

HUNTING AND TRAPPING SYNOPSIS 2014 - 2016



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Coordinated White-tailed and Mule Deer Seasons
Hunting and Trapping Ethics
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REGION 1
VANCOUVER
ISLAND

REGION 2
LOWER
MAINLAND

REGION 3
THOMPSON

REGION 4
KOOTENAY

REGION 5
CARIBOO

REGION 6
SKEENA

REGION 7
OMINECA &
PEACE

REGION 8
OKANAGAN

For more information on the hunting and trapping regulations, call a Ministry Regional Office, Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Management Branch HQ Victoria, or the Conservation Officer Service using the numbers listed on the regional maps of each region. Service BC can provide toll free access to provincial government telephone numbers. Simply call Service BC and request a transfer to the number you wish to call:

- **Service BC**
from Vancouver604-660-2421
from Victoria 387-6121
elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867
- **Report a Poacher/Polluter (see page 26)** 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2014/15 hunting and trapping season! Hunting and trapping provides British Columbians an opportunity to get out into British Columbia's world-renowned backcountry and enjoy the natural wonders of our province. Hunting and trapping also support both direct and indirect jobs through the purchase of equipment and services including fuel, firearms, off road vehicles, camping gear, and lodging and food services to name just a few.

Hunter recruitment and retention continues to be a ministry priority, and in 2013 we surpassed our performance target of 100,000 basic licences sold annually, including 447 initiation hunting licences designed to encourage new hunters. We have also launched a program that will eventually allow hunting licences to be bought on line similar to how fishing licences are sold. Stay tuned for updates as this project progresses.

Hunters and trappers are some of our province's most ardent conservationists. You know that practising sustainable wildlife practices today will ensure hunting opportunities will be available to future generations. The Province shares these conservation values, and is committed to sustainably managing all game species in the province.

The ministry has recently launched a comprehensive study to determine what factors contributed to moose declines in some areas of the B.C. Interior, and what can be done to reverse them.

During the next five years, over 200 moose from five study areas in the province will be radio collared, their movements tracked and all mortalities will be investigated to determine cause of death.

In addition to targeted studies, the ministry continues to invest in wildlife inventories that improve our ability to manage big game populations, maximize hunting opportunity, inform resource development projects and ensure a sustainable harvest now and in the future.

Finally, I am pleased to note that the *Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Act* received Royal Assent in March 2014. The Act provides certainty, safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road enthusiasts. Implementation of the new laws will begin as early as fall 2014 and will help ensure these vehicles are driven in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and will help combat theft of ORVs. To learn more about the ORV Act, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv/ My sincere thanks to all the hunters, trappers, organizations and government staff for your continuing contributions and stewardship of wildlife resources in British Columbia, and all the best for a safe and enjoyable 2014-2016 Hunting and Trapping season.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2014-2016

- Liberalized black bear hunting seasons in the Thompson, Okanagan, Skeena and Omineca Regions.
- Coordinated and shortened spike-fork moose seasons in the Okanagan Region and portions of the Thompson Region.
- Harmonized restricted Mule Deer Seasons in the Kootenay Region and portions of the Okanagan Region.
- New Initiation Licence allows a person 18 years or older who has never previously held a hunting licence in B.C. to try hunting without having to complete CORE.
- Youth Licence expanded to ages 10 - 17.

New information or regulation changes are highlighted as green, bolded text.



YOU and THE LAW:

The British Columbia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis is intended for general information purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between this Synopsis and the Regulations, the Regulations are the final authority. Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the responsibility of an individual to be informed of the current Regulations.

RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF REGULATION CHANGES VIA RSS

We have adopted a new system for notifying hunters of in-season or recent regulation changes. RSS is an internet-based technology that allows users to sign up for instant web updates. It is a convenient way to be notified of changes to regulations. To sign up for this new service, visit the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch website, click on the RSS icon, and subscribe to the In-Season Regulation Changes feed.

www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/news/



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Front Cover

- Thomas Nilsson in North Eastern B.C. -
Ken McNolty, Photographer

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 or 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.

Arrow - means a slender shaft, which may be pointed at one end and may be feathered at the opposite end, for shooting from a bow.

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.

BC 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 BC 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 BC for the greater portion of each of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*.

Bearded Turkey - 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, grizzly bear, 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.

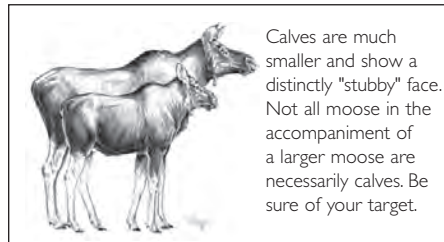
Brow Tine - means the first tine projecting forward or upward in the lower 1/3 of the antler of a moose, caribou, elk or deer.

Buck or Bull - with reference to deer; moose, or elk means one bearing visible bony antlers. Buck or Bull - with reference to caribou, means a male one year of age or older; bearing visible bony antlers.

Calf - means a moose, elk or caribou less than twelve (12) months of age.

Cow Moose - a female moose recognizable by having no antlers and being 6 feet at shoulder height weighing 600-800 lbs.

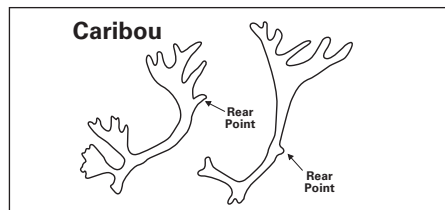
Calf Moose - a moose less than 12 months of age usually less than 5 feet at shoulder height weighing 200-300 lbs.



Calves are much smaller and show a distinctly "stubby" face. Not all moose in the accompaniment of a larger moose are necessarily calves. Be sure of your target.

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 unless otherwise indicated under the regional schedules.)

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

Deer Family - means moose, caribou, deer and elk.

Edible Portions - with respect to big game, excluding grizzly bear, cougar, wolf, lynx, bobcat and wolverine, means the edible portions of the four quarters and the loins of the animal and with respect to game birds, means the edible portions of both breasts of the bird.

Elk - Six Points or Greater Bull - means any bull having at least six tines on one antler.

Elk - Spike Bull - means a bull elk having antlers that are composed of a main beam from which there are no bony projections more than 2.5 cm in length.

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, ermine, weasel, wolverine, wolf or coyote.

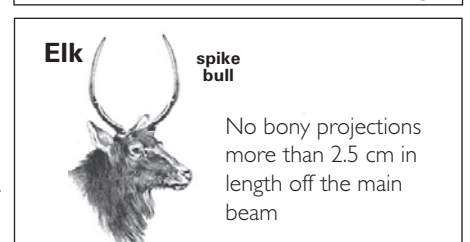
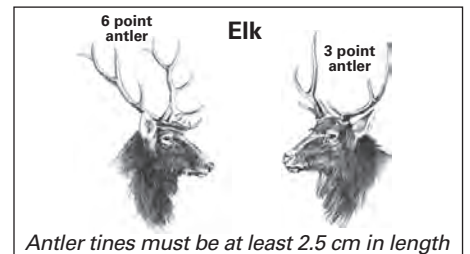
Game Bird - means any grouse, partridge, quail, pheasant, ptarmigan, migratory game bird, or wild turkey.

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.) in length.

Hunt & 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.

Licence Year - Hunting and Guide Licences - means the period from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. Trapping and Fur Trading Licences - means the period from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.



BEFORE YOUR HUNT

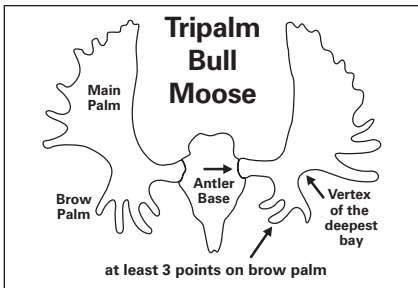
Loaded Firearm - means any firearm containing live ammunition in either the breech or the magazine. A clip containing live ammunition, when attached to the firearm, is considered as the magazine. **Muzzle loaders** - see page 17.

