

2008

DEER · ELK · ANTELOPE

Montana Hunting Regulations



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks



Tentatives

See Page 2 for
“What’s New”

Note: Cover photo and “Reminders” will be updated on copy presented at the February Commission meeting.

REMINDERS:

See page 2 for details

SuperTag Lottery

License Discount
Opportunities

Game Damage Hunt
Roster Rules

TURN IN POACHERS
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Make the call: 1-800-TIP-MONT

Apply for Licenses and Special Permits On-line: fwp.mt.gov

Introduction To Hunting In Montana

Welcome to Montana's 2008 hunting season! Montana's hunting and fishing license year is March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009.

This hunting regulations booklet contains information you need to know for a safe and legal hunting experience. It is your responsibility to know the regulations before you hunt.

Below are key topics in the order in which they are presented. Please refer to the index for detailed page listings.

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Regulations Adopted by FWP Commission

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. These tentative regulations will be adopted by the FWPC on February 20, 2008. However, season quotas are tentative and may be subject to FWPC changes. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

2 Turn In Poachers. Enough is Enough! Make the call: 1-800-TIP-MONT

What's New?

Statewide -

Fix all hunting season dates (except waterfowl) on a specific date regardless of day of week. Traditional dates also presented for consideration. See Hunting Season Dates page 10.

Deer

- Region 1
 - Changes proposed in HDs 100, 103, 104, 109,121, 122, 123,170
- Region 2
 - Changes proposed in HDs 202, 210, 212, 213, 214, 216, 291, 292, 293, 298
- Region 3
 - Changes proposed in HDs 309, 311, 312, 339, 388, 393
- Region 4
 - Changes proposed in HDs 413, 421, 423, 445
- Region 5
 - Changes proposed in HDs 500, 530, 570, 580
- Region 6
 - Changes proposed in HDs 600, 610, 640, 641, 670, 690, 698, 699
- Region 7
 - None

Elk

- Statewide
 - Adjust elk archery to limited elk archery permits where elk rifle permits are currently limited.
- Region 1
 - None
- Region 2
 - Changes proposed in HDs 202, 204, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216, 261, 270, 282, 283, 284, 285, 290, 291, 292, 293
- Region 3
 - Changes proposed in HDs 300, 301, 310, 312, 314, 315, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 239, 330, 331, 333, 341, 360, 362, 393,
- Region 4
 - Changes proposed in HDs 401, 403, 410, 412, 413, 417, 418, 422, 425, 426, 432, 441, 442, 447, 448, 449, 452, 454
- Region 5
 - Changes proposed in HDs 520, 540, 560, 580, 590
- Region 6
 - Changes proposed in HDs 620, 621, 622, 630, 631, 632, 680, 690
- Region 7
 - None

Antelope

- Statewide
 - Replace unlimited 900 archery antelope licenses to 4500 licenses available through the drawings (Regions 3-7). Adjust total number of antelope licenses an individual may hold to three, only one of which may be an either-sex license.
- Region 2
 - Changes proposed in HD 291
- Region 3
 - Changes proposed in HD 310, 311, 338, 341, 380, 381, 388
- Region 4
 - None
- Region 5
 - Changes proposed in HDs 570, 571, 572
- Region 6
 - Changes proposed in HDs 620, 690
- Region 7
 - None

Reminders for 2008

SuperTags – Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, deer and elk. An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year. Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species. Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet. Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.

License Discount Opportunities –

- Montana resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve or Active Duty, who participated between September 11, 2001 through February 28, 2006, in a contingency operation outside the state for six months and have been released from active duty or discharged, are entitled to a free conservation license or a sportsman w/o bear license for a fee of \$29. These licenses will be issued only at FWP offices. DD 214 and supporting documentation is required.
- A veteran with certain combat-connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau Chief for details at 406-444-2663.
- Nonresidents who hold a current upland game bird license, big game combination, elk combination or deer combination license may purchase a nonresident turkey license for \$55.

- 300 Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be sold for \$324, first-come, first-served, beginning March 1 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate family member who possesses a current resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game, elk combination or deer combination license. Applications are available from FWP's website and will be processed at the FWP headquarters in Helena.
- Nonresident children of residents may be entitled to reduced rate licenses for up to six years from the date they received their diploma or GED. To qualify the child must have: 1) been born and raised in Montana; 2) attended and completed high school or attained a GED in Montana; and 3) the parent(s) still reside in Montana. Licenses will be issued at FWP offices with verification of Birth Certificate, Montana high school diploma or GED, and proof that natural or adoptive parent is still a current Montana resident. Any nonresident youth hunting with this license must be accompanied by a licensed resident family member while hunting in the field.

Game Damage Hunt Roster Rules – sign up from June 15 - July 15, 2008 only on fwp website. See page 20.

Don't Forget – You can apply for special licenses online at fwp.mt.gov. Click on Online Applications listed under Online Services.

Check the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov – for late changes by the FWP Commission.

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Licenses Available Chart R = Resident NR = Nonresident

Required Prerequisite - one or more of these may be required in order to purchase other licenses

Type of License	License Specifications	Cost
Conservation – Resident	Resident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes). Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and to hunt migratory birds and upland game birds, excluding turkey. Also allows a resident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	R \$8
Conservation – Nonresident	Nonresident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes). Also allows a nonresident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	NR \$10
Conservation – Disabled Resident	Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by FWP rules, must purchase this license annually which authorizes fishing, warm water fish, migratory birds and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. The purchase of deer A license for \$6.50 and elk for \$8 and includes a State Lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes).	R \$8
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	Required for Archery Only Season and/or areas. Specific rules apply to purchase a bow and arrow license.	R \$10 NR \$10
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird).	R \$2 NR \$10

Resident Only

Type of License	License Specifications	Cost
Deer A	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license, may purchase a deer A license for \$6.50. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$10.	R \$16
Elk	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license may purchase a license for \$8. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$12.	R \$20
Elk A7 License	Deadline to apply is June 1. General elk license is a required prerequisite. Deadline to exchange general elk license for an A7 license is August 31.	*R \$9
Elk A9 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$25
Elk A9 License - Unlimited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. Purchase at License Providers.	R \$20
Hound Training License	Allows a Montana resident to train hounds during the hound training season without a mountain lion license. See mountain lion hunting regulations for specifics.	R \$5
Sportsman's (Including Bear)	Includes conservation, state lands, deer A, elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Deadline for Spring black bear is April 14 and August 31 for Fall black bear.	R \$85
Sportsman's (Without Bear)	Includes conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$55. Military members discharged or released from active duty that participated in a contingency operation outside the state for six months since September 11, 2001 may purchase this license at FWP offices for \$29.	R \$70
Youth Combination Sports	Includes conservation, state lands, fishing, upland game bird, excluding turkey, deer A and elk licenses. Available only to Montana residents 12-17 years of age. Any Montana youth 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, who is purchasing his or her first hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.	R \$25
* Youth Upland Game Bird	Available only to Montana residents 15-17 years of age. * Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee	R \$3

NonResident Only

Type of License	License Specifications	Cost
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 11,500 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$643
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$1500
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Youth)	Limited to 300 nonresident youths 12-17 years of age who have an adult immediate-family member who possess a resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game elk or deer combination license. First-come, first-served. Application available online.	**NR \$324
Deer Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 2,300 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343

Licenses Available Chart R = Resident NR = Nonresident

NonResident Only

Type of License	License Specifications	Cost
Deer Combination (Landowner Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Landowner certificates should be obtained from your landowner sponsor. 2,000 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343
Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$1400
Elk Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. This license is included in the 11,500 quota of big game elk/deer combination license. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$593
Elk Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$1100
Elk B12 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*NR \$278
Upland Game Bird 3-Day Preserve	Valid only on state-licensed private Shooting Preserve.	NR \$20

* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee ** Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee and \$10 Hunting Access Enhancement fee

Resident AND NonResident

Type of License	License Specifications	Cost
Antelope	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$19 *NR \$205
Antelope Multi-region Archery Only	Either-sex archery only license. License limited to specific regions. Must be applicant's first and only choice. May purchase this license at License Providers /Internet. Deadline to apply/purchase is June 1.	R \$14 NR \$200
Bighorn Sheep Limited/Unlimited	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Bison License	Deadline to apply is Sep 14.	R \$125 NR \$750
Black Bear	Licenses purchased after the April 14 deadline are valid only in the fall season. No bear license may be purchased after August 31. Deadline to apply/purchase the spring season license is April 14. Hunters must show proof of having passed a black bear identification test before purchasing a license.	R \$19 NR \$350
Crane	Deadline to apply is Aug 1.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Deer B	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$15 *NR \$80
Deer B Antlerless Whitetail, Single Region	Allows hunting of antlerless white-tailed deer only, in one region only. Conservation License and Hunting Access Enhancement Fee are prerequisites. Hunter must designate region upon purchase.	R \$10 NR \$75
Deer Permits	Must be used with a general Deer A License. Nonresidents must hold a Big Game or Deer Combination License to apply. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Elk Permits	Nonresidents must hold a Big Game or Elk Combination License to apply. Residents must hold a valid Elk License to apply. State refund policy does not allow refunds under \$5. If you are unsuccessful for only an elk permit, a refund will not be sent. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$9 *NR \$9
Montana Migratory Bird	Residents 12-15 years of age, 62 or older or holders of the Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a Conservation License; residents 16-61 and nonresidents 16+ need a Conservation License, a Montana Migratory Bird License. Federal waterfowl stamp also required for individuals 16 and older.	R \$6.50 NR \$50
Moose	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Mountain Goat	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1.	*R \$130 *NR \$755
Mountain Lion	Some districts require special permits. Deadline to purchase or apply is August 31.	R \$19 NR \$320
Mountain Lion Trophy	Must be purchased after mountain lion kill.	R \$50 NR \$50
Swan	Deadline to apply is September 7.	*R \$5 *NR \$5
Turkey	Conservation and Upland Game Bird Licenses are prerequisites only for residents. Nonresidents need only a Conservation License as a prerequisite. Montana offers both a spring and fall season. The total combined limit of spring and fall season cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter. Nonresidents who possess an Upland Game Bird, Big Game, Elk or Deer Combination License may purchase this license for \$55. Some districts require special permits. Deadline to apply for spring permit is March 15. Deadline to apply for fall permit is August 1.	R \$6.50 NR \$115
Upland Game Bird	Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older, or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a Conservation License to hunt upland game birds.	R \$7.50 NR \$110

* Cost includes \$5.00 drawing fee

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Enter Montana's SuperTag Lottery

**YOU COULD WIN A
HUNT OF A LIFETIME!**



Photos by donaldmjohnes.com

**TAKE ANOTHER SHOT
AT THE DREAM!**

\$5

Buys you a
shot at a Hunt
of a Lifetime!

