

Effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024

2022-2024

HUNTING & TRAPPING

REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS



For in-season regulation changes visit
WWW.GOV.BC.CA/HUNTING

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Welcome to another two years of hunting and trapping in beautiful British Columbia!

We are lucky to live in one of the most ecologically and biologically diverse areas in North America. That diversity provides us with immeasurable social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits. The landscapes are breathtaking, and the variety and abundance of wildlife available to be sustainably hunted and trapped rival that of any other province or territory in Canada. In order to maintain these opportunities, be resilient, and thrive, British Columbians need to be able to adapt to a changing world.

Wildlife stewardship in B.C. is undergoing significant and positive change. On June 2, 2022, the provincial *Wildlife Act* was amended to advance collaboration and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in the management of wildlife in the province.

Bill 14, the Wildlife Amendment Act, brings in a requirement to consider Indigenous knowledge and establishes a process by which the province can align its laws with protocol hunting agreements and traditions that have long existed. These changes support the Province's commitment to the full adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Provincial Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The Wildlife Act amendments also support goal 5 of the Together for Wildlife Strategy – Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous Governments.

Together for Wildlife is the provincial initiative to improve wildlife and habitat stewardship across British Columbia. Building the strategy was a 21-month collaborative journey of discussions and understanding among a diverse group of people and partnerships who are passionate about British Columbia's wildlife. The work of this group has resulted in additional funding, proactive objectives, and improved data and knowledge - all supported by new policies, strong partnerships, and dedicated resources.

In 2020/2021, the first year of strategy implementation, a budget of \$9M funded over 150 projects to enhance wildlife stewardship in the province, over \$3M supported 80 projects focused on wildlife monitoring, inventory, and management across the province.

I wish you all a successful and enjoyable hunting season.

Sincerely,

Katrine Conroy
Minister of Forests

PROVINCE WIDE REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2022-2024

- Regulation on the use of air rifles for hunting big game.
- Prohibition on tampering of antlers of ungulates harvested during an antler restricted season or the horns of mountain sheep and mountain goats.
- Ineligibility for a person to apply for or obtain a licence, permit, or limited entry hunting authorization if they don't comply with Compulsory Reporting or Compulsory Inspection requirements.
- Modernization of the Federal Migratory Birds Regulations and Waterfowler Heritage Days.

New information and regulation changes are highlighted as green

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS

2022–2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BEFORE YOUR HUNT

Regulation Changes for 2022-2024.....	Inside front cover
Definitions.....	3
Hunter Education.....	5
WILD and your BC Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID).....	5
Limited Entry Hunting.....	5
Open Seasons.....	5
Aboriginal Hunting.....	6
Licence Requirements.....	6
Migratory Bird Hunting and Waterfowler Heritage Days.....	7
Non-Resident Hunters.....	7
Licence Fees.....	8
Site and Access Restrictions.....	9
Motor Vehicle Prohibitions/Restrictions.....	10
Federal Firearms Legislation.....	10

DURING YOUR HUNT

No Hunting and No Shooting Areas.....	10
What is 'Wildlife'?.....	11
Ear Tags and Collars.....	11
Illegal Guiding and Illegal Transporting.....	11
It's Unlawful.....	11
Legal Hunting Methods and Provincial Bag Limits.....	12

AFTER YOUR HUNT

Record of Receipt for Transporting Wildlife.....	14
Royalty Fees.....	15
Possession and Transportation.....	15
Export from the Province.....	15
C.I.T.E.S. Export.....	16
Taxidermy, Tanning and Meatcutting.....	16
Submitting Your Hunter Sample Questionnaire.....	16
Compulsory Inspection and Reporting.....	17

ARTICLES AND FORMS

Minister's Message.....	Inside front cover
Report All Poachers and Polluters.....	2
How to Measure A Tine.....	4
Leadshot Ban.....	13
Deer Bag Limits Explained.....	14
Handling Game Meat Safely.....	16
Wildlife Health.....	Inside back cover
Hunting and Trapping During COVID.....	Inside back cover
How to Extract an Incisor Tooth (updated).....	18

Wildlife Permits and Commercial Licences.....	18
Accidental Illegal Harvest.....	18
Important Notice for Mountain Goat Hunters.....	77
Hunting and Trapping Ethics.....	77
Wild Sheep, Mountain Goats and Disease.....	78
Wild and Domestic Sheep Contact.....	78
Wild Sheep Genetics.....	78
Bear Identification Guide.....	79
Deer Identification Guide.....	79
Mountain Caribou Update.....	80
Notice to Black Bear Hunters.....	80

REGIONS

Region 1: Vancouver Island.....	19
Region 2: Lower Mainland.....	26
Region 3: Thompson.....	32
Region 4: Kootenay.....	36
Region 5: Cariboo.....	42
Region 6: Skeena.....	48
Region 7A: Omineca.....	55
Region 7B: Peace.....	60
Region 8: Okanagan.....	66

TRAPPING REGULATIONS

BC Fur Management Program.....	71
Definitions.....	71
General Regulations and Information.....	71
On-line Licensed Trapping Harvest Report.....	72
Trapline Registration, Use and Relinquishment.....	72
Other Restrictions and Information.....	72
Compulsory Reporting and Inspecting (Trapping).....	72
Humane Trapping Standards.....	72
Licence and Registration Fees.....	73
Fur Royalty Regulations.....	73
Trapper Education Program.....	73
Important Notice About Fishers.....	73
It's Unlawful.....	73
Certified Traps.....	74
Trapping Methods.....	75
Provincial Trapping Seasons.....	76

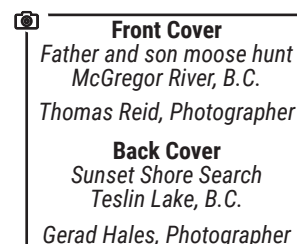
B.C. WILDLIFE APPS

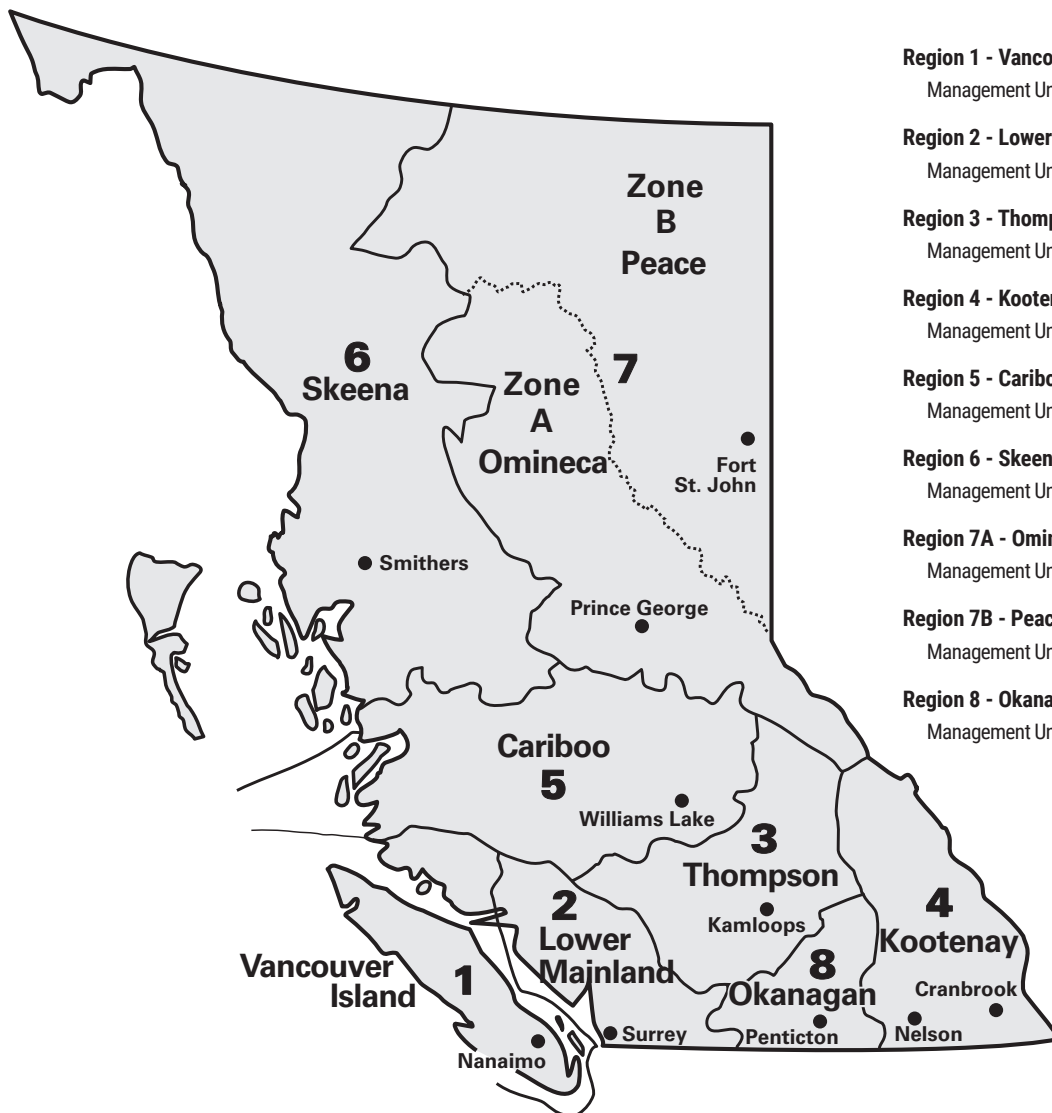
BC Moose Tracker.....	18
Report Invasives BC.....	61
B.C. Mountain Goat and Wild Sheep Natal App.....	79

RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF REGULATION CHANGES

To receive notifications about in-season regulation changes as well as other important notices about hunting in B.C., visit www.gov.bc.ca/hunting or subscribe to the **Important Notices** page and the **Corrections and Updates** page. The RSS feed is no longer used.

The material presented in this synopsis is for information purposes only. It is not a substitute for the *Wildlife Act* or its regulations. If there is any inconsistency between this synopsis and the *Wildlife Act* or its regulations, the legislation will prevail.





Region 1 - Vancouver Island

Management Units 1-1 to 1-15

Region 2 - Lower Mainland

Management Units 2-1 to 2-19

Region 3 - Thompson

Management Units 3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-46

Region 4 - Kootenay

Management Units 4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40

Region 5 - Cariboo

Management Units 5-1 to 5-16

Region 6 - Skeena

Management Units 6-1 to 6-30

Region 7A - Omineca

Management Units 7-1 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41

Region 7B - Peace

Management Units 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58

Region 8 - Okanagan

Management Units 8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26



Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)

Dial Toll Free, 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP), or Report Violators Online at: <http://gov.bc.ca/RAPPHotline>

Helping the **Conservation Officer Service** Stop, Solve and Prevent Environmental Crimes

AVAILABLE 24/7, leave a secure tip to report:

Violations of Fisheries, Wildlife or Environmental Protection Laws.

Wildlife-human conflicts where public safety is at risk.

HOW CAN I HELP?

1. **Never** confront a suspect.
2. **Record**: suspect/vehicle information, type of violation, location, date and time.
3. **Report** as soon as possible.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters

Conservation Officer 24-Hr Hotline:

1-877-952-RAPP (7277)



rapp.bc.ca

The BC Wildlife Federation pays rewards up to \$2000 for information leading to the charges of persons who have: violated laws related to the protection of fish, wildlife, or the environment; or damaged the property of companies or individuals who provide access to hunters and anglers.

FOR VIOLATIONS RELATED TO TIDAL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES AND IN-RIVER SALMON FISHERIES, CONTACT FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO) AT 1-800-465-4336

ACCOMPANY - means to remain in the company of the other person, able to see the other person without the aid of any device other than ordinary corrective lenses and able to communicate by unamplified voice with that person.

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) - means a wheeled vehicle or tracked vehicle propelled by motorized power, and capable of travel on or off a highway, including motorcycles but not including a snowmobile or motor vehicle that is licensed for highway travel under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

ANTLERED ANIMAL - means a member of the deer family over one year of age bearing visible bony antlers.

ANTLERLESS ANIMAL - means a member of the deer family bearing no visible antlers. The small skin or hair covered protuberances of male fawns and calves do not constitute antlers.

BAIT - means anything, including meat, cereals, cultivated crops, restrained animal or any manufactured product or material, that may attract wildlife and includes plastic or other imitation foods, but does not include a decoy as described under these regulations.

B.C. RESIDENT - means a person who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, and whose only or primary residence is in British Columbia and who has been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*, or if not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, but whose only or primary residence is in British Columbia, and has been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*.

BEARDED TURKEY - means a turkey with a tuft of hair-like feathers on the chest that grow larger with age.

BIG GAME - means any mountain sheep, mountain goat, bison, caribou, elk, moose, deer, black bear, cougar, wolf, bobcat, lynx, wolverine or other animal designated by regulation.

BOLT - means a shaft or missile designed to be shot from a crossbow or catapult.

BOW - means a longbow or crossbow.

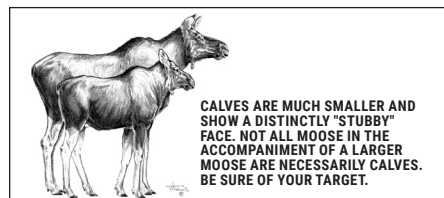
BROW TINE - means the first tine (point) projecting forward or upward in the lower 1/3 of the antler of a moose, caribou, elk, or deer.

BUCK OR BULL - with reference to deer, moose or elk means one bearing visible bony antlers, but does not include a calf; with reference to caribou means a male bearing visible bony antlers, but does not include a calf.

