

HUNTING AND TRAPPING SYNOPSIS 2006-2007

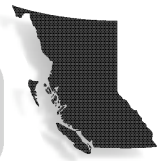


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For more information on the hunting and trapping regulations, call a MoE Regional Office, Fish & Wildlife Branch HQ Victoria, or the Conservation Officer Service using the numbers listed on the regional maps of each region. Enquiry BC can provide toll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

- **Enquiry BC**
from Vancouver .. 604-660-2421
from Victoria .. 387-6121
elsewhere in BC .. 1-800-663-7867
- **Report a Poacher/Polluter (see page 90)** .. 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

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.

Minister's Message

As Minister of Environment, I am pleased to support the B.C. Government's goals to provide leadership in sustainable environmental management, healthy living and job creation.

British Columbia's hunters and trappers make a significant contribution in these three areas.

We rely on people like you to provide information that helps us manage our wildlife resource. From your participation in consultation processes at the regional and provincial levels to your submission of Hunter Sample Questionnaires telling us about your hunting experiences, your information supplements government data. As well, hunters and trappers contribute more than \$100 million to the economy of British Columbia each year through purchases of licences and goods and services related to hunting and trapping.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer special congratulations to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF), celebrating its 25th anniversary. HCTF and its conservation projects have invested \$90 million during the past 25 years in projects that support the enhancement of fish, wildlife and their habitats through licence surcharges.

I am pleased to highlight two new programs aimed at increasing participation in hunting and increasing hunting opportunities in the province. First, we are examining factors that encourage people to hunt and are focusing on recruiting new hunters. This year alone, youth LEH and general open seasons have been introduced or expanded in most regions. The Ministry's goal is to increase the number of hunters from the current 84,000 to more than 100,000 by 2014-2015.

Second, this spring we initiated the South Thompson Wildlife Stewardship Project in partnership with a private land owner (Kamloops Indian Band), the B.C. Wildlife Federation, the Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association, the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia and the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia. A limited harvest of California bighornrams will be available for the first time since sheep were reintroduced into the area in the 1950s.

As well, the Ministry has committed \$400,000 this year for wildlife inventory projects, focussing on mountain goats, mountain sheep and moose. It is anticipated that increased knowledge of the status of our wildlife populations will also lead to increased hunting opportunities.

Best wishes for a safe, enjoyable and successful hunting and trapping season.



Barry Penner,
Minister of Environment



Major Regulation Changes & Highlights for 2006-2007

Possession and Transportation - The requirements for possession of carcass have changed in order to allow hunters the choice of using antlers (or horns in the case of mountain sheep) or sex parts and hide for evidence of species and sex. Evidence of species (i.e., patch of hide) no longer has to be attached to each part of the carcass; when required, it must be naturally attached to one part of the carcass in the person's possession. See page 20.

Export - The period of time a species licence or Compulsory Inspection data sheet serves as an export permit has been increased from 30 days to 1 year. See page 22.

Legal Hunting Methods - Where hunting big game with a shotgun is allowed, hunters are no longer required to limit the number of slugs in the magazine to 2. This applies to shotguns firing single projectiles only. Shotguns firing shot continue to be restricted. See page 17.

Schedule C Wildlife - A hunting licence is no longer required to hunt Schedule "C" animals on Crown

land (see page 14). This does not apply to the native species on Schedule C: crows, magpies or brown-headed cowbirds.

Cougar Kittens - The definition of a cougar kitten now includes any cougar less than one year old, or any cougar with spots. There is no open season on any cougar kitten or any cougar accompanying it.

New Articles - We have changed a number of the articles in this year's synopsis. Articles were submitted by a number of different organizations and individuals to provide information that is useful and interesting to hunters and trappers.

Regional Regulation Changes - Major region-specific changes to the regulations can be found on the front page of each region's section of the synopsis (the same page as the region's map).

Government is considering closing a few select areas on the North and Central Coast to Black bear hunting. Please check our website for updates prior to your hunt.

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

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

In-season regulation changes are posted on the Web

Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of current regulations. Please check our website for in-season changes before your hunt.

www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw

Feature Articles from Past Editions

These articles from past editions of the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Synopsis have been posted on our website for on-going reference. Please go to:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/hunting/archive.htm>

Values Associated with BC Wildlife (2005) - Economic values of wildlife-related activities.

Licensing of Transporters (2005) - Changes to legislation regarding transporters.

Lynx Management Information (2004) - Knowledge of lynx cycles to help trappers to adjust harvesting efforts.

Moose Antler Regulations (2004) - Descriptions of the 3 types of moose antler regulations recognized by government.

Important Notice to all Mountain Goat Hunters (2004 Long Version) - Information on Mountain Goat selection.

Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (2004) - Objectives, plan and access information.

Safety Guidelines for Hunters in Bear Country (2004) - How to avoid encounters and what to do you if you encounter a bear.

Threatened Caribou Listing (2004) - BC's actions taken to protect caribou.

Take Care of Your Game Meat (2003) - Instructions for taking care of your game meat. Includes diagram.

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Front Cover

Duck hunting along the Peace River near Fort St. John

- Rob Woods, Photographer -

DEFINITIONS

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, 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.

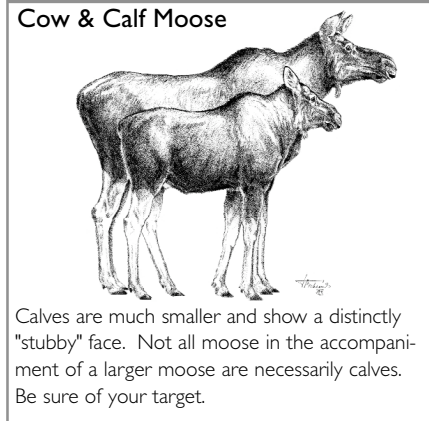
Brow Tine - means the first tine projecting forward or upward in the lower 1/3 of the antler of a moose, caribou, elk or deer.

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 1 year of age or over, bearing visible bony antlers.

