of cross-jurisdictional monitoring for transboundary populations.
- Innovative approaches to habitat quality, connectivity and migration corridor protection.
- Shared challenges related to predation, disease management and climate variability.

These discussions have already informed ongoing work within Alberta, including efforts to strengthen long-term monitoring frameworks.

2. Elevating North American Conservation Models

At various hunting meetings, Alberta's incorporation of the North American model of wildlife conservation continues to be recognized as a global benchmark. Our system, where wildlife is publicly owned, science-driven and largely funded by hunters, remains both effective and admired.

In particular:

- Stakeholders expressed strong interest in Alberta's licence allocation system.
- Our broad integration of stakeholder knowledge and consultation into wildlife management was highlighted as a strength.
- Alberta's commitment to public transparency, regulatory clarity and continued provision of hunting opportunity was widely acknowledged.

These engagements reinforce the importance of maintaining and improving our model at home.

3. Strengthening International Partnerships

In North America and beyond, discussions with government agencies, conservation organizations and hunting federations focused on:

- Building formal knowledge sharing relationships.
- Collaborating on research initiatives, particularly in genetics and disease.





- Rob Miskosky photo

- Promoting consistent strategic initiatives for stewardship aligned with conservation outcomes.

Alberta continues to position itself as a partner of choice in global conservation efforts, while also bringing valuable insights back to inform provincial policy.

Looking Ahead

The challenges facing wildlife management are evolving. Changing landscapes, increasing pressures on habitat and the emergence of wildlife diseases require a proactive, adaptive approach.

In the coming year, the Hunting and Fishing Branch will focus on:

- Enhancing data driven decision

making using cutting-edge tools such as the SpeedGoat integrated population model.

- Expanding hunter engagement and education.
- Continuing to improve licensing systems and service delivery.
- Strengthening partnerships with hunters, landowners and conservation organizations.

Hunters will continue to play a central role in these efforts. Your observations, participation and stewardship are critical components of our success.

A Shared Responsibility

Hunting in Alberta is more than a

recreational pursuit, it is a shared responsibility. It connects people to the land, supports conservation outcomes and sustains a tradition deeply rooted in respect for wildlife.

As you prepare for the 2026–27 season, I encourage you to:

- Familiarize yourself with all applicable regulations.
- Plan your hunt with safety and ethics as top priorities.
- Participate in data reporting and monitoring programs.
- Respect the land, wildlife and other outdoor users.

Together, we ensure that Alberta remains a world-class destination for hunting, both today and for future generations.

To all hunters, resident and visiting alike, I wish you a safe, rewarding and successful season. Thank you for your continued commitment to conservation and responsible hunting.

Matt Besko

Executive Director
Hunting and Fishing Branch
Government of Alberta



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MULE DEER

What's going on and how are we responding

Provincial Mule Deer Management Update

by Grant Chapman

Provincial Big Game Specialist, Hunting and Fishing Branch

and Shawn Wasel

Alberta Mule Deer Project Coordinator

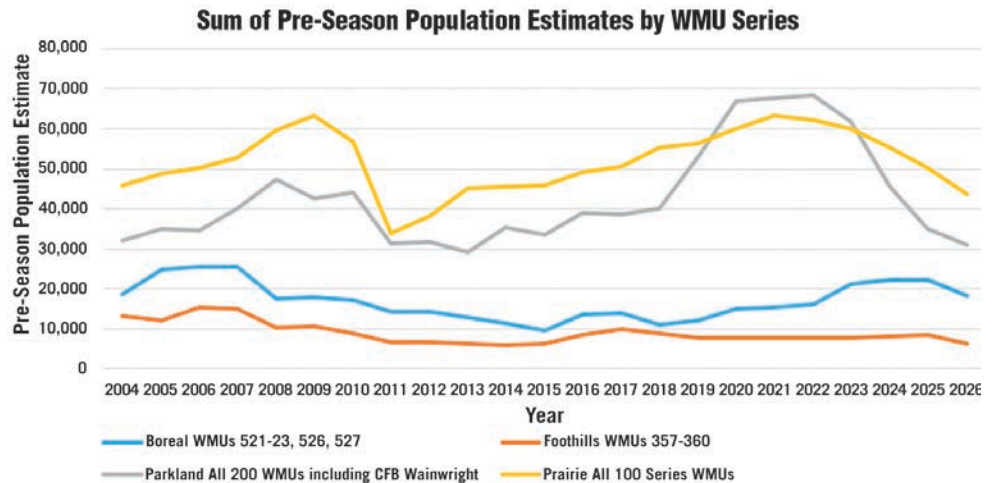
On behalf of the Mule Deer Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and project funders