CALF - means a moose, elk, or caribou less than twelve months of age.

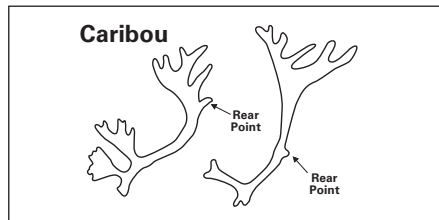
COW MOOSE - a female moose recognizable by having no antlers and being 1.8 m at shoulder height weighing 340-420 kg.

CALF MOOSE - a moose less than twelve months of age usually less than 1.5 m at shoulder height weighing 135-180 kg.



CANCELLED SPECIES LICENCE - means a Species Licence that has been cancelled as indicated on the licence.

CARIBOU - 5 POINT BULL - has one antler which bears at least 5 tines (points), including the tip of the main beam above the rear point. If rear point is missing, the first rear-facing point will be used as the rear point.



COMPOUND CROSSBOW - means a crossbow on which the bow string runs through pulleys.

COUGAR KITTEN - means any cougar with spots or any cougar under one year of age.

CROSSBOW - means a bow fixed across a stock with a groove for the arrow or bolt and a mechanism for holding and releasing the string. (NOTE: The use of crossbows is permitted during special bow only seasons.)

DECOY - means any material or manufactured product that simulates the appearance or has the form of wildlife.

DEER FAMILY - moose, caribou, deer, and elk.

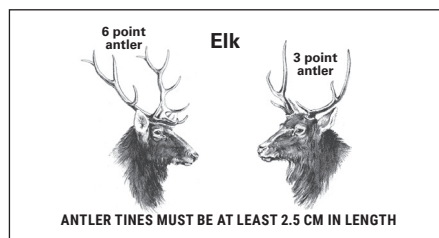
DRONE - means an aerial vehicle that (a) is not occupied or operated by a person within the vehicle, (b) is operated by (i) remote control, (ii) pre-programmed software, (iii) onboard computer autonomy or artificial intelligence, or (iv) any combination of (i) to (iii) and is capable of attracting, searching for, chasing, pursuing, following after or on the trail of, stalking, spotting or monitoring wildlife.

EDIBLE PORTIONS - with respect to big game, excluding wolf, lynx, bobcat and wolverine, means the edible portions of the neck, ribs, four quarters and the loins of the animal and with respect to game birds, means the edible portions of both breasts of the bird.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE - a wheeled device (a) on which a person may ride, (b) with pedals or hand cranks that allow it to be propelled with human power, and (c) with an electric motor.

ELK - SIX POINTS OR GREATER BULL - means any bull having at least six tines on one antler.

ELK - THREE POINTS OR GREATER BULL - means any bull having at least three tines on one antler.



EXISTING ROAD OR TRAIL - means (a) a road or trail with a paved surface, (b) a cross-country or downhill ski route marked in a ski area by the owner of the ski

area, (c) a road used for logging or mining, (d) a road or trail used for access to fences, power lines, wind generators or communication towers, or (e) a trail on which there is no vegetation except on a strip that, if present, can be straddled by a 4-wheel vehicle.

FERAL PIG - means a pig of the genus *Sus* that is not in captivity or is not otherwise under a person's control.

FIREARM - includes a device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, compressed gas or spring and includes a rifle, shotgun, handgun, pellet gun, "BB" gun or spring gun but does not include a bow.

FURBEARING ANIMAL - means a fox, beaver, black bear, marten, fisher, lynx, bobcat, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, striped and spotted skunk, northern flying squirrel, red and Douglas' squirrel, weasel (least, short-tailed, long-tailed), wolverine, wolf, or coyote.

GAME BIRD - means any grouse, partridge, quail, pheasant, ptarmigan, migratory game bird, or wild turkey.

GAME - includes all big game, small game, game birds and furbearing animals.

HANDGUN - is a firearm that is designed, altered or intended to be aimed and fired by the action of one hand or that has a barrel less than 305 mm (12") in length.

HUNT AND HUNTING - includes shooting at, attracting, searching for, chasing, pursuing, following after or on the trail of, stalking, or lying in wait for wildlife or attempting to do any of those things, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently wounded, killed or captured:

- (a) with intention to capture the wildlife, or
- (b) while in possession of a firearm or other weapon.

INFRARED OPTICS - means an optical device with the capacity to detect infrared radiation.

LICENCE YEAR - Hunting and Guide Licences - means the period from April 1 - March 31 of the following year. Trapping and Fur Trader's Licences - means the period from July 1 - June 30 of the following year.

LOADED FIREARM - means any firearm containing live ammunition in either the breech or the magazine. A clip containing live ammunition, when attached to the firearm, is considered as the magazine. Muzzle loaders - see page 12.

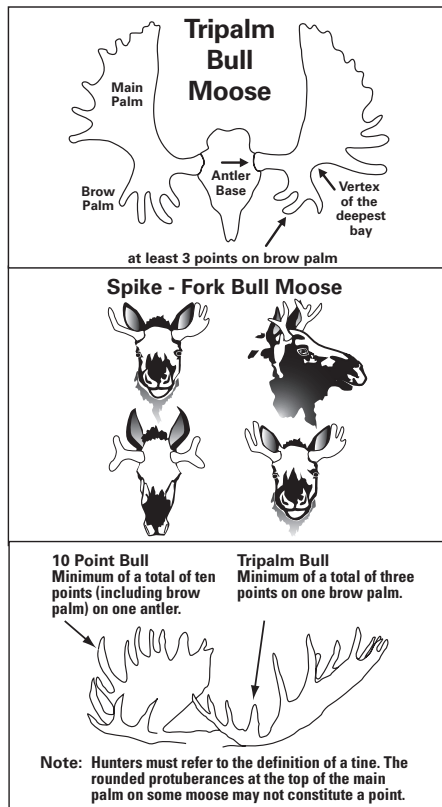
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS - for which there may be an open season in B.C. and for which a Canadian Migratory Game Bird hunting permit is required are: waterfowl (ducks and geese, including Brant); American Coot; Common Snipe; Band-tailed Pigeon, and Mourning Dove.

MOOSE - SPIKE-FORK BULL - means a bull moose having no more than two tines (points) on one antler. (Includes tines on main antler and brow palms.) Does not include a calf. See diagram on next page.

MOOSE - 10 POINT BULL - means a bull moose having at least one antler with a minimum of ten tines (points), including the tines on the brow palm. (See diagram on next page and tine definition.)

BEFORE YOUR HUNT

MOOSE - TRIPALM BULL - means a bull moose having at least one antler with a brow palm bearing three or more tines (points). The brow palm is separated from the main palm by the deepest antler bay. The deepest bay is the bay whose vertex (deepest location) is the shortest distance from the antler base, when measured along the surface of the antler. See diagram.



MOTORCYCLE - means a motor vehicle that runs on 2 or 3 wheels and has a saddle or seat for the driver to sit astride.

MOTOR VEHICLE - means a device in, on or by which a person or thing is being or may be transported or drawn, and which is designed to be self propelled, and includes an ATV or snowmobile, but does not include a device designed to be moved by human, animal or wind power; a device designed to be used exclusively on stationary rails or stationary tracks; or a boat propelled by motorized power.

MOUNTAIN GOAT KID - means a mountain goat with horns less than 10 cm in length.

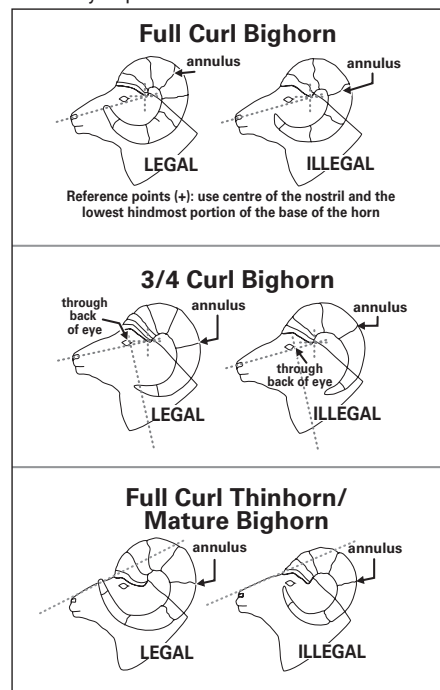
MOUNTAIN SHEEP - Full Curl Bighorn Ram - means any male bighorn mountain sheep, the head of which, when viewed squarely from the side, has at least one horn tip extending upwards beyond a straight line drawn through the centre of the nostril and the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base. If the skull and horns are presented for examination, when viewed squarely from the side with both horns in alignment, at least one horn tip extends upward beyond a straight line drawn through the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base and the lowermost edge of the eye socket.

MOUNTAIN SHEEP - 3/4 CURL BIGHORN RAM - means any male bighorn mountain sheep, the head of which, when viewed squarely from the side, has at least one horn tip extending beyond a straight line drawn through the back of the eye opening and at right angles to a

line drawn between the centre of the nostril and the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base. If the skull and horns are presented for examination, when viewed squarely from the side with both horns in alignment, at least one horn tip extends beyond a straight line through the back edge of the eye socket and at right angles to a line drawn through the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base and the lowermost edge of the eye socket.

MOUNTAIN SHEEP - MATURE BIGHORN RAM - means any bighorn ram mountain sheep whose horn tip, when viewed squarely from the side at right angles to the sagittal plane of the skull, extends dorsally beyond the nose bridge plane

MOUNTAIN SHEEP - FULL CURL THINHORN RAM - means any thinhorn ram mountain sheep that has attained the age of 8 years as evidenced by true horn annuli as determined by the regional manager or his designate, or whose horn tip, when viewed squarely from the side at right angles to the sagittal plane of the skull, extends dorsally beyond the nose bridge plane. Do not use yearly horn growth annuli to determine the age of a ram in the field, because "false" annuli may be present.



MULE (BLACK-TAILED) DEER - FOUR POINTS OR GREATER BUCK - means any buck having at least four tines, excluding the brow tine, on one antler.

NO HUNTING AREA - means a designated area in which hunting (see definition) is prohibited.

NON-RESIDENT - means a person who is not a B.C. resident but who is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, or a person who is not a B.C. resident but whose only or primary residence is in Canada and has resided in Canada for the 12 month

period immediately before making an application under the *Wildlife Act* or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the *Wildlife Act*.

NON-RESIDENT ALIEN - means a person who is neither a B.C. resident nor a non-resident.

NON-RESIDENT/ALIEN RESTRICTED LICENCE

- means a licence issued to a non-resident or a non-resident alien who has not successfully completed examinations, approved by the director, about conservation, outdoor recreation and safety.

NON-RESIDENT/ALIEN UNRESTRICTED LICENCE

- means a licence issued to a non-resident or a non-resident alien who has successfully completed examinations, approved by the director, about conservation, outdoor recreation and safety.

NON-TOXIC SHOT - means shotgun pellets consisting of, by weight, not more than one percent lead.

NO SHOOTING AREA - means a designated area in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

POWER BOAT - means a boat, canoe or yacht powered by electric, gasoline, oil, steam or other mechanical means, but does not include a boat powered manually nor a boat with an outboard motor provided the motor is tilted or otherwise disengaged so as not to be ready for immediate use.

RAPTOR - means birds of the order *Falconiformes* (falcons), *Accipitriformes* (vultures, eagles, and hawks), or *Strigiformes* (owls) and includes the eggs of these birds.

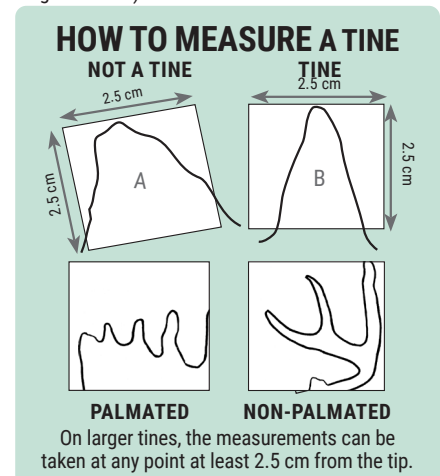
SHOT - means a cartridge manufactured so that it contains 8 or more roughly spherical projectiles.

SMALL GAME - includes fox, raccoon, coyote, skunk, snowshoe hare and game birds.

SNOWMOBILE - means a vehicle designed primarily for travel on snow or ice, having one or more steering skis, self propelled and using one or more endless belts or tracks driven in contact with the ground.

TINE OR "POINT" - means a branch of an antler which is longer than its breadth and is at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) in length, and for the purpose of determining the length of a tine

(a) the breadth of the tine is measured (if extending from a palmation of an antler, then in the plane of the palm) at a location at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the tip of the tine, and (b) the length of the tine is measured from its tip end, following the midline of the profile of the tine, and following the natural curvature of the tine, to the midpoint of the straight line along which the breadth is measured. (See How to Measure a Tine diagram below).



TRAFFIC OR TRAFFICKING - means to buy, sell, trade or distribute for gain or consideration or to offer to do so.

UPLAND GAME BIRD - includes the gallinaceous birds, such as wild turkey, grouse, partridge, ptarmigan, pheasant, and quail.

VEHICLE - means a wheeled or tracked device in, on or by which a person or thing is or may be transported or drawn on a highway.

WILDLIFE - means raptors, threatened species, endangered species, game and other species of vertebrates prescribed as wildlife by regulation.

WIRELESS CAMERA - means a camera that obtains an image by means of a remote or infrared sensor and that is capable of sending an image remotely to an electronic device.