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

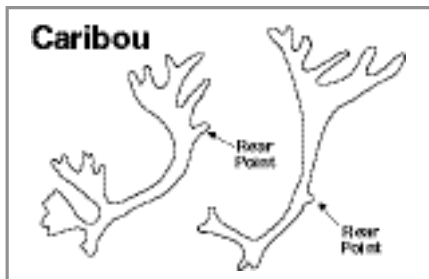
Cow Moose - Shoulder height: 6 feet; Weight: 600 – 800 lbs (live)

Calf Moose - Shoulder height: less than 5 feet; Weight: 300 – 400 lbs (live)



Cancelled Species Licence - means a Species Licence that has been cancelled as indicated on the licence. The Species Licence must be cancelled immediately upon killing the animal.

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.)

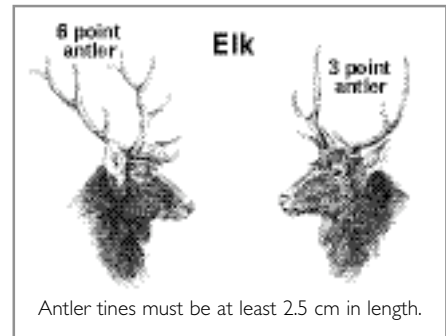
Decoy - means any material or manufactured product that simulates the appearance or has the form of wildlife.

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 - Three Points or Greater Bull - means any bull having at least three tines on one antler.



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

- with intention to capture the wildlife, or
- 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.

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.

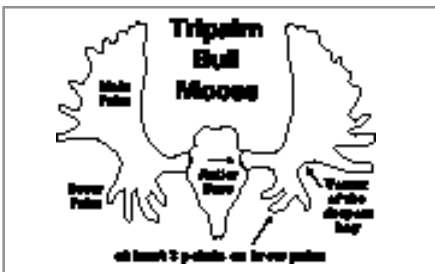
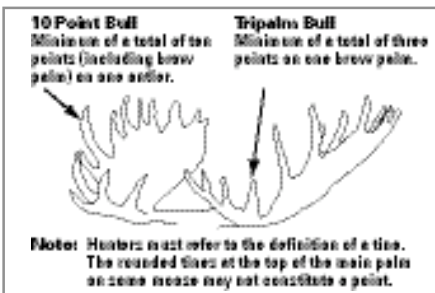
Muzzle loaders - see page 17.

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); coot; 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.) 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

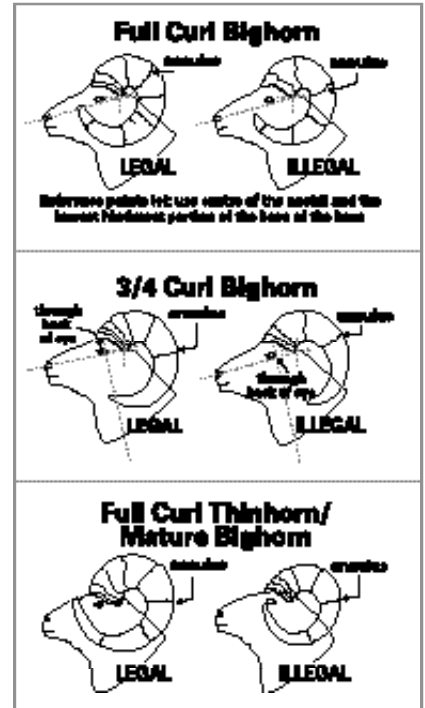
Motorcycle - means a motor vehicle that runs on 2 or 3 wheels and has a saddle or seat for the driver to sit astride.

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

Mountain Sheep - 3/4 Curl Bighorn Ram - means any male bighorn mountain sheep, the head of which, when viewed squarely from the side, has at least one horn tip extending beyond a straight line drawn through the back of the eye opening and at right angles to a line drawn between the centre of the nostril and the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base. If the skull and horns are presented for examination, when viewed squarely from the side with both horns in alignment, at least one horn tip extends beyond a straight line

through the back edge of the eye socket and at right angles to a line drawn through the lowest hindmost portion of the horn base and the lowermost edge of the eye socket.



Mountain Sheep - Mature Bighorn Ram - means any bighorn ram mountain sheep that has attained the age of 8 years as evidenced by true horn annuli as determined by the regional manager or designate, or whose horn tip, when viewed squarely from the side extends upwards beyond the forehead-nose bridge.

Mountain Sheep - Full Curl Thinhorn Ram - means any male thinhorn mountain sheep whose horn tip extends upwards beyond the forehead-nose bridge when viewed squarely from the side or which has attained the age of 8 years as evidenced by yearly horn growth annuli as determined by

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the Regional Manager or designate. Do not use yearly horn growth annuli to determine the age of a ram in the field, because "false" annuli may be present.

Mule (Black-tailed) Deer - Four Points or Greater Buck - means any buck having at least four tines, excluding the brow tine, on one antler.



No Hunting Area - means a designated area in which hunting (see definition) is prohibited.

Non-Resident - means a person who is not a 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 a bird of the order Falconiformes known as vultures, eagles, falcons and hawks or of the order Strigiformes known as owls and includes the eggs of these birds.

Road Allowance - see definition, pg. 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

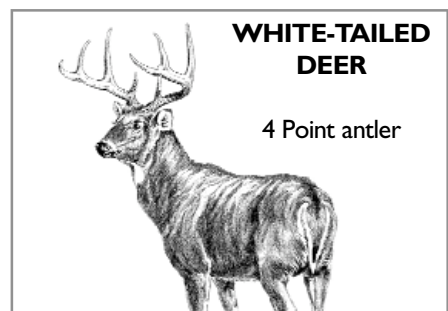
its tip end, following the midline of the profile of the tine, and following the natural curvature of the tine, to the midpoint of the straight line along which the breadth is measured. (See How to Measure a Tine diagram below)

Traffic or Trafficking - means to buy, sell, trade or distribute for gain or consideration or to offer to do so.