Migratory Game Birds - for which there may be an open season in BC 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.

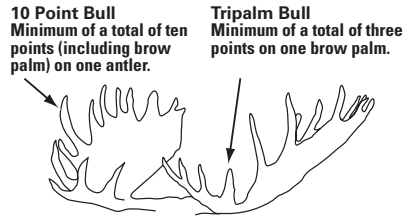
Moose - Spike-fork Bull - means a bull moose having no more than two tines on one antler. (Includes tines on main antler and brow palms.) Does not include a calf. See diagram.

Moose - 10 Point Bull - means a bull moose having at least one antler with a minimum of ten points (tines), including the tines on the brow palm. (See diagram and tine definition.)

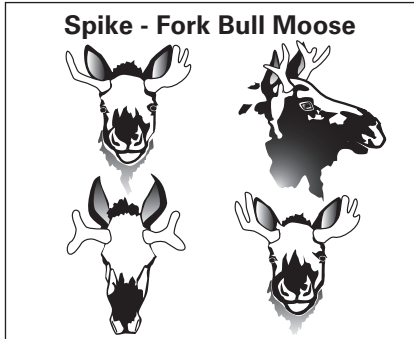
Moose - Tripalm Bull - means a bull moose having at least one antler with a brow palm bearing three or more points (tines). The brow palm is separated from the main palm by the deepest antler bay. The deepest bay is the bay whose vertex (deepest location) is the shortest distance from the antler base, 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.



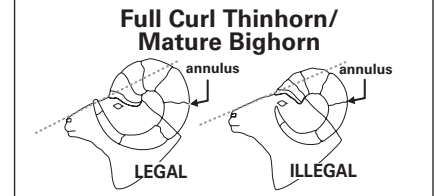
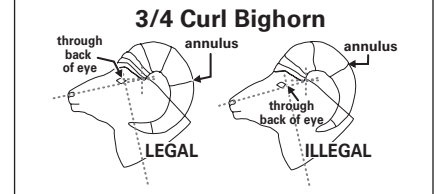
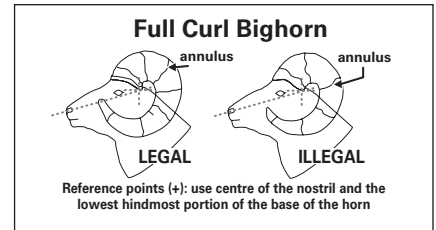
Note: Hunters must refer to the definition of a tine. The rounded protuberances at the top of the main palm on some moose may not constitute a point.



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

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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

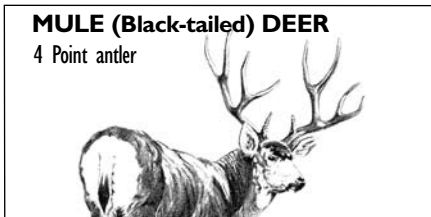
– means any bighorn ram mountain sheep whose horn tip, when viewed squarely from the side extends upwards beyond the forehead-nose bridge.

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:



Mule (Black-tailed) Deer - Three Points or Greater Buck

- means any buck having at least three 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 BC resident but who is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, or a person who is not a BC resident but whose only or primary residence is in Canada and has resided in Canada for the 12 month period immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*.

Non-Resident Alien means a person who is neither a BC resident nor a non-resident.

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.

Road Allowance - see definition, page 13.

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.

Spike Buck - means a male deer having antlers that are composed of a main beam from which there are no bony projections greater than 2.5 cm in length.

Tine or "Point" - means a branch of an antler which is longer than its breadth and is at least 2.5 cm 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 from the tip of the tine, and

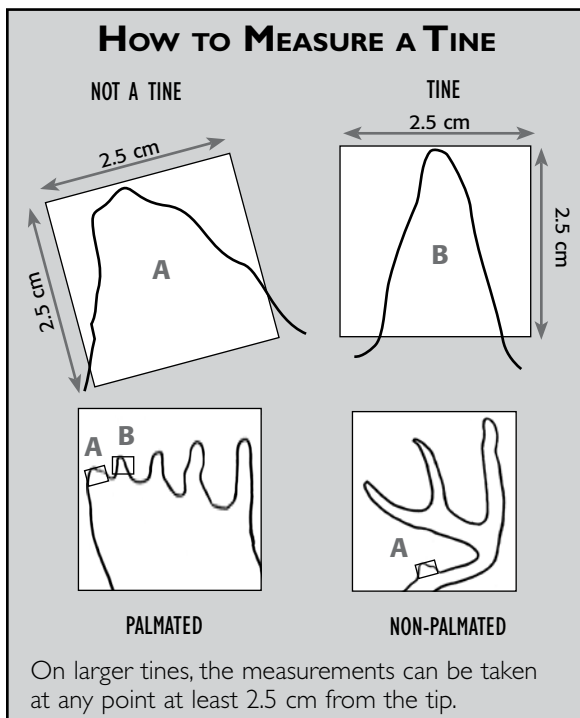
(b) the length of the tine is measured from its tip end, following the midline of the profile of the tine, and following the natural curvature of the tine, to the midpoint of the straight line along which the breadth is measured. (See How to Measure a Tine diagram below)

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 gallinaeous 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.



NOTICE!
TO HUNTERS

To enter, hunt over or trap in cultivated land, posted land or private property without the owner's permission is committing an offence. It is the responsibility of the hunter or trapper to be aware of the status of the land they hunt and to get permission from the land owner before accessing private land.

Sheep Hunting

Wild & Exotic Species

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HUNTER EDUCATION

▶ Since 1974, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) has been an educational program designed to ensure that prospective new hunters meet acceptable standards of knowledge and skill for safe and ethical participation in hunting. As of March 1, 1998, the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) accepted the responsibility for the delivery of the program and graduate record keeping. CORE graduates who are not a BCWF or affiliated club member are entitled to apply for a BCWF direct membership at half-price, including the Out-door 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 examina-

tion 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 \$10.00 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 used for CORE program delivery support.

- ▶ The course requires about 21 hours of self study and firearm handling practice based upon the CORE manual. Information on how to obtain the CORE manual and a list of certified CORE examiners is available from Service BC Centres, MFLNRO, the BCWF at 1-888-881-2293 or www.bcbwf.bc.ca
- ▶ For a Bowhunter Education Program course recognized throughout North America, contact: BC Archery Association, www.archeryassociation.bc.ca

BC RESIDENT HUNTER NUMBER

- ▶ A BC resident (see Definitions section) may only have and use one hunter number. If you lose your hunter number card, contact a Service BC in your area or the FW&HM Branch, Victoria to obtain a duplicate. DO NOT obtain a new hunter number, as this violates the *Wildlife Act* Regulations.
- ▶ It is important that the FW&HM Branch maintains accurate records of hunter addresses and hunter numbers particularly as they relate to Limited Entry Hunting, wildlife harvest and hunter effort data requested from hunters through reporting, inspection and surveys.
- ▶ A member of the Canadian Armed Forces enrolled in continuing full-time military service is eligible to obtain a HUNTER NUMBER after making his/her permanent residence in BC for 30 days immediately before applying for the licence/HUNTER Number. Proof of hunter safety training is a pre-requisite.
- ▶ If the holder of a hunter number card

changes his or her legal name, residential address or ceases to be a resident, he or she within 30 days of the address or name change or date at which they cease to be a resident, must notify the Director of the FW&HM Branch of the address change, provide a document evidencing the legal name change or on ceasing to be a resident, surrender their hunter number card to the Director of the FW&HM Branch. If a person who holds a BC resident hunter number card ceases to be a BC resident, the hunter number card is suspended as long as the person is not a resident. For correspondence, please inform us of changes by writing, quoting your Resident Hunter Number; at Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch, PO Box 9374, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9M4. See p. 40 for name/address change form.