For just \$5 per chance, five lucky hunters will win a SuperTag license to hunt moose, elk, deer, bighorn sheep or mountain goat in any hunting district in Montana. To purchase your chance, visit fwp.mt.gov/supertag, or visit any hunting and fishing license provider.

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2008 Hunting Season Dates

Proposed Tentatives - Two Options to Consider:

2008 Season Dates: Existing Process vs. Fixed Dates

Season	Existing Process	Fixed Dates
Antelope 900	8/15 ñ 11/9 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November) 86 days Fri start/Sun end	8/15 ñ 11/10 87 days Fri start /Mon end
Antelope archery	9/6 ñ 10/11 (First Saturday of September to Saturday of Columbus Day weekend) 36 days Sat start/Sat end	9/1 ñ 10/9 39 days Mon start /Thur end
Antelope general	10/12 ñ 11/9 (Sunday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November) 29 days Sun start/Sun end	10/10 ñ 11/10 32 days Fri start /Mon end
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 ñ 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving) 77 days Mon start/Sun end	9/15 ñ 11/30 77 days Mon start /Sun end
Bison	11/15 ñ 2/15 93 days Sat start/Fri end	Same
Black bear spring	4/15 ñ 5/31 47 days Tues start/Thur end	Same
Black bear fall	9/15 ñ 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving) 77 days Mon start/Sun end	9/15 ñ 11/30 77 days Mon start/Sun end
Deer/elk archery	9/6 ñ 10/19 (First Sat in Sept to Sunday before general deer/elk opener) 44 days Sat start/Sun end	9/1 ñ 10/9 39 days Mon start /Thur end
Deer/elk backcountry	9/15 ñ 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving) 77 days Mon start/Sun end	Same
Deer/elk general	10/26 ñ 11/30 (36 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday) 36 days Sun start/Sun end	10/25 ñ 11/30 37 days Sat start /Sun end
Mountain lion fall	10/26 ñ 11/30 (36 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday) 36 days Sun start/Sun end	10/25 ñ 11/30 37 days Sat start /Sun end
Mountain lion winter	12/1 ñ 4/14 135 days Mon start/Mon end	Same
Sage grouse	9/1 ñ 11/1 62 days Mon start/Sat end	Same
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 ñ 1/1 123 days Mon start/Thurs end	9/1 ñ 12/31 122 days Mon start /Wed end
Mountain grouse	9/1 ñ 12/15 106 days Mon start/Mon end	Same
Partridge	9/1 ñ 1/1 123 days Mon start/Thurs end	9/1 ñ 12/31 122 days Mon start /Wed end
Pheasant	10/11 ñ 1/1 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 1/1) 83 days Saturday start/Thurs end	10/10 ñ 12/31 83 days Fri start /Wed end
Youth Pheasant (if adopted)	10/4 ñ 10/5 (Weekend Before General Pheasant Opener) 2 days Sat start/Sun end	Same
General Waterfowl Opener (date not presented for adoption)	10/4 Sat start overlap youth pheasant	Same
Turkey spring	4/12 ñ 5/18 (2 nd Saturday in April to 3 rd Sunday in May) 37 days Sat start/Sun end	4/15 ñ 5/20 50 days Tues start /Tues end
Turkey fall	9/1 ñ 1/1 123 days Mon start/Thurs end	9/1 ñ 12/31 122 days Mon start /Wed end

Key Terms

Archery Only Season: A season usually prior to the “General Season,” when deer, elk and antelope may be hunted only with lawful archery equipment. Occasionally, some hunting districts with special circumstances may allow concurrent firearm use to address game damage issues; or firearms may be used for hunting other species, such as black bear.

ArchEquip Only: A weapons restriction limiting hunting to the use of lawful archery equipment.

General Season: Also referred to as the “firearm season.” For deer and elk this is the five-week period from late October to late November that is generally available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, traditional handgun, crossbow or archery equipment. For antelope, this is the four-week period from mid October to early November. The specific dates and any weapons restrictions for each hunting opportunity is specified in the hunting district regulations.

HD: Abbreviation for Hunting District.

Hunting Hours: Authorized hunting hours for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed at the end of these regulations.

License Year: Montana’s license year is March 1 through the last day of February of the following year. The 2008 license year is March 1, 2008 – February 29, 2009.

LPT: Abbreviation for License/Permit Type. FWP uses a 5-digit code to identify and describe the types of licenses offered for each species. The 5-digit code is unique for each license type for a given species. The first three digits usually indicate a hunting district and the last two digits may identify the sex/age class, whether it’s a license or permit, and/or whether it is available over-the-counter.

Over-the-Counter: Term used when a license or permit may be purchased from License Providers or online, rather than only through a special drawing.

Quota: The quotas in this booklet are tentative. Final quotas are adopted by the FWP Commission after this booklet is printed. Special drawings are based on final quotas.

Weapons Restriction: Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range. Only certain weapons meeting the requirements may be used.

General Information for Obtaining a License or Permit

Your privacy is important to FWP and the State of Montana. FWP will not allow access to your Social Security number, ALS number, phone number, age, date of birth, employer, height, weight, eye and/or hair color.

Residency

- It is illegal to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain an original or duplicate resident hunting and/or fishing license OR to assist an unqualified applicant in obtaining a resident license.
- To purchase an annual resident conservation license you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver’s License (MDL) or a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC). If your MDL or MIC has been issued for less than six months, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. An out-of-state driver’s license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.

Continued on page 12

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Resident: To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:

- have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;
- register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
- be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
- not possess current (or have applied for any) resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;
- file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.

Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days per year (days need not be consecutive).

A person is NOT considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:

- claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or
- is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.

If you are unsure about your residency status, BEFORE you purchase a license, contact your local FWP office or the Helena enforcement office at 406-444-2452.

Armed Forces: A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's dependent who resides in the member's Montana household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if:

- The member was a resident of Montana under the provisions listed under residency at the time the member entered the armed forces and continues to meet these residency criteria; or,
- The member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for a least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

Nonresident: Montana's nonresident guests are eligible to purchase or apply for most Montana fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special license and/or permit quota for a district. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.

Note: Nonresident unmarried minors, at least 12 but not older than 17 years of age, can hunt in Montana as a resident if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana.

Prerequisites

Conservation License: Each new license year, a new Conservation License is required to purchase any fishing, trapping or hunting license(s), or to apply for special licenses/permits. Most licenses can be purchased from any License Provider beginning late February.

In compliance with the Federal Welfare Reform Laws, Montana law requires each resident and nonresident hunter, including youth, to provide his/her Social Security number when purchasing a Conservation License or obtaining a Conservation License through special drawings.

Montana is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges. It is illegal for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

Hunter Education: If you were born after January 1, 1985, you

are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

Bow and Arrow License and Bowhunter Education: A bow and arrow license, plus the proper hunting license is required during: (1) the deer, elk and/or antelope Archery Only Season; or (2) to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district. To purchase a Montana bow and arrow license, a hunter must:

- Provide a certificate of completing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation course, or
- Provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province. If you can no longer produce this license, for a \$5 fee you may sign an affidavit stating that you previously held such a license. The affidavit is available at all FWP License Providers. The affidavit entitles you to purchase a current year's Montana bow and arrow license.
- Duplicate Bowhunter or Hunter Education certificates of completion for the Montana hunter education and/or bowhunter education courses may be obtained from FWP's website.

Hunting Access Enhancement Fee: This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird).

Hunting Licenses and Permits

Refer to the Licenses Available Chart for a complete list of resident and nonresident licenses and application or purchase deadlines.

It is illegal to:

- Swear to or affirm any false statement when obtaining licenses or permits.
- Loan or transfer a license to another person or to use a license issued to another person.
- Carry or have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location where the species to be hunted occurs.
- Alter a license or permit for any reason.
- Hunt, fish, or trap while your license is suspended or revoked, or apply for a license or permit for a suspended privilege.

Licenses must be carried on your person at all times while in the field and hunting, and must be produced if requested by FWP Enforcement personnel.

Many licenses and permits may be purchased from License Providers or Online Licensing. Some are available only through a Special Drawing, and some may either be purchased from any License Provider, Online Licensing, or applied for via a Special Drawing.

Online Licensing: You may apply for special permits and/or licenses and purchase many general hunting licenses from FWP Online Licensing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates.

- Go to fwp.mt.gov/hunting/obtainlicense and follow the instructions.
- Online purchases must be made by using a MasterCard or Visa credit card.
- Montana residents must have purchased a conservation license through the automated licensing system (ALS) in a previous license year and have an ALS number to buy licenses online. See Residency Requirements.
- Don't wait until the last minute to buy your hunting license on line as carcass tags are mailed to you within 10 days of your purchase.