Mule deer status and management

Mule deer remain one of Alberta's most valued and recognizable big game species. They support hunting traditions, wildlife viewing, and public interest in healthy landscapes. However, recent monitoring confirms that mule deer populations in several parts of Alberta are substantially lower than expected. In the parkland, prairies and parts of the Peace region, mule deer pre-season population estimates have declined between 30-50%. This is compared to the last 20 years, as seen in the graph below showing populations trends since 2004. These results reinforce the need for continued monitoring, conservative harvest and targeted research.

Alberta's mule deer management is based on a conservation-first approach. Harvest opportunities have been reduced where monitoring indicates low abundance, low productivity or reduced age structure. These interim management actions are intended to reduce harvest pressure and support population recovery. The long-term goal is to recover mule deer populations to sustainable levels, restore an older age structure and



"Select mule deer population trends (2004–2026)."

provide improved hunter opportunity. Management decisions are informed by population estimates, harvest success, composition surveys, age data, chronic

wasting disease (CWD) surveillance, hunter reports, weather conditions and new information from research such as the Alberta Mule Deer Project.

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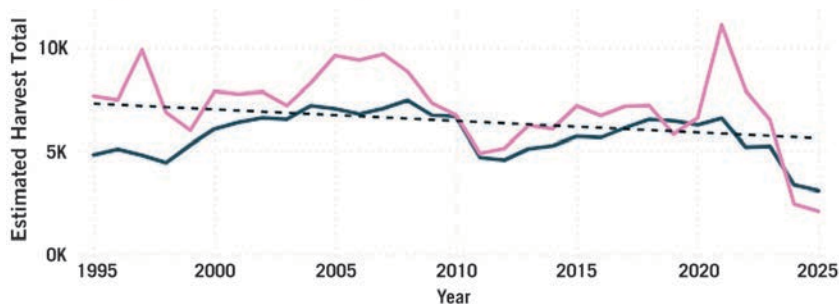
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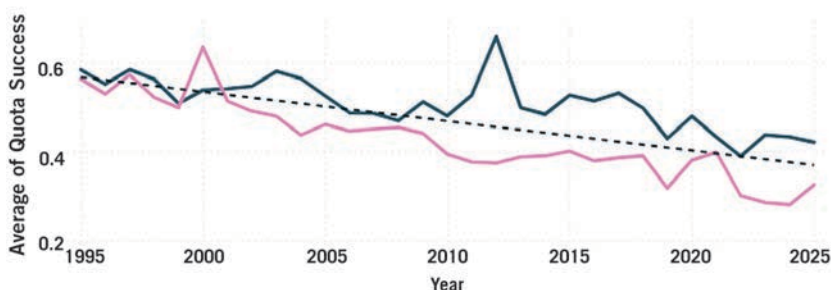
Estimated Harvest Total by Year and Draw Code

Draw Code ● 13 - Antlered Mule Deer ● 14 - Antlerless Mule Deer



Average of Quota Success by Year and Draw Code

Draw Code ● 13 - Antlered Mule Deer ● 14 - Antlerless Mule Deer



"Estimated provincial harvest and hunter success (1995–2026)."