OPEN SEASONS

- ▶ There is NO OPEN SEASON FOR ANY WILDLIFE – except as indicated 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 for big game, small game and game birds, the province is divided into Management Units (MUs). Hunting seasons are shown in regional schedules on the following pages. All season dates shown are inclusive.
- ▶ Where an open season does not apply to the entire Management Unit, a reference is given to maps showing the area and describing the applicable regulation.
- ▶ Published seasons in this Synopsis cease to be in effect in any area closed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and are in effect for the duration of the forest closure order.
- ▶ Hunting season dates may only be changed in season by order of the Minister. Such changes will be given local publicity. Check www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw for updates before your hunt.

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WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS

▶ Waterfowler Heritage Days (WHDs) for the hunting of ducks and geese occur province wide. Only young hunters at least 10 years of age and less than 18 years of age who have met all provincial requirements are permitted to hunt, and they must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. The adult hunter can accompany a maximum of 2 youth hunters. The adult hunter can guide and advise the young hunter but is not permitted to hunt. See individual regions for season dates. General open seasons in the regions are reduced by 2 days so that the overall number of hunting days for migratory game birds remains unchanged. Federal regulations have been amended to exempt young hunters from having to purchase the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit when participating in WHDs. Provincial regulations have been amended to exempt young hunters from having to purchase the provincial hunting licence or the junior hunting licence when participating in WHDs. In addition, youth at least 10 years of age and less than 18 years of age are exempt from the requirement to complete hunter safety training (CORE) prior to participating in WHDs. NOTE: Youth who wish to hunt ducks and geese outside of designated WHDs or who wish to hunt for any other species of game, must purchase the appropriate licence and, if 14 years of age or older, must complete CORE.

ABORIGINAL HUNTING

▶ The first priority of the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is to ensure the long-term conservation of wildlife populations and their habitats. The Ministry also recognizes that First Nations may establish aboriginal rights to harvest wildlife for sustenance (food, social and ceremonial purposes) in their traditional areas, and that treaty First Nations have treaty rights in relation to harvesting wildlife. Such uses of wildlife 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.

▶ Under the *Wildlife Act* 'Indian' means a person who is defined as a status Indian under the *Indian Act* (Canada).

▶ Indians who are residents of British Columbia are not required to obtain any type of hunting licence under the *Wildlife Act*. Indians who are residents of BC and are exercising an aboriginal right to hunt for

sustenance purposes within a traditionally-used area are required to comply with hunting regulations related to public health and public safety. In situations where conservation of a particular species is of concern and compliance with hunting regulations is required by Indians belonging to a First Nation group, there will be prior consultation with the affected First Nation in accordance with Ministry policy and procedures. These restrictions may include the requirement for Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) authorizations. Prior to undertaking any hunting activity, individuals should inquire with their appropriate First Nation officials or with the Ministry regional office with respect to any specific requirements that may apply to them.

▶ Indians who are residents of BC and wish to hunt outside their traditionally-used areas must do so in accordance with the Hunting Regulations. This includes making application for a LEH authorization via the LEH draw. If an individual is in doubt regarding a traditional hunting area or practice, they should be in contact with the appropriate First Nations officials and the regional Wildlife Program staff to discuss specific situations

Métis Hunters

A reminder that all Métis individuals intending to hunt in the upcoming season are required, under the *Wildlife Act*, to hold a valid hunting licence and comply with all hunting regulations. This includes obtaining appropriate species licences and complying with Limited Entry Hunting Regulations.

LIMITED ENTRY HUNTING

▶ Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) seasons are open only to hunters who have drawn the appropriate LEH authorization. LEH seasons and open seasons may coincide for some species in some management units if: a) the class of animal (sex, age, etc.) is different, or b) a portion of the management unit is available for LEH only.

▶ Species licences are required in addition to an LEH authorization.

▶ Maps showing LEH zones for seasons that

coincide with open seasons are included in this Synopsis for reference. Hunters should refer to the Limited Entry Hunting Synopsis published each spring for specific LEH maps.

▶ For information regarding Limited Entry Hunting please contact (250) 356-5142.

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

There are three types of hunting licences available to BC Residents: Hunting Licence, Initiation Hunting Licence, and Youth Hunting Licence.

Hunting Licence

▶ Hunting licences are available to resident hunters 10 years of age or older who hold a valid Hunter Number (see BC Resident Hunter Number section page 6).

▶ A hunting licence, in combination with the appropriate species licence (if required), provides a hunter with a personal bag limit.

▶ You may be asked to produce photo identification when purchasing a hunting licence.

▶ BC Resident Hunter Number Cards are available only at Service BC offices, or via mail only to the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Management Branch, PO Box 9374 STN PROV GOV, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M8.

▶ A Hunter Number Card may only be obtained by an applicant who produces a document issued by a province or state evidencing the successful completion of the CORE (Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education) examinations in BC or another North American government sponsored hunter safety training program.

▶ When a BC resident who is 10 years of age or older completes CORE, he or she is entitled to a BC Resident Hunter Number Card, and to have a bag limit of his or her own, to purchase a hunting licence, and to enter the limited entry hunting draw.

Youth Hunting Licence:

▶ Youth 10 years of age or older; and under 18 years of age, that have a hunter number may obtain a Hunting Licence OR a Youth Licence.

▶ A Youth Hunting Licence can only be issued

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BEFORE YOUR HUNT

to a parent or guardian on behalf of his/her child or ward who is 10 years of age or older and under the age of 18.

▶ The youth hunter, whether or not they have completed a hunter training program, must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision of an adult who carries the proper licences and meets the prescribed qualifications.

▶ Non-resident qualifications for a Youth Hunting Licence are the same with the exception that they may not hunt for wildlife for which a Limited Entry Hunting authorization is required.

Initiation Hunting Licence:

▶ An Initiation Hunting Licence is a once in a lifetime 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).

▶ The Initiation Hunter need not have completed a hunter 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.

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 the Youth or Initiation Hunting Licence. However, during a 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 closely supervised while hunting by a person who meets the prescribed following qualifications:

- ▶ If a resident, hold a resident hunter number card.
- ▶ If not a resident, must have passed a hunter safety training course in another jurisdiction in North America.
- ▶ If supervising an Initiation Licensed Hunter; 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.
- ▶ If an Indian residing in BC, have received training in hunting and previously hunted lawfully without supervision.
- ▶ Not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm.
- ▶ 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 wildlife commits an offence.

All licences issued under the **Wildlife Act** are non-transferable and non-refundable.

A person 10 years of age or older and under 18 who wishes to apply for a hunting licence must do so in person in the presence of a parent or guardian, who must sign an "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" for his/her son, daughter or ward.

BUYING LICENCES

▶ Resident hunting licences are available at all Service BC's Offices, and other commercial outlets and sporting goods stores. Non-resident hunting licences are available from Service BC Offices. Non-residents may also obtain their licences by mail from Service BC Offices www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/locations/. Please note that non-resident licences are NOT available from commercial outlets and/or sporting goods stores.

▶ Duplicates for misplaced, lost, stolen or accidentally destroyed licences are available from Vendors and Service BC's offices for a fee of \$10.00 plus GST. A Statement of Loss is required. DO NOT purchase another original licence from a sporting goods store or similar non-government licence issuer, as this will automatically show on the records that you have been issued more than the legal limit of current licences, which is an offence under the **Wildlife Act**.

▶ 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 100 m while carrying a firearm, may apply for a disabled hunting permit.

Information and the permit application process is available through the FrontCounterBC website at www.FrontCounterBC.gov.bc.ca or by phone at 1-877-855-3222.

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.

▶ There are special deer licences (Queen Charlotte Islands 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 on the Queen Charlotte Islands (MUs 6-12, 6-13). Up to 3 regular mule deer licences can be used on the Queen Charlottes, but they will count toward the regional and provincial bag limits. (For example, if a mule deer licence is 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 BIRDS

▶ When hunting migratory game birds, you must carry with you a valid Canadian Migratory Game Bird hunting permit in addition to any required provincial hunting licence. The permit is available at most Post Offices.