HUNTER EDUCATION

- » Since 1974, the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) course has ensured that hunters meet standards of knowledge and skill for safe and ethical hunting. The B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF) is responsible for program delivery and record keeping. CORE graduates who are not a BCWF or affiliated club member can apply for a BCWF membership at half-price within the first year of receiving their CORE Certificate, including the Outdoor Edge magazine and liability insurance.
- » Although not compulsory, classroom instruction in CORE is recommended and may be obtained through courses in adult education, community colleges, rod and gun clubs or course advertisements. The written examination is based on: Outdoor Ethics, Firearm Handling, Hunting Regulations, Animal and Bird Identification, Outdoor Survival, First Aid and Safety, and Hunter Heritage, Conservation and Wildlife Management chapters found in the CORE manual. There is a fee for each of the practical firearms handling and written examinations. There is also a graduate fee of \$30.00 payable to BCWF at the time of program completion.
- » The course requires about 21 hours of self-study and firearm handling practice. Information on how to obtain the CORE manual and a list of certified CORE examiners is available from BCWF at 1-888-881-2293 or www.bcwf.bc.ca
- » For a recognized North American Bowhunter Education Program contact the BC Archery Association at <https://bcarchery.ca/>

WILD AND YOUR BC FISH AND WILDLIFE ID (FWID)

- » The Wildlife Information and Licensing Data (WILD) system is used for hunter services in B.C. You can use WILD to apply for hunting licences, a permit to accompany, guide outfitter licences, and Limited Entry Hunting (LEH). You can also submit and view Compulsory Reports in WILD, and view guide outfitter reports if you attended a guided hunt. You can access WILD from www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.
- » **Don't want to use the online service:** Visit any Service BC or FrontCounter BC location or call the FrontCounter BC Contact Centre at 1-877-855-3222. If you are a hunter who already holds a FWID, you can apply for hunting licences and LEH at participating licence vendors.

- » **Your Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID):** Your FWID is a permanent number linked to your personal profile and is your passport to hunting services. The FWID replaces the BC Hunter Number. You must be 10 years of age or older to obtain a FWID. **There is no cost to get your FWID.**
- » **Already have a Hunter Number:** We have assigned you a new FWID with your credentials. Your FWID will be your old Hunter Number with three extra digits. You can find your FWID number by logging into WILD and entering your Hunter Number, Last Name, and Date of Birth. You can also visit any Service BC, FrontCounter BC, or participating vendor, or call the FrontCounter BC Contact Centre at 1-877-855-3222.
- » **Don't have a Hunter Number or FWID:** You'll need to register for your FWID and credentials. You can register for your FWID online or in person at any Service BC or FrontCounter BC location.
- » Once you have created a FWID profile, you will need to prove your residency and your identity. In addition, proof of hunter safety training is required for purchasing most hunting licences. Proof of hunter safety training include a Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) certificate or a letter from BCWF or Province of BC stating successful completion of CORE, or a document issued by another territory or province of Canada, or a government of an international jurisdiction evidencing successful completion of a hunter safety training course.
- » Hunters may only have and use one FWID.
- » FWID holders must update their profile when they change residency or their legal name.

HUNTERS REQUIRED TO PROVE B.C. RESIDENCY

- » The province requires hunters to prove B.C. residency every three years. This is to help ensure that only eligible hunters access hunting licences, permits and authorizations available to residents only. To renew your B.C. resident credential, access WILD from www.gov.bc.ca/hunting. Please contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222 if you cannot update your B.C. resident credential using the online service.
- » In some cases, you may qualify for a residency exemption. This applies to any hunter who is:
 - * Currently serving full-time in the Canadian military and who has made his or her permanent residence in B.C. for 30 consecutive days prior to applying for B.C. resident hunting credentials. Appropriate military identification and posting documentation is required, OR
 - * A Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, who attended a recognized educational institution outside of B.C. and can provide a certificate, diploma, degree or a letter from a school confirming completion of program, OR
 - * Under 18 years of age, has resided with a parent or guardian in another province and returns to B.C. to reside with another parent or guardian who is a resident.

ELECTRONIC LICENCES, PERMIT TO ACCOMPANY AND LEH AUTHORIZATION

- » You are not required to carry a paper copy of your resident, non-resident or non-resident alien hunting licence, initiation licence, youth licence, upland game bird licence, Fraser Valley, and Gulf Islands special area licences, LEH authorization, or permit to accompany while hunting, or carry a copy of your guide outfitter licence while guiding. These permits, licences and authorizations are fully electronic and are visible on your profile and can be printed from your profile if you require a copy.
- » You must carry all your species licences while hunting, both cancelled and uncanceled. If you buy your species licence online, it will be mailed to you subject to Canada Post delivery times. If you buy your species licences in-person, you will obtain them immediately.
- » LEH authorizations are available on your Fish and Wildlife profile and **will not be mailed to you.**
- » If you win a shared limited entry hunting authorization, you are required to carry the Harvest Report section of your authorization at all times while hunting. You must complete the Harvest Report and communicate the harvest to all hunters in your group immediately upon a kill.
- » Conservation Officers can access your FWID profile in the field using their mobile application. **Please note that you are legally required to know or produce your FWID number and photo ID upon request of an officer.**

LIMITED ENTRY HUNTING

- » Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) seasons are open only to hunters who have drawn an LEH authorization for the applicable licence year.
- » A resident hunting licence and species licences are required in addition to an LEH authorization.
- » Hunters should refer to the LEH Synopsis published each spring for specific LEH maps, or view LEH maps online at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/limited-entry-hunting/leh-zone-maps>.
- » For information regarding LEH please contact (250) 356-5142 or go to www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.

OPEN SEASONS

- » Open Seasons are only those defined in this synopsis. It is unlawful to hunt at any time during the year except within the open season, or by authority of a permit issued under the *Wildlife Act*.
- » To define open seasons the province is divided into Management Units (MU's). Hunting seasons are shown in regional schedules on the following pages. All season dates are inclusive.
- » Where an open season does not apply to the entire MU a reference is given to maps describing the applicable regulation.
- » Hunting season dates may change in season. Check www.gov.bc.ca/hunting for updates.

BEFORE YOUR HUNT

ABORIGINAL HUNTING

The Ministry of Forests' first priority for wildlife management is to ensure the long-term conservation of wildlife populations and their habitats. The Ministry recognizes that First Nations play an important role in wildlife stewardship and may have or establish Aboriginal or treaty rights protected by section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, including rights to harvest wildlife for food, social and ceremonial purposes in their traditional territories. The Ministry also recognizes that First Nations may have traditional governance structures, protocols, laws and customs that manage their members. The Ministry continues to work collaboratively with First Nations and stakeholders to manage hunting for the effective stewardship of wildlife within the province.

Harvesting wildlife under Aboriginal and treaty rights must be sustainable and harvesting methods must not jeopardize safety or the use and enjoyment of property. Any hunting of wildlife species for sale or barter, in whole or in part, is not legal, except as authorized by regulation or where there is a demonstrated Aboriginal or treaty right to do so. Persons registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) residing in British Columbia are not required to have a hunting licence or species licences, although they are required to have a federal Firearms Licence and comply with hunting regulations related to public health, public safety, and conservation.

In situations where conservation of a particular wildlife population is of concern and compliance with hunting regulations is required by individuals exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights – which may include the requirement for Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) authorizations – there will be prior consultation with the affected First Nations in accordance with Ministry policy and procedures.

If a First Nation member is in doubt regarding a traditional hunting area or practice, or regulations that may apply, they could contact the appropriate First Nation's officials and the Ministry regional office to discuss specific situations.

First Nation members who wish to hunt outside their traditional territory or treaty areas must comply with the Hunting Regulations which can be found in both the LEH and Hunting and Trapping Regulation Synopses (except for the licensing exemption described above). This includes making application for an LEH authorization via the LEH draw. A Fish and Wildlife ID with active BC resident credential in addition to either a hunting credential or a licence exemption WA S.11(9) credential is required to submit an application for LEH. For the purposes of entering the LEH draw, persons residing in B.C. registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) may create a Fish and Wildlife ID and will be granted BC resident and licence exemption WA S.11(9) credentials upon proving status and residency. Proof of status includes a Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada, a Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document (TCRD) or a letter from the Band Office or First Nation Government confirming status. The LEH application fee must be paid to enter the LEH draw.

The B.C. Government is responsible for balancing hunting opportunities for all British Columbians, while managing for conservation and ensuring adequate priority is accorded to First Nations' harvest for food, social and ceremonial purposes within their traditionally used and treaty areas. First Nations may take responsibility for managing their members' harvest.

The Province encourages mutual courtesy and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous hunters.

Aboriginal Title in B.C.

On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada granted the Tsilhqot'in Nation a declaration of Aboriginal title to a defined area of land located in the South Chilcotin, Cariboo Region of British Columbia. As a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision, the status of these lands has changed and as title holder, the Tsilhqot'in Nation can determine use of and control access to the declared title lands. The Nation has announced that the title area is not publicly available for hunting at this time.

Métis Hunters

All Métis individuals intending to hunt in B.C. are required, under the *Wildlife Act*, to hold a valid hunting licence and comply with all hunting regulations. This includes obtaining applicable species licences and complying with Limited Entry Hunting Regulations.

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

There are three types of hunting licences available to B.C. Residents:

1 Resident Hunting Licence

- » Hunting licences are available to resident hunters 10 years of age or older who hold a valid FWID with resident and hunting credentials (see BC Fish and Wildlife ID section).
- » A hunting licence, in combination with the appropriate species licence (if required), provides a hunter with a personal bag limit.
- » You will be asked to produce your FWID number and photo ID when purchasing a hunting licence in person.

2 Youth Hunting Licence

- » Youth 10 years of age or older and under 18 years of age, who have a FWID may obtain a Hunting Licence OR a Youth Licence. A youth hunting licence does not provide a personal bag limit.
- » A Youth Hunting Licence can only be issued to a parent or guardian on behalf of their child or ward who is 10 years of age or older and under the age of 18. Hunter safety training is not required to obtain a Youth Hunting Licence. The parent or guardian is required to have a FWID to hold the Youth Hunting Licence.
- » A youth hunter, whether or not they have completed a hunter safety training program or are hunting under a hunting or youth licence, must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision of an adult who carries the proper licences and meets the prescribed qualifications to be a supervising hunter.
- » Non-resident qualifications for a Youth Hunting Licence are the same with the exception that they may not hunt for wildlife for which an LEH authorization is required.
- » Non-resident youth wanting to hunt big game must be accompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany.

3 Initiation Hunting Licence

- » An Initiation Hunting Licence is a once in a lifetime annual licence that can only be issued to a person who is a B.C. resident, is 18 years of age or older, and has not held a B.C. hunting licence in the past (with the exception of a youth or junior licence). An initiation hunting licence does not provide a personal bag limit.
- » Hunter safety training is not required to obtain an Initiation Licence.

- » If hunting under an Initiation Licence, you must be accompanied by a supervising hunter at all times during your hunting activity. You must also have your supervising hunter, before starting to hunt on each day of hunting, sign a form that acknowledges the conditions of supervising your hunting activity. Forms are available at www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.

Hunter Safety Training for Youth and Initiation Hunters:

- » Youth and Initiation hunters do not need to complete a hunter safety training program but must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision of an adult who carries the proper licences and meets the prescribed qualifications to be a supervising hunter.

Bag Limits and Supervision for Youth and Initiation Hunting Licences:

- » Wildlife taken under a Youth or Initiation Hunting Licence is included in the bag limit of the supervising licensed adult. No species licences may be purchased with a Youth or Initiation Hunting Licence. However, during an LEH hunting season, a resident licensed youth hunter may accompany and hunt with an adult holding a valid limited entry hunting authorization and a valid species licence.
- » Hunters under the age of 18, and hunters hunting under the authority of an Initiation Hunting Licence, must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision while hunting by a person who meets the following prescribed qualifications:
 - Hold a FWID with active residency and hunting credentials.
 - If supervising an Initiation Licensed Hunter, be a resident and hold a basic hunting licence (unless exempt).
 - Have held a hunting licence (or be exempted from holding a licence), other than an Initiation Hunting Licence, in British Columbia, or a licence to hunt in another jurisdiction, in not fewer than 3 of any of the licence years preceding the current licence year. This qualification does not apply to the supervising hunter if a guide outfitter also accompanies the holder of an Initiation Hunting Licence.
 - Persons residing in B.C. registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) must have received training in hunting and previously hunted lawfully without supervision.
 - Not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm in any jurisdiction.
 - Not accompany or supervise more than two Youth Licensed Hunters, two Initiation Licensed Hunters, or one Youth and one Initiation Licensed Hunter at one time (Note: youth who hold a Basic Hunting Licence do not count towards the maximum number that may be accompanied.)

No one under the age of 10 may hunt. A person who causes or allows a person under the age of 10 to hunt commits an offence.

A parent or legal guardian must apply for the hunting or youth licence on behalf of the youth and sign the written undertaking that the parent or guardian will not allow the child or ward to hunt or carry firearms unless the youth is accompanied by and under the close personal supervision of a hunter who meets the prescribed qualifications to supervise.

DEER LICENCES

- » A person must not possess more than 15 of any current year deer licences. The combination of deer licences may include a maximum of 3 mule deer and 3 white-tailed deer licences, which would then allow for 9 Haida Gwaii mule deer licences.
- » There are special Haida Gwaii deer licences which allow hunters to exceed the 2 deer bag limit for the Skeena Region and the 3 deer provincial bag limit up to a maximum of 15 deer when hunting in Haida Gwaii. However, up to 3 regular mule deer licences can be used in Haida Gwaii, but they will count toward the regional and provincial bag limits. (For example, if a mule deer licence are used in MU 6-12 or 6-13, a hunter will be prevented from pursuing deer elsewhere in the Skeena Region, and it will count towards the 3-deer provincial bag limit).