Table 1

Antlered mule deer quotas by WMU series (2021–2026)							
Antlered Mule Deer	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2023 to 2026
Prairie	4247	3976	3480	1965	1685	1521	-56%
Parkland	4363	4023	3259	2038	1777	1542	-53%
Foothills	2223	2058	2011	1475	1463	1439	-28%
Mountains	360	324	310	241	239	239	-23%
Boreal	1462	1394	1328	934	905	864	-35%
Total	12,655	11,775	10,388	6,653	6,069	5,605	-46%

Table 2

Antlerless mule deer quotas by WMU series (2021–2026)							
Antlerless Mule Deer	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2023 to 2026
Prairie	8738	7895	7382	2857	2082	878	-88%
Parkland	7818	7831	7359	2640	2098	563	-92%
Foothills	4424	4243	4169	1387	1022	134	-97%
Mountains	36	26	26	15	15	7	-73%
Boreal	4097	4136	3585	1365	833	107	-97%
Total	25,113	24,131	22,521	8,264	6,050	1,689	n

Table 3

CWD prevalence trends in male mule deer by WMU series (2010–2025)				
Survey Year	# of Samples	Positive	Prevalence in Male Mule Deer %	WMUs
2015	1356	74	5%	All of Prairie & Parkland including Wainwright and Suffield CFBs
2020	2033	510	25%	
2025	654	267	41%	

Quota setting and age structure

Alberta's special licence quota process considers the number of available animals, population trend, productivity, age structure, sex ratios and harvest success. A key objective is to maintain a balanced buck-to-doe ratio and sufficient progression of bucks into older age classes. Desired sex ratios may range from approximately 40 to 85 bucks per 100 does depending on management objectives for an area. Where population dynamics, disease, or harvest pressure reduce abundance or age structure, license quotas are reduced to keep harvest within sustainable limits.

Chronic wasting disease and other limiting factors

Chronic wasting disease continues to be a major long-term concern for mule deer management in Alberta. CWD prevalence has increased in parts of the province. Enhanced monitoring through mandatory head submissions from hunters has improved the understanding of distribution along the western and northern leading edges. The Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta are also working with stakeholders to evaluate management strategies related to CWD, mule deer sustainability and population recovery. Results from this work are expected to help inform future management decisions. Other factors affecting mule deer include predation, winter severity, drought, habitat change, vehicle collisions, and regional differences in forage and habitat quality. See Table 3 which illustrates CWD prevalence in male mule deer which has increased from 5% in 2015 to 41% in 2025 in the 100 and 200 series WMUs.

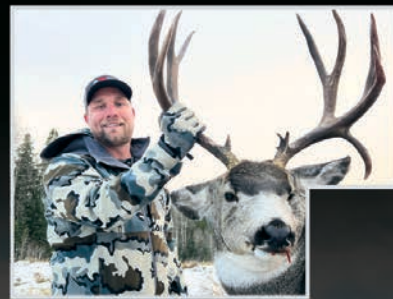
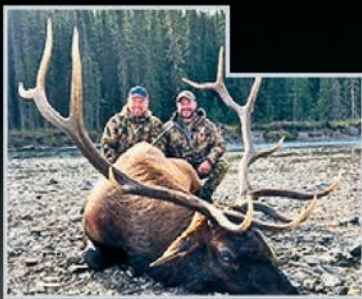
What this means for hunters

Recent changes in mule deer hunting opportunity are a direct response to current biological information. Reduced quotas, mandatory disease monitoring where required and expanded research are all part of a broader effort to support population recovery. Hunters remain a central part of mule deer conservation in Alberta. Harvest reports, tooth submissions, CWD submissions and hunter observations provide information that compliments aerial surveys and research data.

