2026–2028

Hunting and Trapping

Regulations Synopsis

Effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028

BRITISH COLUMBIA

For in-season regulation changes visit
www.gov.bc.ca/hunting

Minister's Message

Welcome to the 2026-2028 hunting and trapping seasons!

B.C.'s wildlife and the habitats that support them make this province unique and special. From rugged coastlines and wind-swept grasslands to pristine lakes and rivers, expansive forests and breathtaking alpine landscapes, B.C. offers endless opportunities for every type of outdoor enthusiast.

Hunting in British Columbia supports sustainable food systems, contributes to local economies, and funds conservation activities that benefits all who enjoy the outdoors. Whether you are hiking trails, driving old roads or trekking through the mountains, sustaining these opportunities requires a high level of care, responsibility and diligence. For many, hunting is more than an activity—it is a tradition that connects families and communities to the land, passing knowledge and respect for wildlife from one generation to the next.

As hunters, your willingness to contribute to conservation is making a difference in the Province. As a specific example, your cooperation and partnership over the past 20 years in chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance have been vital to monitoring and managing this threat. In 2024, the first cases of CWD were detected in two deer in the Kootenay Region, and as of January 2026 there have been nine confirmed cases.

We have increased monitoring and control efforts, including enhanced surveillance, targeted sampling, public outreach and education, and special hunts; these efforts don't work without the continued participation and contributions of hunters. With your support, we can confirm prevalence remains below 1% in the affected areas. Through work with First Nations, hunters, local and federal governments and non-government partners, we hope to keep prevalence low and reduce the risk of further spread.

In 2024, mandatory hunter reporting for moose and caribou was implemented. This has now been expanded to include elk. The data submissions - for moose, caribou or elk that are due report by March 31 of each year – are providing useful and timely insights to help inform wildlife management decisions.

This synopsis, along with the associated Limited Entry Hunting Synopsis, includes numerous regulatory changes since the 2024-26 hunting seasons. Please ensure you check for any possible in-season or mid-cycle updates prior to hunting. There were also some proposed changes that were not made; the proposed regulation to prohibit the use of lead shot for the purpose of hunting was put on hold, as were some moose regulation changes in region 7b. We will do some more work to explore options to address concerns raised through engagement. In the interim, please continue to reduce your use of lead shot to avoid its accumulation in the environment.

To all British Columbians — whether you are hiking, camping, fishing, trapping, hunting or sharing time outdoors with friends and family — I encourage you to enjoy all this province has to offer safely, responsibly and with respect for the wildlife and habitats that sustain these opportunities. I wish you all safe, memorable and successful 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons!

Finally, I would like to thank all staff in the wildlife program for your dedication to wildlife conservation and health, sustainable management and responsible stewardship.

Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis
2026–2028

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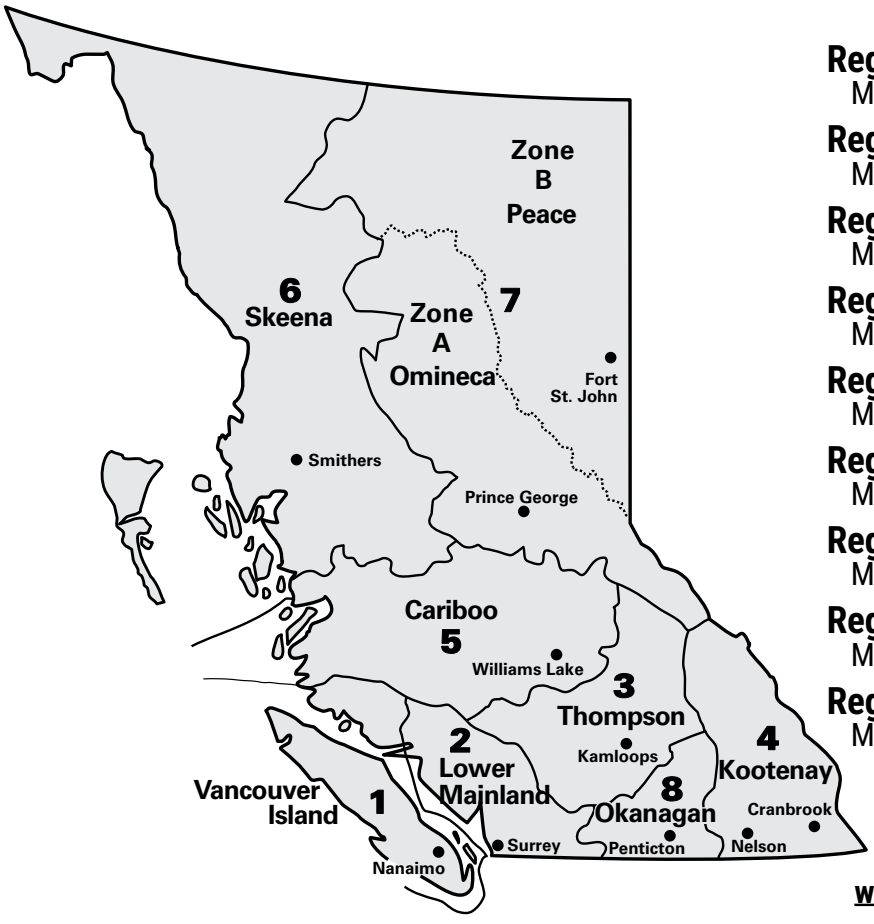
Receive Notification of Regulation Changes

To receive notifications about in-season regulation changes as well as other important notices about hunting in B.C., visit **www.gov.bc.ca/huntingregulations** or subscribe to the **Important Notices** page and the **Corrections and Updates** page.

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

Front Cover
Stone's Sheep,
Northern B.C.
Morgan Anderson, Photographer
Back Cover
Spruce Grouse
"The Rockies", B.C.
TJ Gooliaff, Photographer



Region 1 - Vancouver Island
Management Units (MUs) 1-1 to 1-15

Region 2 - Lower Mainland
MU 2-1 to 2-19

Region 3 - Thompson
MUs 3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-46

Region 4 - Kootenay
MUs 4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40

Region 5 - Cariboo
MUs 5-1 to 5-16

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Region 7A - Omineca
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Region 7B - Peace
MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58

Region 8 - Okanagan
MUs 8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26

Detailed wildlife managment unit maps can be reviewed online at

www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits

Province-wide regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. Mandatory Hunter Report required under all elk species licences.
2. Incisor tooth no longer required for mountain sheep compulsory inspection.
3. Possession and transport of cougar - evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to carcass.

New information and regulation changes are highlighted as green

Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)

Dial Toll Free, **1-877-952-7277 (RAPP)**, or Report Violators Online at: **rapp.bc.ca**
Helping the **Conservation Officer Service** Stop, Solve and Prevent Environmental Crimes

AVAILABLE 24/7, leave a secure tip to report:
Violations of Fisheries, Wildlife or Environmental Protection Laws.
Wildlife-human conflicts where public safety is at risk.

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

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

RAPP
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24-Hr Hotline:
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
rapp.bc.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOW - means a longbow or crossbow.

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

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

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

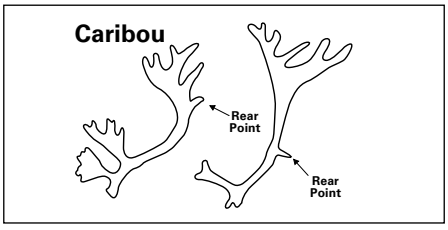
COW MOOSE - a female moose recognizable by having no antlers and being 1.8 m at shoulder height weighing 340-420 kg.

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

CALVES ARE MUCH SMALLER AND SHOW A DISTINCTLY "STUBBY" FACE. NOT ALL MOOSE IN THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF A LARGER MOOSE ARE NECESSARILY CALVES. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET.

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

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



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

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

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

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

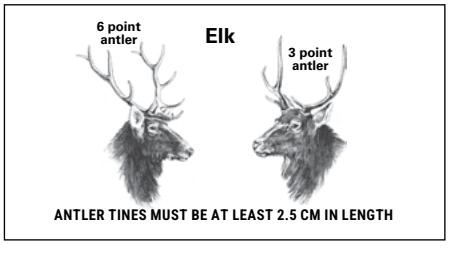
DEER FAMILY - moose, caribou, deer, and elk.

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

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

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

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



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

EXISTING ROAD OR TRAIL - means **(a)** a road or trail with a paved surface, **(b)** a cross-country or downhill ski route marked in a ski area by the owner of the ski area, **(c)** a road used for logging or mining, **(d)** a road or trail used for access to fences, power lines, wind generators or communication towers, or **(e)** a trail on which there is no vegetation except on a strip that, if present, can be straddled by a 4-wheel vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) with intention to capture the wildlife, or

(b) while in possession of a firearm or other weapon.

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

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

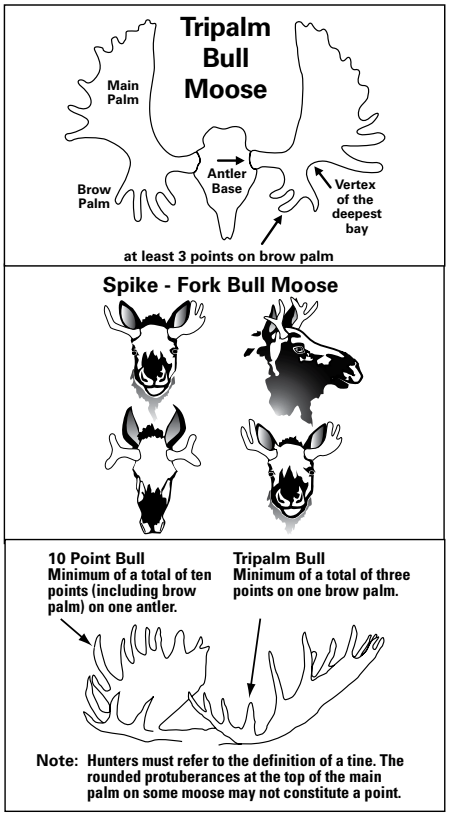
LOADED FIREARM - means any firearm containing live ammunition in either the breech or the magazine. A clip containing live ammunition, when attached to the firearm, is considered as the magazine. Muzzle loaders - see page 12.