▶ 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/manual/sect4.cfm

BEARS

▶ It is prohibited to possess, traffick, import, and export bear galls, including any part or derivative of the gall bladder, and genitalia. It is also prohibited to import, export or traffick in bear paws separated from the carcass or hide, although possession of bear paws is still permit-

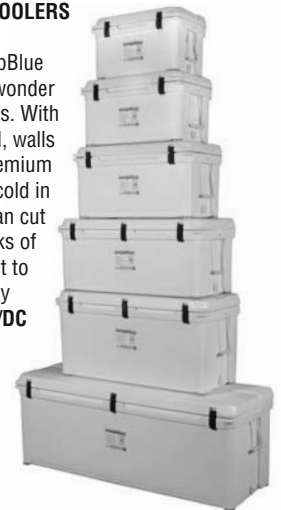
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ENG80	80 Qt.	34.8 x 16.8 x 17.6	33 lbs
ENG123	123 Qt.	42 x 18.8 x 17.7	45 lbs
ENG240	240 Qt.	51.8 x 22.2 x 21	68 lbs
ENG320	320 Qt.	62 x 22.7 x 22.1	102 lbs

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ted to allow for personal and ceremonial use.

▶ 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:

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 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. It greatly assist Ministry staff if, when a hunter sells a trophy, the licences and other documentation are transferred with the trophy to the new owner.

NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS

Non-residents of British Columbia hunting big game must be accompanied by either a licensed BC guide or a resident who holds a Permit to Accompany.

Big Game Guided Hunts

▶ When purchasing big game species licences, non-residents must provide the Licensing office with the name of the guide outfitter, the guide's

licence number, the management unit(s) in which the hunt will take place and the dates of the hunt. On completion of the hunt, non-residents must obtain a completed form of declaration from their guide. Failure to do so constitutes an offence on the part of the hunter and the guide.

Big Game Accompanied Hunts

▶ A non-resident of BC who is a resident of Canada or a Canadian citizen may be accompanied by a resident of BC who holds a Permit to Accompany. Only one Permit to Accompany will be issued to a person in a licence year.

▶ The BC resident applying for this permit must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada 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 C.O.R.E). Applications for permits are available at Service BC offices, Front Counter BC, or electronically from:

www.FrontCounterBC.gov.bc.ca (See Wildlife Permits & Commercial Licences article, pg 63.)

▶ Non-residents must show the Permit to Accompany or a copy indicating the name of the permittee when purchasing their big game species licences.

▶ A non-resident 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 (ie, if accompanied by a father; brother; son, uncle, nephew, grandson, grandfather; mother; sister; daughter; aunt, niece, granddaughter; grandmother; spouse, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, but excludes cousins).

▶ Permits to Accompany may not be available for all species and areas (for example, thimhorn sheep). Please contact FrontCounterBC at www.FrontCounterBC.gov.bc.ca or by phone at 1-877-855-3222 for more information..

▶ Royalties are payable on animals taken under a Permit to Accompany (see Royalty Fees section page 20).

Small Game

▶ It is not necessary for a non-resident of British Columbia to be accompanied by a licensed guide when hunting for small game (includes game birds).

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/.



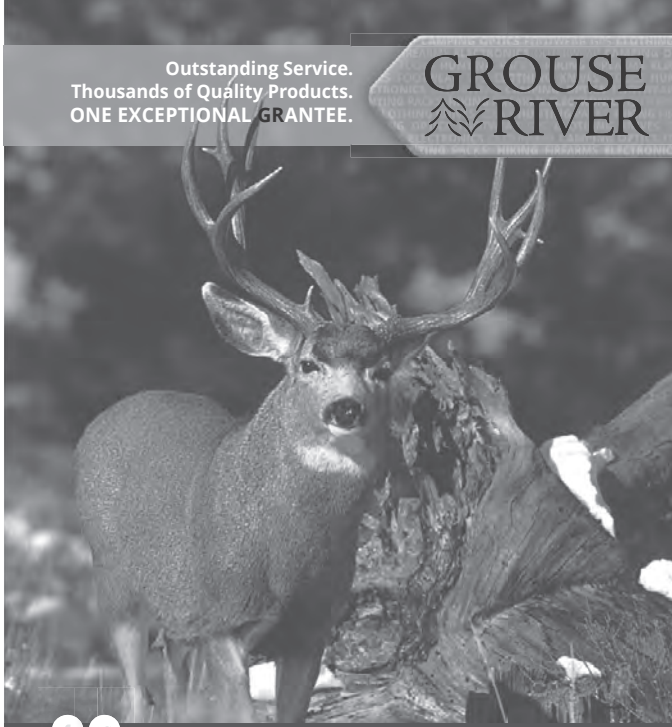
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Hunting Licence Fees

The following fees apply province-wide. Additional licence requirements are indicated under certain regional schedules.

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

A BC resident to hunt all game	\$32.00★▲
A BC Resident who is 65 years of age or over to hunt all game	\$7.00★
A resident of Canada (not BC), or a Canadian citizen to hunt all game	\$75.00★
A non-resident alien to hunt all game (Resident of another country)	\$180.00★
A person to hunt in the Fraser Valley Special Area (See Region 2)	\$10.00★
A person to hunt in the 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 Licence - allows a person 18 years or older who has never previously held a hunting licence in B.C. to try hunting without having to have a hunter number	\$12.00★
A youth hunting licence - to a person 10 yrs of age or older & under age 18	\$7.00★▲
Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit	\$17.00▲
Queen Charlotte Island (QCI) Deer	\$10.00★
Non-Resident QCI Deer	\$25.00★

- ★ Includes surcharge for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF).
- ▲ A youth hunting ducks or geese during Waterfowler Heritage Days does not require a hunting licence, junior hunting licence or the Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. The Acknowledgement of Responsibility, signed by a parent or guardian, is still required.

Species Licence Fees

Species licences are required for the hunting of the following animals and are required in addition to the basic hunting licences.

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

BIG GAME	BC RESIDENT	Non-BC 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 and white-tailed)	\$15.00	\$125.00
Elk	\$25.00	\$250.00
Grizzly Bear *	\$80.00	\$1,030.00
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.
- ▼ Mule deer licence also valid for black-tailed.
- ★ Except for upland gamebirds

All hunting and species licences expire March 31 of each year

Duplicate Licences

To a person who can satisfactorily prove his hunting and/or species licences have been lost or destroyed (a Statement of Loss is required) for:

Seniors, Gulf Islands and Junior . . . \$1.00
All Others \$10.00

It is unlawful to use another person's licence or permit, or to loan or transfer any licence or permit under any circumstances.

Licence Cancellation

It is unlawful to be in possession of a big game animal without a properly cancelled species licence or otherwise by licence, permit, or as 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.

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National Parks

- ▶ Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks. The law requires that all firearms transported in National Parks be dismantled, carried in a closed case or wrapped and tied securely in such a manner 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.
- ▶ Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 m of all Regional District Parks in Regions 1 and 2.
- ▶ Contact the Regional District in the locality you wish to hunt for information on whether hunting is permitted in or near new and existing parks.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

- ▶ Hunting is prohibited in National Wildlife Areas (NWA's) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS's) unless a special federal permit is granted or notices to the contrary are posted. Blue signs depicting a loon mark the boundaries of NWA's and MBS's. Contact the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta for more information (604) 940-4650.

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 in that area during that time is permitted. For more information on which BC Parks that are open to hunting please visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/, or phone your local Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations office. Hunting in BC Parks is only permitted during a lawful open season. For additional information on permitted activities in BC Parks, please visit the BC Parks website at www.bcparks.ca

- ▶ 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 metres 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. Contact the regional office for further information, or consult the Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation.