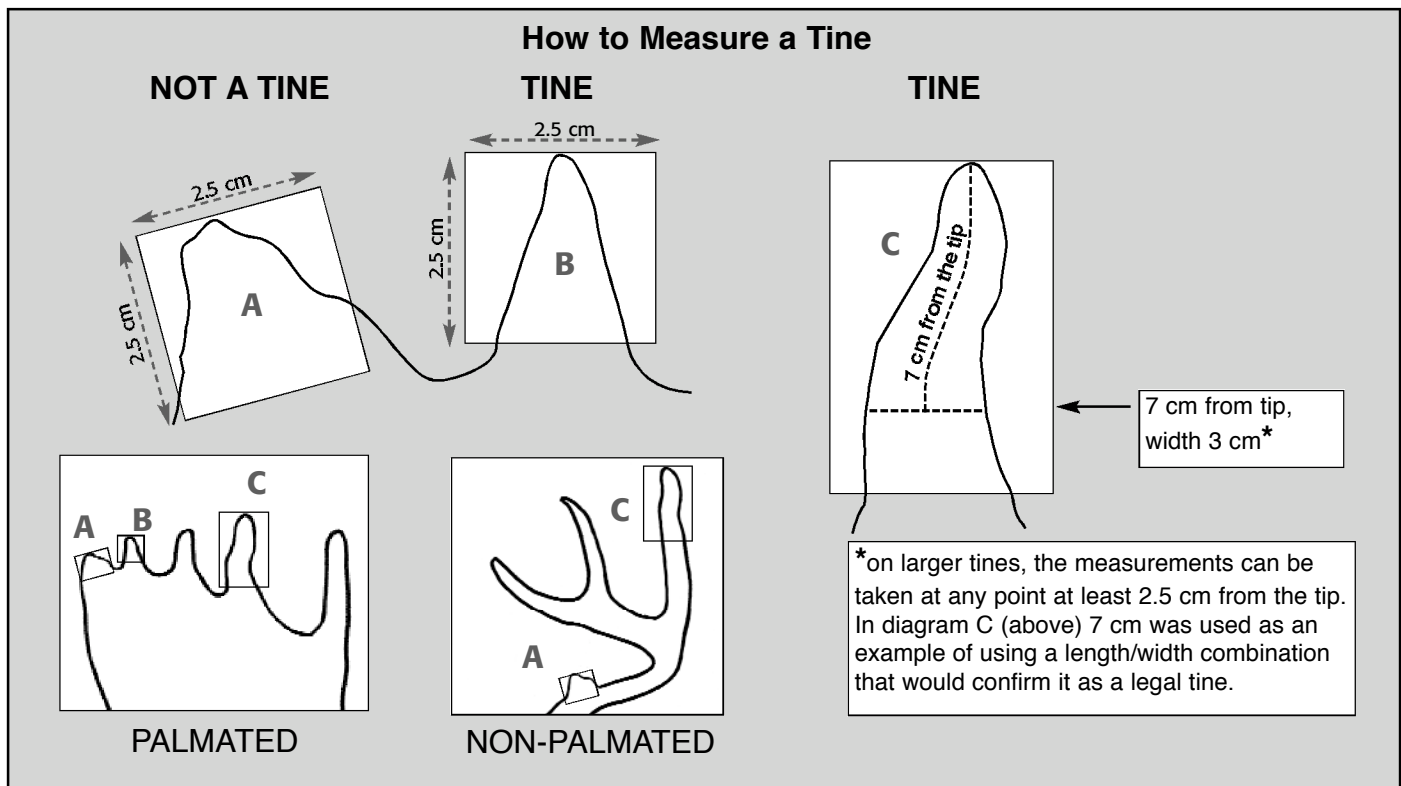
Upland Game Bird - includes the gallinaceous birds, such as wild turkey, grouse, partridge, ptarmigan, pheasant, and quail. Also includes doves and pigeons.

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.

White-tailed Deer - Four Points or Greater Buck - means any buck having at least four tines, including the brow tine, on one antler.



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



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 examination is based on: Outdoor Ethics, Firearm Handling, Hunting Regulations, Animal and Bird Identification, Outdoor

Survival, First Aid and Safety, and Hunter Heritage, Conservation and Wildlife Management chapters found in the CORE manual. There is a \$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 Access Centre offices, MoE, the BCWF office in Burnaby, at 1-888-881-2293, the MoE website at www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw, or the BCWF website at www.bcwf.bc.ca

▶ For a Bowhunter Education Program course recognized throughout North America, contact: BC Archery Association, www.archeryassociation.bcca

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 government agent in your area or the F&W 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 F&W 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 F&W 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 F&W 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 F&W Branch, MoE, 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 and Range 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 continue in Regions 1 to 6 and 8. Only young hunters at least 10 years of age and less than 19 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 affected regions may be reduced by 2 (or 1) 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 19 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 Environment is to ensure the long-term conservation of wildlife populations and their habitats. The Ministry also recognizes that Indian people have aboriginal rights to harvest wildlife for sustenance (food, social and ceremonial purposes) in their traditional areas. 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 MoE 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 appropriate 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.

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

▶ In order to purchase a hunting licence, a BC resident 14 years of age or older must show their valid Hunter Number card (see BC Resident Hunter Number section).

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

▶ BC Resident Hunter Number Cards are available only at Government Agents' offices, or the F&W Branch (2975 Jutland Rd, Victoria).

1. 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 completed while a resident in that state or province.
2. A person 14 years of age or older and under 19 must apply for a hunting licence in person in the presence of a parent or guardian, who must sign an "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" for his/her son, daughter or ward. Hunters under the age of 19 must be accompa-

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nied and closely supervised while hunting by a person who is 19 years of age or older and who holds a hunting licence.

- 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.
 - 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.
3. A Junior Hunting Licence can only be issued 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 14. The junior 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. Wildlife taken by the junior under this licence is included in the bag limit of the accompanying licensed adult. No species licences may be purchased with the junior licence. However, during a hunting season, a licensed junior hunter may accompany and hunt with an adult holding a valid Limited Entry Hunting authorization and a valid species licence.
 4. Non-residents' qualifications for a Junior Hunting Licence are the same as in (3.) with the exception that they may not hunt for a species for which a Limited Entry Hunting authorization has been issued to the accompanying adult.
 - ▶ For Information regarding Aboriginal Hunting, refer to page 7.
 - ▶ All licences issued under the *Wildlife Act* are non-transferable and non-refundable.