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

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

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

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



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

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

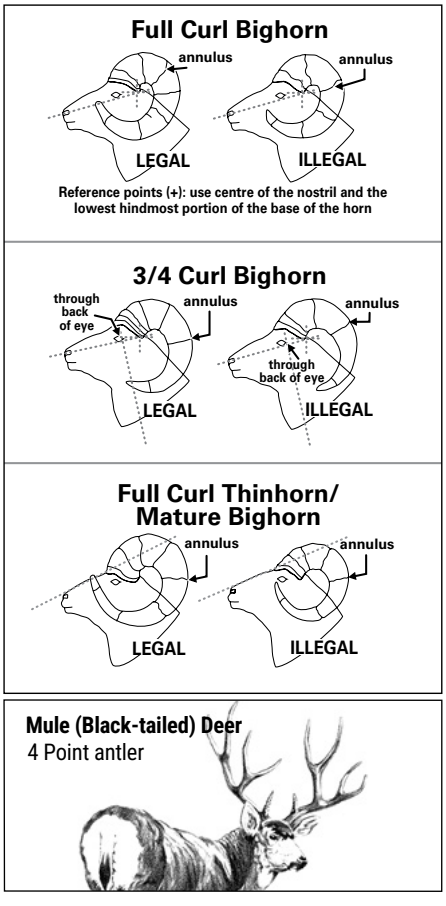
MOUNTAIN GOAT KID - means a mountain goat with horns less than 10 cm in length.

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

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

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

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



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

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

NON-RESIDENT - means a person who is not a B.C. resident, but who is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, or a person who is not a B.C. resident, but whose only or primary residence is in Canada and has resided in Canada for the 12 month period immediately before making an application under the *Wildlife Act* or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the *Wildlife Act*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

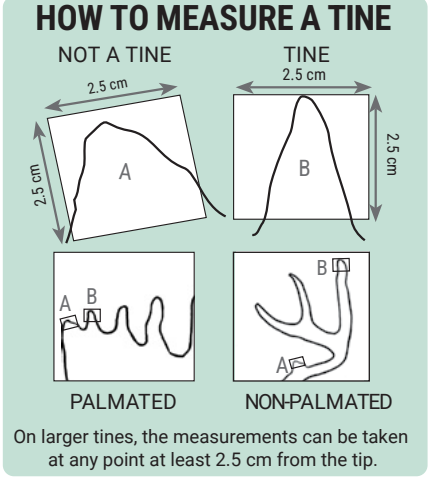
SHOT - means a cartridge manufactured so that it contains 8 or more roughly spherical projectiles.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Hunter Education

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

WILD and Your B.C. Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID)

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

Hunters Required to Prove B.C. Residency

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

Electronic Licences, Permit to Accompany and LEH Authorization

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

Limited Entry Hunting

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

Open Seasons

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

Aboriginal Hunting

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

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

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

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

First Nation members who wish to hunt outside their traditional territory or treaty areas must comply with the Hunting Regulations which can be found in both the LEH and Hunting and Trapping Regulation Synopses (except for the licensing exemption described above). This includes making application for an LEH authorization via the LEH draw. A Fish and Wildlife ID with active BC resident credential in addition to either a hunting credential or a licence exemption WA S.11(9) credential is required to submit an application for LEH.

To enter the LEH draw, persons residing in B.C. registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) may create a Fish and Wildlife ID and be granted BC resident and licence exemption WA S.11(9) credentials upon proving status and residency. Proof of status includes a Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada, a Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document (TCRD) or a letter from the Band Office or First Nation Government confirming status. LEH fees apply.

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

The B.C. government encourages mutual courtesy and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous hunters.

Aboriginal Title in B.C

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

Métis Hunters

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

Licence Requirements

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

Resident Hunting Licence

» Hunting licences are available to resident hunters 10 years of age or older who hold a valid FWID with resident and hunting credentials (see BC Fish and Wildlife ID section).

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

» You will be asked to produce your FWID number and photo ID when purchasing a hunting licence in person.

Youth Hunting Licence

» Youth 10 years of age or older and under 18 years of age, who have a FWID may obtain a Hunting Licence OR a Youth Licence. A youth hunting licence does not provide a personal bag limit.

» A Youth Hunting Licence can only be issued to a parent or guardian on behalf of their child or ward who is 10 years of age or older and under the age of 18. Hunter safety training is not required to obtain a Youth Hunting Licence. The parent or guardian is required to have a FWID to hold the Youth Hunting Licence.

» A youth hunter, whether or not they have completed a hunter safety training program or are hunting under a hunting or youth licence, must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision of an adult who carries the proper licences and meets the prescribed qualifications to be a supervising hunter.

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

» Non-resident youth wanting to hunt big game must be accompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany.

Initiation Hunting Licence

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

» Hunter safety training is not required to obtain an Initiation Licence.

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

Hunter Safety Training for Youth and Initiation Hunters:

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

Bag Limits and Supervision for Youth and Initiation Hunting Licences:

» Wildlife taken under a Youth or Initiation Hunting Licence is included in the bag limit of the supervising licensed adult. No species licences may be purchased with a Youth or Initiation Hunting Licence. However, during an LEH hunting season, a resident licensed youth hunter may accompany and hunt with an adult holding a valid limited entry hunting authorization and a valid species licence.

» Hunters under the age of 18, and hunters hunting under the authority of an Initiation Hunting Licence, must be accompanied and under the close personal supervision while hunting by a person who meets the following prescribed qualifications:

- Hold a FWID with active residency and hunting credentials.
- If supervising an Initiation Licensed Hunter, be a resident and hold a basic hunting licence (unless exempt).
- Have held a hunting licence (or be exempted from holding a licence), other than an Initiation Hunting Licence, in British Columbia, or a licence to hunt in another jurisdiction, in not fewer than 3 of any of the licence years preceding the current licence year. This qualification does not apply to the supervising hunter if a guide outfitter also accompanies the holder of an Initiation Hunting Licence.
- Persons residing in B.C. registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) must have received training in hunting and previously hunted lawfully without supervision.
- Not be prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm in any jurisdiction.
- Not accompany or supervise more than two Youth Licensed Hunters, two Initiation Licensed Hunters, or one Youth and one Initiation Licensed Hunter at one time (Note: youth who hold a Basic Hunting Licence do not count towards the maximum number that may be accompanied.)

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

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

Deer Licences

» The provincial bag limit for deer is 3.

» A person must not possess more than 3 mule deer species licences.

» A person must not possess more than 3 white-tailed deer licences.

» A person must not possess more than 15 deer licences in the aggregate (mule deer, white-tailed deer, or Haida Gwaii deer combined).

Haida Gwaii Deer Licences

» Deer seasons on Haida Gwaii are more liberal than other parts of the province, and bag and possession limits are higher. The possession limit for deer from Haida Gwaii is 5.

» Deer on Haida Gwaii may be harvested under the authority of a mule deer licence (reminder: a person must not possess more than 3 mule deer species licences) or a special Haida Gwaii deer licence.

» A person must not possess more than 15 Haida Gwaii deer Licences.

» Up to 3 mule deer licences can be used for Haida Gwaii deer, but they will count toward the Skeena region and provincial bag limits for mule deer.

» Up to 12 Haida Gwaii deer licences can be used for Haida Gwaii deer without impacting regional or provincial bag limits. Any Haida Gwaii deer harvested in excess of 12 is counted towards the regional and provincial bag limits for deer.

» Haida Gwaii deer licences cannot be used for mule deer anywhere in the province outside of Haida Gwaii

Migratory Game Bird Hunting

» When hunting migratory game birds (see Definitions section), you must carry with you a valid Canadian federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permit in addition to any required provincial hunting licences. Migratory game bird hunting permits are available online at **www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/PurchaseHuntingPermit**, and through some Canada Post Offices and independent vendors.

» The MGBH Permit for youth/minors is only available through the MGBH e-permitting system at **www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca/en/PurchaseHuntingPermit**.

» To stay informed, please refer to the Government of Canada website at **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/status-update-modernization-regulations.html**.

» All youth hunters and their mentors/supervising hunters must also carry the appropriate valid provincial hunting licences, in addition to the required federal MGBH permits, at all times when hunting migratory game birds.

» 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 **https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/**.

Keeping Your Licences and Records

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

Non-Resident Hunters

» Non-residents of British Columbia must follow all hunting regulations. All non-resident hunters are required to have a Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID) to obtain hunting licences.

» Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters must hold an unrestricted hunting licence to hunt small game unaccompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany non-residents or non-resident aliens. To obtain an unrestricted non-resident/non-resident alien hunting licence, you must show proof of successful completion of hunter safety training.

» You can prove successful completion of hunter safety training when registering for your FWID and applying for your hunting credential. You have the option to upload a copy of your hunter safety training certificate using WILD or take your documentation to a Service BC or FrontCounter BC office. If your hunter safety training document is in a language other than English or French, it is your responsibility to submit the original document along with a notarized translated version of the document.

» If you do not obtain a hunting credential, you will only be eligible to apply for a restricted non-resident/non-resident alien hunting licence and you must be accompanied by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany non-residents or non-resident aliens when hunting.

» The fee for a restricted and unrestricted licence is the same. Fees vary depending on your residency status.

» Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters **are required to be accompanied** by a guide outfitter, assistant guide outfitter or a holder of a permit to accompany **at all times when hunting big game,** regardless of the type of licence (restricted or unrestricted) they have.

Big Game Guided Hunts

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

Big Game Permit Accompanied Hunts

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

» A non-resident alien, who is not a resident of Canada and is not a Canadian citizen, may also be eligible under the permit to accompany providing they qualify under one of the required relationship categories (i.e., if accompanied by a parent, sibling, child, parent's sibling, sibling's child, grandchild, grandparent, spouse, spouse's parent, child's parent, spouse's sibling, sibling's spouse, but excludes cousins).

» The B.C. resident applying for this permit must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, 19 years of age or older, who has held a BC hunting licence and a big game species licence for 3 of the 5 years preceding application (or 2 of the 5 years preceding application if the applicant has completed CORE).

» Permits to Accompany may not be available for all species and areas (for example, mountain sheep). You can review the regional hunting restrictions online at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/permit-to-accompany**. Applications can be submitted online through WILD at **www.gov.bc.ca/WILD** or at a FrontCounter BC office.