- ▶ Note: Protected areas that have been established since the deadline for changes to the hunting regulations for 2014-2016 (Oct 2013) will have no change to their status unless specified in these regulations.
- ▶ Hunters should note that big game seasons in most parks are under Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) restrictions. Consult the current LEH Synopsis for map details.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Unless authorized by a recreation officer, it is unlawful to trap, dispose of wildlife parts, or discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow on or into:
- the developed portion of a Recreation Site or Interpretive Forest.
- the developed portion of a Recreation trail where a prohibition has been posted, as defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation.

For more information on Recreation Sites and Trails www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca.

Ecological Reserves

- ▶ Hunting, trapping and angling are prohibited in Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. The discharge of a firearm, or bow is prohibited. A complete list of Ecological Reserves including detailed maps and legal descriptions is available from the regional office, or from BC Parks headquarters at PO Box 9398 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M9 or visit www.bcparks.ca/eco_reserve

- ▶ Most ecological reserves are also referenced in the BC Recreational Atlas, 6th

Edition.

Conservation Lands

- ▶ Most regions in BC contain several different types of Conservation Lands, including Wildlife Management Areas, Crown Reserves, and lands acquired for fish and wildlife management purposes; sometimes in cooperation with other agencies (i.e 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 local bylaws restricting and controlling the use of weapons, firearms and bows within their boundaries. Consult municipal clerks for details of closures.
- ▶ Municipal bylaws that affect the discharge of firearms and/or bows are NOT included in this synopsis.
- ▶ 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 so do not dispose of them within municipal boundaries or in areas frequented by the public.

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hides salted and suitable for taxidermy,
any size horns, antlers or shed antlers

LEGAL NUMBERS MUST ACCOMPANY SPECIMENS

WILDLIFE TAXIDERMY
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SITE and ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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.

Recreation Access Management Plans

A copy of the following plans is located online at www.recplans.gov.bc.ca/

- ▶ Please refer to the Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan for recreation access zoning in MUs 4-1, 4-2, 4-22 and 4-23.
- ▶ Please refer to the Golden Backcountry

Recreation Plan for recreation access zoning in MUs 4-34, 4-36 and 4-40.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF CABINS

▶ While in the back country you may have occasion to encounter cabins of various sorts. 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. Hunter ethics, courtesy and respect are relied upon so that additions to the regulations imposing severe sanctions are not necessary.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

▶ Several laws govern public access to wildlife and several types of closures specifically limit access by licensed hunters or others. In brief the following laws apply:

- 1. Trespass Act** - The provincial *Trespass Act* sets out strict limits on any public access to enclosed private land. Private 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 river bank or a 4 1/2 foot hedge.
- In the Fraser Valley, and to a lesser extent elsewhere in agricultural areas,

local sporting groups (clubs) have made private arrangements with landowners to exclude other hunters. Such areas are frequently posted to no trespassing by these sporting groups.

2. Forest and Range Practices Act

On May 31, 2009 the *Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act* introduced a provision that makes it illegal for individuals to cause environmental damage. Irresponsible off-road vehicle use in alpine, grassland or wetland areas can disturb soil and destroy plants, risk watershed and water source quality, threaten or kill birds and animals, introduce invasive plants and reduce wildlife and cattle food sources. Regulations have been revised and update the definition of environmental damage to include any change to soil that adversely alters an ecosystem. Under the new provision, individuals found to have caused environmental damage may be levied a violation ticket that carries a \$575 fine. 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, carry a minimum of \$200,000 third-party liability insurance.

3. Wildlife Act (Section 39) - 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.

▶ In addition to the above, there is authority under provisions of the *Wildlife Act* to limit access by hunters or other persons. Relevant regulations include the Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation and the Public Access Prohibition Regulation.

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NO HUNTING and NO SHOOTING AREA

No Hunting Areas

▶ It is unlawful to hunt or discharge a firearm within 100 metres 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. Owners and occupiers or their employees or agents are exempted near dwelling houses or farm or ranch buildings for the purpose of slaughtering livestock.

No Shooting Areas

▶ It is unlawful to discharge a firearm in a No Shooting Area (see Definitions section). No Shooting Areas as prescribed under the **Wildlife Act** are open to the use of bows (including crossbows) unless specifically restricted (see regional sections).

HIGHWAY NO SHOOTING 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 BC that is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation (or their Contractors), the federal government or another province or territory. The road allowance extends:

- 15 metres on either side of the middle of a road with less than three lanes, or
- 15 metres from the edge of the paved surface of a highway with three lanes or more, or
- to the boundary of private or cultivated land, whichever comes first.

▶ In addition to the above universal restriction, 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. These areas are listed in the section "400 m Single Projectile Prohibited Areas".

▶ The major purpose of these restrictions is to address the problems associated with increasing public pressure for more closures near rural roads, where the urban public is expanding residential properties, often at considerable distances from main urban centres. The above restrictions, although perhaps initially are more than required for some parts of the province, will be universal and, more importantly, universally understood.

▶ 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 below 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.

400 METRE SINGLE PROJECTILE (FIREARM) PROHIBITED AREAS

▶ 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 20 between Bella Coola and the westerly boundary of Tweedsmuir Park;
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;

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 of said highway with Hwy 37A at Meziadin Junction;

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 Caribou 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 11 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.

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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. Schedules “B” and “C” of the Designation and Exemption Regulation list wildlife that 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

► Schedule “B” lists animals that may be captured or killed only for the specific purpose of protecting property unless an open season is designated by regulation (see Regional Schedules for open seasons).

- (a) *Scapanus orarius* - coast mole
- (b) *Lepus americanus* - snowshoe hare
- (c) all of the species of the sub family *Arvicolinae* and lemmings, except *Ondonatra zibethicus* - muskrat.
- (d) *Neotoma cinerea* - bushy-tailed woodrat
- (e) all species of the genus *Peromyscus* - deer mice
- (f) *Erethizon dorsatum* - porcupine
- (g) *Thomomys talpoides* - northern pocket gopher
- (h) *Marmota flaviventris* - yellow-bellied marmot
- (i) *Marmota monax* - woodchuck
- (j) *Spermophilus columbianus* - Columbian ground squirrel
- (k) *Mephitis mephitis* - striped skunk
- (l) *Procyon lotor* - raccoon
- (m) *Spilogale putorius* - spotted skunk

Schedule C

► Schedule “C” animals can be killed anywhere and at any time in BC. 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:

- (a) *Rana catesbeiana* - American bullfrog
- (b) *Rana clamitans* - green frog
- (c) all species of the family *Chelydridae* - snapping turtles
- (d) *Didelphis virginiana* - North American opossum
- (e) *Sylvilagus floridanus* - eastern cottontail
- (f) *Oryctolagus cuniculus* - European rabbit
- (g) *Myocastor coypus* - nutria
- (h) all species of the genus *Sciurus* - gray squirrels and fox squirrels
- (i) *Passer domesticus* - house sparrow
- (j) *Sturnus vulgaris* - European starling
- (k) *Columbia livia* - 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:

- (a) *Corvus caurina* - Northwestern Crow
- (b) *Corvus brachyrhynchos* - American Crow
- (c) *Pica pica* - black-billed magpie
- (d) *Molothrus ater* - brown-headed cowbird and the eggs of this bird species may be destroyed.

► **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.**

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 Licence 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 licence 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 as follows: “transporter” means 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*.

PENALTIES

► We will be tough with violators of our conservation laws and invaluable wildlife resource!

IT’S UNLAWFUL

1. to make a false statement to an Officer, Conservation Officer, or Constable.
2. to capture, possess or keep in captivity any live wildlife without a permit.
3. to possess or wantonly take, injure or destroy a bird, egg, or the nest of a bird except those designated by regulations, (ie: crows, house sparrows, cowbirds, magpies, rock doves or European starlings or their egg or nest).
4. to buy or sell migratory birds (or their eggs or nests).
5. to traffic in live wildlife, wildlife meat or offer to do so except as authorized by permit.
6. to traffic in dead wildlife or a part of wildlife except when the wildlife was lawfully killed in BC during an open season under the *Wildlife Act* or lawfully brought into BC, 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.
7. to discharge, dump, discard or dispose of litter.
8. to shoot, hunt or capture any hawk, falcon, owl or eagle except under permit.
9. to deface any notice posted under authority of the *Wildlife Act*.
10. to damage or interfere with a lawfully set trap.
11. to hunt a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids
12. to hunt a grizzly bear or black bear less than 2 years old or any bear in its company.
13. to hunt the white or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.
14. to hunt a cougar kitten (any cougar with spots or under 1 yr of age) or any cougar accompanying it.
15. to hunt a lynx or bobcat accompanied by one or more lynx or bobcat
16. to kill or wound wildlife by accident or to protect life or property and fail to promptly report the killing to an Officer.
17. 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.