Alberta mule deer – uncovering the secrets to enhance management

The Alberta Mule Deer Project was initiated to improve understanding of mule deer survival and ecology. It was

continued on page 78



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Alberta Mule Deer Collaring Project

The goal of the project is to improve our understanding of mule deer movements, habitat use, and survival rates across Alberta. GPS collars provide vital tracking data that researchers use to inform wildlife management strategies, support conservation efforts, and help ensure the long-term sustainability of this iconic species.



Watch our video

www.albertacollaringproject.com

Table 4

Mortality summary from June 2026		
Mortality category	Count	Proportion of known mortalities
Predation	24	69%
Coyote	21	60% of all mortalities
Cougar	3	9% of all mortalities
Unknown	8	23%
Hunter harvest	3	9%

Table 5

Body condition and liveweight comparison between SE and SW study areas			
Measure	Southeast	Southwest	Interpretation
Doe liveweight	65.4 kg	70.4 kg	SW does ≈5 kg heavier
Buck liveweight	80.5 kg	90.3 kg	SW bucks ≈10 kg heavier
Average rump fat	5.7 mm	8.2 mm	SW ≈44% greater fat reserves
Average loin thickness	41.2 mm	43.3 mm	SW greater muscle thickness

established following recommendations from the Minister's mule deer management plan advisory committee. The project is guided by a steering committee representing the Hunting and Fishing Branch, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Environment and Protected Areas and the Alberta Conservation Association. A technical advisory committee provides scientific guidance on study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation. Project funders and partners include the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Alberta Conservation Association, Minister's special license grants, Forestry and Parks, Environment and Protected Areas, Grand Slam Club Ovis Canada, and the Northern Alberta Chapter of Safari Club International.

Project objectives and progress

The project focuses on five closely linked objectives: Estimating adult deer survival and causes of mortality, improving population monitoring methods, evaluating seasonal movement, migration corridors and habitat preference, and live body condition assessments. Together, these objectives are intended to help understand recovery potential, factors limiting growth, how habitat and movement influence survival, and how research data can improve annual harvest decisions.

In total, 265 deer have been collared to date, between southeastern and southwestern Alberta. As of June 2, 2026, 225 deer remained collared and transmitting signals, 33 of 35 mortality investigations had been

completed and five collars were no longer transmitting with fate unknown. The project has collected more than 535,000 location records, providing managers with important information on mule deer movement, survival, and habitat use.

Survival results and important context

Preliminary survival estimates are encouraging but must be interpreted carefully. Adult doe survival was estimated at 92.7 per cent in the southwest and 86.0 per cent in the southeast. Adult buck survival was estimated at 72.2 per cent when two collars that stopped transmitting were treated as mortalities (81.3% without that mortality assumption). These survival rates, observed during relatively mild winters, are rather high for a hunted mule deer population. Because severe winters can strongly affect survival, current results should not be assumed to represent long-term averages. During mild winters, other factors such as predation and CWD may account for a larger share of observed mortality than expected.

Mortality and causes of death

As of June 2026, 35 mortalities had been documented; 12 in the southwest and 23 in the southeast where winter was more severe than last year. Early results indicate that predators are the dominant proximate cause of death in the monitored sample. CWD results from recovered heads also indicate disease risk remains important as five of 12 tested mortality samples were positive and seven were negative. See Table 4 for mortality summary from collared deer.

Body condition and regional habitat differences

Body measurements related to live weight, rump fat thickness and loin thickness show clear differences between study areas. Southwest deer were heavier, larger and generally in better condition, likely reflecting better forage or habitat conditions. These differences are important because body condition can influence survival, reproduction and population recovery. See Table 5.

Movement and migration

Movement data are beginning to show how mule deer use Alberta's landscapes throughout the year. Winter home ranges are relatively small, with limited movement from January through April. Movement

continued on page 80



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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 2025. This is the 30th year of our program that has seen more than 330,000 pounds of high quality wild game donated to the Alberta Foodbanks. Please help us feed those in need again in 2026. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate.