Licenses/permits must be carried on your person at all times while in the field and hunting, and must be produced if requested by FWP personnel.

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Only one license or permit of any type may be purchased each year, unless otherwise specified and allowed in the regulations (i.e., you may purchase more than one deer B license).

Hunting License: A hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt the species identified on the license according to the regulation.

Some licenses and permits are valid only in a portion or portions of a hunting district. Carefully review the legal description of the district for which you are applying. A copy of the "portion of district" legal description is available: online at fwp.mt.gov, by mail from

the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or email fwpwld@mt.gov.

Types of Licenses and Permits: All licenses and permits that can be used in a hunting district are listed in the regulations for that hunting district. Licenses and permits that can be used in a hunting district are grouped by license/permit type (general, special license, special permit, 2nd antlerless elk, etc.) and whether they are available for purchase from FWP License Providers or through the special drawing only.

- **Conservation License:** Prerequisite for all resident and nonresident licenses. Includes the state lands recreation license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes).
- **General License:** Resident general licenses may be purchased from any License Provider, including online at fwp.mt.gov. They are available to all residents and may be used throughout the state according to the regulations. Nonresidents may apply for/purchase general licenses specified for nonresidents in the Licenses Available Chart. Please refer to the hunting district regulations to see how, when and where a general license may be used in each hunting district or portion of a hunting district.
 - Deer A License – The deer A license is Montana's general deer-hunting license valid for one deer. Hunters may purchase only one deer A license. It can be used as indicated under the "General Deer A License" heading on the Deer & Elk Hunting Districts pages of these regulations.
 - Deer B license – valid for one deer during a specific time period, or for a certain species and sex, and in a particular hunting district or group of districts. May be offered through a special drawing or over-the-counter.
 - General Elk License – Montana's general elk-hunting license valid for one elk. Hunters may purchase only one general elk license. It can be used for elk as indicated under the "General Elk License" heading on the Deer & Elk Hunting Districts pages of these regulations.
 - Elk A7 License – An A7 license is a hunting license for an antlerless elk. The license allows the holder to hunt antlerless elk during specified times and in specified areas where the chances of taking an elk are relatively good. Hunters who receive an A7 elk license through the special drawing process must trade in their general elk license prior to the beginning of the elk Archery Only Season. Hunters who trade in their general elk license give up the opportunity to hunt antlered or antlerless elk anywhere else in the state as specified in these regulations under "General Elk License".
 - Elk A9 License – The A9 (resident) and B12 (nonresident) license is a second elk license and is valid for taking an additional antlerless elk in specified areas. To be eligible, a resident must have already purchased a general elk license. A nonresident must have already purchased or drawn a Big Game or Elk combination license.
- **Special License:** Special licenses are generally available through the Special Drawing. It allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area or time period, usually for a specific sex and age class of animal. A special license generally (but not always) allows you to harvest an additional animal over and above the one you may harvest with your general license.

- **Special Deer or Elk Permit:** The permit must be used with a specific hunting license. A permit is not a second license and does not allow the holder to kill an additional animal. Rather, it expands the opportunity to hunt for a species in a particular hunting district.
- **Replacements:** If your original license(s) is lost, stolen or destroyed, a replacement license may be issued by most license providers. A replacement fee will be charged. You will also be asked to swear or affirm to a statement that you have lost the license(s). If the original license(s) is found, it must be returned to FWP.

Availability of Licenses and Permits

Deadlines:

- Applications, as well as some general licenses, and many special licenses and permits, have purchase or application deadlines. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.
- Applications are available at License Providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website. Nonresidents may call 406-444-2950 to request an application through the mail.
- You may have your application entered directly into the system at an FWP office or you may mail in your application. If the application is mailed, it must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. The postmark must be an official U.S. Postal Service mark. A postage meter postmark cannot be accepted.
- FWP encourages hunters to apply for special permits/licenses online as safeguards will not accept incomplete applications. Also, your information is remembered for future purchases or license applications.
- Licenses/permits that have a purchase deadline have to be purchased no later than the deadline date.

Special Licenses and Permits: You may apply for a special permit and/or license that allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area or time period. You may also decide to participate in the bonus point system.

Residents must hold a general deer A license before using a special deer permit purchased over-the-counter or awarded through the special drawings. Residents must hold a general elk license before applying for a special elk permit, A7 or A9 elk license.

Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Deer Combination License before applying for a special deer permit. Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Big Game Elk Combination License before applying for a special elk permit and/or an A7 or B12 elk license.

Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License are reminded that the license (including B licenses) entitles them to hunt deer only on the deeded lands of the sponsoring landowner. This license may not be used on leased or public land. However, the license is valid statewide for fishing and hunting upland game birds.

Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License may apply for a special deer permit or deer B license only in the hunting district where they are authorized to hunt deer.

Drawing Applications: Drawing applications are available from FWP's website and License Providers. If mailed, completed applications must be sent to the address listed on that application form.

Applications for deer, elk and/or antelope special licenses and permits must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before June 1. Hunters may apply online no later than June 1 for special permits/licenses for deer, elk, and antelope.

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to apply for most of the licenses awarded through the special drawings. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special license and/or permit quota. Drawings are based upon the final quotas adopted by the FWP Commission which may differ from the quotas listed in the hunting district regulations.

For specific special license/permit opportunities please refer to the hunting district regulations where you will find a complete list of all available hunting opportunities for each hunting district.

Unlimited Over-the-Counter Licenses and Permits: Certain antelope licenses and elk permits with unlimited quotas are available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers and/or via the special drawing. While an over-the-counter purchase allows you to obtain these unlimited licenses or permits immediately, the items still must be purchased by the June 1 deadline. If you purchase an unlimited over-the-counter license or permit, you cannot apply for the same species with a drawing application.

Bonus Point System: The fee to participate in the voluntary bonus-point system is \$2 for Montana residents and \$20 for nonresidents, payable with the license and application fees. You must pay the participation fee when applying to use or gain bonus points. When participating in the bonus point system, here's how it works:

- Applicants accumulate one bonus point for each unsuccessful year. Each bonus point essentially becomes an extra chance in future drawings. For example, applicants would have one chance to be drawn the first year they apply. If unsuccessful, they would have two chances to be drawn the following year and three chances the next year, and so on until they received the license. Once successful, the applicant loses all bonus points for that species.
- Bonus points are accumulated independently for each species and only apply to "first-choice" districts. An applicant may skip two consecutive years of participation without forfeiting accumulated points, but if an applicant skips the third year—or has errors that eliminate the applicant from the drawing—all accumulated points for that species will be lost. There is an exemption for Montana residents with full-time active military status.
- Rejection of an application because of applicant error is equivalent to failure to apply.
- Points are non-transferable.
- Applicants cannot apply just for a bonus point. You must apply correctly for the license and be unsuccessful to get a bonus point.
- Bonus points are not used or lost in 2nd or 3rd choice drawings.
- FWP will contact bonus-point participants each year by postcard to report their accumulated points. Bonus-point status is also available online. It will be the applicant's responsibility to report AND provide proof of any discrepancies.

The number of bonus points applicable to applicants applying as a party is the total number of bonus points held by the members of the party, divided by the number of applicants in the party, then rounded to the nearest whole number. When two or more persons apply as a party and choose to participate in the bonus point system, all party members must pay the bonus point fee. If one or more party members do not pay the bonus point fee, but the other members pay the fee, those who have not paid the fee will be taken out of the party and one of the following shall occur:

- If one individual is removed from the party, that person is entered into the drawing as an individual applicant.
- If two or more individuals are removed from a party, these individuals are entered into the drawing as a separate party.

All nonresidents who are unsuccessful in the nonresident combination license drawing are mailed a form that must be returned if they wish to accumulate bonus points for special deer and elk permits. If you did not receive this form and wish to participate in the bonus point system, please contact FWP at 406-444-2950.

SuperTag Lottery for Deer and Elk: Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for deer, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, and/or mountain goat. An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year. Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species. Chances are sold at all FWP License Providers

or via the Internet. Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances are used to enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.

Special Drawing Results – dates are approximate

License	Drawing Results	R e f u n d s
<u>Mailed</u>		
Nonresident		
Combination	Mid April	End of April
Moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat	Third week of June	End of June
Deer, elk	Mid July	End of August
Antelope	Mid August	End of August

You may check for drawing results online at fwp.mt.gov.

Fees and Refunds: In addition to the cost of each permit or license, there is a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee for each license or permit you apply for. The \$5 fee covers the cost of printing and processing the application.

In some situations, FWP may refund resident or nonresident – in full or in part – fees for licenses and/or special drawings. Situations include:

Reason	Deadline	Refund
Death of licensee	12/31/07	100%
Death of family member	12/31/07	90%
Medical emergency	12/31/07	90%

The appropriate documentation (death certificate, medical statement, etc.) must accompany the unused license(s) and a signed request form certifying the license(s) has not been used. Nonresident license holders should call 406-444-2950 for information.

Call Special Licensing at 406-444-2950:

- If you do not receive your license or refund within 2-3 weeks from the dates listed above. Note: the license fee is refunded if an applicant is unsuccessful in the drawings, unless there is a valid obligation owed to the State of Montana or if the refund is less than \$5. If a valid obligation exists, the refund may be retained by the State Auditor and applied against that amount.
- For information on special drawings for big game hunting.
- For surplus license (any left-over licenses or permits from the drawings) information and applications (available by the end of August).

Special Considerations

Party Applications: For a few special drawings, two or more applicants may apply as a "party." If you apply as a party, each party member must list the identical license/permit choices in the identical order on his/her application. If one or more party member does not pay the bonus point fee, but the other members pay the fee, those who have not paid the fee will be taken out of the party. It is unlawful to loan or transfer a license to another or to use a license issued to another.