BUYING LICENCES

- ▶ Resident hunting licences are available at all Government Agents' Offices, and other commercial outlets and sporting goods stores. Non-resident hunting licences are available from Government Agents and the F&W Branch in Victoria (4th Flr, 2975 Jutland Rd). Non-residents may also obtain their licences by mail from F&W Branch (PO Box 9374 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M4). 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 Government Agents' 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 our records that you have been issued more than the legal limit of current licences, which is an offence under the *Wildlife Act*.

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 any Post Office.
 - ▶ 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/homepage/call800.htm.

BEARS

BC's Bear Parts Trade Ban

- ▶ To protect grizzly and black bears, the BC government imposed a ban on the commercial trade in certain bear parts effective February 1, 1993 which continues to be an important step toward reducing the illegal killing of these animals. Many jurisdictions in western North America have similar bans in place.
 - ▶ The BC regulation forbids the possession, trafficking, importing and exporting of bear galls, including any part or derivative of the gall bladder, and genitalia. It also bans importing, exporting or trafficking in bear paws separated from the carcass or hide, although possession of bear paws is still permitted 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

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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, production of the original documentation makes the transfer or the issuance of a permit much easier. It will greatly assist MoE 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

Big Game Guided Hunts

▶ Non-residents of British Columbia hunting big game must be accompanied by a licensed BC guide. 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.). This person must obtain the required permit at least one month prior to hunting. Applications for permits are available at Government Agent offices, the Permit & Authorization Bureau, or electronically from the MoE website:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/applications.html. (See Wildlife Permits & Commercial Licences article, page 24.)

▶ The non-residents must show the Permit to Accompany or a copy indicating the name of the permittee and the permit number 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 the Permit and Authorization Service Bureau toll free at 1-866-433-7272 (Victoria: 952-0932) for more information.

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

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).

Handguns

▶ It is illegal to hunt with a handgun in BC. See page 3 for definition.

▶ There are special handgun restrictions in Canada. Please contact the R.C.M.P for details before bringing a handgun into Canada.

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.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca**.

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Hunting Licence Fees

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

Prices do not include 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 to hunt all game .\$.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
- A junior hunting licence - to a person 10 years of age or older and under age 14 .\$.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 Fund (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 ▼	\$15.00	\$125.00
(mule deer and white-tailed)		
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 Licence	\$50.00
Wolverine *	\$8.00	\$40.00

~ SMALL GAME ~

	BC Resident	Non-BC Resident
Upland Game	No Species	
Birds	Licence Required	\$50.00
Small Game	No Species Licence Required	No Species Licence Required

- * Species licences for these species are not valid until 2 days after the date of issue.
- ▼ Mule deer licence also valid for black-tailed and fallow deer.

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 of the above big game species must immediately cancel the appropriate species licence.

All hunting and species licences expire March 31, 2007

NOTICE!

TO HUNTERS

Changes are being considered that would introduce a species licence for turkey in order to improve their management.

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SITE and ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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

▶ Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited in and within 100 m of all Regional District Parks.

▶ Contact the Regional District in the locality you wish to hunt for information on new parks.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

▶ Hunting is prohibited in National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) unless a special federal permit is granted or notices to the contrary are posted. Blue signs depicting a loon mark the boundaries of NWAs and MBSs.

Contact the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta for more information (604) 940-4710.

Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas and Protected Areas

▶ Hunting and the discharge of firearms, or bows is prohibited in many Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas and Protected Areas. Only those Parks, Recreation Areas and Protected Areas listed in the regional schedules are open to hunting and/or the discharge of firearms and bows, and only during the legal hunting season as described in the schedules.

▶ When a Provincial Park, Recreation Area or Protected Area 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 Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas and Protected Areas 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 Provincial Park, Recreation Area or Protected Area 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 and Recreation Area Regulations.

▶ Individuals hunting in a Provincial Park, Recreation Area or Protected Area should be aware that the *Park Act* and Park and Recreation Area Regulations apply.

▶ Note: Protected areas that have been established since the deadline for changes to the hunting regulations for 2006/07 (February 2006) will have no change to their status unless specified in these regulations.

▶ It is unlawful to trap, dispose of wildlife parts, or discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow within the developed portion of a BC Forest Service Recreation site or Interpretive Forest site as defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation.

▶ 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.

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.

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

Municipal Restrictions

▶ Most municipalities have local bylaws restricting and controlling the use of 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.

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

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

A copy of the plan is located online at http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilmb/lup/srmp/southern/southern_rocky/index.html

▶ Please refer to the Golden Backcountry Recreation Plan for recreation access zoning in MUs 4-34, 4-36 and 4-40. A copy of the plan is located online at

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilmb/lup/srmp/southern/southern_rocky/index.html

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SITE and ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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** (Section 58) - Motorized recreation regulation orders to restrict the use of motorized recreation vehicles such as ATVs and snowmobiles may be established in various areas around the Province. These areas are signed with information identifying the type of motorized use that is restricted, the area where the restriction applies and the period of the year when the restriction is in effect. In addition this information is available at local Ministry of Forests and Range district offices.

Please note that cutting trails and roads on Crown land is illegal without proper authority.

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.

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 to get permission from the land owner before accessing private land.

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NO HUNTING and NO SHOOTING AREAS

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 in order to protect crops and 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 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 Highway 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 Highway 118 (Topley Landing Road) between the intersection of Highway 118 and Highway 16 at Topley Landing and Granisle in the Skeena region.

400m 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 Highways 1 and 5 at Kamloops;

Hwy 6 between Bench Creek and Banting Creek;

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

Hwy 35 between Francois Lake and Burns Lake;

Hwy 37 between the intersection of Highway 37 with Highway 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 Highway 37A at Meziadin Junction;

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

Hwy 39 from the junction with Highway 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;

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.

400m 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

Hwy 3 (Crownsnest Highway) between Hope and Manning Park, Manning Park and Piinceton.

