

SPECIAL LICENCES

Special licences are used in situations where a species (e.g., antelope) could not withstand the hunting pressure of a general season, or where they are needed to meet a specific management goal (e.g., the goal in the antlered mule deer draw areas is to develop and maintain a more balanced age structure in the herd). Other benefits from draws include improved hunter success, increased opportunity for harvesting a mature animal, reduced hunter density, a more pleasant hunting experience, reduced disturbance of landowners and a better distribution of the harvest.

A special licence allows a hunter to hunt the type of big game animal (e.g., antlerless elk) in the area (a WMU, a group of WMUs, or a portion of one or more WMUs) specified on the licence. There is a cost for each special licence. The special licence is valid during the open season, which is indicated on certain licences. If the season dates are not indicated on the licence, they can be found in the season information tables in the *2024 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*, available in July.

A special licence is issued with a tag(s) and is valid to hunt the specified type of animal at the specified time and location. A hunter must carry the licence and applicable tag(s) on his or her person while hunting. More than one tag may be issued in specific WMUs if there are too few applications to achieve the desired harvest.

Two Additional Opportunities

1. Each year, there are more special licences than applicants in some WMUs. These undersubscribed special licences are made available for sale to eligible hunters (see page 13).
2. If the harvest of a certain species in a specific area is still inadequate, quota licences and tags may be available to take a specific number of animals at a specific time and location. Please ensure that your AlbertaRelm email address is current so that you will be notified of these opportunities quickly.

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