Either everyone in the party is successful in obtaining a license or everyone is unsuccessful. A party of individuals is assigned one random number in the computer. If that number is drawn, each member of the party receives a permit/license.

The success rate for applying as a party versus as an individual is about the same. However, if a resident applies with a nonresident in a party, the whole group is considered "nonresident" because of the 10-percent quota limit on nonresident licenses and/or permits.

The maximum number of applicants in a party depends on the species/drawing:

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- Elk permits (available only for 313-11, 313-00, 362-00): 2 members.
- Antelope licenses (available for all districts): up to 5 members.
- Nonresident Combination license (unlimited): up to 5 members.

Landowner Preference: Montana landowners (resident and nonresident) may qualify for preference in the special license/permit drawings for deer, elk, and antelope.

In order to claim landowner preference for deer B, deer permit, and/or antelope drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 160 contiguous acres of land within the hunting district applied for. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, the landowner must own land within that portion and the land must be used primarily for agricultural purposes.

In order to claim landowner preference for elk permits, A7 elk license drawings and/or A9/B12 license drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 640 contiguous acres of land within a district regularly used by elk for one or more seasonal activities. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, a landowner must own land within that portion to claim preference.

A landowner may designate his/her preference to a member of his/her immediate family (blood or marriage related) or a ranch manager (paid employee who has state, federal, or FICA taxes withheld from pay). Only one person may use designated preference in a partnership or corporation.

Nonresidents owning land in Montana should contact FWP Headquarters in Helena at 406-444-2950 for details on how to apply for landowner preference. See the Licenses Available Chart for prerequisite license requirements and deadlines to apply.

Hunters with a Disability: For applications, detailed eligibility requirements, and information on licenses and permits for hunters with disabilities contact any FWP office or the FWP website. See back cover for addresses and phone numbers.

- **Resident With a Disability Conservation License:** Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may purchase a conservation license for \$8 which includes fishing, warm water fishing license, upland game bird (excluding turkey), state waterfowl license, and state lands recreational use license for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes. The license holder may also purchase a deer A and general elk license at a discounted price. Applications for a Resident With a Disability Conservation License are available at all FWP offices and FWP website. The certification is valid for the life of the holder or until changed by the Montana Legislature.
- **Permit To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV):** Residents and non-residents certified as permanently and substantially non-ambulatory, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTHFV. The PTHFV allows a person to hunt from a vehicle. A companion who is able to assist with field dressing a game animal must accompany the permit holder while hunting. It is illegal for the companion to shoot from the vehicle. Check with the appropriate land management agency or landowner regarding motorized access.
- **Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE):** Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTMAE. The PTMAE allows a person with a disability to use archery tackle that supports the bow, and draws, holds, and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability. Arrows are not exempt, and must meet requirements for the Archery Only Season. This permit does not entitle the holder to use a crossbow. The permit only allows modification of legal archery tackle and must be used with a valid bow and arrow license and appropriate hunting license.
- **Certain Combat Disabled Veterans:** A veteran with certain combat –connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau for details at 406-444-2663.

- **Free license for terminally ill youth.** Montana law allows terminally ill resident or nonresident youth under 17 years of age to receive a free one-time deer and elk license. The youth must be accompanied by a licensed outfitter or an adult who has a license to hunt in Montana. Minimum age and hunter education requirements may be waived for this license. For information call the License Section at 406-444-2950.
- **Special Licenses and/or Permits for Hunters with a Disability:** Applicants must apply on FWP-provided forms available at FWP offices or FWP website. For more information contact FWP at 406-444-2950.
 - **Deer:** Deer B license 630-20 (HD 630). Applicants must have a Resident With a Disability Conservation License, and apply on or before June 1.
 - **Elk:**
 - Permit 313-12 (HD 313). Applicants must possess a Resident With a Disability Conservation License, an elk license, and apply on or before June 1.
 - Permit 121-02 (HD 121) and 313-13 (HD 313). Applicants must have a Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle, valid conservation and elk licenses and apply by June 1.
 - **Antelope:** Individuals who are permanently physically disabled and nonambulatory as defined in ARM 12.3.106, may apply for a special antelope license. A total of 25 special antelope licenses are issued through the June 1 drawing. These licenses are offered in those antelope hunting districts which have a total quota of 50 or more antelope licenses. Applicants must apply on FWP-provided forms available at all FWP offices. Applications must be postmarked on or before June 1.

Visually Challenged Individuals: A copy of the big game regulations is available in an alternative format upon request. Call 406-444-2535 for details.

Youth Hunter:

- A youth 12 through 17 years of age is eligible for a variety of licenses, permits, and programs depending on age and residency status. There are also special requirements that apply to youth of certain ages.
- A youth 12 years of age, or who turns 12 before or during the season for which the license is issued, may apply for a special license and/or permit, but must be able to show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course when applying.
- A youth (Montana resident) 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, and who seeks to purchase his or her first Montana hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.
- A youth (resident or nonresident) 12 years of age or who turns 12 years old before or during the season for which the license is issued, is entitled to purchase or apply for a deer A, deer B, elk, antelope, black bear, lion, upland game bird and/or turkey license and/or permit prior to turning 12 years of age. The youth may not hunt until his/her 12th birthday.
- In order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.
- A youth (Montana resident) 14 years of age who purchases a discounted deer A or elk license, may use the license throughout the season, even if he/she turns 15 before or during the season.
- MCA 87-2-514 allows qualified nonresident youth to purchase a nonresident license at a reduced cost. A condition of this privilege is the nonresident youth of a Montana resident who holds a hunting license must be accompanied by a licensed resident family member while hunting. For further details, contact Licensing at 406-444-2950.

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- **Special Youth Elk Hunts:** Youth 12 through 15 years of age may hunt elk as designated by “Only youth ages 12-15” in the regulations. See “Special Youth Elk Hunts” section for a listing of hunting districts and details.
- **Special Youth Elk Permits:** Special elk permits 282-20 (HD 282), 313-12 (HD 313) and 621-00 (HDs 621 and 622), 631-01 (HD 631), 680-00 (HD 680) and 690-00 (HD 690) are available in the drawing for youth 12 but not older than 15 years of age.

Guidelines, Rules and Laws for Hunting in Montana

Hunter Orange Requirement

Firearm Hunters: Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times (see exception below).

Archery Hunters: A licensed bowhunter pursuing deer, elk and/or antelope during the Archery Only Season or in archery only hunting district is not required to meet the hunter orange requirement even if there is a concurrent firearm season in that hunting district or portion of district. However, bowhunters hunting during any portion of the general season or pursuing moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and/or mountain lion during any hunting season must always wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) above the waist, visible at all times.

Seasons

Archery Only Season: A season usually prior to the “General Season,” when deer, elk and antelope may be hunted only with lawful archery equipment. Occasionally, some hunting districts with special circumstances may allow concurrent firearm use to address game damage issues; or firearms may be used for hunting other species such as, black bear.

Archery hunters are reminded a “bow and arrow license” is required to hunt during an Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip only area. A bow and arrow license is not required during the General Season unless the area is ArchEquip only.

Most deer, elk and antelope hunting districts have an Archery Only Season. Exceptions are noted under the specific hunting district regulations.

Hunters who receive a special permit and/or license to hunt deer or elk during all or any portion of the General Season, may archery hunt for the species and sex indicated on the permit or license during the Archery Only Season as listed in the hunting district regulations. Hunters may hunt with a bow and arrow during the General Season. However, they must conform to the rifle season regulations, which include wearing a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist.

General Season: Also referred to as the “rifle season.” For deer and elk this is the five-week period from late October to late November that is generally available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, traditional handgun, crossbow or archery equipment. For antelope, this is the four-week period from mid October to early November. **H\YgdYW]UW XUhYg'UbX'Ubm' kYUdcbg' fYghf]Wh]cbg' Zcf' YUW\ \ i bh]b [cddcfh i b]hm' k]'' VY' gdYW]UYX' in the hunting district regulations.** All hunters are required to wear hunter orange.

Methods and Means of Hunting

Firearms:

General Season

- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation for the taking of big game animals. In addition, muzzleloaders, shotguns with 0, 00, or slugs, archery equipment, and crossbows are legal.
- The possession of firearms with silencers while afield is illegal.

Archery & Crossbow Equipment:

General Season

- Archery equipment and crossbows may be used.

Archery Only Season:

The following equipment restrictions apply to all hunters during the archery only season and in archery equipment only areas.

- **Lawful Archery Equipment:** Lawful archery equipment requirements are listed below. It is illegal to possess, while hunting big game during any archery season, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria.
 - **Hunting Bow:** A hunting bow for big game shall be a longbow, flatbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs meeting the following requirements and restrictions:
 - The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).
 - The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.
 - The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.
 - Exception: Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PMAE) are exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.
 - The bow shall be no shorter than 28 inches.
 - The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent. It is recognized that variations in draw length and/or draw weight can affect the percent of let-off on compound bows. For these reasons minor variations in let-off are acceptable.
 - **Arrow:** An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.
 - Fletching is attached to the nock end of the shaft.
 - A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.
 - The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.
 - Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.
- **The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip Only area or hunting district:**
 - Crossbow.
 - Any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power.

- Any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.
- Electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow.
- A bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics.
- The following archery equipment is illegal during any season:
 - Any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.