18. 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 authorised.
19. to hunt bears by placing bait or by using a dead animal or using part of it as bait.
20. to shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle or a boat propelled by a motor.
21. 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.
22. to use a power boat, aircraft, or motor vehicle or other mechanical device to herd or harass wildlife.
23. to hunt, take, wound or kill big game while it is swimming unless it has been previously wounded.
24. 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.
25. to carry a cocked crossbow in or on a vehicle, or to discharge a bow from a vehicle of any kind
26. to hunt or transport hunters or wildlife by a helicopter.
- 27. to use a helicopter, including a drone, while on a hunting expedition.**
28. to hunt wildlife from an aircraft.
29. to hunt wildlife within 6 hours of being airborne in an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft.
30. to hunt game, except migratory game birds (see #31), 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.hia-ia.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/sunrise_e.html
- The responsibility remains with the hunter to make the determination of sunrise and sunset in the field based on existing terrain and circumstances.
31. to hunt migratory game birds from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
 32. to hunt wildlife by the use of, or with the aid of, a light or an illuminating device.
 33. to use poison for the hunting, trapping, taking or killing of any wildlife.
 34. 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).
 35. to use live birds as decoys or recorded bird calls to hunt game birds.
 36. 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.
 37. to kill wildlife (with the exception of grizzly bear, cougar or a fur bearing animal other than a black bear) and fail to remove from

the carcass the edible portions of the four quarters and loins 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 grizzly bear, cougar or a furbearing animal other than a black bear, the hide 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 wildlife 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.

38. to interfere with or obstruct a person licensed or permitted to hunt, guide or trap while that person is lawfully so engaged.
39. to hunt wildlife with a handgun.

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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 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 Conservation Officer Service believes that the true test of a hunter is not whether or not a mistake is made, but how he/she 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



Legal Hunting Methods & Provincial Bag Limits

	Firearms			Archery	Provincial Bag Limits
	Rifles	Shotguns			
Note: Some hunts and areas have specific restrictions. See region's section for descriptions	Rimfire	Centrefire			
BIG GAME					
Bison	No	Yes ⁷	No	Bow E	1
Black Bear⁶	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	2*
Bobcat	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	5*
Caribou	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Cougar	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	2*
Deer	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	3*(see Deer Licences section)
Elk	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Grizzly Bear⁶	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Lynx	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	1
Moose	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Goat	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Sheep	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Wolf	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow A, C, D	3*
Wolverine	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	Bow B, C, D	1
SMALL GAME					
Upland Game Birds	Yes ²	Yes ³	Yes	Bow B, C, D	Bearded Turkey. 1* Upland Game Birds - see next page
Other Small Game (includes Coyote)	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹ for Coyote	Bow B, C, D	Snowshoe hare. 10/day Raccoon, Skunk, Coyote.NBL*
MIGRATORY BIRDS					
Migratory Game Birds	No	No	Yes ^{4,5}	Bow D	Ducks. see next page* Geese see next page*

*See regions' sections for regional bag limit.

NOTES

- 1** shotgun must have a bore size of 20 gauge or larger and use shells of shot size No. 1 Buck or larger.
- 2** grouse, ptarmigan or turkey only
- 3** grouse or ptarmigan only
- 4** possession or use of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited, except for pigeons or doves. See page 17.
- 5** shotgun must not be loaded with single projectile or be larger than 10 gauge; must not use more than 1 shotgun while hunting migratory game birds, unless each shotgun in excess of one is disassembled or unloaded and encased.
- 6** bear may not be hunted by placing bait or by using a dead animal or part of it as bait
- 7** 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.

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.

Legal hunting Methods

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

Firearms

- ▶ No person shall hunt wildlife with a handgun.
- ▶ A muzzle loader containing powder and shot in the barrel but unprimed (ie, 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).
- ▶ It is unlawful to hunt with a set gun, or to hunt wildlife with a pump, repeating or auto-loading shotgun with a magazine capable of holding more than two shells. Where the use of a shotgun is allowed for hunting or trapping big game, an unplugged shotgun holding more than 2 shells and firing single projectiles only (slugs) may be used.
- ▶ It is unlawful to use full metal jacketed, non-expanding, tracer, incendiary or explosive bullets for hunting or trapping game.

Retrieval

- ▶ No person shall kill, cripple or wound game without making all reasonable effort to retrieve and include it in his/her bag limit. The retrieved game shall be killed immediately and included in the hunter's 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 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, grizzly bear, black bear or cougar. Any person may train dogs by allowing them, under supervision, to pursue game birds from August 1 to April 30.

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 table on the previous page and the regional schedules, NBL means No Bag Limit. 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 previous 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.

▶ The daily bag limit for **ducks** in aggregate is 8, except for restricted species: Pintail, Goldeneye, Harlequin and Canvasback.

▶ The daily bag limit for **Canvasback** is 4, **Northern Pintail** is 4, **Goldeneyes** is 2 and **Harlequins** is 2. Please see regional sections.

▶ **The daily bag limit for Canada and Cackling geese in aggregate is 10.**

▶ **The daily bag limit for White-fronted Goose is 5.**

▶ **The daily bag limit for Snow and Ross's geese in aggregate is 5 except for MUs 2-4 and 2-5 where an additional 5 Snow Geese may be taken.**

▶ The possession limit for all **migratory game birds** at all times (including while hunting, returning from hunting or at a residence) is **three** times the daily limit.

▶ The possession limit for all **upland game birds** (including sharp-tailed grouse in region 7B) while hunting or returning from hunting is three times the daily limit except for **Sharp-tailed Grouse** (Regions 3 & 5) and pheasants (Region 4 only) where the possession limit is two times the daily limit.

Deer Bag Limits - Explained

One of the most common questions that wildlife staff receive is about deer bag limits and deer species licenses. On the surface it seems confusing, even intimidating, with provincial bag limits vs. regional bag limits, buck limits vs. antlerless bag limits, aggregate bag limits, individual bag limits for species, and species licenses for mule (black-tailed) and white-tailed deer. Don't be intimidated, 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/QCI).

Hunters may not harvest more than 3 deer in one licence year. Hunters may harvest 3 white-tailed deer (if they purchase 3 white-tailed deer licenses), or 3 mule deer (if the purchase 3 mule deer licenses), or a combination of white-tailed and mule deer (1+2 or 2+1) providing they do not exceed the provincial limit of 3. 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 deer up to a maximum of 3.

2) **Regional Bag Limits:** 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 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	2	2	0	0	0	2	3
3	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
4	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	3
5	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3
**6	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	3
7A	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3
7B	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3
8	1	1	1	1	1	2	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/QCI					

NEW HUNTING LICENCES FOR YOUTH AND BEGINNER HUNTERS

HUNTING LICENCE FOR YOUTH

In 2013 the Junior Hunting License was replaced with a Youth Hunting License, available to hunters 10 years of age or older, and under 18 years of age. No hunter safety training is required to obtain a Youth Hunting Licence, however additional requirements have been implemented for supervising youth hunters. An acknowledgement of responsibility signed by a parent or guardian is still required for all youth under 18 years of age. The youth licence is issued on behalf of the youth, but held by the parent or guardian. As always, any youth 10 years of age or older who wants to take CORE and get their own regular hunting licence and bag limit entitlement can still do so. All youth under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an experienced supervising hunter. The cost of the youth licence is \$7.00.