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

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

Hunters who are found to be under the influence of a drug or alcohol while hunting or while in possession of a firearm may be subject to a 24 hr hunting prohibition. Please hunt responsibly:

DON'T DRINK AND HUNT!

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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 from MoE. 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 captured or 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 hunt the following Schedule “C” wildlife:**

- (a) *Rana catesbeiana* - American bullfrog
- (b) all species of the family *Chelydridae* - snapping turtles
- (c) *Didelphis virginiana* - North American opossum
- (d) *Sylvilagus floridanus* - eastern cottontail
- (e) *Oryctolagus cuniculus* - European rabbit
- (f) *Myocastor coypus* - nutria
- (g) all species of the genus *Sciurus* - grey squirrels and fox squirrels

- (h) *Passer domesticus* - house sparrow
- (i) *Sturnus vulgaris* - European starling
- (j) *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) all species of the genus *Corvus* - crows, except *Corvus corax* - common raven
- (b) *Pica pica* - black-billed magpie
- (c) *Molothrus ater* - brown-headed cowbird and the eggs of this bird species may be destroyed.

COLLARED WILDLIFE

▶ Please avoid shooting any collared, implanted or ear-tagged wildlife. Collared animals carry radio transmitters for research purposes. If you inadvertently kill a collared, implanted or ear-tagged animal, contact the local MoE regional office immediately, because the meat may or may not be fit for human consumption. The collar must be returned.

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*.

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 grizzly bear or black bear less than 2 years old or any bear in its company.
12. to hunt the white (Kermode) or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.
13. to hunt a cougar kitten (any cougar with spots or under 1 yr of age) or any cougar accompanying it.
14. to kill or wound wildlife by accident or to protect life or property and fail to promptly report the killing to an Officer.
15. 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.
16. 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.

PENALTIES

▶ We will be tough with violators of our conservation laws and invaluable wildlife resource! See Important Notice on p.15.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: HUNTER PENALTIES

Hunting is a privilege in British Columbia. This privilege is defined in laws that aim to protect the wildlife resource and ensure safe and ethical hunting practices. Failure to comply with the law can lead to significant court and licence actions.

A hunter may be charged with an offence under provincial or federal law. A convicted hunter will be subject to the penalties associated with the law that has been broken, as ruled by the courts. Examples of laws that may affect hunters include, but are not limited to: the *Wildlife Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the Criminal Code.

Hunters should be aware that aside from normal court action, section 24 of the *Wildlife Act* allows the Director of F&W Branch to cancel, suspend, or require the re-taking of CORE training on any licences that are issued under the *Wildlife Act* and its regulations.

These licence actions do not go through the court system and are exercised at the discretion of the Director. This additional tool provides more options for penalizing those who choose to break the law and encourages compliance with the *Wildlife Act* and its regulations.

What Does the Director Consider When Making a Decision?

The Director may consider imposing licence action if:

- A hunter is found to have committed a violation resulting in high risk of serious injury;

- A hunter is found in violation of the same section of the *Wildlife Act* or its regulations on more than one occasion;
- A hunter is found in violation of different sections of the *Wildlife Act* or its regulations on more than one occasion, where the number of violations indicates a general lack of commitment to compliance;
- A hunter has failed to comply with a previous order within a reasonable time;
- A hunter knowingly or with reckless disregard violates one or more sections of the *Wildlife Act* or its regulations. Reckless disregard includes when a violation results from ignorance of the Act or its regulations due to a refusal to read them or take other steps to find out a hunter's obligations; or
- The Director considers that the circumstances may warrant an administrative penalty.

In reviewing licence actions, the Director provides an opportunity for the hunter to be heard. This is the hunter's opportunity to inform the Director of any and all events that took place. The Director will review the file and the submission and will make a decision based on all of the documents provided.

What Types of Penalties Can the Hunter Face?

We will continue to advocate and prescribe penalties to the furthest extent possible under the law in dealing with violators of our conservation laws and threats to our invaluable wildlife resource.

- The hunter's licences can be cancelled for up to 30 years.
- The hunter may be subject to a fine/imprisonment, which will be:
 - up to \$25,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment for the majority of offences under the *Wildlife Act* (\$500 to \$50,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for subsequent offences);
 - up to \$50,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment for offences that could harm the wildlife resource or that reflect serious unethical practices related to illegal hunting or trapping (\$1,000 to \$100,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for subsequent offences); and
 - \$1,000 to \$100,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for offences related to the illegal trade in live wildlife or killing endangered species (\$2,000 to \$150,000 and/or 18 months imprisonment for subsequent offences.)
- If the hunter does not pay a fine(s) imposed for wildlife offence(s), all licences, permits and Limited Entry Hunting authorizations issued under the *Wildlife Act* will be automatically cancelled, and the hunter will be ineligible to obtain new licences until the fine(s) is/are paid.
- The hunter's migratory game bird permit can be cancelled.
- If a hunter has had their hunting licence privileges suspended or cancelled, they are ineligible to apply for Limited Entry Hunting.

EXAMPLES OF DIRECTOR'S DECISIONS

Don't let this happen to you. Follow the rules and regulations. Be a responsible hunter and practice ethical hunting. Here are some cases where the Director suspended hunting privileges for the following reasons, activities and duration:

Case #1: Hunter failed to report the accidental killing of a cow moose out of season.

- The Director considered that the hunter was experienced and had a previous conviction under the *Wildlife Act* and its regulations.
- Penalty: Hunting licence suspended for 2 years.

Case #2: Hunter used lights while hunting in the dark.

- The Director considered that the action posed a threat to public safety and was a demonstration of bad hunting ethics (not fair chase).
- Penalty: Firearm and hunting licences suspended for 4 years. Ordered to complete CORE.

Case #3: Hunter failed to cancel moose species licence for the purpose of allowing another member of the party to hunt on his licence.

- The Director considered that the transferring of licences can cause negative impact on wildlife.
- Penalty: Hunting licence suspended for 2 years.

Case #4: Hunter killed 2 bull moose out of season.

- The Director considered that the hunter was experienced, and that over-harvest produces a negative impact on wildlife.
- Penalty: Hunting licence suspended for 4 years.