» The B.C. resident applicant is eligible to buy licences on behalf of the non-resident named on the valid issued permit.

» Non-residents must have a valid issued permit to accompany associated to their Fish and Wildlife profile to be able to buy species licences for themselves. Otherwise, a guide outfitter licence number will be required.

» The permit holder (B.C. resident) must complete a permit to accompany report from their Fish and Wildlife profile using WILD, or by reporting to FrontCounter BC within 10 days after the hunt authorized by the permit is concluded (whether or not the hunt took place).

» If there is a harvest, the permit holder must make royalty payments within 30 days after the hunt authorized by the permit is concluded (see Royalty Fees section page 15).

» Royalty payments can be made from your Fish and Wildlife profile using WILD, or at any FrontCounter BC or Service BC office.

» For additional information, please contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222.

Small Game

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

Notice to Hunters!

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

Regulations are subject to change; it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of regulations. Check our website for in-season changes before your hunt:
www.gov.bc.ca/huntingregulations

Before Your Hunt

Hunting Licence Fees

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

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

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

★ Includes surcharge for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF). ◆ See definitions (page 4).

Species Licence Fees

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

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

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

SMALL GAME	B.C. RESIDENT	NON-B.C. RESIDENT
Small Game	No Species licence required	No Species licence required ★
Upland Game Birds	No Species licence required	$50.00

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

★ Except for upland game birds.

All hunting and species licences expire March 31 of each year

Replacement Species Licences

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

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

Replacement Fee..... $10.00

Licence Fees: What Are They Used For?

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

Surcharges and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)

HCTF is a non-profit, charitable foundation that uses the surcharges collected on hunting, angling, trapping, and guide outfitting licences to fund conservation projects across B.C. Surcharges from hunting, trapping, and guide outfitting licences pay for wildlife and stewardship projects, as well as education programs. Money is also used to secure important wildlife habitat through HCTF's acquisition granting program. In 2026-27, HCTF approved 100 wildlife and stewardship projects, ranging from ungulate habitat enhancement to programs designed to get kids outdoors and connected with nature in their communities.

Where can I find out more?

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

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Buying Licences

» Licences are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** and at Service BC, FrontCounter BC and participating commercial outlets and sporting goods stores. If you buy your species licence online, it will be mailed to you and it is subject to Canada Post delivery times. If you have not received your licences in the mail, you may qualify for a replacement free of charge if between 15 to 30 business days from the purchase date you report the loss to FrontCounter BC or Service BC.

» The following licences are electronic only and will be registered on your FWID profile after purchase: resident, non-resident or non-resident alien hunting licence, initiation licence, youth licence, upland game bird licence, Fraser Valley, and Gulf Islands special area licences. There is no requirement to carry a paper copy of these licence types while hunting.

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

» Hunters with permanent physical disabilities who are unable, because of their disability, to exit a vehicle to discharge a firearm, or are unable to walk 100m while carrying a firearm, may apply for a disabled hunting permit. Information and the permit application process are available through the FrontCounter BC website at **www.gov.bc.ca/disabled-hunting-permit**.

Site and Access Restrictions

National Parks

» Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks. All firearms transported in National Parks must be dismantled, carried in a closed case, or wrapped and tied securely so as not to expose any part of the firearm.

» Firearms are also not permitted outside of a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a National Park unless they are being moved into, or out of, a person's premises, or with a permit issued by the park superintendent.

Regional District Parks

» The discharge of firearms and bows is prohibited in most regional district parks. Regional district bylaws are NOT included in this synopsis. Contact the Regional District for further information.

» Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 m of all Regional District Parks in Regions 1 and 2.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

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

BC Parks

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

» Hunting and the discharge of firearms, or bows is prohibited in many BC Parks. Before hunting in a BC Park, hunters must verify that hunting is permitted. To see if the park you are planning to visit allows hunting, check the park's webpage: **bcparks.ca/find-a-park/**. Hunting in BC Parks is only permitted during a lawful open season.

» When a BC Park is closed to hunting or there is no open season for any species, both the possession and discharge of a firearm or bow are prohibited except when authorized by a park officer. Possession is only allowed when such weapons are carried within a vehicle or when authorized by a park officer.

» The use of horses and motor vehicles (including motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs and other self-propelled vehicles or cycles) is generally prohibited in BC Parks except where specifically authorized. All motor vehicles on park roads must be licensed. Use of aircraft to arrive at or depart from some parks is restricted.

» It is prohibited to hunt or discharge a firearm or bow in a BC Park within 400 m of either side of the centre line of any park road or highway except as authorized by a park officer, unless otherwise stated in this synopsis for a specific road. A park road is a road in a park or recreation area that is designated and developed for licensed motor vehicles.

» Hunters are encouraged to remove gut piles from near hiking trails or known areas of recreational use or, if that is not possible, to advise park staff of kill locations.

Recreation Sites and Trails

» Provincial Recreation Orders prohibiting motorized use.

- Visit **www.gov.bc.ca/recreation-orders** for more information and a list of provincial Recreation Orders.

» As defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation:

- Unless authorized by a recreation officer; it is unlawful to trap or discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow on or into:
  - The developed portion of a Recreation Site or Interpretive Forest.
  - The "developed portion", refers to that area that extends 100m in all directions from a structure, day use area, camping area, trail staging area, or similar area.
  - Any portion of a Recreation Trail where a prohibition has been posted.
- It is unlawful to dispose of game residue in the developed portion of a recreation site.

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

Ecological Reserves

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

Conservation Lands

» B.C. has different types of Conservation Lands, including Wildlife Management Areas, Crown Reserves, and lands acquired for fish and wildlife management; sometimes in cooperation with other agencies (e.g., Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Trust of BC).

» Hunting, the discharge of firearms or bows, motor vehicles, and access are restricted or prohibited in some Conservation Lands.

» Before hunting in a Conservation Land, please contact your regional office.

Municipal Restrictions

» Most municipalities have bylaws restricting and controlling the use of weapons, firearms and bows within their boundaries. Municipal bylaws are NOT included in this synopsis. Consult municipal clerks for details.

» Most municipalities have local bylaws restricting and controlling wildlife attractants and illegal dumping, so hunters are reminded to dispose of carcasses and animal parts responsibly. Carcasses are considered wildlife attractants and can attract large predators. Do not dispose of them within municipal boundaries or in areas frequented by the public.

Indian Reserves

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

Unauthorized Use of Cabins

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

Access Restrictions

» Several laws govern access:

❶ Trespass Act

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

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

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

❷ Forest and Range Practices Act

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

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

❸ Off Road Vehicle Act

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

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

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

For more information about the ORV Act, visit the ministry's website at **www.gov.bc.ca/offroadvehicles** and the BC Laws website: **www.bclaws.gov.ca**. Call the Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) Hotline at 1-877-952-7277 if you witness a contravention.

❹ Wildlife Act

A person is not permitted to hunt on cultivated land or on Crown land which is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock, without the consent of the owner, lessee, or occupant of the land.
Note: leased land is subject to the Trespass Act, regardless of whether livestock are present.

Motor Vehicle Prohibitions and Restrictions

Detailed maps for all the Wildlife Act motor vehicle prohibitions in the province are now available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/motorvehicleprohibitions**.

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

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

For definitions and regulations, see the **Wildlife Act Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation**. See regional sections for more details on Motor Vehicle Prohibitions.

Unless specifically exempted, all motor vehicle prohibitions include private land. Unless specifically included, motor vehicle prohibitions do not include highways (as defined in the **Motor Vehicle Act**). See definitions section for vehicle types.

Information signs may be posted at the entry of closure areas. Where there are inconsistencies with signs and the regulation, the regulation is the final authority.

No Hunting and No Shooting Areas

Federal Firearms Legislation

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

No Shooting or Hunting Areas

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

No Shooting Areas

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

Highway No Shooting or Hunting Areas

- It is unlawful to discharge a firearm across or to discharge a firearm or hunt within the road allowances of all numbered highways and any two lane or greater public road in B.C. that is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (or their contractors), the federal government or another province or territory. The road allowance extends:
  - (a) 15 m on either side of the middle of a road with less than three lanes, or
  - (b) 15 m from the edge of the paved surface of a highway with three lanes or more, or
  - (c) to the boundary of private or cultivated land, whichever comes first.

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

Hwy 99 No Shooting Area

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

Hwy 118 No Shooting Area

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

Hwy 3 No Hunting Area

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

Hwy 113 No Shooting or Hunting Area

- No shooting or hunting within 400 m of the centre line of Hwy 113 (Nisga'a Highway) between Sterling Mountain Parking Lot Recreation Site and Kincolith (Gingolx), and east to Nass Camp.

400 Metre Single Projectile (Firearm) Prohibited Areas

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

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

Hwy 6 between Bench Cr. and Banting Cr.;

Hwy 16 between the boundary of Prince Rupert and the B.C. - Alberta interprovincial boundary;

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

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

Hwy 35 between Francois and Burns Lake;

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

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

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

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

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

Hwy 113 between Terrace and Sterling Mountain Parking Lot Recreation Site.

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

400 Metre No Hunting or Shooting Areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional No Hunting or Shooting Areas

- The No Hunting or Shooting areas described above are provincial or multi-regional in area.
- Check the regional sections of the synopsis for information on No Hunting or Shooting Areas within regions.

What is "Wildlife"?

» All native species of animals in the province, and some non-native species, excluding invertebrates and fish, have been designated as wildlife. This designation gives them protection under the *Wildlife Act*. These species may not be hunted, killed, captured, kept as pets or used for commercial purposes unless specifically allowed by regulation or under the authority of a permit.

» Schedule B and C wildlife are known to destroy property and/or are detrimental to native wildlife or habitat. These species have fewer restrictions regulating their hunting, killing or capturing. Any capture or killing of these species must still abide by provincial laws regarding the humane treatment of animals.

» Schedule B lists animals that may be captured or killed on private land only for the specific purpose of protecting property; no hunting licence or open season is required. On Crown land a person must abide by the open seasons for Schedule B species (see Regional Schedules for open seasons). Schedule B species include coast mole, snowshoe hare, voles and lemmings, bushy-tailed woodrat, deer mice, porcupine, northern pocket gopher, yellow-bellied marmot, woodchuck, Columbian ground squirrel, striped skunk, spotted skunk, racoon, Northwestern crow, American crow, black-billed magpie, and brown-headed cowbird.