Weapons Restriction Areas:

- Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range.
- In Weapons Restriction Areas only the weapons meeting the requirements listed below may be used.
- Hunter orange is required outside the Archery Only Season in Weapons Restriction Areas when using muzzleloaders, traditional handguns, shotguns and/or archery equipment.
- The following equipment restrictions apply to Weapons Restriction Areas:
 - **Muzzleloader:** There is no special season for muzzleloaders. A muzzleloader:
 - must not be capable of being loaded from the breech of the barrel;
 - may not be loaded with any prepared paper or metallic cartridges;
 - must be charged with black powder, pyrodex, or an equivalent;
 - must be ignited by a percussion, flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock mechanism;
 - must be a minimum of .45 caliber;
 - may have no more than two barrels; and
 - must only use lead, not sabots.
 - **Traditional Handguns:** A traditional handgun:
 - is not capable of being shoulder mounted;
 - has a barrel length of less than 10 ½ inches;
 - chambers only a straight wall cartridge, not originally developed for rifles.
 - **Shotgun:** Definition of shotgun for use in Weapons Restriction Areas:
 - a shouldered, breech-loaded or muzzle-loaded firearm with a smooth bore and/or rifled barrel and/or rifled choke device designed to fire shot or rifled slugs.
 - **Archery:** See legal archery equipment in this section.
 - **Crossbows:** Legal in weapons restriction areas unless exception noted in specific hunting district regulations.

Hunter Access

- It is your responsibility as a hunter in Montana to always know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.
- Always carry a map that clearly marks hunting district boundaries, landownership, and travel restrictions. Maps may be obtained at most federal agencies such as U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service offices, as well as some sporting goods stores.
- Also, be sure to visit the FWP website for the Interactive Hunt Planner.

Private Land: Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit gis.mt.gov for assistance with land ownership.

Block Management: The Block Management program is a cooperative effort among private and some public landowners, FWP, and hunters. The program seeks to: (1) maintain public

hunting access to private and isolated public lands; (2) help landowners manage public hunting and provide benefits to offset impacts like increased road maintenance and weed control; and (3) help FWP manage wildlife. Each FWP Region administers the Block Management Areas (BMAs) for its portion of the state. If you are interested in hunting a BMA, contact the regional office in the area you wish to hunt. Regional tabloids listing lands enrolled in the program are available annually on August 15, which is also the earliest date to reserve access to a BMA. For general information about block management, contact FWP at 406-444-2602.

Railroad Access: Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad.

Stream Access: Big game hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is illegal without landowner permission.

Public Land:

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

State School Trust Lands: A \$2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license, provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust Lands. Trappers still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), usually at no additional charge. Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. These rules apply:

- On lands outside designated campgrounds there is a 2-day camping limit.
- Overnight (2 night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a legal access point.
- Horses may not be kept on state land overnight.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- Designated roads signed as "open" to motorized vehicle use or the information as to which roads are designated as open is available from the DNRC Offices.
- Motorized use of other roads and trails and all off-road use is prohibited.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits. Contained mechanical heat sources are allowed.
- Firearms may not be discharged within ¼ mile of an inhabited dwelling or outbuilding without permission of the inhabitant.
- State School Trust Lands within Block Management Areas (BMA) may have more liberal regulations. Consult the individual regulations for specific BMAs.
- Additional information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

State Game Preserves: State game preserves may or may not be open to limited hunting. See Areas Closed or Limited to Hunting Methods for Big Game.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) – Wildlife Management Areas are generally open to hunting during the big game hunting season. WMAs with big game winter range are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted.

- Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10; Kootenai Falls WMA is open all year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.

Tribal Land: Only tribal members are allowed to hunt big game on Indian Reservations, unless otherwise provided for by agreements between the State of Montana and Tribal Government. For questions contact the respective Tribal Government office. See "Contacts Outside FWP" on back cover.

Reporting Requirements

Check Stations: All hunters and anglers are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Inspection: Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP enforcement for inspection when requested.

?]`G]hY`JYf]ÚWUh]cb. As a condition of hunting in Montana, you may be required to return to the kill site if requested to do so by an FWP employee.

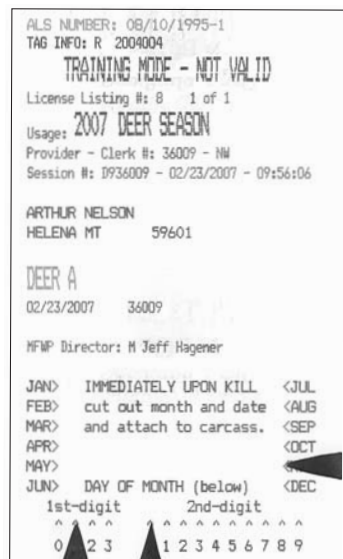
Marked or radio-collared animals: It is legal to shoot big game animals that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP Office.

Harvest Survey: Montana FWP conducts an annual telephone survey to gather hunting and harvest information from Montana hunters. Telephone interviewers call mid-week evenings and weekends to speak to hunters one-on-one to get the most accurate information possible. Wildlife managers use the results to evaluate hunting seasons and set quotas, season dates and other regulations.

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting an Animal

License Validation and Tagging: Immediately after killing a game animal, a hunter must cut out the proper month and day of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the animal in a secure and visible manner.

To properly validate a license (sometimes referred to as a tag), locate the month the animal was killed and completely cut away (notch out) the month. Then locate and cut away (notch out) the first and second digits of the date the animal was killed. **Three cut outs or notches are required to properly validate the license.** More or less than three cut outs would invalidate the license. The example shows a properly validated license for an animal harvested on November 10th. The properly validated license must remain with the meat (including cold storage) until consumed. If quartered, the license should remain with the largest portion of the carcass.



Evidence of Game Animal's Sex and Species Required:

You should consider this requirement when field dressing an animal.

- It is illegal to possess or transport the carcass of any big game animal unless evidence of the animal's sex and species remains naturally attached to its carcass or a portion of the carcass.
 - The easiest way to meet this requirement is to leave the animal's head attached to the carcass. However, if the animal's head is removed (including quartered, boned-out or skinned animals) some other evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of it.
- The following are considered lawful evidence of sex for horned or antlered game animals. For specific requirements for black bear and mountain lion, refer to the respective species regulations.
 - **Male:** head with the horns or antlers naturally attached, penis, testicles, or scrotum.
 - **Female:** head or udder (mammarys).
- Evidence of an animal's sex and species must remain naturally attached until the animal's meat is processed (cut and wrapped) or delivered to a taxidermist.
- If you have questions on how to apply the regulations in your particular situation, please contact your local game warden or regional FWP enforcement.

Game Retrieval:

- In all cases, when on private lands, hunters must first obtain permission from the landowner.
- In the case of public lands, the policy or law varies.
 - BLM public lands allow motorized travel on roads and trails unless designated closed.
 - On National Forest Lands and National Wildlife Refuges, all off-road/trail travel is prohibited.
 - For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

Transport of Wildlife: An individual other than the license holder may transport properly tagged animals that comply with the "Evidence of Sex Requirements" and that were lawfully taken by the license holder. If you have specific questions please contact FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452.

- All shippers of fish, game or nongame birds, game animals, fur-bearing animals, the skins of fur-bearing animals or predatory animals, or parts thereof are required to label all packages offered for shipment by parcel post or common carrier (airlines or UPS, etc.). The label must be securely attached to the address of the package and shall plainly indicate the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee and the complete contents of the package. It is a violation of the Federal Lacey Act to transport an illegally taken game animal across state boundaries.
- It is illegal to ship, possess, or take out of state illegally killed game, game birds, and/or furbearers. If you are transporting lawfully taken wildlife (including parts and/or products of live or dead animals) between Montana and Canada or between the United States and any foreign country, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Declaration form (Form 3-177). Form 3-177 is available at all United States customs ports and on the USFWS web site at www.fws.gov. Additional federal permits may also be needed to import/export wildlife, depending on the species. For further information contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-335-4350.
- Because of concerns about the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a number of states have instituted regulations prohibiting the import of certain deer or elk carcass parts. Alaska, California, Florida, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, South Carolina and West Virginia have restrictions as to what portions of the carcass of a deer, elk, or moose harvested in Montana may be transported back to that state. If you plan on transporting your harvested animal to any of these states, be sure to check before transporting. However, it's recommended if you are a nonresident hunter and plan on transporting your harvested animal back to your home state, you should check with your

state regulatory authorities concerning current regulations. CWD has not been detected in free ranging deer or elk populations in Montana. Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP Enforcement at 406 444-2452. The most current information regarding transport of wildlife is available online at www.cwd-info.org/

- It is unlawful to transport into Montana the whole carcass or certain carcass parts of white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk from states or provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild populations. Those states and provinces currently include Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Only the following carcass parts may be transported into Montana from those states:
 1. Meat that is cut and wrapped.
 2. Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
 3. Meat that has been boned out.
 4. Hides with no heads attached.
 5. Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
 6. Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
 7. Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers”, “whistlers” or “ivories”.
 8. Finished head, partial body or whole body mounts already prepared by a taxidermist.
 Keep in mind that “Evidence of Sex Requirements” must always be met when transporting any of these parts back into Montana.

Other Hunting Rules and Statutes

Airplane Spotting: Aircraft may not be used to locate big game animals for the purpose of:

- hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; or
- providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne.
- The same hunting day in these contexts is defined as between the earliest and latest legal hunting hours.

Antler/Horn/Skull Possession: Individuals may possess, transport, sell, or purchase naturally shed antlers, or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been illegally or accidentally killed. Road-killed animals have not died from natural causes. It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head picked up in the wild.

Dogs: MCA 87-3-124 states that persons may not use dogs to hunt (which includes pursue or chase) game or fur-bearing animals. Exceptions under this law allow using dogs to hunt game birds during the appropriate season, and allowing the FWP Commission to regulate the use of dogs for hunting and chasing mountain lions and bobcats.

Game Calls: It is illegal to use a recorded or electrically amplified game call to hunt big game.