INITIATION HUNTING LICENCE

A new initiation hunting licence is available to allow a person 18 years or older who has never previously held a hunting licence in

B.C. to try hunting for a period of time. It is a one-time-only licence and requires that the person be accompanied by an experienced supervising hunter. The cost of the initiation licence is \$19.00.

SUPERVISING YOUTH OR INITIATION HUNTERS

Hunters under the age of 18, or hunters hunting under the authority of an Initiation Hunting Licence, must be accompanied and closely supervised while hunting by a person who meets the prescribed qualifications.

To be eligible to supervise a Youth or Initiation Licensed hunter, the supervising person must:

- If a resident, hold a resident hunter number card.
- If not a resident, must have passed a hunter safety training course in another jurisdiction in North America to supervise youth.
- To supervise an Initiation Licensed Hunter a basic hunting licence (unless exempt) is required.

- 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 a guide outfitter supervising the holder of an Initiation Hunting Licence.
- If an Indian residing in BC, have received training in hunting and previously hunted lawfully without supervision.
- Not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm.
- Not accompany or supervise more than two youth hunters, two Initiation Licensed Hunters, or one youth and one Initiation Licensed Hunter at one time.
- Persons hunting under the youth licence or initiation licence will not have their own bag limit. Any wildlife killed by a youth hunter or initiation hunter will be included in the bag limit of the supervising hunter.

PHOTO CONTEST!

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

If you are a deer, elk or moose hunter you have heard of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). If not, you need to learn more on our CWD:

www.stopchronicwastingdisease.ca

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- CWD has not been found in British Columbia (BC).
- The BC CWD Program is focused on preventing the entry of CWD into the province.
- Prevention and early detection are vital.
- CWD can be transmitted from animal to animal through the environment - if infected parts are left in the field, soil becomes contaminated and can infect new animals.
- The #1 threat of CWD reaching BC is the importation of infected carcasses from areas that have the disease in their populations.

British Columbia conducts annual CWD monitoring of deer, elk and moose, focussing on the higher risk areas near the BC/Alberta border (Regions 7 and 4). Get information and updates on our websites and tell your local sportsman clubs.

We need your help. Hunters, especially in the Peace and Kootenay regions, should submit heads for voluntary testing. Drop off locations have been set up at various businesses and clubs in both regions. We strongly advise further reducing the risk of CWD by not using scents or attractants

from deer (urine, feces, saliva or scent glands), as they may be capable of transmitting CWD through environmental contamination. PLEASE USE synthetic scents to reduce the risk.

KNOW THE IMPORT REGULATIONS

To prevent the import of CWD you cannot bring intact deer, elk, moose or caribou carcasses into BC from another jurisdiction. The carcass must be processed so that high risk material is left behind. High risk material includes the head, hide, hoof, spinal column, internal organ or mammary gland of cervids that were killed outside of BC. Meats as well as hide, antlers and skulls that have all soft tissues removed are permitted.

If you hunt outside of BC **DO NOT** return to BC with the intact carcass - process on-site to reduce the risk. Remove risky material and leave these parts where you hunted. De-bone it, quarter it or have the meat processed prior to returning to BC. If you want to keep antlers, remove any soft tissue and soak the bone plate in 2% bleach. If you want to keep the hide, all tissue must be removed before being possessed in BC. **DO NOT dump carcasses in the bush** if they are from elsewhere. Use landfills for proper disposal. You may be able to submit the head to local agencies for CWD testing. Please help us prevent CWD entry into BC by following the regulations. For more information go to www.stopchronicwastingdisease.ca

HUMAN HEALTH RISKS (ZONOTIC DISEASES)

For information on diseases that affect human health such as West Nile virus, various parasites and Lyme's disease, pick up a copy of our booklet *Diseases You Can Get From Wildlife* from a government office or visit our interactive website. at www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/wildhealth/diseases or the BC Centre for Disease Control at www.bccdc.ca

Pay attention to information on a recently recognized parasite of wolves and coyotes, *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

LEARN MORE AND PASS IT ON!

Wildlife health is an important link to the health of BC in general - we need your observations about diseases and parasites in BC wildlife populations. Hunters and anglers provide eyes for the BC Wildlife Health Program to track the health of our wildlife - we welcome observations by videos, written/verbal descriptions, or photographs. If you see something or would like to know more about wildlife diseases, refer to the following:

BC Wildlife Health website at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/wildhealth.html

Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at: www.ccwhc.ca

Report your observations at:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/wildlife/wsi/incidental_obs.htm

Hunting in Provincial Parks

If the season during which you want to hunt takes place within a provincial park, certain park regulations may apply (specifically with regards to access). Please contact the BC Parks office in the area in which you want to hunt to determine if any special conditions apply. For a list of BC Parks where hunting is permitted visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/

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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.

▶ 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 www.FrontCounterBC.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.

▶ If the hunter sells the pelt of a furbearing animal to a licensed Fur Trader; they are exempt from paying the royalty.

▶ 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 FrontCounterBC location. Addresses available at www.FrontCounterBC.gov.bc.ca.

POSSESSION & TRANSPORTATION

Game Birds

▶ Anyone who possesses or transports a game bird must leave attached to the carcass one feathered wing.

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.

▶ It is prohibited 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.

▶ 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:

(1) For elk, moose, and deer:

- (a) If the animal is male, either
 - (i) that portion of the head which bears the antlers, OR
 - (ii) both a testicle or part of the penis, AND the animal's tail or another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm².
- (b) If the animal is female, either
 - (i) that portion of the head which in males normally bears antlers, OR
 - (ii) both a portion of the udder or teats, AND the animal's tail or another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm².

(2) For caribou:

- (a) If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis, AND either the animal's tail, another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm² or that portion of the head that bears the antlers.
- (b) If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats, AND either the animal's tail, another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm² or that portion of the head that normally bears the antlers.

(3) For mountain sheep:

- (a) If the animal is male, either
 - (i) that portion of the head that bears the horns, OR
 - (ii) a testicle or part of the penis.
- (b) If the animal is female, either
 - (i) that portion of the head that in males normally bears horns, OR
 - (ii) a portion of the udder or teats.

(4) For mountain goat or bison:

- (a) If the animal is male, either a testicle or part of the penis.
- (b) If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats.

▶ The above sections (1) - (4) do not apply if a person possesses a portion of a carcass or hide which they did not kill, provided that:

- 1) 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
- 2) they have a Record of Receipt as described in the Transporting Wildlife section (page 24), AND
- 3) the person who killed the wildlife possesses a portion of the carcass or hide with the parts attached as described in sections (1) - (4) 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.

NOTE: It is not an offence to possess bear genitalia attached to the hide or carcass, and, after it is no longer needed on a bear carcass as evidence of sex, the genitalia may be removed from the hide at the above locations if immediately destroyed and disposed of at that location. Leaving evidence of species and sex on the carcass will not spoil or in any way contaminate the meat.

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 24) 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 BC Resident Hunter Number 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 Hunter Number; the species licence number; and the species, and sex of the animal taken.

continued on page 22...

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.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION and REPORTING

Compulsory Inspection and Compulsory Reporting are a requirement for specific game species under the BC Hunting Regulations. These species are submitted for the purposes of data collection and enforcement. The Compulsory Inspection process includes taking measurements and/or parts of the animals for scientific analysis and provides wildlife managers with valuable information about the sex, age and condition of animals being harvested. Compulsory Inspections 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 in order to protect animal populations.

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

All Compulsory Inspectors have completed a training course and have been appointed under the *Environment Management Act* by the Chief Conservation Officer:

The Compulsory Inspector locations are listed on the regional maps of each region. Appointments must be arranged by the hunter for all compulsory inspections. For Compulsory Inspection Centres, see Regional Sections' front page maps.