» For all Schedule C species there are no closed seasons or bag limits. Furthermore, there are no requirements to remove edible portions or report the killing to an officer. Schedule C birds may be hunted using electronic calls.

» **You do not need** a hunting licence to capture, hunt or kill the following Schedule C wildlife: American bullfrog, green frog, snapping turtles, North American opossum, eastern cottontail, European rabbit, nutria, gray squirrels, fox squirrels, house sparrow, European starling, and rock dove (domestic pigeon).

» **You do need** a hunting licence to hunt feral pigs UNLESS you are hunting them on your property or they are damaging your property.

» Feral Pigs (see definition section): It is an offence to possess or transport a live feral pig with the exception of a person who was the owner of the feral pig, or an agent of the owner, for the purpose of recapture and returning it to captivity or control.

» All other hunting related regulations apply to Schedule B and C wildlife, for example, prohibited hours for hunting, motor vehicle restrictions/ prohibitions, no hunting areas, no shooting areas, prohibition on trafficking in wildlife meat, etc.

» If a person injures wildlife listed in Schedule B or C, the person must kill that wildlife.

Ear Tags and Collars

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

Illegal Guiding

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

» It is unlawful to act as, or offer to act as, a guide for wildlife for compensation or reward unless licensed to do so.

» A person must possess a valid British Columbia Guide Outfitter Licence or Assistant Guide Authorization in order to legally guide hunters. The government licences guides to ensure that their activities can be closely monitored and regulated.

» A person who guides without the proper authorization commits an offence. A person who uses the services of an illegal guide may, as a party to the offence, be charged and convicted of the same offence.

Illegal Transporting

» The definition of "transporter" in the *Wildlife Act* Commercial Activities Regulation is: a person who, for money or other compensation, transports a hunter to, from or between locations so that the hunter can hunt but does not include a person who operates a scheduled commercial flight or a chartered aircraft unless the person also provides ground transportation, accommodation, or other ground services to the hunter.

» A person must not act as a transporter unless the person holds a transport licence or a guide outfitter licence issued under section 15 of the *Wildlife Act*.

Dispatching Dangerous Wildlife

» A guide outfitter/assistant guide that holds a valid B.C. hunting licence may track and dispatch a black bear, cougar, or wolf that has been wounded by a guided hunter. The guided hunter then cancels their species licence.

» A supervisor of a youth hunter or a resident who holds a Permit to Accompany for a non-resident/ non-resident alien (supervised hunter) may track and dispatch a black bear, cougar, or wolf that has been wounded by the supervised hunter. The supervised hunter then cancels their species licence.

It's Unlawful

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

During Your Hunt

36. To hunt migratory game birds from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
37. To hunt game, except migratory game birds from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. To find out the time of sunrise and sunset, consult a local newspaper or the following website **www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/sunrise/index.html**. The responsibility remains with the hunter to make the determination of sunrise and sunset in the field based on existing terrain and circumstances.
38. To hunt wildlife by the use of, or with the aid of a light or illuminating device.
39. To use or possess infrared optics on a hunting expedition.
40. To use poison for the hunting, trapping, taking or killing of any wildlife.
41. To use recorded or electronic calls to hunt wildlife except wolf, coyote, cougar, lynx, or bobcat or any bird listed in Schedule C (see "What is Wildlife?" Section).
42. To use live birds as decoys or recorded bird calls to hunt game birds.
43. To hunt migratory game birds within 400 m of any place where bait has been deposited unless that place has been free of bait for at least 7 days.
44. To kill wildlife (with the exception of a fur bearing animal other than a black bear) and fail to remove from the carcass the edible portions (see definitions section) to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. A person who kills wildlife is exempted from the requirement to remove the edible portions if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to a recipient who complies with the requirement. Of a furbearing animal other than a black bear, the hide and/or edible portions must be removed to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter, the owner or operator of a cold storage plant or to a taxidermist, tanner or a fur trader. A person who kills a furbearing animal is exempted from the requirement to remove the hide if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to another person who complies with the requirement.
45. To interfere with or obstruct a person licensed or permitted to hunt, guide or trap while that person is lawfully so engaged.
46. To hunt wildlife with a handgun.
47. To hunt game while accompanied by, or with the use of or aid of, domestic goats or sheep province-wide and camelids in region 6, 7A, and 7B (excluding Haida Gwaii), including as pack animals.
48. To possess and or traffic in bear galls, including any part or derivative of the gall bladder (or bile), or male bear genitalia that has been separated from the hide and carcass (hunters are not committing an offense if they remove the gall bladder from the carcass and leave the gall bladder at the kill site, or, if they move the bear from the kill site and they, within 48 hours, dispose of the gut pile including the gall bladder).
49. To traffic in bear paws, separated from the carcass or hide, although possession of bear paws under lawful authority of a licence or permit is allowed for personal and ceremonial use.
50. To possess any part of a Cervidae (caribou, deer, elk, moose), that was killed outside of British Columbia, other than **(1)** the edible meat of the four quarters, loins, neck, and ribs, or **(2)** the hide, antlers, and skull plate if, before being brought into British Columbia, the part is cleaned in a manner that removes all tissue.
51. To use, for the purpose of hunting wildlife, any part or derivative of a deer, elk, moose, or caribou if the part or derivative originated from outside British Columbia.
52. To hunt without carrying all species licences, including cancelled species licences, issued during the licence year.
53. A person is not permitted to hunt on cultivated land or on Crown land which is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock, without the consent of the owner, lessee, or occupant of the land.
54. To alter or tamper with horns or antlers of wildlife harvested during an antler/horn restricted season (i.e., spike-fork moose, full curl sheep, 6 pt. elk) until the carcass is given to a meatcutter or owner/operator of a cold storage plant, arrives at the person's normal dwelling place and is butchered and stored there for consumption on the premises, or is submitted for compulsory inspection.

Legal Hunting Methods

Firearms

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

Retrieval

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

Falconry

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

Dogs

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

Provincial Bag and Possession Limits

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

- It is unlawful to continue to hunt game species on a day in which the daily bag limit of that species has been taken, or, on the day or subsequent to the day in which the seasonal bag limit for that species of game has been taken.
- In the regional schedules, NBL means No Bag Limit (no maximum number of a species or type of wildlife that a person may take or kill)
- An entry such as "2(1)" used for ungulates means the season bag limit is two animals of that species, one of which may be antlerless. An entry such as "10(20)" for game birds means the daily bag limit is 10 and the possession limit is 20.
- The table on the next page indicates the maximum number of animals which a hunter may take in the province in one licence year (April 1 to March 31). Exceptions to the provincial bag limits may apply to some species in some regions. Provincial bag limits may be achieved by hunting in one or more regions provided the regional bag limits are not exceeded.
- The daily bag limit for **ducks** in aggregate is 8, except for restricted species: Pintail, Goldeneye (Barrow's and Common), Harlequin, and Canvasback.
- The daily bag limit for Canvasback is 4, Northern Pintail is 4, Goldeneye (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) is 2 and Harlequin is 2. Please see regional sections.
- The daily bag limit for Canada and Cackling geese in aggregate is 10.
- The daily bag limit for White-fronted Goose is 5.
- The daily bag limit for Snow and Ross's geese in aggregate is 5 except for MUs 2-4 and 2-5 where 15 Snow Geese may be taken.
- The possession limit for all **migratory game birds** at all times (including while hunting, returning from hunting or at a residence) is three times the daily limit. For ducks, not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails or Canvasbacks. Not more than 6 may be Goldeneyes or Harlequins.
- The possession limit for all **upland game birds** while hunting or returning from hunting is three times the daily limit except for Sharp-tailed Grouse (Regions 3, 5, and 7B) and pheasants (Region 4 only) where the possession limit is two times the daily limit.

Legal Hunting Methods and Provincial Bag Limits

Note: Some hunts and areas have specific restrictions. See regional sections for descriptions	Firearms				Archery	Provincial Bag Limits (Applies to all licenced hunters)
	Rifles			Shotguns		
	Air	Rimfire	Centrefire			
Big Game						
Bison	No	No	Yes[7]	No	Bow E	1
Black Bear[4]	Yes[8]	No	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow A, C, D	2*
Bobcat	Yes[8]	Yes	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow B, C, D	5*
Caribou	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Cougar	Yes[8]	No	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow A, C, D	2*
Deer	Yes[8]	No	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow B, C, D	3* (see Deer Licences section)
Elk	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Lynx	Yes[8]	Yes	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow B, C, D	1
Moose	No	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Goat	Yes[8]	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Mountain Sheep	Yes[8]	No	Yes	No	Bow A, C, D	1
Wolf	Yes[8]	No	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow A, C, D	3*
Wolverine	Yes[8]	Yes	Yes	Yes[1]	Bow B, C, D	1
Small Game						
Upland Game Birds	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes[3]	Yes	Bow B, C, D	Turkey (Region 1*, 4* and 8*) Upland Game Birds (see page 12)
Other Small Game (includes Coyote)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes for Coyote[1]	Bow B, C, D	Snowshoe Hare (10/day) Raccoon, Skunk, Coyote (NBL)*
Migratory Birds						
Migratory Game Birds	No	No	No	Yes[4, 5]	Bow D	Ducks (see page 12)* Geese (see page 12)*

*** See regions' sections for regional bag limit. Regional bag limits apply to all licenced hunters.**

Notes

1. Shotgun must have a bore size of 20 gauge or larger and use shells of shot size No. 1 Buck or larger.
2. Grouse, ptarmigan, or turkey only.
3. Grouse or ptarmigan only.
4. Possession or use of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited, except for pigeons or doves. See page 12.
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.
8. Must be .35 caliber or larger.

A person may snare snowshoe hare during the open season if they have a hunting licence and completed the trapper education course. The snare must be non-braided and no heavier than 20 gauge.

Archery

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

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

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

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

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

Notice! Shot Ban

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

Federal regulations currently identify steel shot, bismuth shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-bronze-iron shot, tin shot, tungsten - 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 (604-350-1950) for more details.