Game Damage Hunt Roster Rules: The game damage hunt roster is a randomized list of hunters’ names. If FWP identifies a need to implement a game damage hunt, the game damage hunt roster will be used to select hunters. Selected hunters will be contacted by FWP. Sign up for the game damage hunt roster is from June 15 - July 15, 2008, and only on the FWP website.

Glandular Scents: Natural or artificial glandular scents may be used by licensed hunters to attract game animals or game birds by spraying or pouring the scent on the ground or other objects. Hunters may not create a scent station where the scent continues to be dispensed without the hunter’s direct action, such as an automatic device, which drips or otherwise continues to dispense scent. Scents may not be used to attract bears. No scents other than glandular may be used for attracting animals, but other scents may be used to mask human odor. Hunters should be aware that the use of scents could attract bears or mountain lions.

Littering: A person convicted of littering while hunting, fishing, trapping or camping may lose his or her license and privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

Motion-tracking or Camera Devices: It is illegal for a person to possess, while hunting, any electronic motion-tracking device that is designed to track the motion of animals and relay information on the animal’s movement to the hunter. This includes, but is not limited to: remote operated camera or video devices; seismic devices; electronic trip wires, photo beam, or laser devices used to activate tracking or recording devices; thermal imaging devices; and satellite and radio-telemetry tracking devices. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog when hunting mountain lion and/or bobcat is not considered a motion-tracking device or mechanism for the purposes of this regulation.

Motorized Vehicles: Hunters may not use a motorized vehicle (including OHVs) or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral, or harass game animals. On public lands it is illegal to operate a motorized wheeled vehicle off legal routes (including game retrieval). All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the FWP Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

Night Vision Equipment: It is illegal to use night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV):

Examples of an OHV include but are not limited to: motorcycles, quadricycles (also known as 4-wheelers), dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

- In order to operate an OHV on public lands, the OHV must have a valid/current registration and display an OHV decal.
- For use on most public roads, an OHV must be registered as a motor vehicle and display a valid license plate.
- For off-road use on legal trails, OHVs have a valid/current registration and display an OHV decal.
- Residents must register their OHV at their County Treasurer’s office.
- Nonresidents must register their OHV in their home state or purchase a temporary Off-Highway Vehicle use permit from Montana FWP. The permit is \$5 and expires on December 31 of the year issued.
 - OHV permits may be purchased from some FWP License Providers, some Vendors (such as a private OHV dealership), or Online Licensing. For a complete listing of where nonresident OHV permits are available, check the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov.

C i h U h Y f g U b X ; i j X Y g. It is illegal to hire an outfitter or guide not licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. For information, call 406-841-2373.

Party Hunting: Party hunting is illegal in Montana. Each hunter must shoot and tag his/her own animal. A hunter is prohibited from loaning or transferring his/her license to another person.

Predator and Nongame Hunting: Predators and nongame species, except prairie dogs, are unprotected by federal and/or state law or regulation and can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. A conservation license, or a state school trust lands recreational use license, is required to hunt predators and nongame species on state school trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt predators and nongame species on private land. For regulations on prairie dog hunting contact FWP at 406-444-2612.

- Predators are classified as coyote, weasel, (striped) skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk).
- Nongame species are defined as any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples include badger, raccoon, red fox, hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, marmots, tree squirrels, and porcupines.

- Furbearers are protected game species that may only be taken by residents with a valid trapping license during prescribed open seasons. State classified furbearers include beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx, and swift fox.

Prohibited Methods of Taking: It is illegal for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- from any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle. Even if the vehicle is not moving, hunters must be off or out of the vehicle. Holders of PTHFV are the exception to this;
- on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, in the State of Montana, MCA 61-1-202); or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait, MCA 87-3-101. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

Restitution for Illegally Taken Trophy Wildlife: Under Montana law, MCA 87-1-111 a person convicted, or who was charged and forfeited bond or bail, of illegally killing, taking, or possessing a trophy animal shall reimburse the state. The law sets the amount of restitution for each trophy animal under MCA 87-1-115 as:

- Bighorn Sheep \$30,000
- Elk \$ 8,000
- Antlered Deer \$ 8,000
- Moose \$ 6,000
- Mountain Goat \$ 6,000
- Antelope \$ 2,000
- Grizzly Bear \$ 8,000
(no authorized hunting season)

The law specifically outlines minimum standards for a trophy under this regulation, but authorizes the FWP Commission to adopt more specific criteria.

For the purpose of assessing restitution for illegally taken trophy wildlife under Montana Code 87-1-115, the following are considered "trophy" animals:

- **Antelope:**
 - With at least one horn greater than 14 inches in length, as measured along the outside curve from base to tip.
- **Elk:**
 - Must meet all three criteria: 1) At least six points on one antler, 2) A main beam length on each antler of at least 43 inches, and 3) An inside spread of at least 36 inches.
- OR
- Any elk with at least one six point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 320 points for greater.
- **Mule Deer:**
 - Must meet all three criteria: 1) At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), 2) A main beam length on each side of at least 21 inches, and 3) A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 20 inches.
- OR
- Any mule deer with at least one four-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 160 points or greater.
- **White-tailed Deer:**
 - Must meet all three criteria: 1) At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), 2) A main beam length on each side of at least 20 inches, and 3) A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 16 inches.
- OR
- Any white-tailed deer with at least one four-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 140 points or greater.
- A "point" as defined in these regulations is at least four inches long for elk and at least one inch long for deer, measured from base to tip. Boone & Crockett measuring procedures

or standards are used for criteria measurement. The official measurements for the purpose of this regulation are those that are taken at the time of confiscation or seizure of the trophy. Any Boone & Crockett measurements will be considered final when taken by an official B&C scorer, regardless of drying time. If the skullcap of antlers or horns is broken in such a manner to render an official Boone & Crockett score invalid, three official B&C scorers will estimate a score. The three scores will be averaged and the average score used to determine trophy status in accordance with MCA 87-1-115.

Shooting of Alternative Livestock: An alternative livestock (game farm) licensee may not allow elk, deer, or other animals classified as alternative livestock to be shot on his/her facility for a fee or any other type of compensation.

Simulated Wildlife: It is illegal to discharge a firearm or other hunting implement at a simulated wildlife decoy in violation of any state statute or FWP commission rule regulating the hunting of the wildlife being simulated.

Transporting Horses and Mules in Montana: For information call Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-2045.

Traps: It is illegal to disturb traps or trapped animals. Traps and trapped animals are the property of the trap owner. Hunters should not shoot trapped animals as this could result in pelt damage or make the animal unsalvageable.

Two-way Communication: Two-way communication may not be used to:

- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds or furbearers as defined in MCA 87-2-101 (8) ("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture."), or
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate illegal activity.

The rule does not prohibit the possession or use of two-way communication for safety or other legitimate purposes.

Waste of Game: Hunters, or persons in possession of a game animal or game animal parts, are prohibited from wasting or rendering unfit for human consumption, any part of a game animal that is defined as "suitable for food." For big game animals (excluding mountain lions) all of the four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstrap are considered suitable for food. A person harvesting a black bear or mountain lion is prohibited from abandoning the head or hide in the field.

Weed Control and Weed-Free Hay: Montana requires use of certified weed-free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed on wildlife management areas and federal lands. Contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at 406-444-5400. Infestations of noxious weeds reduce the amount of available food for wildlife and livestock.

Deer and Elk Regulations

BchY..`FYZyfYbWY`hc`gdYW]ÚW` \ i bh]b [`X]ghf]Whg`cf`@DH` codes in this section has NOT been updated in the 2008 Tentatives.

Special Deer Licenses and Permits

Deer B Licenses: A deer B license is usually a license for antlerless mule deer or white-tailed deer, depending on the license type and hunting district. The deer B license allows you to kill a deer in addition to the deer you could harvest with your deer A license. There is no particular order in which the A and B licenses must be purchased or used. Most deer B licenses are available through the June 1 special drawing but some are available for purchase at License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing. A hunter may only possess a total of seven Deer B licenses in any combination.

Single-Region Antlerless White-tailed Deer B Licenses:

- A hunter may purchase only one single-region antlerless white-tailed deer B license per year.
- The single-region antlerless white-tailed deer B license is in addition to other deer B licenses a person may obtain through a special drawing or purchase at License Providers. You must designate the region in which you will use the single-region antlerless white-tailed deer license at the time of purchase. You may only purchase one of these licenses.
- Licenses are available, beginning August 13, from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing.
- Check the hunting district in which you will hunt for specific regulations and valid dates for the single-region license.

Resident

- Region 2: 002-10. Most Region 2 HDs.
- Region 3: 003-10. All Region 3 HDs, except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA.
- Region 4: 004-10. All Region 4 HDs, except hunting district 455.
- Region 5: 005-10. All Region 5 HDs.
- Region 6: 006-10. All Region 6 HDs.
- Region 7: 007-10. All Region 7 HDs.
- Region 7: 007-11. 2nd WT B License. All Region 7 HDs.

Nonresident

- Region 2: 002-10. Most Region 2 HDs.
- Region 3: 003-10. All Region 3 HDs, except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA.
- Region 5: 005-10. All Region 5 HDs.
- Region 6: 698-00. All Region 6 HDs.
- Region 7: 007-10. All Region 7 HDs.

Single-Region Antlerless Mule Deer B Licenses:

- Check the hunting district in which you will hunt for specific regulations and valid dates for the single-region license.

Resident

- Region 7: 007-13. All Region 7 HDs. Not valid on CMR refuge.
- Region 7: 007-14. 2nd MD B License. All Region 7 HDs. Not valid on CMR refuge.