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING AND WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS

- » When hunting migratory game birds (see Definitions section), you must carry with you a valid Canadian federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permit in addition to any required provincial hunting licences. Migratory game bird hunting permits are available for purchase online at www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/PurchaseHuntingPermit, and through some Canada Post Offices and independent vendors.
- » The federal Migratory Birds Regulations have been modernized. The modernized Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022, will come into force on July 30, 2022. As part of this initiative, and beginning in the 2022-23 hunting season, Waterfowler Heritage Days have been repealed and replaced with a free federal MGBH Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp for youth/minors (under 18 years of age).
- » The MGBH Permit for youth/minors is only available through the MGBH e-permitting system at www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/PurchaseHuntingPermit.
- » Information on the Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022 will be added to the Government of Canada webpages leading up to and by the coming into force date of July 30, 2022. To stay informed, please refer to the Government of Canada website at www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/status-update-modernization-regulations.html.
- » All youth hunters and their mentors/supervising hunters must also carry the appropriate valid provincial hunting licences, in addition to the required federal MGBH permits, at all times when hunting migratory game birds.
- » Provincial hunting regulations are currently being reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the updated federal Migratory Birds Regulations; that review has not been finalized at the time of this publication. It is important that hunters check www.gov.bc.ca/hunting for updates to the 2022-23 and 2023-2024 migratory bird season dates before hunting.
- » The Bird Banding Laboratory in Maryland collates all North American bird banding records. If you find a banded migratory bird, please report it on their website at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl.

KEEPING YOUR LICENCES & RECORDS

- » Hunters should keep all documents under which an animal was taken until the animal has been consumed. In the case of a mounted trophy or a tanned hide, the species licence and Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet should be kept in a safe place indefinitely. If a person wishes to transfer the trophy to someone else or requires an export permit to move it out of the province, the original documentation makes the transfer or the issuance of a permit much easier.

NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS

- » Non-residents of British Columbia must follow all hunting regulations. All non-resident hunters are required to have a Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID) to obtain hunting licences.
- » Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters must hold an unrestricted hunting licence to hunt small game unaccompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany non-residents or non-resident aliens. To obtain an unrestricted non-resident/non-resident alien hunting licence, you must show proof of successful completion of hunter safety training.
- » You can prove successful completion of hunter safety training when registering for your FWID and applying for your hunting credential. You have the option to upload a copy of your hunter safety training certificate using WILD or take your documentation to a Service BC or FrontCounter BC office. If your hunter safety training document is in a language other than English or French, it is your responsibility to submit the original document along with a notarized translated version of the document.
- » If you do not obtain a hunting credential, you will only be eligible to apply for a restricted non-resident/non-resident alien hunting licence and you must be accompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany non-residents or non-resident aliens when hunting.
- » The fee for a restricted and unrestricted licence is the same. Fees vary depending on your residency status.
- » Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters **are required to be accompanied** by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany **at all times when hunting big game**, regardless of the type of licence (restricted or unrestricted) they have.

Big Game Guided Hunts

- » When purchasing big game species licences, non-residents must provide the guide outfitter's licence number. On completion of the guided hunt, non-residents must obtain a completed Guide Outfitter Report from their guide. Failure to do so constitutes an offence on the part of the hunter and the guide. If the guide outfitter or assistant guide submits the Guide Outfitter Report using the WILD system, a copy of the report is posted to the non-residents FWID profile, satisfying the requirement to obtain a completed Guide Outfitter Report.

Big Game Permit Accompanied Hunts

- » A non-resident hunter may be accompanied by a resident of B.C., who holds a permit to accompany non-residents or non-resident aliens to hunt big game. Only one permit to accompany will be issued to a person in a licence year.

- » A non-resident alien, who is not a resident of Canada and is not a Canadian citizen, may also be eligible under the permit to accompany providing they qualify under one of the required relationship categories (i.e., if accompanied by a parent, sibling, child, parent's sibling, sibling's child, grandchild, grandparent, spouse, spouse's parent, child's parent, spouse's sibling, sibling's spouse, but excludes cousins).
- » The B.C. resident applying for this permit must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, 19 years of age or older, who has held a BC hunting licence and a big game species licence for 3 of the 5 years preceding application (or 2 of the 5 years preceding application if the applicant has completed CORE).
- » Permits to Accompany may not be available for all species and areas (for example, mountain sheep). You can review the regional hunting restrictions online at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/permit-to-accompany. Applications can be submitted online at www.gov.bc.ca/hunting or at a FrontCounter BC office.
- » The B.C. resident applicant is eligible to buy licences on behalf of the non-resident named on the valid issued permit.
- » Non-residents must have a valid issued permit to accompany associated to their Fish and Wildlife profile to be able to buy species licences for themselves. Otherwise, a guide outfitter licence number will be required.
- » The permit holder (B.C. resident) must complete a permit to accompany report from their Fish and Wildlife profile using WILD, or by reporting to FrontCounter BC within 10 days after the hunt authorized by the permit is concluded (whether or not the hunt took place).
- » If there is a harvest; the permit holder must make royalty payments within 30 days after the hunt authorized by the permit is concluded (see Royalty Fees section page 15).
- » Royalty payments can be made from your Fish and Wildlife profile using WILD, or at any FrontCounter BC or Service BC office.
- » For additional information, please contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222.

Small Game

- » Non-residents can hunt small game unaccompanied if hunting under a non-resident or non-resident alien unrestricted licence. Individuals hunting under a non-resident or non-resident alien restricted licence must be accompanied by a guide outfitter, an assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany at all times while hunting.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS!

In-season regulation changes are posted on the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Synopsis website

Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of current regulations. Please check our website for in-season changes before your hunt: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis>.

Or subscribe to the Corrections and Updates page. See Page 1 for details.

BEFORE YOUR HUNT

HUNTING LICENCE FEES

The following fees apply province-wide. Additional licence requirements are indicated under certain regional schedules. All licences issued under the *Wildlife Act* are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Fees include HCTF surcharge, but not G.S.T.

B.C. resident to hunt all game	\$32.00	★
B.C. resident who is 65 years of age or over to hunt all game	\$7.00	★
Non-resident (◆restricted / ◆unrestricted) to hunt all game	\$75.00	★
Non-resident alien (◆restricted / ◆unrestricted) to hunt all game	\$180.00	★
Fraser Valley Special Area (See Region 2)	\$10.00	★
Gulf Islands Special Area. All islands in MU 1-1 (except Vancouver Island) and Denman and Hornby Islands in MU 1-6	\$2.00	
Initiation Hunting Licence - allows a person 18 years or older who has never previously held a hunting licence in B.C. to try hunting without having successfully completed hunter safety training	\$19.00	★
Youth hunting licence - the youth must be 10 years of age or older and under age 18	\$7.00	★
Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit	\$17.00	
Haida Gwaii Deer (resident)	\$10.00	★
Haida Gwaii Deer (non-resident)	\$25.00	★

★ Includes surcharge for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF).

◆ See definitions (page 4).

SPECIES LICENCE FEES

Species licences are required for the hunting of the following animals and are required in addition to the basic hunting licences. Hunters are required to carry all species licences purchased for the current licence year at all times while hunting, including both cancelled and uncanceled.

Fees include HCTF surcharge, but not G.S.T.

BIG GAME	B.C. RESIDENT	NON-B.C. RESIDENT
Bison	\$70.00	\$700.00
Black Bear	\$20.00	\$180.00
Bobcat *	\$8.00	\$40.00
Caribou *	\$20.00	\$230.00
Cougar *	\$30.00	\$230.00
Deer (mule (black-tailed) and white-tailed)	\$15.00	\$125.00
Elk	\$25.00	\$250.00
Lynx *	\$8.00	\$40.00
Moose	\$25.00	\$250.00
Mountain Goat *	\$40.00	\$350.00
Mountain Sheep *	\$60.00	\$620.00
Wolf	No Species licence required	\$50.00
Wolverine *	\$8.00	\$40.00

SMALL GAME		
Small Game	No Species licence required	No Species licence required ★
Upland Game Birds	No Species licence required	\$50.00

* Species licences for these species are not valid until 2 days after the date of issue.

★ Except for upland game birds.

**All hunting and species licences expire
March 31 of each year**

REPLACEMENT SPECIES LICENCES

You must replace your lost, stolen or destroyed species licence, both cancelled and uncanceled, if you plan to continue hunting during the current licence year.

To obtain a replacement, go to a FrontCounter BC or Service BC office. You will need to declare the harvest details from the original licence if it was previously cancelled.

Replacement Fee..... \$10.00

Licence Fees: What Are They Used For?

When you purchase a B.C. hunting or trapping licence, where does the money go? At the time of writing, a basic B.C. resident hunting licence will set you back \$32: \$25 of this is the fee portion that goes to general government revenue, and the remaining \$7 is a conservation surcharge that is directed to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. The exact ratio between fee and conservation surcharge varies for other hunting and trapping licences types, averaging 80% fee to 20% surcharge. Total licence sales fluctuate annually, the average surcharge revenue from these licence products is around \$2.5 million per year.

Surcharges and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)

HCTF is a non-profit, charitable foundation that uses the surcharges collected on hunting, angling, trapping, and guide outfitting licences to fund conservation projects across B.C. Surcharges from hunting, trapping, and guide outfitting licences pay for wildlife and stewardship projects, as well as education programs. Money is also used to secure important wildlife habitat through HCTF's acquisition granting program. In 2018-19, HCTF approved 90 wildlife and stewardship projects, ranging from ungulate habitat enhancement to programs designed to get kids outdoors and connected with nature in their communities.

Where can I find out more?

B.C. hunters, anglers, trappers and guide outfitters make a huge contribution to conservation through their licence purchase and through countless hours volunteering on projects that HCTF funds. To find out more about HCTF fish and wildlife conservation initiatives or how to apply for funding to start your own conservation project, visit www.hctf.ca



**HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION**

BUYING LICENCES

- » Licences are available online at www.gov.bc.ca/hunting and at Service BC, FrontCounter BC and participating commercial outlets and sporting goods stores. If you buy your species licence online, it will be mailed to you and it is subject to Canada Post delivery times. If you have not received your licences in the mail, you may qualify for a replacement free of charge if between 15 to 30 business days from the purchase date you report the loss to FrontCounter BC or Service BC.
- » The following licences are electronic only and will be registered on your FWID profile after purchase: resident, non-resident or non-resident alien hunting licence, initiation licence, youth licence, upland game bird licence, Fraser Valley, and Gulf Islands special area licences. There is no requirement to carry a paper copy of these licence types while hunting.
- » A parent or legal guardian must apply for the hunting or youth licence on behalf of the youth and sign the written undertaking that the parent or guardian will not allow the child or ward to hunt or carry firearms unless the youth is accompanied by and under the close personal supervision of a hunter who meets the prescribed qualifications to supervise.
- » Hunters with permanent physical disabilities who are unable, because of their disability, to exit a vehicle to discharge a firearm, or are unable to walk 100m while carrying a firearm, may apply for a disabled hunting permit. Information and the permit application process are available through the FrontCounterBC website at portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca

SITE AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

National Parks

- » Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks. All firearms transported in National Parks must be dismantled, carried in a closed case or wrapped and tied securely as not to expose any part of the firearm.
- » Firearms are also not permitted outside of a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a National Park unless they are being moved into, or out of, a person's premises, or with a permit issued by the park superintendent.

Regional District Parks

- » The discharge of firearms and bows is prohibited in most regional district parks. Regional district bylaws are NOT included in this synopsis. Contact the Regional District for further information.
- » Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 m of all Regional District Parks in Regions 1 and 2.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

- » Hunting is prohibited in National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries unless a special federal permit is granted or notices to the contrary are posted. Blue signs depicting a loon mark the boundaries. Contact Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta for more information (604) 350-1950.

BC Parks

Individuals visiting BC Parks, either a Park, Conservancy, Recreation Area or Protected Area should be aware that the *Park Act* and its regulations apply, as do the hunting regulations in this synopsis. Visit www.bcparks.ca for more information on activities allowed or prohibited in specific parks.

- » Hunting and the discharge of firearms, or bows is prohibited in many BC Parks. Before hunting in a BC Park, hunters must verify that hunting is permitted. For more information on BC Parks that are open to hunting please visit www.gov.bc.ca/hunting. Hunting in BC Parks is only permitted during a lawful open season. For additional information on permitted activities in BC Parks, please visit <https://bcparks.ca/visiting/fish-hunt/>.
- » When a BC Park is closed to hunting or there is no open season for any species, both the possession and discharge of a firearm or bow are prohibited except when authorized by a park officer. Possession is only allowed when such weapons are carried within a vehicle or when authorized by a park officer.
- » The use of horses and motor vehicles (including motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs and other self-propelled vehicles or cycles) is generally prohibited in BC Parks except where specifically authorized. All motor vehicles on park roads must be licensed. Use of aircraft to arrive at or depart from some parks is restricted.
- » It is prohibited to hunt or discharge a firearm or bow in a BC Park within 400 m of either side of the centre line of any park road or highway except as authorized by a park officer, unless otherwise stated in this synopsis for a specific road. A park road is a road in a park or recreation area that is designated and developed for licensed motor vehicles.
- » Hunters are encouraged to remove gut piles from near hiking trails or known areas of recreational use or, if that is not possible, to advise park staff of kill locations.