Case #5: Hunter shot rifle from inside a truck on the road.

- The Director considered hunter's previous convictions, that discharging from a motor vehicle is not fair chase, and that discharging a firearm in a no shooting area is dangerous.
- Penalty: Hunting licence suspended for 5 years.

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 Bear ⁶	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 Bear ⁶	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 pg
Other Small Game (includes Coyote)	Yes	Yes	Yes 1 for Coyote	Bow B, C, D	Raccoon, Skunk, Snowshoe hare 10/day 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 p. 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 broad-head greater than 8.1 g in weight and 2.2 cm (7/8 in) at its widest point.

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 all **geese** in aggregate is 5, except in Region 2.

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

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

ADVERTISING

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 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.

See more information on hunting restrictions on the next page.

LEAD SHOT BAN

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

Federal regulations currently identify steel shot, bismuth shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-bronze-iron shot, tin shot, tungsten - matrix shot, and tungsten-polymer shot as the only non-toxic shot permitted for use on waterfowl, coot and snipe. Hunters are advised to contact the CWS Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta (604-940-4710) for more details.

ADDITIONAL HUNTING METHOD RESTRICTIONS

You should also know it's unlawful:

1. to shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle or a boat propelled by a motor.
2. to hunt migratory birds from a power boat.
3. to use a power boat, aircraft, or motor vehicle or other mechanical device to herd or harass wildlife.
4. to hunt, take, wound or kill big game while it is swimming unless it has been previously wounded.
5. 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, or bicycle.
6. to carry a cocked crossbow in or on a vehicle, or to discharge a bow from a vehicle of any kind
7. to hunt or transport hunters or wildlife by a helicopter.
8. to hunt wildlife from an aircraft.
9. to hunt wildlife within 6 hours of being airborne in an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft.
10. to hunt game, except migratory game birds (see #11 below), 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-ihc.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.

11. to hunt migratory game birds from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
12. to hunt wildlife by the use of, or with the aid of, a light or an illuminating device.
13. to use poison for the hunting, trapping, taking or killing of any wildlife.
14. 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).
15. to use live birds as decoys or recorded bird calls to hunt game birds.
16. 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.
17. 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.

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BOWHUNTING LARGE GAME

Bowhunters regularly take large animals, but the right equipment is needed.

Broadheads: The core item in a bowhunter's tackle is the broadhead. Everything else is just a delivery system. Whatever head is chosen it must be razor sharp...period.

There are three general classes of broadheads, cut-on-impact, replaceable blade and expandable. All three are lethal but have their limitations.

The cut-on-impact comes in two, three and four blade configurations and must be hand sharpened. They are simple, strong and penetrate very well.

Replaceable blade heads are sufficiently sharpened from the factory. Generally they are not as failsafe as the simple cut-on-impact heads, but good quality models perform well. Because they usually have a chisel point, their penetration ability is significantly less than the cut-on-impact heads.

Expandable heads are favoured by some bowhunters for very fast bows. They are my last choice. They do not have the penetration ability of the previous two heads and are more prone to failure.

Despite these differences, all three types of heads have taken large thick-skinned game.

Arrows: Arrows are available in wood, aluminum and carbon.

For larger game, choose a heavy small diameter arrow. Without going into the physics, a heavier arrow will penetrate better than a light arrow even if both have the same energy and momentum, because as the arrow speed increases, the target resistance increases exponentially.

A smaller diameter arrow will penetrate better than a larger diameter shaft.

Bows: Bowhunters should use the heaviest bow that they can shoot...accurately. With the right arrow/broadhead combination and correct shot placement, a fifty or sixty pound bow will dispatch any North American animal. I would far rather shoot a lighter bow and cut my tag than struggle with a hero-bow and miss the shot of a lifetime.

Crossbows: Crossbows are different. A fifty or sixty pound conventional bow has two very important things that a crossbow does not. It shoots a heavier arrow, ensuring greater penetration, and it has a longer power stroke. The power stroke is the distance the string travels from release to the point where the arrow leaves it. The average power stroke of a conventional bow is about 20 to 22 inches.

Crossbows are in the neighbourhood of 12 to 15 inches. To efficiently take large game with a crossbow, the hunter should be using at least 150 lbs and a power stroke of 13 to 15 inches.

Summary: Consider choosing the bow/arrow combination that gives the best penetration. That would be the heaviest bow you could handle accurately, a heavy arrow of at least nine to ten grains per pound of draw weight and a good quality, razor sharp cut-on-impact broadhead. Keep shot distances within your effective range and be very sure of shot placement. Other equipment combinations can and will work but give yourself the greatest chance of success when that shot of a lifetime comes along.

Good Luck!

Gord Eason

President, United Bowhunters of BC



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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.

▶ 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: Permit & Authorization Service Bureau, 2975 Jutland Rd, PO Box 9372 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M3 or by fax: 250-387-0922.

POSSESSION AND 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.

▶ **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 (this page), 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 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 77) 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 is required to obtain from the butcher a receipt which indicates:
- ▶ the Hunter Number,
 - ▶ the species licence number, and
 - ▶ the species, and sex of the animal taken.

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.

continued on page 22...

COMPULSORY INSPECTION AND REPORTING

Compulsory Inspection for Hunter Harvest is no longer available at the MoE Regional Offices

Compulsory Inspections 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 are provided through the contracted services of qualified Compulsory Inspectors located in 25 locations throughout BC. This delivery system provides an improved service to hunters and at the same time results in a more efficient use of staff resources.

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 more information, please contact the appropriate MoE Regional Office or the MoE website www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/hunting/ci.htm

For Compulsory Inspection Centres, see Regional Sections' front page maps.

Information required for Compulsory Reporting and Inspection include:

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 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:

- grizzly bear • cougar • caribou
- mountain goat • mountain sheep
- elk in Regions 2, 8 and 7 (MUs 7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-33 to 7-41)
- cow moose in MUs 7-7, 7-10, 7-16 and 7-23 taken during the LEH season from Dec 1-7 (parts must be submitted to Prince George MoE Regional Office, 4051 18th St within 5 days of the kill).
- antlered mule (black-tailed) deer in MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58 (parts must be submitted to Prince George or CI locations specified for Region 7B.)