Deer Bag Limits

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

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

1. **The provincial bag limit for deer is 3** (not including Haida Gwaii). Hunters may not harvest more than 3 deer in one licence year**, only 1 may be a mule (black-tailed) deer buck from regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, and 8 combined**. Hunters may harvest 3 white-tailed deer (if they purchase 3 white-tailed deer licences), **or** 3 mule (black-tailed) deer (if they purchase 3 mule (black-tailed) deer licences), or a combination of white-tailed and mule (black-tailed) deer (1+2 or 2+1) providing they do not exceed the provincial limit of 3 **and not more than 1 mule (black-tailed) deer buck from regions 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7A, 7B, and 8 combined**. The reason hunters may purchase more than 3 deer licences in total is to provide hunters with the flexibility to harvest any combination of white-tailed or mule (black-tailed) deer up to a maximum of 3.
2. Regional bag limits are implemented to limit the number of a species or sex of deer that may be harvested per hunter per year in response to local conditions. If a hunter harvests the maximum number of a species or sex of deer within a region, they can no longer hunt deer of the same species and sex within that region. They can, however, continue to hunt and harvest deer in other regions until they reach the provincial bag limit of 3.

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

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

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

*** Some exceptions apply**

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

***** One additional deer (white-tailed or mule deer, antlered or antlerless), beyond the regional bag limit, may be taken during the Jan 5-31 Cranbrook Deer Hunt. Hunters cannot exceed the provincial bag limit of 3 deer.**

Record of Receipt for Transporting Wildlife

Date: _____ **Place of Receipt:** _____

Species: _____ **Species Sex:** _____

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

_____

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

Species Licence Number under which the animal was taken: _____

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

_____

Signature of hunter: _____ **Witness:** _____

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

Date of kill: _____

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

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

Species: _____ **Species Sex:** _____

Management Unit in which the species was harvested: _____

Royalty Fees

» It is unlawful to offer for sale the pelt or skin from a furbearing animal taken under a hunting licence unless a royalty on the pelt or skin has been paid. If the hunter sells the pelt of a furbearing animal to a licensed Fur Trader, they are exempt from paying the royalty.

» Every holder of a valid hunting licence who lawfully kills a furbearing animal is exempt from paying the prescribed royalty fee unless he offers the pelt for sale. Payment of a royalty fee is required only upon the initial sale of the pelt. Furbearing animals may only be hunted where an open hunting season is declared.

» The permit holder who accompanies a non-resident and/or non-resident alien (see Definitions section) under a Permit to Accompany must submit royalty fees, within 30 days after the hunt has ended, for each animal taken by the non-resident and/or non-resident alien. See website for list of royalty fees **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/permit-to-accompany.**

» A guide outfitter is exempt from having to pay royalty fees (Section 69 of the *Wildlife Act*) in relation to animals taken by a resident hunter guided by or on behalf of the guide outfitter.

» Royalty fee payments may be submitted by mail or courier with cheque (payable to the Minister of Finance), money order or credit card to any FrontCounter BC location. Locations available at **www.gov.bc.ca/frontcounterbc-locations**.

Possession and Transportation

Game Birds

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

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

Big Game

» It is unlawful to possess or transport a big game animal that was killed unintentionally, by accident or collision, or was illegally killed.

» Anyone who possesses or transports the carcass or part of the carcass of the following animals must leave naturally attached to the carcass or one part of the carcass in the person's possession the following listed parts:

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

1. For **caribou, elk** or **moose**, the animal's tail or another readily identifiable part of the hide not less than 6 cm^2, AND:
   i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis,
   ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats.
2. For **deer**, the unskinned tail, AND:
   i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis,
   ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder and teats.
3. For **bison, mountain goat** or **mountain sheep**:
   i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis.
   ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the udder or teats.
4. For **cougar** the skull and hide bearing:
   i. If the animal is male, a testicle or part of the penis.
   ii. If the animal is female, a portion of the teats or mammary gland.

» The above sections (1) - (3) do not apply if a person possesses a portion of a carcass or hide which they did not kill, provided that:

i. 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

ii. they have a Record of Receipt as described in the Transporting Wildlife section (page 14), AND

iii. the person who killed the wildlife possesses a portion of the carcass or hide with the parts attached as described in sections (1) - (3) on this page.

Removing Evidence of Sex and Species

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

» after it arrives at a person's normal dwelling place and is butchered and stored there for consumption on the premises,

» after it is taken to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant, or

» after it has been inspected by a qualified Compulsory Inspector.

Transporting Wildlife

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

» the date and place of receipt,

» the name and address of the person who killed the animal, or from whom it was acquired,

» the name and address of the person to whom the wildlife parts are to be delivered,

» the Fish and Wildlife ID or permit number of the person who killed the animal,

» the species licence number under which the animal was taken, and

» the species and sex of the animal taken.

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

» the FWID of the hunter, species licence number, and the species and sex of the animal taken.

Carcass Transport Restrictions - Prevent Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease

A person who kills a deer, elk, or moose within M.U.s 4-1 to 4-8 and 4-20 to 4-25 (the CWD Management Zone, see **page 36**) must not ship or transport, or engage another person to ship or transport, outside of the CWD Management Zone, the brain tissue or the spinal column, including the vertebrae and central nervous system tissue but not including the tail.

There is a 24-hour exemption after harvest for deer, elk or moose harvested in M.U. 4-7, M.U. 4-8, and M.U. 4-25 that require travel outside of the CWD Management Zone to immediately access a designated CWD freezer. This exemption applies only to the routes below.

M.U. 4-7 Drop-off location: Nelson

Route: through M.U. 4-18 on the Harrop cable ferry, Harrop Ferry Road and Highway 3A

M.U. 4-8 Drop-off location: Nelson

Route: through M.U. 4-16, 4-17 and 4-18 on the Glade cable ferry, Glade Ferry Road and Highway 3A/Highway 6

M.U. 4-8 Drop-off location: Fruitvale

Route: through M.U. 4-16 on Highway 3A

M.U. 4-25 Drop-off location: Invermere

Route: through M.U. 4-26

M.U. 4-25 Drop-off location: Canal Flats

Route: through M.U. 4-26 on Highway 93/Highway 95

Disposal of Carcasses or Wildlife Parts

» Carcasses or part of a carcass of an animal or fish are included in the *Wildlife Act* definition of an attractant. Other than for the purpose of hunting in accordance with the provisions of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations, it is prohibited to provide, leave, or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises where there are or where there are likely to be people in a manner in which the attractant could attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises and be accessible to dangerous wildlife. A person that commits an offence under this provision is liable, on a first conviction, to a fine up to $50,000 and/or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

Game Checks

» All hunters, with or without game, when encountering temporary checking stations operated by an officer, are required by law to stop and report.

Export from the Province

» It is unlawful to export wildlife or wildlife parts from B.C. unless you have a valid export permit or are exempted from holding an export permit

» An export permit is not required if the hunter accompanies their big game within 1 year of the kill AND provides the cancelled species licence and (where Compulsory Inspection is required) the Compulsory Inspection Report or Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet.

» An export permit is not required if the export of the animal originates in a jurisdiction outside of B.C., is only transported through B.C. to its final destination outside of B.C. and the export documentation from the originating jurisdiction accompanies the animal.

» In the case of an animal covered under the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S.), a C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit may be required (see C.I.T.E.S. section for list of animals requiring C.I.T.E.S. Export Permits). U.S. residents, please refer to C.I.T.E.S. section for additional information on Black Bear exports.

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

» Where a hunter or taxidermist, tanner, or meatcutter has any doubt or questions about how to proceed under any circumstances which are not covered in the foregoing, the hunter should contact the Wildlife Branch or a Ministry regional office as soon as possible.

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

» Hunters possessing a mountain goat or mountain sheep harvested in MU 7-19 who must drive through Alberta and back into B.C. in order to submit the animal for Compulsory Inspection, are exempt from obtaining an export permit for this purpose.

CITES Export

» The "Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species" (CITES) requires that a CITES Export Permit be obtained for the export out of Canada of all bears, cougar, lynx, bobcat, wolf, sea otter, or river otter or parts of these animals. Such permits leaving Canada directly from B.C. may be obtained by applying to **www.gov.bc.ca/cites-permit.** For assistance with your application contact FrontCounter at 1-877-855-3222. For all other CITES listed species contact CITES Canada directly at **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/permits/application-forms.html**.

» A person who is ordinarily a resident of the United States may export a Black Bear hunted by the person, if it is in a fresh, frozen, or salted condition and the person is exporting only the hide, the hide with paws and claws attached, the skull, or the meat excluding any organs, without obtaining a CITES Export Permit.

Taxidermists, Tanners, Meatcutters, Fur Traders and Cold Storage Plant Operators

» Taxidermists, tanners, meatcutters, fur traders and cold storage plant operators are required under the *Wildlife Act* and regulations to keep records of their transactions.

» The regulations state that the following information must be recorded:

(a) the total number of wildlife or parts of them of each species acquired,

(b) the date of receipt of the wildlife or parts of them,

(c) the name and address of the person from whom wildlife or parts of them were acquired, and

(d) the legal authority that the person claims to have to possess the wildlife or parts of them. For example, the serial number, date, and type of licence under which the wildlife or part of it was taken.

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

(a) the species and sex of the wildlife or wildlife parts, and

(b) the Management Unit from which the wildlife or wildlife parts were taken.

» When a hunter takes the parts of an animal to the business concerned, the person must have the following documentation with them:

4. The hunter's hunting and species licences with the appropriately cancelled species licence.
5. Limited Entry Hunting Authorization, if required in order to hunt the animal.
6. Compulsory Inspection Data Sheet, which confirms that the animal has been inspected by a *Wildlife Act* officer, where such an inspection is required.
7. The person's trapping licence if the animal was taken under that authority.
8. The valid permit that allows possession of the animal if a permit is required in exceptional circumstances.

» Presentation of this documentation helps to protect the recipient, i.e., the taxidermist, tanner or meatcutter, from prosecution for illegal possession; it is required by law, and a "paper trail" exists should an investigation be required. In addition, some taxidermists, as agents for their clients, present the necessary parts of game animals for Compulsory Inspection by a *Wildlife Act* officer, when the hunter is unable to do so personally. In such cases it is mandatory that the hunter provide the taxidermist with all the information required for the inspection, including the location of the kill. If such information cannot be produced by an agent, then the animal may be seized by a conservation officer or constable until all the documentation is provided.