Recreation Sites and Trails

- » Provincial Recreation Orders prohibiting motorized use.
 - Visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails/legislative-authority/recreation-orders> for more information and a list of provincial Recreation Orders.
- » As defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation:
 - Unless authorized by a recreation officer; it is unlawful to trap or discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow on or into:
 - The developed portion of a Recreation Site or Interpretive Forest.
 - The "developed portion", refers to that area that extends 100m in all directions from a structure, day use area, camping area, trail staging area, or similar area.
 - Any portion of a Recreation Trail where a prohibition has been posted.
 - It is unlawful to dispose of game residue in the developed portion of a recreation site.

Visit www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca for more information on Recreation Sites and Trails.

Ecological Reserves

- » Hunting, trapping and angling are prohibited in Ecological Reserves in B.C. The discharge of a firearm, or bow is prohibited. A complete list of Ecological Reserves, maps and legal descriptions is available at www.bcparks.ca/eco_reserve.

Conservation Lands

- » B.C. has different types of Conservation Lands, including Wildlife Management Areas, Crown Reserves, and lands acquired for fish and wildlife management; sometimes in cooperation with other agencies (e.g., Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Trust of BC).
- » Hunting, the discharge of firearms or bows, motor vehicles, and access are restricted or prohibited in some Conservation Lands.
- » Before hunting in a Conservation Land, please contact your regional office.

Municipal Restrictions

- » Most municipalities have bylaws restricting and controlling the use of weapons, firearms and bows within their boundaries. Municipal bylaws are NOT included in this synopsis. Consult municipal clerks for details.
- » Most municipalities have local bylaws restricting and controlling wildlife attractants and illegal dumping so hunters are reminded to dispose of carcasses and animal parts responsibly. Carcasses are considered wildlife attractants and can attract large predators. Do not dispose of them within municipal boundaries or in areas frequented by the public.

Indian Reserves

- » Indian Reserves are private land. Permission must be obtained from the local Indian business office in order to hunt on or across these lands.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF CABINS

- » While in the field you may encounter cabins. These belong to someone engaged in a legitimate business such as trapping or guiding. They are private and are not to be entered, damaged, or disturbed

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

- » Several laws govern access:

1 Trespass Act

The provincial *Trespass Act* limits public access to enclosed private or leased land. Private or leased property is considered enclosed if any one of the following conditions are met:

- there are clearly visible signs prohibiting trespassing posted at each ordinary access point; or
- the property is surrounded by a lawful fence; or
- the property is surrounded by a natural boundary such as a riverbank or a 4 1/2 foot hedge.

In some areas local clubs may have arrangements with landowners to exclude other hunters and may post No Hunting or No Trespassing signs.

2 Forest and Range Practices Act

It is illegal for individuals to cause environmental damage. Irresponsible off-road vehicle use can disturb soil and destroy plants, risk watershed and water source quality, threaten or kill wildlife, introduce invasive plants and reduce forage. Environmental damage includes any change to soil that adversely alters an ecosystem. Individuals found to have caused environmental damage may be fined \$575. More serious cases of damage could lead to penalties of up to \$100,000 and/or a year in jail.

While travelling on a Forest Service Road, operators of ATVs are required to hold a valid driver's licence and carry a minimum of \$200,000 third-party liability insurance.

3 Off Road Vehicle Act

The *Off Road Vehicle Act* (ORV) applies to ORVs on Crown land and prescribed private land. ORVs include ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles, side-by-sides and on-highway vehicles (under 4,536 kg).

Mandatory registration applies to ORVs. The plate or sticker must be clearly displayed on the front, back or left side of the ORV.

Mandatory safety laws apply to all ORVs; this includes helmets for ride-astride ORVs and seatbelts (if installed). People under 16 must be supervised by an adult at least 19 years.

For more information about the ORV Act, visit the ministry's website at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/crown-land/crown-land-uses/off-road-vehicles and the BC Laws website: www.bclaws.gov.ca. Call the Natural Resource Violations Hotline at 1-844-NRO-TIPS (1-844-676-8477) if you witness a contravention.

4 Wildlife Act

A person is not permitted to hunt on cultivated land or on Crown land which is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock, without the consent of the owner, lessee, or occupant of the land.

MOTOR VEHICLE PROHIBITION / RESTRICTIONS

There are 2 types of motor vehicle restrictions under the *Wildlife Act*, and all types can be seasonal or year-round.

- 1) **Motor Vehicle Closed Area:** Prohibits the use or operation of a motor vehicle and e-bike. These prohibitions can be for all motor vehicles, or specific to ATVs/e-bikes or snowmobiles.
- 2) **Motor Vehicle for Hunting Closed Area:** The operation of motor vehicles and e-bikes to hunt, transport wildlife, transport equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited. These prohibitions can apply to all motor vehicles, or be specific to ATVs/e-bikes or snowmobiles.

For full definitions and detailed regulations, see the [Wildlife Act Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation](#).

See definitions section for vehicle types.

NO HUNTING AND NO SHOOTING AREAS

Federal Firearms Legislation

- » A BC hunting licence does not give authority to carry a firearm.
- » For information on the Canadian Firearm Licence contact Canadian Firearm Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit the website at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/.

No Shooting or Hunting Areas

- » It is unlawful to hunt or discharge a firearm within 100 m of a church, school building, school yard, playground, regional district park, dwelling house, or farm or ranch building that is occupied by persons or domestic animals. An owner or occupier of land, or an employee of an owner or occupier are exempted near a dwelling house or farm or ranch building that is occupied by persons or domestic animals, for the purposes of slaughtering livestock.

No Shooting Areas

- » It is unlawful to discharge a firearm in a No Shooting Area (see Definitions section). No Shooting Areas are open to the use of bows (including crossbows) unless specifically restricted (see regional sections).

HIGHWAY NO SHOOTING OR HUNTING AREAS

- » It is unlawful to discharge a firearm across or to discharge a firearm or hunt within the road allowances of all numbered highways and any two lane or greater public road in B.C. that is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (or their contractors), the federal government or another province or territory. The road allowance extends:
 - (a) 15 m on either side of the middle of a road with less than three lanes, or
 - (b) 15 m from the edge of the paved surface of a highway with three lanes or more, or
 - (c) to the boundary of private or cultivated land, whichever comes first.
- » These restrictions address safety concerns that have been expressed by many residents living in previously unrestricted rural areas. Use common sense and if in doubt, don't shoot!

NOTE: Other closures that may be more restrictive on some highways or roads are listed in the next columns or under the Regional Schedules.

Hwy 99 No Shooting Area

- » The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 400 m west of the road allowance and 1 km east of the road allowance of Hwy 99 between the northern boundary of the District Municipality of West Vancouver and the Southern Boundary of the District Municipality of Squamish.

Hwy 118 No Shooting Area

- » The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 400 m on either side of the road allowance of Hwy 118 (Topley Landing Road) between the intersection of Hwy 118 and Hwy 16 at Topley Landing and Granisle in the Skeena region.

Hwy 3 No Hunting Area

- » No hunting within 400 m of the centre line of Hwy 3 between Loop Bridge and Alexander Bridge. See Map D14 on page 41.

400 METRE SINGLE PROJECTILE (FIREARM) PROHIBITED AREAS

- » Several major or heavily populated routes in the province have an additional 400 m area bordering the road allowance in which the discharge of a firearm using a single projectile is prohibited. The discharge of a shotgun using shot only is permitted.
- » The discharge of a firearm using a single projectile is prohibited within 400 m (1/4 mile) on either side of the road allowance of following portions of the highways and roads in British Columbia listed below:

Hwy 5 (Coquihalla Highway) between Hope and the junction of Hwys 1 and 5 at Kamloops;

Hwy 6 between Bench Cr. and Banting Cr.;

Hwy 16 between the boundary of the City of Prince Rupert and the British Columbia - Alberta interprovincial boundary;

Hwy 27 from the junction with Route 16 (Yellowhead) west of Vanderhoof to Fort St. James;

Hwy 29 between the intersection of Hwy 29 with Hwy 97 in the vicinity of the Village of Chetwynd and the intersection of Hwy 29 with Hwy 97 in the vicinity of Charlie Lake, Peace River Land District;

NOTE: Sections of Hwy 29 are being realigned between Hudson's Hope and Charlie Lake as part of the Site C project. The 400 m single projectile (firearm) prohibited areas applies to the current highway alignment and the sections currently under construction.

Hwy 35 between Francois and Burns Lake;

Hwy 37 between the intersection of Hwy 37 with Hwy 16 and the boundary of the District of Kitimat;

Hwy 37 between the Skeena River Bridge at Kitwanga Post Office, Cassiar Land District, and the intersection with the Yukon border;

Hwy 37A between the intersection of said highway and Hwy 37 at Meziadin Junction and the boundary of the District of Stewart at Bitter Creek;

Hwy 39 from the junction with Hwy 97 north of McLeod Lake to its intercept with the municipal boundaries of the City of Mackenzie;

Hwy 97 those portions of the Cariboo Highway from Cottonwood River to Prince George, the John Hart Highway from Prince George to Dawson Creek, and the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek to Lower Post;

Hwy 113 between Terrace and Kincolith (Gingolx). Canyon Drive (Road 520) between Hudson's Hope and the W.A.C. Bennett Dam;

Twelve Mile Road (Road 190) between Road 520 and Dunlevy Creek.

400 METRE NO HUNTING OR SHOOTING AREAS

- » Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 400 m (1/4 mile) of the road allowance of the following highways:

Highways in all Provincial Parks - see page 9 for information on prohibition for hunting and the discharge of firearms/bows in BC Parks.

Hwy 3 (Crowsnest Highway) between Hope and Manning Park, Manning Park and Princeton.

Hwy 97C (Okanagan Connector, Phase III) between its junction with Hwy 97 near Peachland and its junction with Hwy 5 near Aspen Grove.

Hwy 99 (Sea to Sky Highway) between northern boundary of the District of Squamish to the southern boundary of the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

Callaghan Road between the northwest corner of the Resort Municipality of Whistler to the gate at the Whistler Olympic Park.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS!

In-season regulation changes are posted on the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Synopsis website

Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of current regulations. Please check our website for in-season changes before your hunt: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis>.

Or subscribe to the Corrections and Updates page. See Page 1 for details.

WHAT IS "WILDLIFE"?

- » All native species of animals in the province, excluding invertebrates and fish as well as several non-native species, have been designated as wildlife, giving them full protection under provisions of the *Wildlife Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 488. These species may not be hunted, killed, captured, kept as pets or used for commercial purposes unless specifically allowed by regulation or by authority of a permit.
- » Schedule B and C wildlife are known to destroy property and/or are detrimental to native wildlife. These species have fewer restrictions regulating their hunting, killing or capturing. Any capture or killing of these species must still abide by provincial laws regarding the humane treatment of animals.
- » Schedule B lists animals that may be captured or killed on private land only for the specific purpose of protecting property; no hunting licence or open season is required. On Crown land a person must abide by the open seasons for Schedule B species (see Regional Schedules for open seasons). Schedule B species include coast mole, snowshoe hare, lemmings, bushy-tailed woodrat, deer mice, porcupine, northern pocket gopher, yellow-bellied marmot, woodchuck, Columbian ground squirrel, striped skunk, raccoon, and spotted skunk.
- » For all Schedule C species there are no closed seasons or bag limits. Furthermore, there are no requirements to remove edible portions or report the killing to an officer. Schedule C birds may be hunted using electronic calls.
- » You do not need a hunting licence to capture, hunt or kill the following Schedule C wildlife: American bullfrog, green frog, snapping turtles, North American opossum, eastern cottontail, European rabbit, nutria, gray squirrels, fox squirrels, house sparrow, European starling, and rock dove (domestic pigeon).
- » **You do need** a hunting licence to hunt the following Schedule C wildlife **UNLESS** you are hunting them on your property or they are damaging your property: Northwestern Crow, American Crow, black-billed magpie, brown-headed cowbird.
- » Feral Pigs (see definition section): a hunting licence is required to hunt feral pigs on Crown land. It is an offence to possess or transport a live feral pig with the exception of a person who was the owner of the feral pig, or an agent of the owner, for the purpose of recapture and returning it to captivity or control.
- » All other hunting related regulations apply, for example, prohibited hours for hunting, motor vehicle restrictions/prohibitions, no hunting areas, no shooting areas, prohibition on trafficking in wildlife meat, etc.
- » If a person injures wildlife listed in Schedule B or C, the person must kill that wildlife.

EAR TAGS AND COLLARS

- » Please **DO NOT AVOID** hunting animals with ear tags or collars, **unless specified under regional sections** in the synopsis. This will ensure that biologists acquire accurate data on mortality rates. If you kill a marked animal, please contact your local Ministry office with the number on the ear tag or collar because the meat may not be safe to eat if immobilization drugs were used. Ear tags and collars must be returned to the Ministry office.

ILLEGAL GUIDING

- » The *Wildlife Act* defines "guide" as: "a person who for compensation or reward received or promised, accompanies and assists another person to hunt wildlife".

- » It is unlawful to act as, or offer to act as, a guide for fish or game for compensation or reward unless licensed to do so.
- » A person must possess a valid British Columbia Guide Outfitter Licence or Assistant Guide Authorization in order to legally guide hunters. The government licences guides to ensure that their activities can be closely monitored and regulated.
- » MoE intends to increase its enforcement efforts to stop illegal guiding. A person who guides without the proper authorization commits an offence. A person who uses the services of an illegal guide may, as a party to the offence, be charged and convicted of the same offence.