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 the 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 the Region 6 must submit the animal for inspection to a compulsory inspector in Region 6 within 4 days of the kill.

- PARTS REQUIRED -

For grizzly bear 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 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 cow moose:

- the front incisor tooth,
- the complete reproductive tract, and
- a kidney including attached fat.



For deer:

- the antlers attached to a portion of the upper skull, and
- the lower jaw including all teeth.

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:

- an incisor (front) tooth (Regions 2 and 8) 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.

COMPULSORY REPORTING

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

- lynx • bison • wolverine • bobcat
- moose in Regions 4, 5, or 8
- turkey (bearded), in Region 4
- wolf in MUs 1-1 to 1-13 or in Region 4
- elk in Regions 1 or 4

must, within 30 days after the date of the kill, report in person or by mail:

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.

The Harvest Data card can be used to submit this data. The card is available at any licence issuer, Government Agent, or MoE office. Compulsory Reports may be submitted to any MoE office. We are not collecting tooth samples at this time by mail.

Note: A person authorized to trap is exempt from the requirements noted above with respect to furbearing animals taken by trapping. See page 93.

NOTE: Compulsory Reporting Data can be mailed to F&W Branch, PO Box 9374 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9M4

DO NOT SEND TEETH IN THE MAIL

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 animal within **1 year** of the kill AND provides either the cancelled species licence or (where Compulsory Inspection is required) the Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet (which serves as an export permit).
- ▶ 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 the Permit & Authorization Service Bureau (see p. 24) to obtain export permits prior to starting their hunt.
- ▶ When a big game animal has been processed by a taxidermist, a tanner or meatcutter, it may be exported with an export permit to the hunter who lives in another province or in another country.
- ▶ British Columbia is part of a North American system of recording wild sheep

identification and hence all sheep horns harvested in the province must be inspected by a qualified Compulsory Inspector and a numbered plug inserted in one of the horns.

- ▶ Where a hunter or taxidermist, tanner or meatcutter has any doubt or questions about how to proceed under any circumstances which are not covered in the foregoing, he or she should contact the F&W Branch or a MoE 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 from BC for the export out of Canada of all grizzly bear, black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, wolf, wood bison, sea otter, 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, 2975 Jutland Rd, PO Box 9372 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M4. Application forms are available from Government Agents or at www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/applications.html. Clients can expect a turnaround time of 5 business days from the time it arrives at our office.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.

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**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.

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 F&W 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.

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



Bighorn

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WILDLIFE PERMITS & COMMERCIAL LICENCES

The Ministry of Environment's Centralized Permitting Process

On April 1, 2004, the processing of permit and commercial licensing applications, and their renewals, amendments and related payments, became administered through the centralized Permit and Authorization Service Bureau (PASB) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

Major fish and wildlife commercial licensing programs include angling guiding, guide outfitting, transporting and trapping. Wildlife permitting includes more than 70 permit types such as authorizations to export wildlife, to release an animal from captivity, to possess dead wildlife, etc.

These activities, formerly handled by MoE staff in regional offices, have been consolidated in Victoria headquarters.

This consolidation is accompanied by a process of continuous business improvement which will standardize and simplify the administrative process in order to respond to concerns and opportunities.

Permits and Commercial Licences remain a legal requirement, ensuring that environmental standards are not compromised.

The central permit bureau deals only with applications for Fish and Wildlife commercial licences and permits and Park Use Permits.

Recreational hunting and fishing licences are not affected and continue to be available at local retail outlets and Government Agent offices.

How to apply:

Background information and application forms for C.I.T.E.S. permits, other wildlife permits, non-resident hunting licences, trapping licences, and guide outfitter licences are available at Government Agent offices, PASB, or electronically from the MoE website:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/applications.html

Completed applications with necessary attachments and payment (cheque, money order, or credit card authorization payable to the Minister of Finance) can be sent to PASB by mail or courier:

**Ministry of Environment
Permit and Authorization Service Bureau
2975 Jutland Road
PO Box 9372 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9M4
Fax: 250-387-0922**

Questions:

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact:

Telephone: (250) 952-0932
Toll free: 1-866-433-7272

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Understanding animal health requires the collection of information about the diseases and parasites that occur in individuals and populations over time. Hunters and anglers are perfect sources for information about wildlife health, and the ministry's Wildlife Health Program needs their eyes! Potential health problems in BC's wildlife may be identified using videos, written or verbal descriptions, or photographs. If you see something or would like to know more about wildlife diseases, the following websites provide useful information on wildlife health:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/wldhealth.html
www.unbc.ca/nlui/wildlife_diseases_bc
wildlife.usask.ca/en/wildlife_health_topics.php

You can also help by filling out the Wildlife Disease Manual reporting form with the appropriate information at:

www.unbc.ca/nlui/wildlife_diseases_bc/specimen.htm and submit to the Ministry of Environment's Wildlife Veterinarian at wildlife@victoria1.gov.bc.ca and use this email to contact the Wildlife Veterinarian with questions.

WEST NILE VIRUS

Commonly reported signs in wildlife include weakness, stumbling, trembling, head tremors, inability to fly/walk, and lack of awareness that allows them to be easily approached and handled. Some hunted species have tested positive for WNV, but there is no evidence that humans can be infected by eating properly-cooked meat. **It is recommended that hunters wear gloves when dressing dead birds to protect against accidental injury and exposure to bird blood.**

The virus is expected to move into BC in 2006 with normal bird movements. We encourage outdoor recreationalists to report sick or dead cervids. For more information on the BC WNV program see www.bccdc.org where you can also report the finding of dead crows on-line.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system that affects many cervids (deer, elk, moose). Signs of the disease include weight loss and changes in behaviour, including drooling and difficulty swallowing, poor coordination, stumbling and trembling. There is no evidence to suggest that CWD can infect humans; however as a precaution, the World Health Organization recommends that all products from animals known to be infected with CWD not be used for human consumption. Experts suggest that hunters in areas where CWD has been identified should avoid eating the brain, spinal cord, eyes, tonsils, spleen or lymph nodes of cervids, because the infectious agent tends to concentrate in those

tissues. Hunters should also bury these tissues so environmental contamination does not occur. At this time, CWD is not known to occur in BC; however, the Wildlife Health Program is interested in reports and samples from any cervid exhibiting signs of this disease for the BC CWD surveillance program, so please contact us with any information on cervids showing unusual symptoms! This year, BC will be increasing its surveillance efforts along the BC/Alberta border in the Peace country and the East Kootenay region. Hunters may be requested to submit heads for voluntary testing, so stay in touch through our Wildlife Health website or your local sportsman clubs.