Reporting Requirements for Taxidermists and Tanners

A taxidermist or tanner who receives a grizzly bear or grizzly bear parts for processing MUST report to government within 10 days of receipt by recording details in a special online grizzly bear registry. For instructions, please see the Quick Reference Guide titled "How to Submit a Grizzly Bear Registry Report" on the Hunting in B.C. website at **www.gov.bc.ca/huntingtrapping-quick-reference-guides.**

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

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

Submitting Your Hunter Sample Questionnaire

» The largest source of hunter activity and game harvest information is the annual Hunter Sample Questionnaire. Every January, a large portion of the B.C. residents who have purchased a hunting licence in the previous year are sent a questionnaire referring to the species for which a particular licence was purchased. Hunters may receive questionnaires for more than one species. 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 hunted or harvested an animal.

» Information from survey responses, Compulsory Inspection, Compulsory Reporting, Mandatory Hunting Reporting and game checks, enables managers to set specific hunting regulations to provide hunting opportunities while ensuring harvest is sustainable. Without adequate information, managers must set conservative harvest levels to prevent overharvest by closing areas, reducing season lengths, or applying LEH.

» Survey information submitted for upland game birds often contains errors misidentifying the MU or species. Upland game bird hunters are asked to take care recording their harvest to help improve the quality of data received.

» For more information on the Harvest Questionnaire, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions at **www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/frequently-asked-questions**.

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

Mandatory Hunter Report

» All individuals who purchase an elk, moose or caribou species licence are required to submit a report on their hunting activity by March 31.

» This information is important for improving the quality of data available for management decisions, and all information is kept confidential. Submitting a Mandatory Hunter Report does not provide exemption from fulfilling any other reporting requirements. Hunters who fail to submit a required Mandatory Hunter Report commit an offence and will not be able to purchase a licence or LEH application for the following season until the report is submitted.

» There are three options to submit a Mandatory Hunter Report:

1. Electronically in WILD from the licence on your FWID profile.
2. In person to any FrontCounter BC office **www.gov.bc.ca/frontcounterbc-locations.**
3. By mail using an official Mandatory Hunter Report form to:

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

» More information on Mandatory Hunter Reporting will be available on the hunting website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/mandatory-hunter-reporting**

Compulsory Inspection and Reporting

Compulsory Inspection (CI) and Compulsory Reporting (CR) are a requirement for specific game species. The CI process includes taking measurements and/or parts of the animals for scientific analysis and provides wildlife managers with valuable information about the animals being harvested. CIs for hunter harvest are provided in some regional offices and some are provided through independent, qualified inspectors throughout the province.

The inspector locations are listed on the regional maps of each region. Appointments must be arranged by the hunter for all CIs ahead of time, drop ins will not be accepted. For CI Centre's, see Regional Sections' frontpage maps.

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

Compulsory Inspection (CI)

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

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

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

- mountain goat
- mountain sheep

  Note: You are encouraged to have your sheep inspected in the region where it was harvested. There is limited capacity in regions 1 and 2 to undertake inspections which could result in longer waiting times or needing to travel to another region for the inspection.
- caribou
- cougar in any MU, see #4 in next column for extra requirements in region 6
- black bear in MUs 6-12 and 6-13

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

- The location and date of the harvest;
- The hunter's or taker's FWID, name, address, and telephone number;
- The class of the animal that was taken or killed (i.e. sex, antler configuration, horn curl, etc.)
- The number of days spent hunting before the animal was harvested
- The type of weapon used to take or kill the animal; and
- The licences and, if applicable, the limited entry hunting authorizations that authorized the taking or killing.

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

Parts Required for CI

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

- the portion of the skull (preferably skinned) that includes, naturally attached to the skull, the nasal bones, the entire eye-socket, the horns, and the associated connective bone structure,

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

For mountain goat:

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

For black bear and cougar:

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

For caribou:

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

Compulsory Reporting (CR)

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

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

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

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

There are three options to submit a Compulsory Report:

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

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

Note: Tooth samples are not required for CR.

For more information on CI please visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection**.

For more information on CR please visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-reporting.**

Note: See pages 72-73 for the CI and CR requirements for furbearers taken by trapping.

Compulsory Inspections and Hunting Data

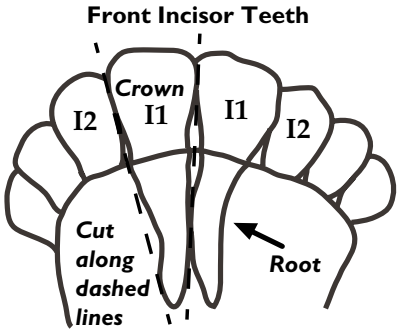
» The information obtained through compulsory inspections informs decisions about wildlife management.

» Compulsory inspection records begin in 1900 and are presented at the MU level. The species required to be inspected changes over time and varies by region, so not all species are represented in the dataset for the full period of record or for the entire province.

» The compulsory inspection database contains information that is collected during these inspections. To learn more about the data collected or to access the Compulsory Inspection data, see **Hunting Data** or **DataBC**.

How to Extract an Incisor Tooth from your Sheep, Moose, Caribou or other Ungulates

Incisor teeth only occur at the front of the lower jaw of an ungulate, their removal is easy and will not affect your opportunity to have the animal taxidermy mounted. It is important that a middle tooth is removed from the jaw properly, so that the animal can be aged. Your assistance in taking care to properly remove an incisor tooth from the jaw, clean it and submit it is an important part of this process.



Extracting the teeth

Incisor teeth can be easily extracted from the freshly killed hoofed animal or ungulate; their removal becomes much more difficult if the jaw has been dried. You may need to soak the jaw in warm water to rehydrate it, making removal easier. To remove a tooth:

To remove a tooth:

1. Cut down through the gum tissue on either side of the root with a thin-bladed sharp knife. Select one of the center teeth, as they have the largest developed root and will give the most accurate estimate of age.
2. Push the tooth out with your thumb. If the tooth does not come out easily, carefully use a pair of pliers and pull it out with a twisting motion. Clean off the soft tissue and any jawbone material from the tooth. **Do not cut into the root or submit a tooth with a broken root as it is the root portion of the tooth that is used in aging.**

IMPORTANT

- Do not send the entire jawbones.
- Do not include soft tissue (gum tissues, muscle, hide) with the tooth.
- Do not store your tooth in a plastic bag. Place the cleaned tooth inside a paper envelope to dry.
- Ensure the envelope is labelled with species, date of kill, region, management unit, FWID and which tooth is being submitted (I1, I2).

Hunter Notice - Accidental Illegal Harvest

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

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

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

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

What should you do?

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

- If you have telephone service, call the RAPP number and seek direction from a Conservation Officer.
- If you are within close proximity of a phone but it will require some traveling, field dress that animal to prevent spoilage, leave the carcass at the scene and go to a location where a call to the RAPP number can be made.
- If you are in a remote location and telephone contact is not possible, field dress that animal to prevent spoilage, care for the carcass until you enter a location where a phone call to the RAPP number can be made.

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24-hour hotline

1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

BC Moose Tracker App

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on safe game meat handling please visit our **Wildlife Stewardship** website.

Wildlife Permits and Commercial Licences

FrontCounter BC processes fish, wildlife, and park use permit applications through their 30 regional offices. FrontCounter BC office locations and contact information can be found on the FrontCounter BC website at **www.gov.bc.ca/frontcounterbc-locations**.

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office

2080A Labieux Road
Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9
(250) 751-7220

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Black Creek, Port Alberni, and Port McNeill

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: by appointment only.

- Nanaimo
- Campbell River

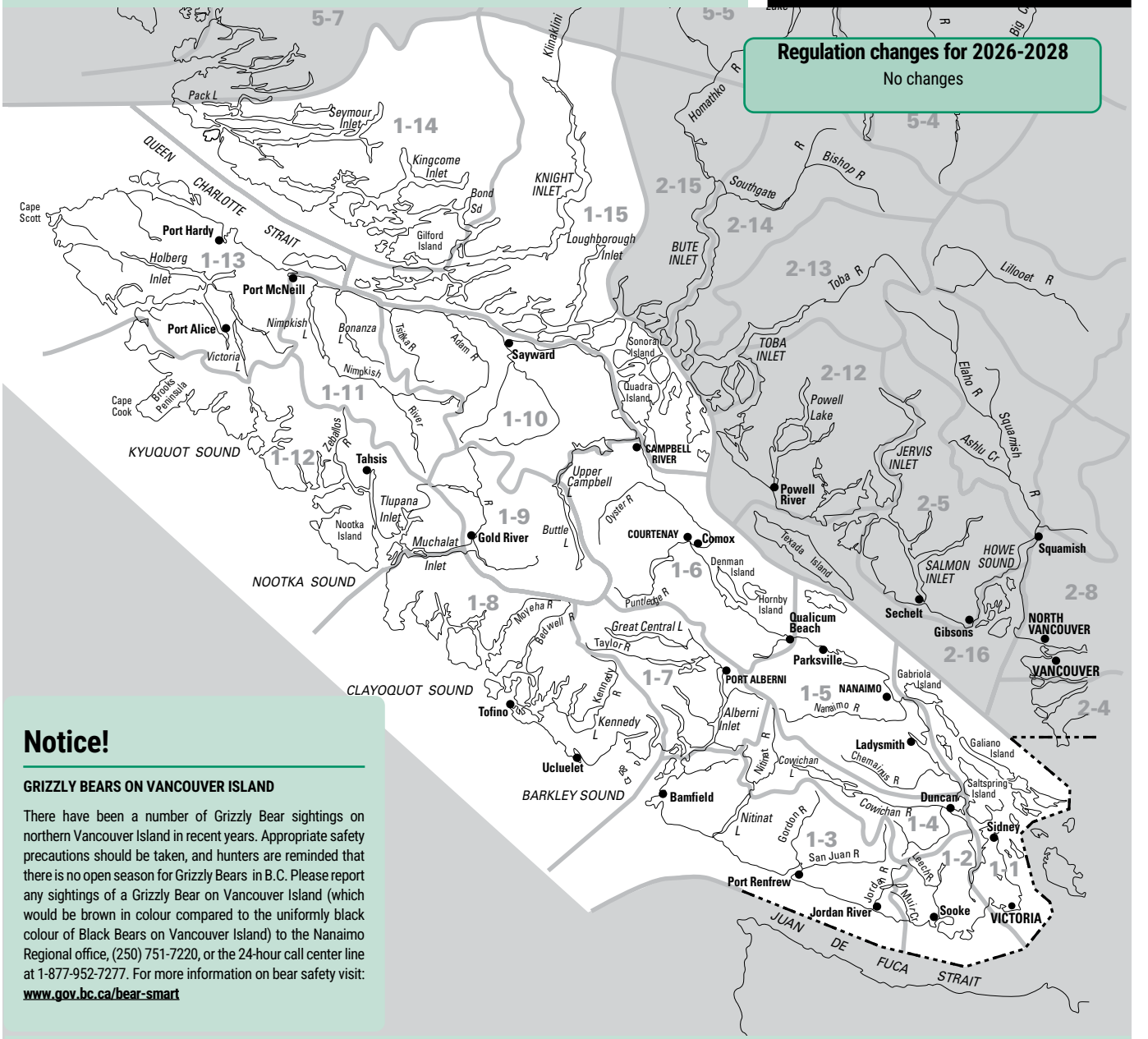
Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information



Notice!