Important Information:

1. We now accept donations from Oct 15, 2026 to Dec 15, 2026.
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, 2026 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!!



expands during spring and summer as deer access seasonal ranges. Peak buck movement occurs during the rut, especially from late October through November, with November being the key movement month. Approximately 10 per cent of monitored deer are migratory, with movements greater than 70 kilometers between seasonal ranges. Identifying these routes can inform wildlife crossing locations, deer-permeable fencing, habitat connectivity and collision mitigation.

Call to action for hunters

Successful mule deer conservation depends on partnership with hunters. Alberta hunters can support this work by reporting harvest, submitting heads or biological samples where required, completing hunter surveys, participating in the Alberta Hunt Log and following updated regulations. ■

Alberta Hunt Log App Link – <https://www.ab-conservation.com/featured-projects/wildlife/alberta-hunt-log/>

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"This new hunter took three coyotes on his first outing."



COYOTE QUESTIONS

by Al Voth

There isn't much doubt that the animal hunted most during a long Alberta winter is the coyote. There are several reasons for this, including their beautiful winter fur, a generous season with no bag limits and the benefits to wildlife and livestock producers that come from doing predator control. Besides, who wants to stay indoors all winter when a challenging hunt is available. Persons new to coyote hunting always have lots of questions about the hunt, as

they should. While many of these centre on equipment and tactics, there are other basics of the hunt that are seldom addressed. Let's look at a few of them here.

Seasons

Seasons are so generous that coyotes may be pursued by licenced hunters in the White Area (see the regulations map) throughout the year on either private or public land, except for WMUs 728

and 730. In the northern Green Area, it's a little more restrictive in that it runs from the opening day of a big game season in a particular WMU to May 31 of the following year or until June 15 if the hunting is in a WMU that has a spring season for black bear ending on that date.

I suspect most coyote hunting in Alberta is done on private land, as that seems to be where the coyote density is highest. The reason for this is simply that coyotes have learned to not only coexist with

humans but to thrive around them. The fact there's about 1500 coyotes living in the city of Edmonton establishes this rather convincingly. This is all true because humans are a food source for coyotes. Whether that source is our garbage, as is the case in cities, or livestock production in rural areas, coyotes benefit from humans.

Permission

There are lots of ways to hunt coyotes and I've used them all. Each technique is worthy of a chapter in a book; however, I've found the greatest obstacle to new predator hunters is finding a place to hunt. People like me who have been playing the game for many years have a network of farmers and ranchers that provide hunting opportunities. But that didn't happen overnight. It's the result of many years of working with these landowners.

I've knocked on a lot of doors to build that network, but it all starts with just one or two permissions and builds from there. Making those initial connections is a key step for those new to coyote hunting. My best advice is to go for a drive in the country and look for any kind of intensive animal



"Getting and maintaining permission from landowners is an important part of coyote hunting."

husbandry. It can be a cattle operation, a complex of pig barns, a sheep farm, or a chicken or turkey operation. The species doesn't matter much, because it's a sure bet there are coyotes in the area.

Non-agricultural hot spots can include river valleys, large swamps, beaver

ponds or any area holding a concentration of small game like rabbits or voles.

Coyotes are just like any other animal in that they can be found in the vicinity of a good food source and a place to hide from humans during the day.

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who owns the territory you'd like to hunt, and a polite request will usually provide permission. Then it's just a matter of staying in touch with the landowner and being an asset to him/her. I've alerted landowners to sick and injured cattle, repaired fences, collected garbage dumped in fields and questioned people I wasn't sure belonged on the landowner's property. It's all part of being a responsible hunter and an asset to the landowner.

Tag Your Truck

We're all familiar with the use of tags when harvesting big game, but, of course, they are not needed for hunting coyotes. The tags I use when hunting coyotes are for my vehicle. I know that every rancher or farmer knows all the trucks in the area and who drives them. So, when a landowner sees a strange vehicle in the area there are two questions they want answered, "Whose truck is that?" and "What are they doing?"