Special Deer Permits

- Hunters who receive a special deer permit must use it with a current deer A license. A deer permit does not allow you to take a second deer.
- Hunters who receive a special deer permit valid for taking an antlered buck mule deer (with their deer A license) are restricted to taking an antlered buck mule deer only in the district or portion of district specified on the permit. They may not hunt antlered buck mule deer anywhere else in Montana even if the General Season or Archery Only Season is open to mule deer buck hunting with a deer A license. This applies to all special deer permit areas, whether limited or unlimited, for antlered buck mule deer.
- The following special deer permits are available through the June 1 special drawing to Residents and/or Nonresidents. Be sure to check individual hunting district regulations for specific special deer permit details.

district numbers NOT updated for 2008 tentatives

White-tailed Deer

- **R 4** 455-70

Mule Deer

- **R 1** 100-60 103-60 104-60 121-60 122-60
123-60 130-50
- **R 2** 202-50 204-40 210-50 240-40 250-40
261-50 270-50 281-40 291-50 291-51
292-40
- **R 3** 300-50 312-50 318-40 319-40 324-50
335-40 339-40 343-40 380-40 390-40
391-40 392-40
- **R 4** 441-50 455-70
- **R 5** 510-40 530-50
- **R 6** 652-50

Special Elk Licenses and Permits

A7 Elk License:

- An A7 license is a hunting license for an antlerless elk. The license allows the holder to hunt antlerless elk during specified times. Many A7 licenses are valid primarily on private land and are designed specifically to help control elk numbers. In some areas, access may be difficult to obtain on private land.
- Hunters who receive an A7 elk license through the special drawing process must trade in their general elk license prior to the beginning of the elk Archery Only Season. Failure to trade the general elk license for the A7 license invalidates the A7 license awarded in the drawing.
- Hunters who trade in their general elk license give up the opportunity to hunt elk anywhere else in the state as specified in these regulations under "General Elk License".
- Hunters who receive an A7 elk license through the special drawing may also apply for and receive an A9 (resident) or B12 (nonresident) second antlerless elk license.
- An A7 license is obtained through a special drawing.

The following limited A7 elk licenses are available through the June 1 special drawing to residents and/or nonresidents:

district numbers NOT updated for 2008 tentatives

- **R 2** 204-70 240-70 250-70 261-70
270-70 270-71 282-70

Antlerless Elk License: The A9 (resident) and B12 (nonresident) license is valid for taking an additional antlerless elk in certain areas. The A9/B12 elk licenses are designed to control elk numbers and many are only valid on private land. Each hunter may only possess one A9 or B12 license per license year.

There are limited and unlimited A9/B12 elk licenses. A limited A9/B12 license is obtained only through the special drawing and has a deadline date to apply for. Unlimited A9/B12 licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and are available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing. See individual hunting districts for details.

district numbers NOT updated for 2008 tentatives

- **Limited A9 (resident) and B12 (nonresident) elk licenses:**
R 2 283-80, 292-80
R 3 398-80
R 4 410-80, 411-80, 498-80
R 5 411-80, 580-80
R 6 680-80, 690-80
- **Limited B12 (nonresident) elk licenses:** 498-80 valid in all hunting districts beginning with the number 4 (except 401, 410, 411, 412, 417, 420, 441, 445, 447, 448, and 455).
- **Unlimited A9 (resident) elk licenses:**
R 4 004-80 valid in all hunting districts beginning with the number 4 (except 401, 410, 411, 412, 417, 420, 441, 445, 447, 448, and 455).

Special Youth Elk Hunts

- Youth 12-15 years of age may hunt elk as listed in the specific hunting district regulations without applying for a special elk permit through the drawing in the following hunting districts. Be sure to check specific hunting district regulations as youth hunting opportunities in some of the districts listed below may not include either-sex or antlered bull elk.

district numbers NOT updated for 2008 tentatives

R 1	100	101	102	103	104	109	110	120	121
	122	123	124	130	132	140	141	150	151
R 2	200	201	202	203	204	210	211	212	213
	214	215	216	240	250	261	270	280	281
	283	285	291	292	293				
R 3	300	301	302	310	311	316	318	319	320
	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329
	330	331	332	333	335	339	340	341	343
	350	360	361	362	370	380	391	392	
R 4	401	403	410	412	413	415	417	418	426
	432	441	447	448	449	452	454		
R 5	520	540	560						

- Elk permits only for youth 12-15 years of age to hunt elk as listed in the specific hunting district regulations are offered in 282-20, 313-12, 621-00 (valid in HDs 621 and 622), 631-01, and 690-00. To qualify, the applicant must:
 - be 12-15 years of age.
 - show proof of hunter education.
 - be accompanied by an adult and/or guardian who is at least 18 years of age.
- Youth that are 15 years of age at the start of the general season, October 21, are eligible to hunt in the Special Youth Hunt areas even if they turn 16 years of age during the season.

Special Elk Permits: Hunters who receive a special permit to hunt antlerless elk valid during all or any portion of the General Season are restricted during the General Season and Archery Only Season to harvest only an antlerless elk in the district or portion of a district for which the permit is valid. This restriction applies for the entire General and Archery Only seasons, even if the permit is valid for only a portion of the season.

However, permit holders can hunt elk in all other elk hunting districts, or other portions of the district where the permit is not valid (except those districts or portions of district restricted to "hunting by special license or permit only"), with their general elk license and following those district's or portions of district's specific regulations.

In other words, holders of an antlerless elk permit cannot harvest an antlered bull elk in the hunting district or portion of hunting district where the permit is valid.

24-hour Closure

- In Administrative Region 2, elk HD250 and HD270 and in Administrative Region 3, a portion of elk HD 313, may be subject to 24-hour closure for the antlerless portion of the general either-sex or brow-tined bull/antlerless elk season, if the antlerless quota is reached in HD250 and HD270 OR if there is a large early migration of elk from Yellowstone Park in HD313. If the antlerless quota is reached, the general season will revert to the bull regulation only until the end of the general season. Contact Region 2 and/or Region 3 Headquarters for updates.

12-hour Closure

- In Administrative Region 4, elk HD424 and HD 442 may be subject to 12-hour closure for the antlerless portion of the general brow-tined bull or antlerless elk season, if the antlerless quota is reached. If the antlerless quota is reached, the general season will revert to only the brow-tined bull regulation until the end of the general season. Contact Region 4 Headquarters for updates.

Deer Drawing Statistics

The statistics on this page are from the 2006 Special Drawings and are meant to give you a relative comparison between area quotas.

For more detailed statistics on resident/nonresident numbers, landowner drawing statistics, 2nd and 3rd choice numbers and district

Key:

- @DH'1' @JWYBgY#DYf a]h' HmdY''H\Y' Ûfgh'h \fYY'X] []hg' a cgh' cZhYb' fYdfYgYbh'h \Y' \ i bh]b ['X]ghf]Wh' b i a VYf'
- Apps = Total number of resident and nonresident 1st choice applicants.
- Suc = Total number of 1st choice applicants that were successful.
- i 'G' iW'1' DYfWYbhU [Y' cZ' %st choice applicants that were successful.

Deer Permits – 2006 Drawing Statistics				LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc
				130-50	151	10	6.62	291-50	727	100	13.76	343-40	456	456	100
				202-50	426	200	46.95	291-51	71	25	35.21	380-40	1156	1156	100
				204-40	203	203	100	292-40	707	707	100	390-40	96	96	100
LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	210-50	617	100	16.21	300-50	857	40	4.67	391-40	418	418	100
100-60	32	32	100	240-40	139	139	100	312-50	927	125	13.48	392-40	758	758	100
103-60	58	58	100	250-40	117	117	100	318-40	196	196	100	441-50	904	50	5.53
104-60	17	17	100	261-50	563	25	4.44	319-40	251	251	100	455-70	740	50	6.76
121-60	21	21	100	270-50	5820	100	1.72	324-50	551	50	9.07	510-40	308	308	100
122-60	18	18	100	281-40	397	397	100	335-40	378	378	100	530-50	536	536	100
123-60	3	3	100					339-40	373	373	100	652-50	878	100	11.39