GRIZZLY BEARS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

There have been a number of Grizzly Bear sightings on northern Vancouver Island in recent years. Appropriate safety precautions should be taken, and hunters are reminded that there is no open season for Grizzly Bears in B.C. Please report any sightings of a Grizzly Bear on Vancouver Island (which would be brown in colour compared to the uniformly black colour of Black Bears on Vancouver Island) to the Nanaimo Regional office, (250) 751-7220, or the 24-hour call center line at 1-877-952-7277. For more information on bear safety visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/bear-smart**

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 3, of which only two may be antlerless from Special Areas and only two may be bucks.

The bag limit for antlerless mule (black-tailed) deer taken during the youth only season or the youth bow only season in MUs 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 is one.

Grouse: The daily bag limit for blue (sooty) and ruffed grouse is 5 each. See page 12 for additional information on bag limits.

Access Restrictions

» Region 1 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/westcoastaccess.**

★ **Year-round Motor Vehicle Closed Areas:**

★ The Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area in MU 1-5 (see Map A16)

★ Willow Creek in MU 1-6 (see Map A17)

★ Block 1392 of MU 1-5 on Green Mountain (in order to protect the habitat for Vancouver Island Marmots)

❇ **ATV and Snowmobile Closed Area** (See page 10): Nanaimo River Camp (Zone B of MU 1-5) in the watershed of the Nanaimo River from Sept 1 - Dec 31 (see Map A12).

It's Unlawful

» To use a wireless camera for the purpose of hunting in region 1.

» To intentionally bait or feed ungulates or turkey within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground in region 1.

Notice to Hunters

» Hunting regulations for Mule (black-tailed) deer and Fallow deer are very different. Please ensure that you are informed and able to distinguish between the two species when hunting.

» Antlerless deer hunters please review the regulations carefully. There is no open season for antlerless Mule (black-tailed) deer in areas where rifles are permitted in region 1 except by way of Limited Entry Hunting in a portion of MU 1-15 and for youth hunters in MUs 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6. Please refer to special seasons in special shotgun or bow only portions of MUs 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, and 1-15: see Maps A10, A13, A14, A19, A20, and A32.

» Hunters should be aware of No Hunting and No Shooting Areas described on page 10. Hunters are also responsible for identifying and complying with community/municipal No Shooting bylaws. Municipal bylaws that affect the discharge of firearms and/or bows are not included in this synopsis. For more information, contact individual municipalities.

» No hunting of black bears within 800 m of the intersection of Beaver Cove Road and Telegraph Cove Road in MU 1-11

» Hunters are reminded that the Nanaimo River estuary is within city limits. A municipal bylaw restricts hunting to only a portion of the estuary and only during migratory bird seasons. Maps of the area open to hunting are available for viewing at the Ministry Regional Office in Nanaimo, or from the City of Nanaimo.

» The discharge of rifles is prohibited in MU 1-1 except on Valdes Island, Sidney Island and James Island (and except by permit elsewhere). Note: No Shooting or Hunting areas in MU 1-1, Maps A1, A2, A4, and A7.

» Nanoose Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-5) - From the mean high water mark at the southeast corner of the Qualicum National Wildlife Area east to the mean high water mark on the Department of Defence property line and the shore area between these points (400 m out onto the water from the mean high water mark).

» Qualicum National Wildlife Areas (MU 1-6) - Hunting, trapping, fishing, or the possession of any firearm (*Canada Wildlife Act*) is prohibited in this area. For further details contact the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Delta (604-350-1950) Pacific Wildlife Research Centre.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 25 m on either side of the midline of Westcan Terminals Road east of Indian Reserve #9 and 25 m seaward from and including the paved area of Westcan Terminals Port site (situated in MU 1-4). See Map A8.

» Cowichan River No Shooting Area (MU 1-4). The discharge of firearms is Prohibited within 100 m of the high water mark of the Cowichan River from a point starting on the river immediately north of the Holt Creek Trailhead upstream along the Cowichan River to the Municipality of Lake Cowichan.

Gulf Islands Special Hunting Area

» Gulf Islands special hunting area comprised of Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6) and all islands within MU 1-1 (except Vancouver Island).

» The majority of these islands are comprised of private land and National Park. Prior to hunting on private land, hunters must obtain permission from the owner of the property they intend to hunt. There is no hunting within Gulf Islands National Park.

» Hunters must have $100,000 or more in public liability and property damage insurance while hunting unless guided by a guide outfitter or assistant guide.

» All persons 18 years of age or older hunting on the Gulf Islands Special Hunting Area **are required to purchase a Gulf Islands Special Area Licence**; available at Service BC, FrontCounter BC, participating vendors or online at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting**.

» Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by someone over the age of 18 who holds a Gulf Island Special Area Licence.

» No open season for upland game birds (grouse, pheasant, quail) on Denman Island (situated in MU 1-6).

Ungulate Health

Concerns with ungulate health are rising with the recent detection of Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD) in B.C. and detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) within the southeast part of the Kootenay Region. AHD was first identified in the fall of 2020 on several Gulf Islands (Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Salt Spring) and southern Vancouver Island as far north as Merville. AHD is a highly contagious and often fatal disease, particularly in black-tailed deer. It has caused significant losses of deer in the U.S.

The disease course is usually rapid as the virus damages small blood vessels in the lungs and intestines. Symptoms of AHD include difficulty breathing, foaming, or drooling from the mouth, diarrhea, and seizures. If an infected animal survives the acute phase, chronic signs may include ulcers and abscesses in the mouth and throat that can lead to weight loss and death. Fawns/juveniles are more susceptible to AHD and experience much higher death rates than adults. Affected animals are often found dead and in good body condition with no signs of trauma or other cause of death.

AHD can be spread through direct contact between deer or contact with fluids (saliva, feces, urine). Transmission may also occur through airborne routes, contaminated feed and water, and contaminated equipment. There is no evidence that AHD can be transmitted to humans and research supports that it is not transmitted to livestock or pets. Although there is no known risk to human health from AHD, hunters are advised not to consume meat from animals found dead, obviously ill or acting abnormally prior to death. To help prevent the spread of AHD, dispose of carcasses by deep burial, do not move infected, dead or live deer to new areas, and prevent aggregations of deer at artificial feeding or water sources.

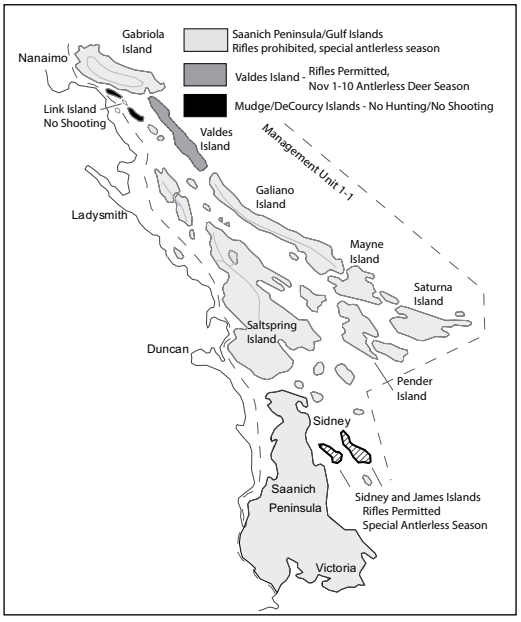
CWD has been detected in B.C. and the risk of further spread continues to increase as high-risk material is moved around the province or brought into the B.C. Natural movement of infected animals puts certain parts of B.C. at greatest risk, but the disease could be introduced anywhere, including Vancouver Island, with the transport of infected carcasses and use of CWD contaminated material (i.e., urine-based scents). Help protect B.C. ungulates by understanding these risks, helping to increase awareness, and submitting your deer, elk, moose or caribou for testing. Learn more about the BC CWD Program at **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease** and AHD at **www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth.**