A truck tag is simply a piece of paper containing some contact information and an explanation of what you're doing. Rural residents are quick to spot "unusual" vehicles and will often stop to check them out. My truck tags say I'm hunting coyotes, that I have permission, my cell number and my name. I print them on heavy paper and laminate them; leaving the top edge stuffed between the side-window glass and the weather stripping whenever I leave the truck.

Since I hunt mostly on private land these tags have a bonus. If someone stops to check out a "suspicious" truck, they will either read the tag and carry on, or my cell phone rings with a number I don't recognize and the caller says something like, "Hey, I see you're hunting coyotes on Bill's place. I'm two miles north and a mile south. The coyotes have invaded my west pasture; would you have time to swing by and kill and few for me?" It happens every winter.

Success

With some dedication and careful planning, it's not hard to be successful on a coyote hunt. However, many new hunters aren't sure about what to do with a coyote once it's on the ground. A few years ago, the answer was easy, as that prime fur were worth good coin and could be sold unskinned to fur buyers. Unfortunately, that's no longer the case. At the most recent fur sale, properly skinned, stretched and dried Alberta coyotes sold for an average of \$32.67. After deducting auction fees that would leave about \$24 for the hunter/trapper. So, no one is buying coyotes.

That doesn't mean it's not worth skinning a coyote and having the fur tanned as a trophy—that is most certainly worth the expense. As is having the tanned fur made into a hat, gloves or other type of practical garment.

However, the reality is the fur of many coyotes isn't worth saving. The high population densities we have now means there are more coyotes out there with diseases like mange. Not only does this destroy their fur coats but it jeopardizes their chances of surviving the winter. The fur from these animals should never be salvaged. My practice is to never leave these animals lying about on cultivated land, but to drag them into a swamp or patch of bush where the bones can't interfere with a landowner's machinery. In these out of the way locations a specialized cleanup crew (ravens) swoop in and take care of the mess. It's nature's way of recycling.

So, I encourage anyone considering hunting coyotes to give it a try. When the usual big game seasons are done and you're wondering how to spend the winter, this is the answer. ■



"A coyote's beautiful fur can be used make a hat, gloves and other practical garments."

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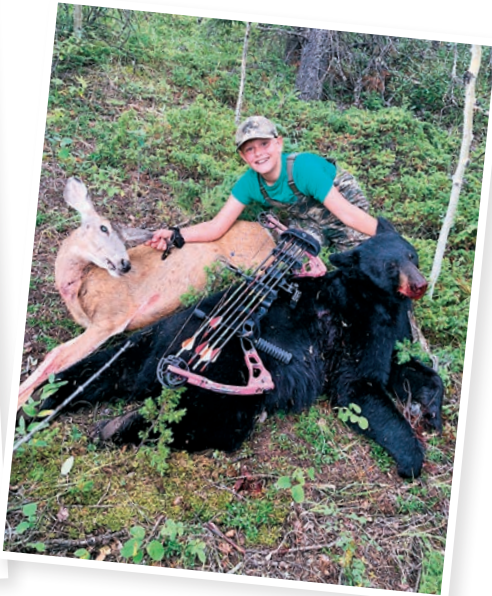
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The barrels on the RP are steel shot rated, with a 8mm top rib. They are made using premium ordnance-grade 42CrMo4 billet steel. Straightness is ensured with a maximum concentricity tolerance of 0.05 to provide superior balance and highly consistent shooting performance. The barrels are internally chrome lined with interchangeable chokes and finished with a corrosion resistant black chrome plating on the exterior. Each barrel undergoes rigorous proof testing with overloaded ammunition-a standard procedure that guarantees integrity and safety far beyond normal operating conditions. The front sight is green fibre optic to rapid target acquisition and pick-up in low light.