Deer B Licenses – 2006 Drawing Statistics				LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc
				281-00	142	100	70.42	330-00	64	64	100	444-00	100	100	100
				281-01	89	89	100	330-01	23	23	100	445-00	361	361	100
LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc	282-00	317	50	15.77	331-01	254	250	98.43	447-00	253	253	100
100-00	485	485	100	283-00	105	100	95.24	331-02	16	16	100	448-00	15	15	100
100-01	43	25	58.14	283-01	61	61	100	332-00	42	40	95.24	450-00	30	30	100
101-00	385	385	100	285-00	198	50	25.25	333-01	139	139	100	471-00	51	51	100
102-00	562	500	88.97	285-01	15	15	100	333-03	16	16	100	498-00	189	189	100
103-00	564	500	88.65	285-02	46	46	100	335-00	262	200	76.34	499-00	110	110	100
104-00	341	341	100	290-20	181	50	27.62	339-00	256	256	100	500-00	224	100	44.64
104-01	12	10	83.33	291-00	197	100	50.76	340-00	246	150	60.98	502-00	239	200	83.68
109-00	95	95	100	292-00	225	50	22.22	341-00	102	75	73.53	510-00	88	88	100
110-00	123	50	40.65	293-00	79	50	63.29	343-00	286	286	100	511-00	99	93	93.94
120-00	387	387	100	300-00	81	81	100	350-00	113	75	66.37	520-00	114	114	100
121-00	639	639	100	301-00	42	25	59.52	360-00	31	31	100	530-00	127	127	100
121-01	18	10	55.56	301-01	14	14	100	360-01	51	51	100	530-01	61	61	100
122-00	191	50	26.18	302-00	77	77	100	361-00	19	19	100	560-00	85	85	100
122-01	28	10	35.71	309-00	9	9	100	362-00	34	25	73.53	570-00	136	136	100
123-00	103	100	97.09	310-00	18	16	88.89	370-00	43	43	100	575-00	473	473	100
123-01	10	9	90	311-00	119	50	42.02	380-00	549	200	36.43	580-00	184	170	92.39
124-00	104	104	100	311-01	77	50	64.94	380-01	128	100	78.13	590-00	367	350	95.37
130-00	569	569	100	311-02	132	132	100	390-00	46	35	76.09	597-00	389	389	100
132-00	158	158	100	312-00	270	250	92.59	391-00	147	100	68.03	598-00	495	495	100
200-00	150	150	100	313-00	31	31	100	392-00	234	100	42.74	599-00	780	780	100
200-01	17	17	100	313-01	56	50	89.29	393-00	177	177	100	600-00	191	191	100
201-00	350	350	100	313-02	26	25	96.15	400-00	344	344	100	610-00	80	50	62.5
201-01	9	9	100	314-00	155	155	100	401-00	322	322	100	611-00	80	80	100
202-00	266	250	93.98	315-00	197	150	76.14	404-00	309	309	100	620-00	213	213	100
202-01	34	34	100	315-01	66	66	100	405-00	164	164	100	630-00	135	135	100
202-02	6	6	100	317-00	62	62	100	406-00	96	96	100	630-01	4	4	100
203-00	131	100	76.34	318-00	107	25	23.36	410-00	195	195	100	630-20	6	6	100
204-00	96	50	52.08	319-00	188	150	79.79	411-00	349	346	99.14	640-00	68	68	100
210-00	132	132	100	320-01	113	113	100	412-00	262	262	100	650-00	125	120	96
212-00	116	50	43.1	321-00	19	18	94.74	413-00	193	193	100	651-00	106	105	99.06
212-01	66	66	100	322-00	91	91	100	416-00	18	15	83.33	652-00	26	26	100
213-00	24	24	100	323-00	37	34	91.89	417-00	134	134	100	670-00	157	157	100
216-00	37	20	54.05	324-00	65	50	76.92	418-00	45	44	97.78	680-00	176	176	100
260-20	594	300	50.51	324-01	11	11	100	419-00	40	40	100	690-00	288	288	100
260-30	679	500	73.64	325-00	162	162	100	421-00	85	85	100	698-00	67	67	100
261-01	108	75	69.44	325-01	32	32	100	423-00	39	39	100	699-00	114	114	100
270-00	339	100	29.5	326-00	76	76	100	426-00	225	225	100	797-00	1796	1796	100
270-01	55	55	100	326-01	9	9	100	432-00	82	82	100				
270-02	100	50	50	328-00	12	12	100	441-00	104	104	100				
				329-00	56	50	89.29								

Elk Drawing Statistics

The statistics on this page are from the 2006 Special Drawings and are meant to give you a relative comparison between area W\c]WYg" H\YgY' bi a VYg' Xc' bch' fYUYWh' h\Y' i gY' cZ' Vcb i g' dc]bhgZ' UbXc kbYf' dfYZYfYbWYz' cf' h\Y' bcbfYg]XYbh'] a]h' cZ' i d' hc' %\$ i' cZ' h\Y' quota.

For more detailed statistics on resident/nonresident numbers, landowner drawing statistics, 2nd and 3rd choice numbers and district gdYW]UW' Vcb i g' dc]bh']bZcf a Uh]cbz' j]g]h' c i f' KYVg]hY' Uh' Zkd' a h' [c]''

Key:

- @DH' 1' @]WYbgY#DYf a]h' HmdY" H\Y' Üfgh' h\ fYY' X] []hg' a cgh' cZhYb' fYdfYgYbh' h\Y' \ i bh]b [' X]ghf]Wh' bi a VYf"
- Apps = Total number of resident and nonresident 1st choice applicants.
- Suc = Total number of 1st choice applicants that were successful.
- i' g i w' 1' DYfWYbhU [Y' cZ' %st choice applicants that were successful.

Elk Permits – 2006 Drawing Statistics

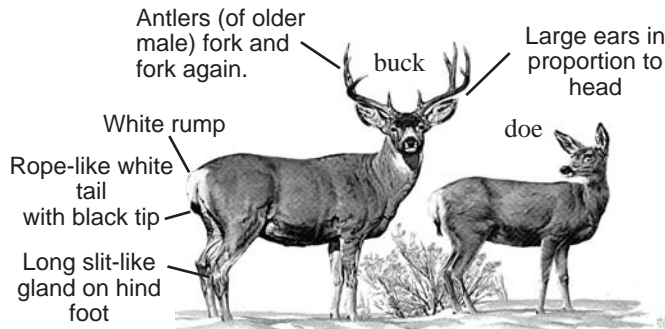
LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc
100-00	422	100	23.7
101-00	63	20	31.75
101-01	109	15	13.76
103-00	699	100	14.31
104-00	339	100	29.5
109-00	96	35	36.46
110-00	88	25	28.41
120-00	170	25	14.71
121-00	927	800	86.3
121-02	6	5	83.33
122-00	370	100	27.03
123-00	228	150	65.79
124-00	53	50	94.34
130-00	121	5	4.13
132-00	38	5	13.16
140-00	59	5	8.47
141-00	23	23	100
200-00	151	100	66.23
200-01	56	56	100
201-00	433	425	98.15
201-01	14	14	100
202-00	192	5	2.6
202-01	83	83	100
202-02	30	29	96.67
203-00	294	250	85.03
203-01	50	10	20
204-70	51	5	9.8
210-00	458	350	76.42
211-00	180	50	27.78
212-00	211	200	94.79
212-01	175	150	85.71
213-00	188	188	100
214-00	128	100	78.13
215-00	256	200	78.13
215-01	231	125	54.11
216-00	76	50	65.79
216-01	54	54	100
240-70	89	5	5.62
250-70	79	5	6.33
260-00	17	5	29.41
261-70	38	25	65.79
270-70	134	75	55.97
270-71	138	125	90.58
281-00	509	400	78.59
282-20	71	1	1.41
282-70	515	75	14.56
283-00	289	289	100
283-01	34	34	100
283-02	52	52	100
283-20	123	5	4.07
285-20	197	100	50.76
285-21	198	198	100

A9 Elk License – 2006 Drawing Statistics

LPT	ñ Apps	ñ Suc	% Suc
283-80	100	25	25.00
292-80	569	250	43.94
398-80	1,387	200	14.42
410-80	1,797	400	22.26
411-80	246	246	100.00
498-80	110	110	100.00
580-80	202	150	74.26
680-80	108	5	4.63
690-80	454	150	33.04

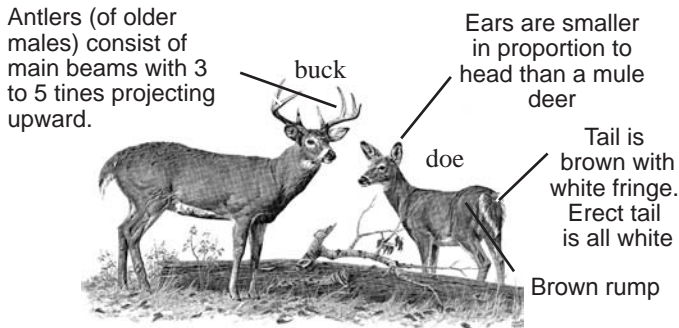
Deer

CHARACTERISTICS OF A MULE DEER



CAUTION: Antlers on yearling buck white-tailed and mule deer may look similar.

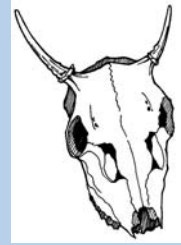
CHARACTERISTICS OF A WHITE-TAILED DEER



DEFINITIONS

Antlered Buck –

A deer with an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.



Antlerless –

A deer without antlers or with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Either Species –

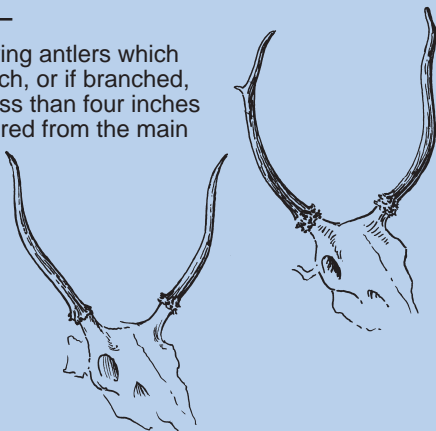
Mule deer or white-tailed deer.

Elk

Montana has some elk hunting districts with special regulations governing the type of bull elk that is legal. These diagrams and definitions are intended to assist the hunter in interpreting these special regulations.

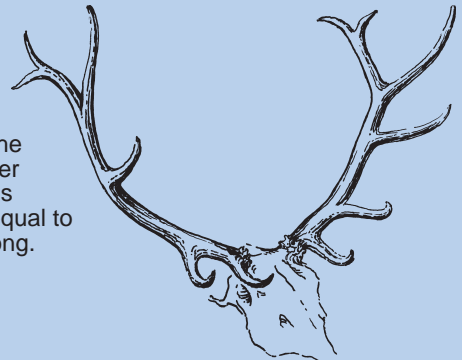
Spike Bull –

Any elk having antlers which do not branch, or if branched, branch is less than four inches long measured from the main antler.



Brow-tined –

Any elk having an antler or antlers with a visible point on the lower half of either main beam that is greater than or equal to four (4) inches long.



Antlered Bull –

Any elk having an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Antlerless –

A female or juvenile male with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Antler Point Measurement –

Legal antler point must be four (4) inches or more length.