ILLEGAL TRANSPORTING

- » The definition of "transporter" in the *Wildlife Act* Commercial Activities Regulation is: a person who, for money or other compensation, transports a hunter to, from or between locations so that the hunter can hunt but does not include a person who operates a scheduled commercial flight or a chartered aircraft unless the person also provides ground transportation, accommodation or other ground services to the hunter.
- » A person must not act as a transporter unless the person holds a transport licence or a guide outfitter licence issued under section 15 of the *Wildlife Act*.

IT'S UNLAWFUL

1. To be in possession of a big game animal without a properly cancelled species licence or otherwise by licence, permit, or a provided by regulation. Any person who kills any big game species must immediately after the kill and before handling the big game killed, cancel the appropriate species licence in accordance with the instructions on that licence.
2. To use another person's licence or to loan or transfer any licence under any circumstance.
3. To make a false statement to an Officer, Conservation Officer, or Constable.
4. To capture, possess or keep in captivity any live wildlife without a permit.
5. To possess or wantonly take, injure or destroy a bird, egg, or the nest of a bird except those designated by regulations (i.e., crows, house sparrows, cowbirds, magpies, rock doves or European starlings or their egg or nest).
6. To buy or sell migratory birds (or their eggs or nest).
7. To traffic in live wildlife, wildlife meat or offer to do so except as authorized by permit.
8. To traffic in dead wildlife or a part of wildlife except when the wildlife was lawfully killed in B.C. during an open season under the *Wildlife Act* or lawfully brought into B.C., or when trafficking in cast antlers or when the wildlife or part of wildlife has been processed into a product that no longer resembles the original wildlife or part.
9. To dump, discard or dispose of litter.
10. To shoot, hunt or capture any hawk, falcon, owl or eagle except under permit.
11. To deface any notice posted under authority of the *Wildlife Act*.
12. To damage or interfere with a lawfully set trap.
13. To hunt a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group with one or more kids.
14. To hunt a Black Bear less than 2 years old or any bear in its company.
15. To hunt the white or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the Black Bear.
16. To hunt a cougar kitten (any cougar with spots or under 1 yr of age) or any cougar accompanying it.
17. To hunt a lynx or bobcat accompanied by one or more lynx or bobcat.
18. To kill or wound wildlife by accident or to protect life or property and fail to promptly report the killing to an Officer.
19. To kill wildlife while in the process of committing offences against any statute including, but not limited to, the *Wildlife Act*. Examples would be wildlife taken while trespassing on private property or on mine property in violation of the Mine Safety Code.
20. To intentionally feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife (cougar, coyote, wolf, and bear), except when lawfully engaged in hunting or trapping where baiting is authorized (cougar, coyote and wolf only).
21. To hunt bears by placing bait or by using a dead animal or using part of it as bait.
22. To shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle or a boat propelled by a motor.
23. To hunt migratory birds from a power boat, unless the boat is beached, resting at anchor or fastened within or tied immediately along side a fixed hunting blind.
24. To use a power boat, aircraft, or motor vehicle or other mechanical device to herd or harass wildlife.
25. To hunt, take, wound or kill big game while it is swimming unless it has been previously wounded.
26. To hunt big game with any weapon other than a rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader or bow (includes longbow or crossbow).
27. To discharge, carry or have in possession a firearm containing live ammunition in its breech or in its magazine attached to the firearm, in or on a railway car, motor vehicle, sleigh, aircraft, bicycle or other conveyance.
28. To carry a cocked crossbow in or on a vehicle, or to discharge a bow from a vehicle of any kind.
29. To use a wireless camera for the purposes of hunting from Aug. 1 to Dec. 10, **except in Region 1** (see page 20 for further details).
30. To hunt or transport hunters or wildlife by a helicopter.
31. To use a helicopter while on a hunting expedition.
32. To hunt wildlife from an aircraft or within 6 hours of being airborne in an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft.
33. To hunt using information on the location of wildlife that is obtained by means of an aircraft.
34. To share or assist in sharing, information on the location of wildlife that is obtained by means of an aircraft, and shared for the purpose of hunting wildlife.
35. To operate, possess or use information that a drone obtains during a hunting expedition, or less than 6 hours before the start of a hunting or trapping expedition.
36. To hunt migratory game birds from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
37. To hunt game, except migratory game birds from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. To find out the time of sunrise and sunset, consult a local newspaper or the following website www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/sunrise/index.html. The responsibility remains with the hunter to make the determination of sunrise and sunset in the field based on existing terrain and circumstances.
38. To hunt wildlife by the use of, or with the aid of a light or illuminating device.
39. To use or possess infrared optics on a hunting expedition.

DURING YOUR HUNT

40. To use poison for the hunting, trapping, taking or killing of any wildlife.
41. To use recorded or electronic calls to hunt wildlife except Wolf, Coyote, Cougar, Lynx, or bobcat or any bird listed in Schedule C (see "What is Wildlife?" Section).
42. To use live birds as decoys or recorded bird calls to hunt game birds.
43. To hunt migratory game birds within 400 m of any place where bait has been deposited unless that place has been free of bait for at least 7 days.
44. To kill wildlife (with the exception of a fur bearing animal other than a Black Bear) and fail to remove from the carcass the edible portions (see definitions section) to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. A person who kills wildlife is exempted from the requirement to remove the edible portions if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to a recipient who complies with the requirement. Edible portions do not include meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking. Of a furbearing animal other than a Black Bear, the hide and/or edible portions must be removed to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter, the owner or operator of a cold storage plant or to a taxidermist, tanner or a fur trader. A person who kills a furbearing animal is exempted from the requirement to remove the hide if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to another person who complies with the requirement.
45. To interfere with or obstruct a person licensed or permitted to hunt, guide or trap while that person is lawfully so engaged.
46. To hunt wildlife with a handgun.
47. To hunt game while accompanied by, or with the use or aid of, domestic goats or sheep province-wide and camelids in Regions 6, 7A, and 7B (excluding Haida Gwaii), including as pack animals.
48. To possess and or traffic in bear galls, including any part or derivative of the gall bladder (or bile), and male bear genitalia (hunters are not committing an offense if they remove the gall bladder from the carcass and leave the gall bladder at the kill site, or, if they move the bear from the kill site and they, within 48 hours, dispose of the gut pile including the gall bladder).
49. To traffic in bear paws separated from the carcass or hide, although possession of bear paws under lawful authority of a licence or permit is allowed for personal and ceremonial use.
50. To possess the head, hide, hoof, spinal column, internal organ or mammary gland of any animal of the family Cervidae (deer, elk, moose) that was killed outside British Columbia. Possession of an out-of-province Cervidae hide that has been treated in a manner that removes all tissue or antlers or parts of skulls that have had all tissues removed is permitted.
51. To use, for the purpose of hunting wildlife, any part or derivative of a deer, elk, moose or caribou if the part or derivative originated from outside British Columbia.
52. To hunt without carrying all species licences, including cancelled species licences, issued during the licence year.
53. A person is not permitted to hunt on cultivated land or on Crown land which is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock, without the consent of the owner, lessee or occupant of the land.
54. To alter or tamper with horns or antlers of wildlife harvested during an antler/horn restricted season (i.e. spike-fork moose, full curl sheep, 6 pt. elk) until the carcass is given to a meatcutter or owner/operator of a cold storage plant, or arrives at the person's normal dwelling place.

LEGAL HUNTING METHODS

Check regional sections for open seasons, additional restrictions and regional bag limits.

Firearms

- » It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm that has an electronically controlled firing mechanism.
- » It is unlawful to use a firearm that is designed, altered or intended to be aimed and fired by the action of one hand **OR** that has a barrel less than 305 mm in length.
- » It is unlawful to hunt or trap with a rifle using a full metal jacketed non-expanding bullet, or a tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullet.
- » It is unlawful to hunt or trap with a shotgun using a tracer or incendiary shot shell.
- » It is unlawful to hunt or trap with a set gun or with a pump, repeating or auto loading shotgun unless the magazine contains a plug that is incapable of holding more than 2 cartridges. Where the use of a shotgun is allowed for hunting or trapping big game, an unplugged shotgun holding more than 2 cartridges and firing single projectiles only (slugs) may be used.
- » A muzzle loader containing powder and shot in the barrel but unprimed (i.e., no powder in the pan of a flint lock or no cap in the nipple of a percussion lock) is not considered a loaded firearm under the Criminal Code (Canada).

Retrieval

- » No person shall kill, cripple or wound game without making all reasonable effort to locate, dispatch, retrieve and include it in their bag limit.
- » It is lawful for a person to retrieve a dead or injured game animal with the assistance of a power boat provided no person in the power boat is in possession of a loaded firearm.

Falconry

- » Falconers, with a valid possession permit, may hunt small game with the use or aid of raptors throughout the Province during the regular open season or during bow only seasons subject to the applicable bag limits as indicated in the regional schedules, as long as they have acquired the necessary hunting licence(s).

Dogs

- » The use of dogs is permitted in the hunting of all game, but dogs must be on a leash when used to hunt deer, elk, moose, mountain sheep, mountain goat and caribou. Unleashed dogs may be used to hunt small game, lynx, bobcat, black bear, or cougar. Any person may train dogs by allowing them, under supervision, to pursue game birds from Aug 1- Apr 30.
- » It is unlawful to cause or allow dogs to pursue furbearers under the authority of a trapping licence.

PROVINCIAL BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS

- » It is unlawful to continue to hunt game species on a day in which the daily bag limit of that species has been taken, or, on the day or subsequent to the day in which the seasonal bag limit for that species of game has been taken.
- » In the regional schedules, NBL means No Bag Limit (no maximum number of a species or type of wildlife that a person may take or kill)
- » An entry such as "2(1)" used for ungulates means the season bag limit is two animals of that species, one of which may be antlerless. An entry such as "10(20)" for game birds means the daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20.
- » The table on the next page indicates the maximum number of animals which a hunter may take in the province in one licence year (April 1 to March 31). Exceptions to the provincial bag limits may apply to some species in some regions. Provincial bag limits may be achieved by hunting in one or more regions provided the regional bag limits are not exceeded.
- » For information on bag limits and possession limits for ducks, brant, coot, snipe, geese, mourning doves, Eurasian collared doves, and band-tailed pigeons visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries/british-columbia.html>.
- » The possession limit for all **upland game birds** while hunting or returning from hunting is three times the daily limit except for Sharp-tailed Grouse (Regions 3, 5, and 7B) and pheasants (Region 4 only) where the possession limit is two times the daily limit.

LEGAL HUNTING METHODS AND PROVINCIAL BAG LIMITS

Note: Some hunts and areas have specific restrictions. See regional sections for descriptions	FIREARMS				ARCHERY	PROVINCIAL BAG LIMITS (APPLIES TO ALL LICENCED HUNTERS)
	RIFLES			SHOTGUNS		
	AIR	RIMFIRE	CENTREFIRE			
BIG GAME						
Bison	No	No	Yes ⁷	No	Bow E	1
Black Bear ⁶	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	2*
Bobcat	Yes ⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	5*
Caribou	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Cougar	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	2*
Deer	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	3* (see Deer Licences section)
Elk	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Lynx	Yes ⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	1
Moose	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Goat	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Sheep	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Wolf	Yes ⁸	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	3*
Wolverine	Yes ⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	1
SMALL GAME						
Upland Game Birds	Yes	Yes ²	Yes ³	Yes	Bow B, C, D	Turkey (Region 4* and 8* Upland Game Birds (see page 12)
Other Small Game (includes Coyote)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Coyote ¹	Bow B, C, D	Snowshoe Hare (10/day) Raccoon, Skunk, Coyote (NBL)*
MIGRATORY BIRDS						
Migratory Game Birds	For information on legal hunting methods visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html See page 12.					
* SEE REGIONS' SECTIONS FOR REGIONAL BAG LIMIT. REGIONAL BAG LIMITS APPLY TO ALL LICENCED HUNTERS.						

NOTES

- shotgun must have a bore size of 20 gauge or larger and use shells of shot size No. 1 Buck or larger.
- grouse, ptarmigan, or turkey only.
- grouse or ptarmigan only.
- bear may not be hunted by placing bait or by using a dead animal or part of it as bait
- ammunition to hunt bison must be constructed with a 175 grain or larger bullet, which retains 2,712 joules (2,000 ft lbs) or more energy at 100 m.
- must be .35 caliber or larger.

A person may snare snowshoe hare during the open season if they have a hunting licence and completed the trapper education course. The snare must be non-braided, no heavier than 20 gauge, and without a locking device.

ARCHERY

Bow A (Crossbow) (does not include compound crossbow) - Must have a pull of no less than 68 kg (150 lbs) or a bolt (quarrel) weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, the bolt (quarrel) must have a broadhead of at least 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at the widest point.

Bow B (Crossbow) (does not include compound crossbow) - Must have pull of no less than 55 kg (120 lbs) or a bolt (quarrel) weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, the bolt (quarrel) must have a broadhead of at least 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at the widest point.

Bow C (Compound Crossbow) - Must have pull of no less than 45 kg (100 lbs) at a peak weight or bolt weighing no less than 16.2 g (250 grains). For big game, must have an arrow with a broadhead at least 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at the widest point.

Bow D (Longbow, Recurve, Compound) - Must have pull of no less than 18 kg (40 lbs) within the archer's draw length. For big game, must have an arrow with a broadhead at least 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at the widest point.

Bow E (Bison only) - For bison, the bow (does not include compound crossbow) must have a pull no less than 22.6 kg (50 lbs) within the archer's draw length, an arrow greater than 26 g (400 grains) in weight, and a broadhead greater than 8.1 g in weight and 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at its widest point.