For more information, please contact the appropriate Ministry Regional Office or the Ministry website

www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/hunting/ci.htm

Information required for Compulsory Reporting and Inspection include, but is not limited to:

1. the hunter's name, address, telephone number, and Hunter Number,
2. the location where the animal was taken,
3. the date the animal was taken,
4. the sex of the animal taken, and
5. the licences under which the animal was taken.

See LEH synopsis for additional requirements.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION

Compulsory Inspectors will not complete the compulsory inspection unless 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 compulsory inspection requirements.

Except as noted, all compulsory inspected species must be submitted to a compulsory

inspector for the purpose of taking measurements or parts of the animal required for management (ie, tooth) **within 30 days** of the kill (see note regarding trapping exemption below).

The following species of game must be submitted to a regional compulsory inspection centre:

- **mountain goat** • **mountain sheep**
- **grizzly bear** • **cougar** • **caribou**
- **elk in Regions 2 and 8**
- **moose in MUs 6-19, 6-20, and 6-22 to 6-25, and the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA), see map F47 for NWA**
- **black bear in MUs 6-12 and 6-13**
- **lynx in Region 4**

1. Grizzly bear, mountain goat and mountain sheep must be submitted to a compulsory inspector within 30 days or 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 of MoE 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 or 8, 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 grizzly bear, 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, or by December 5 of the year of the kill, whichever occurs first.
5. Persons who take a cougar in Region 4 must submit the animal for inspection to a compulsory inspector in Region 4 within 4 days of the kill.
6. Persons who take a cougar in Region 6 must submit the animal for inspection to a compulsory inspector in Region 6 within 4 days of the kill.
7. Persons who take a black bear in MUs 6-12 and 6-13 must submit the animal for inspection within 10 days of the kill or before exporting from the province, whichever occurs first.

PARTS REQUIRED

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

- the portion of the skull including the nasal bones, the entire eye-socket, the horns and the associated connective bone structure, and
- the horns for insertion of a numbered aluminum plug by an officer.



For mountain goat:

- the horns.

For grizzly bear, black bear, lynx and cougar:

- 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 attached.

For elk and moose:

- an incisor (front) tooth, and
- for males, the antlers 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.

Mountain Goat



Cougar



Grizzly Bear



COMPULSORY REPORTING

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

- **lynx in regions 3, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, or 8**
 - **wolverine** • **bobcat**
 - **elk Region 1** • **wolf in Regions 1, 2, 4,**
- must, within 30 days after the date of the kill, report:

1. their name, address, telephone number and Hunter Number,
2. the location where the animal was killed,
3. the date the animal was killed, and
4. the sex of the animal taken.
5. number of days hunted before the animal was killed

Compulsory Reporting forms are available online at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/ci.html.

The Harvest Data card can also be used to submit this data, however hunters must add the number of days hunted before the animal was killed. The card is available at any licence issuer, Service BC, or Ministry office. There are four options to provide wildlife staff with the required information. The report can be:

- 1) Mailed or submitted in person to any regional office. Hunters also have the option to report to any regional office by phone
- 2) Mailed to: Compulsory Reporting, PO Box 9374, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC, V8W 9M4
- 3) Faxed to (250) 387-0239
- 4) Scanned and emailed to FishandWildlife@gov.bc.ca insert "Compulsory Reporting" in the subject line of the email.

Please note that tooth samples are not required for Compulsory Reporting

Note: A person authorized to trap is exempt from the requirements noted above with respect to furbearing animals taken by trapping. See page 92.

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 BC 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.

▶ 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 BC by way of the Alberta border should contact FrontCounter BC (see page 63) 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 meat-cutter, 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, he or she should contact the FW&HM Branch or a Ministry regional office as soon as possible.

▶ Hunters possessing a mountain goat, mountain sheep, caribou or grizzly bear harvested in BC, who must drive through the Yukon and back into BC in order to submit the animal for compulsory inspection, are exempt from obtaining an export permit for this purpose.

C.I.T.E.S.

▶ The "Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species" (C.I.T.E.S.) requires that a C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit be obtained for the export out of Canada of all grizzly bear, black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, wolf, wood bison, sea otter, raptors, river otter and polar bear or parts of these animals. Such permits leaving Canada directly from BC may be obtained by applying to the Permit & Authorization Service Bureau, 4th Floor 2975 Jutland Rd., PO Box 9372 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M3. Application forms are available from Service BC offices or at www.FrontCounterBC.gov.bc.ca.

▶ 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 C.I.T.E.S. 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 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 serial number, date and type of licence under which the wildlife or part of it was taken.



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▶ In order to fulfill these requirements, when the hunter takes the parts of the animal to the business concerned, he or she must have the following documentation with them:

1. his or her hunting and species licences with the appropriately cancelled species licence.
2. Limited Entry Hunting Authorization, if such was 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. his or her 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.

▶ Normally a hunter would not be required to have a trapping licence or permit for a big game animal.

▶ The question is frequently asked, "Why do I need this documentation?" The answer is simply that presentation of the 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:

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 BC 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 FW&HM Branch will contact some

hunters by telephone this season.

▶ 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 information about the animal taken.

▶ 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 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.

▶ For more information on the Harvest Questionnaire, please visit the Frequently Asked Question at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/harvestquestionnaire/faq.html

▶ Good information makes for good game management and good hunting!

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Record of Receipt for Transporting Wildlife

Date: _____ Place of Receipt: _____

Species: _____ Species Sex: _____

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

BC Resident Hunter 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 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: _____

Hunting Licence Number RHC or NRH: _____

Compulsory Inspection Number (if applicable): _____

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

When a season is based on antler or horn size, hunters are reminded that the antlers or horns of male big game animals must accompany the carcass to a residence, a meatcutter or a cold storage plant. Similarly, the lower jaw with incisor teeth must accompany the carcass of a calf moose, where General Open Seasons exist.

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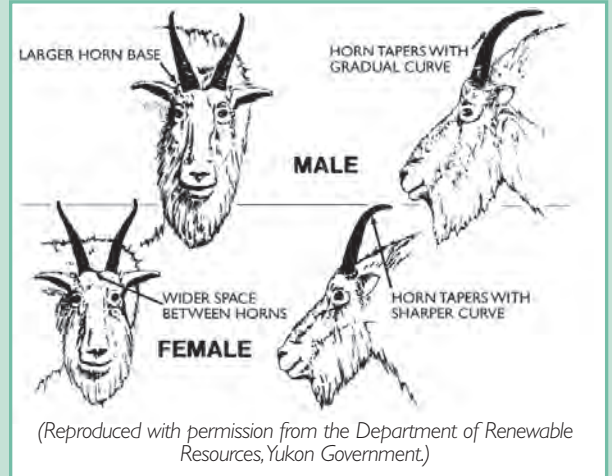
IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTERS

Minimizing the female (nanny) harvest of mountain goats is an important conservation action. Previously, the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has addressed concerns with the harvest of females through voluntary compliance among hunters to select a male mountain goat (billy). While the proportion of females in the harvest has decreased, there continues to be concerns over the high harvest of female mountain goats in some areas. In order to address this concern, a new regulation was implemented in 2010 that states **"It is unlawful to hunt a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids."**

This regulation does not protect all female mountain goats as a solitary

female mountain goat, or a female mountain goat within a group of goats that does not contain kids, would still be legal to harvest. For a more detailed rationale for this regulation, see our website www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/management-issues/#mtngoatfemales. To test yourself on mountain goat sex identification go to http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.overview&quiz_id=3

The recently completed "Management Plan for the Mountain Goat in British Columbia" contains detailed information on managing mountain goats in BC, and



is available for downloading at www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

When a season is based on antler or horn size, hunters are reminded that the antlers or horns of male big game animals must accompany the carcass to a residence, a meatcutter or a cold storage plant. Similarly, the lower jaw with incisor teeth must accompany the carcass of a calf moose, where General Open Seasons exist.

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For violations related to tidal recreational fisheries and in-river salmon fisheries, contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at 1-800-465-4336

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.