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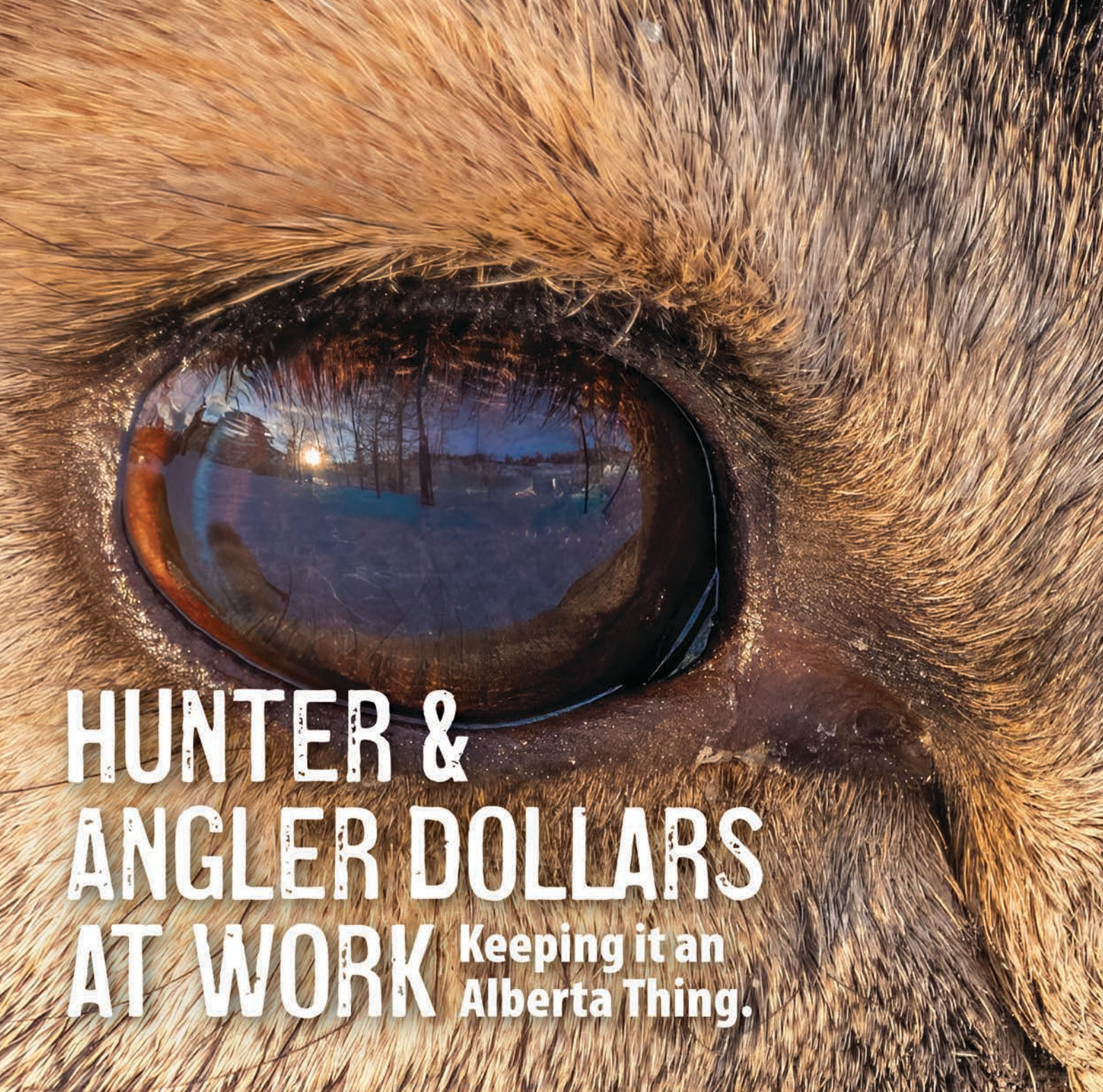
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LEARN MORE about this project: www.albertacollaringproject.com