NOTICE! SHOT BAN

The use of toxic (lead) shot for hunting waterfowl has been prohibited in British Columbia since 1995 and in Canada since 1997. The ban applies to all ducks, geese, coots and snipe. It does not apply to upland game birds (grouse, ptarmigan, quail, partridge, pheasants, and turkey), migratory upland game birds (pigeons, doves), ravens (where seasons exist), or target shooting, although a local restriction may be implemented if there is a conflict with an important wetland.

Federal regulations currently identify steel shot, bismuth shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-bronze-iron shot, tin shot, tungsten - matrixshot, and tungsten-polymer shot as the only non-toxic shot permitted for use on waterfowl, coot, and snipe. Hunters are advised to contact the CWS Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta (604-350-1950) for more details.

DEER BAG LIMITS

One of the most common questions that wildlife staff receive is about deer bag limits and deer species licences. On the surface it seems confusing, with provincial bag limits vs. regional bag limits, buck limits vs. antlerless bag limits, aggregate bag limits, individual bag limits for species, and species licences for mule (black-tailed) and white-tailed deer. Once the system is broken down into its parts it is straight forward.

There are two classes of bag limits, Provincial and Regional, neither of these bag limits can be exceeded.

① **The Provincial bag limit for deer is 3** (not including Haida Gwaii). Hunters may not harvest more than 3 deer in one licence year, **but only 1 may be a mule (black-tailed) deer buck from Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, and 8 combined.** Hunters may harvest 3 white-tailed deer (if they purchase 3 white-tailed deer licenses), or 3 mule (black-tailed) deer (if they purchase 3 mule (black-tailed) deer licenses), or a combination of white-tailed and mule (black-tailed) deer (1+2 or 2+1) providing they do not exceed the provincial limit of 3 **and not more than 1 mule (black-tailed) deer buck from Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, and 8 combined.** The reason hunters may purchase more than 3 deer licenses in total is to provide hunters with the flexibility to harvest any combination of white-tailed or mule (black-tailed) deer up to a maximum of 3.

② Regional bag limits are implemented to limit the number of a species or sex of deer that may be harvested per hunter per year in response to local conditions. If a hunter harvests the maximum number of a species or sex of deer within a region, they can no longer hunt deer within that region. They can, however, continue to hunt and harvest deer in other regions until they reach the provincial bag limit of 3.

The following table outlines the provincial and regional bag limits for deer. Deer bag limits on Haida Gwaii are not covered in this article, as they are a unique case.

Region	Mule (Black-tailed Deer)			White-tailed Deer			Combined All Deer	
	Bucks	Antlerless	Total	Bucks	Antlerless	Total	Regional Bag Limit	Provincial Bag Limit
*1	2	2	3	0	0	0	3	3
*2	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	
3	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	
4		0	1	1	1	2	2	
5		1	2	1	1	2	3	
**6		1	2	1	1	2	3	
7A		1	1	1	1	2	3	
7B		1	1	1	1	2	2	
8		1	1	1	1	2	3	

Hunters cannot harvest deer in excess of the sex, species, regional, or provincial bag limits

* Some exceptions apply

** Table does not include deer bag limit for Haida Gwaii, see Region 6 - Skeena section

RECORD OF RECEIPT FOR TRANSPORTING WILDLIFE

Date: _____ Place of Receipt: _____

Species: _____ Species Sex: _____

Name, Address and phone of person who killed the animal: _____

Fish and Wildlife Identification Number of person who killed the animal: _____

Species Licence Number under which the animal was taken: _____

Name and Address of the person to whom the wildlife parts are to be delivered: _____

Signature of hunter: _____ Witness: _____

For wildlife or parts of wildlife destined for taxidermists, tanners, meatcutters, fur traders and cold storage plant operators the following information is required.

Date of kill: _____

Fish and Wildlife Identification Number: _____ Compulsory Inspection Number (if applicable): _____

In addition to the above, a meatcutter or an operator of a cold storage plant, must immediately upon receiving wildlife or wildlife parts, record what was received, whether directly or through an agent, describing:

Species: _____ Species Sex: _____

Management Unit in which the species was harvested: _____

ROYALTY FEES

- » It is unlawful to offer for sale the pelt or skin from a furbearing animal taken under a hunting licence in a prescribed open season unless a royalty on the pelt or skin has been paid to the Province. If the hunter sells the pelt of a furbearing animal to a licensed Fur Trader, they are exempt from paying the royalty.
- » Every holder of a valid hunting licence who lawfully kills a furbearing animal is exempt from paying the prescribed royalty fee unless he offers the pelt for sale. See current Trapping Regulations for royalty fees. Payment of a royalty fee is required only upon the initial sale of the pelt. Furbearing animals may only be hunted where an open hunting season is declared.
- » The permit holder who accompanies a non-resident and/or non-resident alien (see Definitions section) under a Permit to Accompany must submit royalty fees, within 30 days after the hunt has ended, for each animal taken by the non-resident and/or non-resident alien. See website for list of royalty fees portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca.
- » A guide outfitter is exempt from having to pay royalty fees (Section 69 of the *Wildlife Act*) in relation to animals taken by a resident hunter guided by or on behalf of the guide outfitter.
- » Royalty fee payments may be submitted by mail or courier with cheque (payable to the Minister of Finance), money order or credit card to any FrontCounter BC location. Locations available at portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca.

POSSESSION & TRANSPORTATION

Game Birds

- » Anyone who possesses or transports a game bird must leave attached to the carcass one feathered wing and for turkey, the beard, if harvested during a bearded turkey only season.

Big Game

- » It is unlawful to possess or transport a big game animal that was killed unintentionally, by accident or collision, or was illegally killed.
- » Anyone who possesses or transports the carcass or part of the carcass of the following animals must leave naturally attached to the carcass or one part of the carcass in the person's possession the following listed parts:

A person must, while returning from hunting, keep the antlers or horns, **naturally attached to a portion of the upper skull**, of wildlife killed during an antler/horn restricted season (e.g., 6 pt, full curl, spike-fork, etc.) and the species licence under which the wildlife was killed, together and available for inspection by an officer. **Note - it is an offence to alter or tamper with antlers/horns of wildlife taken during an antler/horn restricted season (see the "it's unlawful" section).**

- ❶ For **caribou, elk or moose**, the animal's tail or another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm², AND:
 - i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis,
 - ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats.

- ❷ For **deer**, the unskinned tail, AND:
 - i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis,
 - ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder and teats.
- ❸ For **bison, mountain goat or mountain sheep**:
 - i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis.
 - ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats.
- » The above sections (1) - (3) do not apply if a person possesses a portion of a carcass or hide which they did not kill, provided that:
 - ❶ they possess the portion of carcass or hide for the purpose of transporting it to their residence, a meatcutter, a cold storage plant or a Compulsory Inspector, AND
 - ❷ they have a Record of Receipt as described in the Transporting Wildlife section (page 14), AND
 - ❸ the person who killed the wildlife possesses a portion of the carcass or hide with the parts attached as described in sections (1) - (3) on this page.

Removing Evidence of Sex & Species

Evidence of species and sex may be removed from the carcass or the hide of game:

- » after it arrives at a person's normal dwelling place and is butchered and stored there for consumption on the premises,
- » after it is taken to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant, or
- » after it has been inspected by a qualified Compulsory Inspector.

Transporting Wildlife

All persons who possess, transport or ship wildlife meat or parts of wildlife within the Province of British Columbia must have with them the species licence under which the animal was taken by that person, or, if the animal was taken by another person, a Record of Receipt of the wildlife (see page 14) showing:

- » the date and place of receipt,
- » the name and address of the person who killed the animal, or from whom it was acquired,
- » the name and address of the person to whom the wildlife parts are to be delivered,
- » the Fish and Wildlife ID or permit number of the person who killed the animal,
- » the species licence number under which the animal was taken, and
- » the species and sex of the animal taken.

Anyone having wildlife butchered and packaged should obtain from the butcher a receipt which indicates:

- » the Fish and Wildlife ID, the species licence number, and the species, and sex of the animal taken.

DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES OR WILDLIFE PARTS

- » Carcasses or part of a carcass of an animal or fish are included in the *Wildlife Act* definition of an attractant. Other than for the purpose of hunting in accordance with the provisions of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations, it is prohibited to provide, leave,

or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises where there are or where there are likely to be people in a manner in which the attractant could attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises and be accessible to dangerous wildlife. A person that commits an offence under this provision is liable, on a first conviction, to a fine up to \$50,000 and/or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

Game Check

- » All hunters, with or without game, when encountering temporary checking stations operated by an officer, are required by law to stop and report. Their compliance with wildlife and firearms laws will be determined.

EXPORT FROM THE PROVINCE

- » It is unlawful to export wildlife from B.C. unless you have a valid export permit or are exempted from holding an export permit
- » An export permit is required if the animal is exported more than 1 year after the date of kill.
- » An export permit is required if the hunter does not accompany their animal while exporting it from the Province, regardless of the date of kill.
- » An export permit is not required if the hunter accompanies their big game within 1 year of the kill AND provides the cancelled species licence and (where Compulsory Inspection is required) the Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet.
- » An export permit is not required if the export of the animal originates in a jurisdiction outside of B.C., is only transported through B.C. to its final destination outside of B.C. and the export documentation from the originating jurisdiction accompanies the animal.
- » In the case of an animal covered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S.), a C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit may be required (see C.I.T.E.S. section for list of animals requiring C.I.T.E.S. Export Permits). U.S. residents, please refer to C.I.T.E.S. section for additional information on Black Bear exports.
- » Hunters planning to hunt in MUs 7-19 or 7-20 and accessing B.C. by way of the Alberta border should contact FrontCounter BC (see page 18) to obtain export permits for Compulsory Inspection species prior to starting their hunt.
- » When a big game animal has been processed by a taxidermist, a tanner or meatcutter, it may be exported with an export permit to the hunter who lives in another province or in another country.
- » British Columbia is part of a North American system of recording wild sheep identification and hence all sheep horns harvested in the province must be inspected by a qualified Compulsory Inspector and a numbered plug inserted in one of the horns.
- » Where a hunter or taxidermist, tanner, or meatcutter has any doubt or questions about how to proceed under any circumstances which are not covered in the foregoing, the hunter should should contact the Fish and Wildlife Branch or a Ministry regional office as soon as possible.

AFTER YOUR HUNT

- » Hunters possessing a moose, mountain goat, mountain sheep, or caribou harvested in B.C., who must drive through the Yukon and back into B.C. in order to submit the animal for Compulsory Inspection, are exempt from obtaining an export permit for this purpose.

CITES EXPORT

- » The "Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species" (CITES) requires that a CITES Export Permit be obtained for the export out of Canada of all bears, cougar, lynx, bobcat, wolf, sea otter, or river otter or parts of these animals. Such permits leaving Canada directly from B.C. may be obtained by applying to portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca. For assistance with your application contact FrontCounter at 1-877-855-3222. For all other CITES listed species contact CITES Canada directly at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/permits/application-forms.html>.
- » A person who is ordinarily a resident of the United States may export a Black Bear hunted by the person, if it is in a fresh, frozen or salted condition and the person is exporting only the hide, the hide with paws and claws attached, the skull, or the meat excluding any organs, without obtaining a CITES Export Permit.

TAXIDERMISTS, TANNERS, MEATCUTTERS, FUR TRADERS AND COLD STORAGE PLANT OPERATORS

- » Many hunters wish to have trophies mounted for display in their homes, or to have the hides tanned for leather and other articles, while an even larger number use the services of a professional meatcutter or cold storage plant operator. These businesses are required under the *Wildlife Act* and regulations to keep records of their transactions.
- » The regulations state that the following information must be recorded:
 - (a) the total number of wildlife or parts of them of each species acquired,
 - (b) the date of receipt of the wildlife or parts of them,
 - (c) the name and address of the person from whom wildlife or parts of them were acquired, and
 - (d) the legal authority that the person claims to have to possess the wildlife or parts of them.

For example, the serial number, date and type of licence under which the wildlife or part of it was taken.

- » In addition to the above, a meatcutter or an operator of a cold storage plant, must immediately upon receiving wildlife or wildlife parts, record what was received, whether directly or through an agent, describing:
 - (a) the species and sex of the wildlife or wildlife parts, and
 - (b) the Management Unit from which the wildlife or wildlife parts were taken.
- » In order to fulfill these requirements, when the hunter takes the parts of the animal to the business concerned, the person must have the following documentation with them:
 1. The hunter's hunting and species licences with the appropriately cancelled species licence.

2. Limited Entry Hunting Authorization, if required in order to hunt the animal.
 3. Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet, which confirms that the animal has been inspected by a *Wildlife Act* officer, where such an inspection is required.
 4. The person's trapping licence, if the animal was taken under that authority.
 5. The valid permit that allows possession of the animal if a permit is required in exceptional circumstances.
- » Presentation of this documentation helps to protect the recipient, i.e., the taxidermist, tanner or meatcutter, from prosecution for illegal possession; it is required by law, and a "paper trail" exists should an investigation be required. In addition, some taxidermists, as agents for their clients, present the necessary parts of game animals for Compulsory Inspection by a *Wildlife Act* officer, when the hunter is unable to do so personally. In such cases it is mandatory that the hunter provide the taxidermist with all the information required for the inspection, including the location of the kill. If such information cannot be produced by an agent, then the animal may be seized by a conservation officer or constable until all the documentation is provided. Difficulties in such situations occur often enough that hunters should take special care to ensure that all information is available to an inspecting officer.

NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TAXIDERMISTS AND TANNERS

Effective April 1, 2018 a taxidermist or tanner who receives a grizzly bear or grizzly bear parts for processing MUST report to government within 10 days of receipt by recording details in a special online grizzly bear registry. For instructions, please see the Quick Reference Guide titled "How to Submit a Grizzly Bear Registry Report" on the Hunting in B.C. website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/quick-reference/quick-reference-taxidermy.pdf>.

The requirement to record and report grizzly does not require reporting to government of all grizzly parts that are part of an existing inventory held prior to April 1, 2018. It applies only to all grizzly bear or parts of grizzly bear received on or after April 1, 2018 whether directly or through an agent.

A taxidermist or tanner may also visit a FrontCounter BC office in person to access the online registry to report the parts they have received. Do not take the parts to the FrontCounter BC office.

SUBMITTING YOUR HUNTER SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

- » The single largest source of hunter activity and game harvest information is the annual Hunter Sample Questionnaire. Every January, a large portion of the B.C. residents who have purchased a hunting licence in the previous year are sent a questionnaire referring to the species for which a particular licence was purchased. Hunters who have purchased several species licences may receive questionnaires for more than one species and are asked to respond. Replies from those who did not hunt that season, or who were unsuccessful, are just as valuable to wildlife managers as the information from hunters who did have successful hunts. In addition to

the standard questionnaire procedure, the Fish and Wildlife Branch will contact some hunters by telephone.

- » Periodic game checks, Compulsory Inspection, and Compulsory Reporting all provide valuable information for wildlife managers across the province. From this information, managers can determine who is hunting, where they are hunting, and other important wildlife information.
- » This information enables managers to set specific hunting regulations on a year to year basis, reducing heavy harvests in some areas and extending the season in others, to ensure harvest sustainability and balance the needs of the animal population against the desires of the public.
- » Without adequate information, managers must set conservative harvest levels to ensure that an overharvest does not occur. The manager's choices are then limited to restricting harvest by closing areas, reducing season lengths, or applying Limited Entry Hunting.
- » It has been noticed that survey information submitted for upland game birds often contains errors misidentifying the MU location or species. Upland game bird hunters are asked to take care recording their harvest to help improve the quality of data received.
- » For more information on the Harvest Questionnaire, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/frequently-asked-questions>.
- » Good information makes for good game management and good hunting!

NOTICE!

A person must, while returning from hunting, keep the antlers or horns of wildlife killed during an antler/horn restricted season (e.g., 4 pt, 6 pt, full curl, spike-fork, etc.) and the species licence under which the wildlife was killed, together and available for inspection by an officer.

HANDLING GAME MEAT SAFELY

These general safety measures are recommended when handling game meat:

- ✓ Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick.
- ✓ Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing or handling any dead animal.
- ✓ Bone out the meat from your animal. Don't saw through bone if you can avoid it, and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal cord.
- ✓ Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- ✓ Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.

For more information on safe game meat handling please visit our [Wildlife Stewardship](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/frequently-asked-questions) website.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION AND REPORTING

Compulsory Inspection (CI) and Compulsory Reporting (CR) are a requirement for specific game species under the *Wildlife Act* Hunting Regulations. The CI process includes taking measurements and/or parts of the animals for scientific analysis and provides wildlife managers with valuable information about the class and condition of animals being harvested. CI in concert with other data collection methods enable managers to set more specific hunting regulations. Without adequate information, the risk of over harvests would increase, thereby requiring managers to set more conservative harvest levels to protect animal populations.

CIs for hunter harvest are provided in some regional offices and some are provided through independent, qualified inspectors throughout the province.

The inspector locations are listed on the regional maps of each region. **Appointments must be arranged by the hunter for all CIs.** For CI Centre's, see Regional Sections' frontpage maps.

For more information, please contact the appropriate Ministry Regional Office or the Ministry website www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION

Inspectors will only complete the CI if ALL information and parts are submitted and able to be collected. **Hunters are requested to submit unfrozen wildlife parts.** Hunters are not in legal possession of the wildlife unless they comply with CI requirements.

Except as noted, all CI species must be submitted to an inspector for the purpose of taking measurements or parts of the animal required for management (e.g., tooth) **within 30 days of the kill** (see note regarding trapping exemption in the last column).

The following species of game must be submitted to a regional CI location:

- mountain goat
- mountain sheep
- caribou
- cougar in any MU, see #5 in next column for extra requirements in regions 4 and 6
- elk in regions 1 and 2, and MUs 4-8, 4-9, 4-14 to 4-19, 4-27 to 4-33, 4-37 and 4-38, 5-2, 6-4, 6-8, and 6-9
- moose in regions 3 (spike-fork bull under the GOS only), 4, 8, and MUs 5-3 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-14, MUs 6-1 to 6-11, 6-15, 6-17 to 6-30, and **that portion of MU 7-52 accessed by Region 6 (see Map H31).**
- black bear in MUs 6-12 and 6-13
- lynx and bobcat in region 4, **5, and 8**

Information to be reported to a compulsory inspector for any species:

- The location and date of the killing or taking;
- The hunter's or taker's name, address, and telephone number;
- The species and sex of the animal killed or taken; and
- The licences and, if applicable, the limited entry hunting authorizations that authorized the taking or killing.

1. Mountain goat and mountain sheep must be submitted to a compulsory inspector within 30 days and before December 5 of the year of the kill, whichever occurs first.
2. Persons who gain the written approval from a Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Technician or Official prior to hunting can submit such animals for inspection within 30 days after the last day of the hunt.
3. Persons who use the service of a licensed guide for the purpose of hunting a caribou, or an elk in region 2, must submit such animals for inspection within 30 days after the last day of the hunt of the continuous season in which the animal was taken.
4. Persons who use the services of a licensed guide for the purpose of hunting a mountain goat, or mountain sheep must submit such animals for inspection within 30 days after the last day of the continuous season in which the animal was taken, and by December 5 of the year of the kill, whichever occurs first.
5. Persons who take a cougar in regions 4 or 6 must submit the animal for inspection, in the region where the cougar was killed, within 4 days after the date the cougar was killed.

PARTS REQUIRED

For mountain sheep (i.e., Dall's, Stone's, California or Rocky Mountain):

- the portion of the skull (**preferably skinned that includes, naturally attached to the skull**, the nasal bones, the entire eye-socket, the horns, and the associated connective bone structure,
- for thinhorn sheep (i.e., Dalls' and Stone's) an incisor tooth.



Note: The horns will have a numbered aluminum plug inserted by an officer.

For mountain goat:

- the horns and for males, a testicle or part of the penis; for females, a portion of the teats or mammary gland.

For black bear, lynx, cougar, and bobcat:

- the skull and the hide bearing:
- for males, a testicle or part of the penis, or
- for females, a portion of the teats or mammary gland.

For caribou:

- the incisor (front) tooth, the antlers, and for a caribou without at least one main beam measuring over 60 cm (24 inches) in length, the hide with evidence of sex **naturally** attached.

For elk and moose:

- an incisor (front) tooth, and
- for males, the antlers **naturally** attached to a portion of the upper skull, or
- for females, the upper portion of the skull or a portion of the teats or mammary gland.

COMPULSORY REPORTING

A person who takes or kills the following species in any Management Unit:

- **moose in region 7B other than that portion of**

MU 7-52 accessed by region 6, which is CI (see Map H31).

- lynx in regions 3, 6, 7A, or 7B
- wolverine
- bobcat in regions 2 and 3
- wolf in regions 1 and 2
- elk in MU 6-12 and 6-13
- feral pig anywhere in B.C.

must, within 30 days after the date of the kill, report:

- the location and date of the kill;
- the hunter's or taker's name, address, and telephone number;
- the number of days hunted before the animal was killed;
- the weapon type used for the kill;
- the animal class of the animal killed; and
- the licences that authorized the taking or killing.

There are three options to submit a Compulsory Report:

1. **Electronically in WILD from the licence on your FWID profile.**
2. **Submitted in person to any FrontCounter BC office portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca.**
3. By mail using an official CR form to:

Compulsory Reporting
PO Box 9374 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria BC V8W 9M4

Note: Tooth samples are not required for CR.

For more information on CI please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/compulsory-inspection>.

For more information on CR please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/compulsory-reporting>.

Note: A person authorized to trap is exempt from the requirements noted above with respect to furbearing animals taken by trapping. See [pages 72-73 for the CI and CR requirements for furbearing animals taken by trapping.](#)

COMPULSORY INSPECTIONS AND HUNTING DATA

- » The information obtained through compulsory inspections helps the Provincial Government to base decisions about wildlife management on sound science. All information an inspector receives on behalf of the province is confidential.
- » Compulsory inspection records begin in 1900 and are presented at the MU level. The species required to be inspected changes over time and varies by region, so not all species are represented in the dataset for the full period of record or for the entire province.
- » The compulsory inspection database contains information that is collected during these inspections. To learn more about the data collected or to access the Compulsory Inspection data, see **Hunting Data** or **DataBC**.

HOW TO EXTRACT AN INCISOR TOOTH FROM YOUR SHEEP, MOOSE, CARIBOU OR OTHER UNGULATES

An incisor tooth is required as part of completing your Compulsory Inspection for some species of ungulates (e.g., caribou, elk, moose, sheep) from specific parts of the province. The incisor tooth is used to determine the age of the animal, and therefore is a valuable management tool for assessing the population age structure, determining productivity, and understanding the impact of various harvest seasons on specific ages of animals.

Incisor teeth only occur at the front of the lower jaw of an ungulate. Their removal is easy and will not affect your opportunity to have the animal mounted for display by a taxidermist.

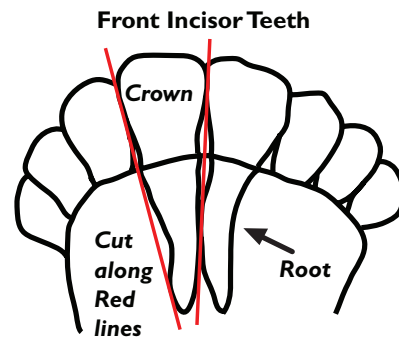
It is important that a middle incisor tooth is removed from the jaw properly so that the animal can be aged. Your assistance in taking care to properly remove an incisor tooth from the jaw, clean it and submit it is essential to ensuring an accurate estimate of the animal's age.

EXTRACTING THE TEETH

An incisor tooth can be easily extracted from a freshly killed ungulate. However, removing the tooth becomes much more difficult if the jaw has been dried (you may need to soak the jaw in warm water to rehydrate it, making removal easier).

To remove a tooth:

1. Cut down through the gum tissue on either side of the root with a thin-bladed sharp knife. It is preferred that you select one of the center teeth, as they have the largest developed root and offer the most accurate estimate of age.
2. Grasp the top of the tooth with your Leatherman or a pair of pliers and pull it out with a twisting motion. It is also often possible to simply push the tooth out with your thumb, if you have cut down deep enough into the gum. Clean off the soft tissue and any jaw bone material from the tooth. **Do not cut into the root or submit a tooth with a broken root as it is the root portion of the tooth that is used in aging.** If the jawbone has dried prior to tooth extraction, soften it by soaking in hot water and then carefully extract the intact tooth as described above.



IMPORTANT

- Please do not send entire jawbones.
- Please do not include soft tissue (gum tissue, muscle, hide) with the tooth.
- Please do not store your tooth in a plastic bag. Rather, place the cleaned tooth inside a paper envelope that will allow it to dry.
- Please also ensure your envelope is labelled for accurate identification.

HUNTER NOTICE Accidental Illegal Harvest

What should you do if you harvest an animal in error?

Mistakes happen. Either through poor judgement, inexperience or at times through a series of unavoidable circumstances, each year animals are mistakenly killed. Many are self reported but many more are left in the bush to rot. The Conservation Officer Service (COS) wants to encourage those who make such a mistake to come forward. In circumstances where such animals are recovered by the COS the meat will be distributed and utilized by those in need.

Hunters who self report such kills will be viewed in a different light than those who intentionally kill an illegal animal or fail to report the matter. The COS believes that the true test of a hunter is not

whether or not a mistake is made, but how the hunter deals with that mistake.

All self reported unlawful kills will be investigated and the appropriate action will be assessed by the officer.

What should you do?

Immediately cancel your species licence and mark in ink on the species licence page that your intention is to self report.

- If you have telephone service, call the RAPP number and seek direction from a Conservation Officer.
- If you are within close proximity of a phone but it will require some traveling, field dress that animal to prevent spoilage, leave the

carcass at the scene and go to a location where a call to the RAPP number can be made.

- If you are in a remote location and telephone contact is not possible, field dress that animal to prevent spoilage, care for the carcass until you enter a location where a phone call to the RAPP number can be made.

RAPP 1- 877-952-7277



BC MOOSE TRACKER APP

Play an important role in moose conservation and management with the BC Moose Tracker app.

The app allows hunters to upload information about the moose they encounter directly to a province-wide database, helping wildlife staff monitor moose populations and respond to emerging issues.

The BC Moose Tracker app was developed with support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the BC Wildlife Federation.

For more information and to download the BC Moose Tracker on iTunes, please visit: gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/moosetracker



WILDLIFE PERMITS & COMMERCIAL LICENCES

FrontCounter BC processes fish, wildlife, and park use permit applications through their 30 regional offices. FrontCounter BC office locations and contact information can be found on the FrontCounter BC website at portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca by clicking on the 'where' button. Clients can also contact the FrontCounter BC Contact Center with enquiries at 1-877-855-3222.