The BC Wildlife Health program is recommending the following two precautionary measures to assist in keeping CWD out of BC:

1. When importing hunter-killed cervids from outside of BC, the following carcass preparations prior to bringing meat or animal parts into BC can reduce the inadvertent introduction of disease:

- Removal of the head, hide, hooves, mammary glands, all internal organs and spinal column at the kill site, and **leaving these parts in the place of origin** - with the only exception being the head, if it is submitted for CWD testing in the jurisdiction of origin.
- Deboning or commercial preparation of meat prior to removal from the place of origin.
- Removal of antlers and the connecting bone plate from the remainder of the skull, and removal of any attached hide or soft tissue from the skull portion. The bone plate and antler bases should also be treated with a solution consisting of not less than 2% chlorine.
- Removal of raw capes and hides and sealing them in a waterproof container to ensure that no fluids, tissue or hair can escape. This may be brought into BC but should be frozen or delivered as soon as possible to a licensed tanning facility for processing.

2. It is believed that any substance, such as cervid scents or attractants, containing biological materials from cervids, including urine, feces, saliva or scent glands, may be capable of transmitting CWD through environmental contamination. It is recommended that synthetic products be used instead.

Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. (Normal field dressing coupled with boning out a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts. Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove remaining lymph nodes.)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Sporadic outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI) in domestic birds are reported worldwide, particularly in the past decade. Avian influenza has been diagnosed in domestic poultry in five US states and in BC. The new and most concerning strain of AI for human health has occurred in Asia, Europe and Africa but not in North America.

AI is present in many wild bird species, primarily ducks and shorebirds, but rarely causes disease. Wild birds may introduce AI into a poultry flock where the virus can mutate into a more severe form in the very high density environment, causing illness and death in the poultry flock. It is inappropriate and not feasible to attempt to prevent the disease by destroying wild bird populations. Control efforts are more effective if domestic poultry is targeted.

While hunted bird species may carry AI viruses, there is no evidence that consumption of infected, cooked game birds will cause AI in humans. AI in humans is rare, and to date, all reported cases have been acquired by exposure to infected poultry or their excretions. To prevent exposure to infectious diseases that may be carried by wild birds, the following general safety measures are recommended:

- Do not handle sick birds or wild birds found dead.
- Meat should be properly prepared and thoroughly cooked.
- Proper hand washing should always follow the handling of carcasses or raw meat.

Wildlife agencies across the continent are participating in surveys and research to further our understanding of the virus. For more information, please see: www.bccdc.org or wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/statusrpts/wldhealth/avian_influenza.pdf.

HANDLING GAME MEAT SAFELY

These general safety measures are recommended when handling game meat:

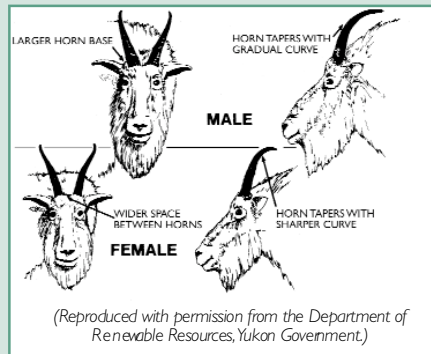
- ✓ Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick.
- ✓ Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing or handling any dead animal.
- ✓ Bone out the meat from your animal. Don't saw through bone if you can avoid it, and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal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

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTERS

Mountain goats are very sensitive to over-harvest, and even a small harvest of adult females can tip the balance between increasing and declining populations. The Wildlife Program is attempting to address this concern through voluntary compliance among hunters to select a male mountain goat (billy) while hunting.

Hunters are requested to select a male mountain goat.

For more information on how to select a billy please see our website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/hunting/archive.htm>



You can borrow the video "Is it a Billy or is it a Nanny?" from regional or Victoria MWLAP offices to help you learn more about billy selection. The same video is also available from the BC Wildlife Federation. The Wildlife Program will continue to monitor the proportion of nannies in the harvest and adjust hunting opportunities in response to local goat population trends and harvest.

NOTICE TO BEAR HUNTERS

In order to ensure the sustainability of bear hunting, bear hunters are requested to:

1. Be patient. Don't shoot the moment you see a bear!
2. Observe carefully and select an adult, male bear, especially a male grizzly bear. Bears can look deceptively large. Adult males have larger home ranges and will tend to be encountered less frequently than females and younger males.
3. Be aware that there is no open season on any bear (grizzly bear or black bear) less than two years old or any bear in its company (e.g., the sow). Take the time to ensure that cubs are not nearby.

4. Be aware there is no open season on white (Kermode) or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.
5. Contact the nearest MoE office immediately for important information if you shoot an ear-tagged or radio collared bear. See Collared Wildlife section, page 14.

All grizzly bear hunting is under Limited Entry Hunting (LEH). See LEH Synopsis for more information and an article on how to identify black bears and grizzly bears.

Small/Young Bears

- Appear to be "all legs".
- Frequently look over shoulder or turn around.
- More streamlined, pointed head.
- Ears look larger and closer together.
- Neck appears longer and thinner.
- Ears-to-nose lines form a skinny triangle



Large/Adult Male Bears

- Stocky legs
- Massive body with belly that hangs closer to the ground
- Slower, more deliberate movements
- Large, rounded head (like a basketball)
- Ears look smaller
- Thicker neck
- Ear-to-nose lines form an equilateral triangle



We wish to thank the Alaska Department of Fish & Game for permission to reproduce their text and graphics.

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