Vancouver Island General Open Seasons

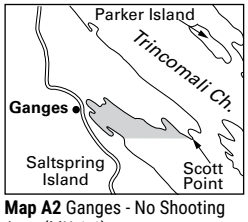
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	▼1-1 to 1-15	Bucks	⁎Sept 10 - Dec 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 20 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
Special Areas	See Maps A1, A10, A13, A14, A19, A20, A32	Antlerless	★Aug 25 - Sept 9 (bow only) ⁎Sept 10 - Dec 10	
Youth Only**	1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6	Antlerless	Sept 10 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	▼★1-1 to 1-15	Bucks	Aug 25 - Sept 9	
Youth Bow Only**	★1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6	Antlerless	Aug 25 - Sept 9	
▼ A portion of MU 1-6 is restricted to two point or greater mule deer; keep antlers with species licence. See Map A26.				
** Season restricted to hunters under the age of 18 ⁎ On Denman and Hornby Island season the date is Oct 5 to Dec 10.				
★ There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island), in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6).				
FALLOW DEER	1-1 to 1-7	Either sex	No Closed Season	NBL
Species licence not required for fallow deer.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	1-14, 1-15		Sept 10 – Nov 30	1
Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 – Dec 10	2
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
Bow Only	★1-1 to 1-15		Aug 25 - Sept 9	
★ *There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island) or in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6).*				
WOLF	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 - Mar 31	3
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
All wolves taken in region 1 must be Compulsory Reported.				
COUGAR	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. All cougars taken in region 1 must be Compulsory Inspected.				
RACCOON	1-1 to 1-15		No Closed Season	10
SNOWSHOE HARE	1-14, 1-15		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
OPOSSUM, SKUNK	1-1 to 1-15		No Closed Season	NBL
A person who kills an opossum is requested to submit the carcass to an officer of the Wildlife Program at a regional or district office and provide the following information: location of the kill, date of kill, and sex of animal.				
GROUSE: SOOTY (Blue) & RUFFED	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 1 - Dec 31	5 each (15 each)
Bow Only	★1-1 to 1-15		Aug 20 - Aug 31	
★ There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island) or in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6)				
PTARMIGAN	1-14, 1-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (15)
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	1-1 to 1-15		Oct 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
No open season on mountain quail.				
PHEASANT	1-1 to 1-9		Oct 1 - Nov 30	2 (6)
TURKEY	1-1 to 1-7	Any Turkey	No Closed Season	NBL
BAND-TAILED PIGEONS	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 15 - Sept 30	5 (15)
COMMON SNIPE	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10(30)
COOTS	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10(30)
DUCKS	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	8(24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	1-3, 1-8 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10 (30)
	1-1, 1-2, ▲★1-4 to 1-7	Sept 5, 2026 - Sept 15, 2026	Sept 4, 2027 - Sept 14, 2027	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Oct 10, 2026 - Nov 22, 2026	Oct 9, 2027 - Nov 21, 2027	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Dec 19, 2026 - Jan 10, 2027	Dec 18, 2027 - Jan 9, 2028	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Feb 10, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Feb 11, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
	1-4 (Ex-Dinsdale property, See Map A8)	Oct 10, 2026 - Oct 19, 2026 Dec 19, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026 Feb 20, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Oct 18, 2027 Dec 18, 2027 - Dec 31, 2027 Feb 19, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
▲ Season dates do not apply for the Ex-Dinsdale property in MU 1-4; see specific Ex-Dinsdale property season dates and Map A8.				
★There is no September season for Canada and cackling geese in that portion of MU 1-4 known as the Cowichan Bay Seasonal No Shooting Area. See Map A8				

Visit **https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.

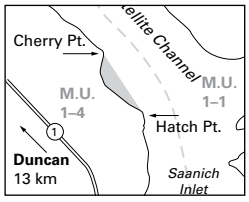
Region 1 – Vancouver Island



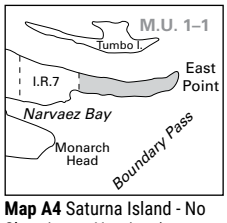
Map A1 Saanich Peninsula/Gulf Islands - Firearms/hunting restrictions and special antlerless season Sidney and James Islands.



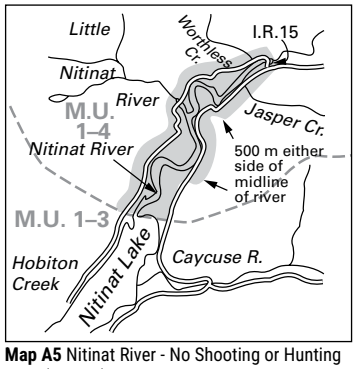
Map A2 Ganges - No Shooting Area (MU 1-1).



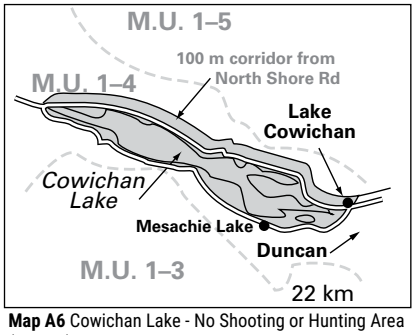
Map A3 Cherry Point No Shooting Area (MU 1-4).



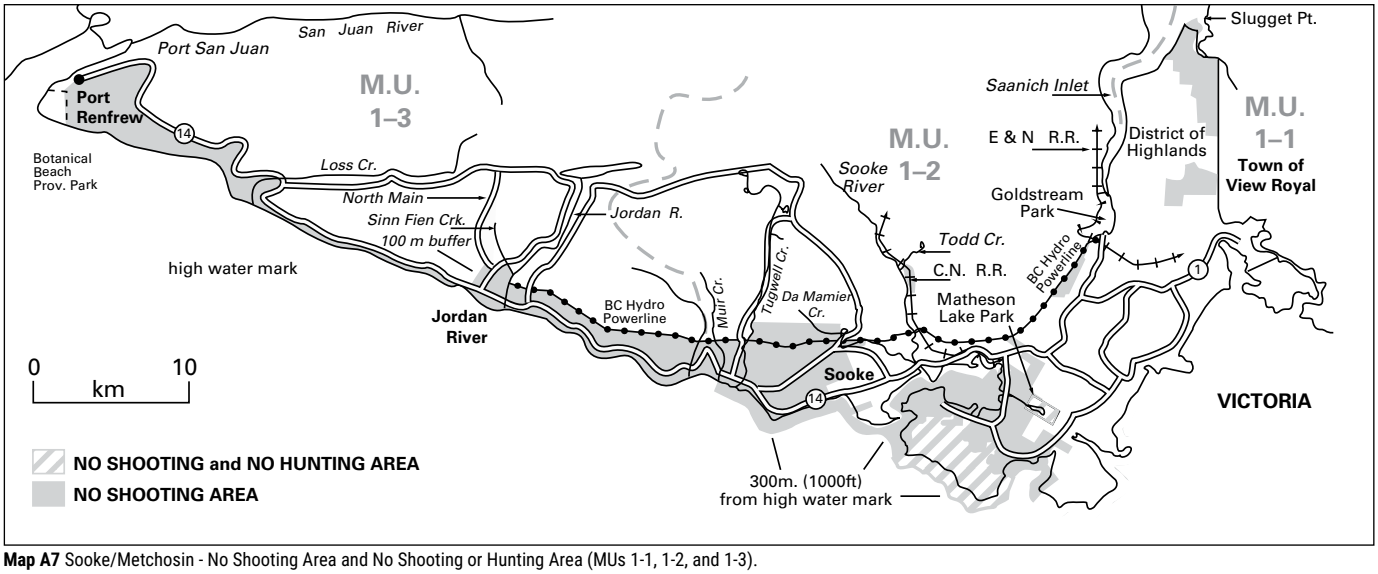
Map A4 Saturna Island - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-1).



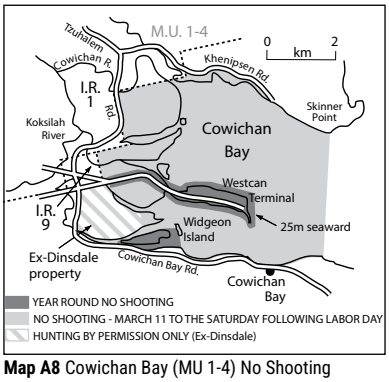
Map A5 Nitinat River - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-4).



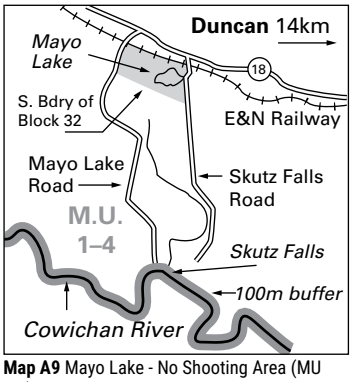
Map A6 Cowichan Lake - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-4).



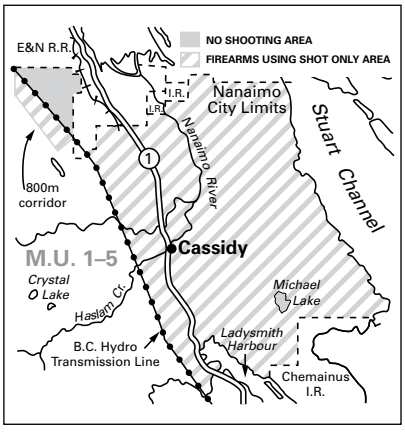
Map A7 Sooke/Metchosin - No Shooting Area and No Shooting or Hunting Area (MUs 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3).



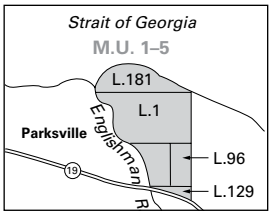
Map A8 Cowichan Bay (MU 1-4) No Shooting Area, Seasonal No Shooting Area and Ex-Dinsdale Property.



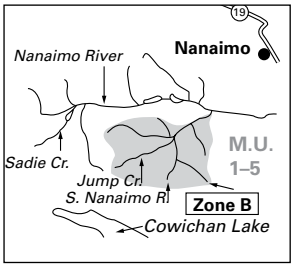
Map A9 Mayo Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 1-4). Note: Cowichan River No Shooting Area within 100 m of the river from Holt Creek Trail to the municipality of Lake Cowichan.



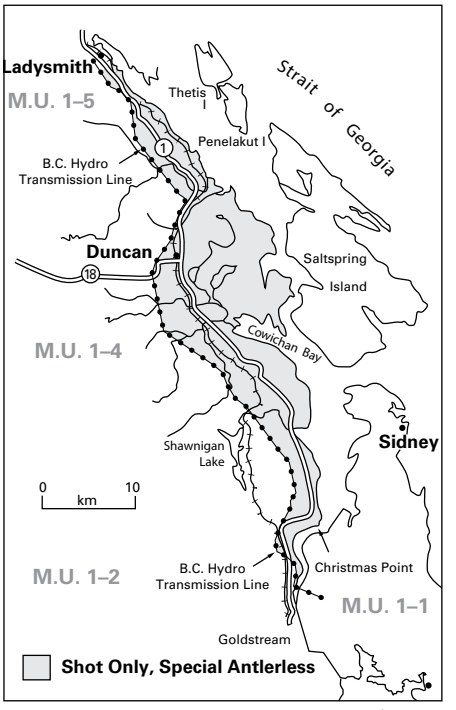
Map A10 Nanaimo/ Ladysmith - No Shooting Area and Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season (east of the powerline). Michael Lake No Shooting Area on Michael Lake to the high water mark.



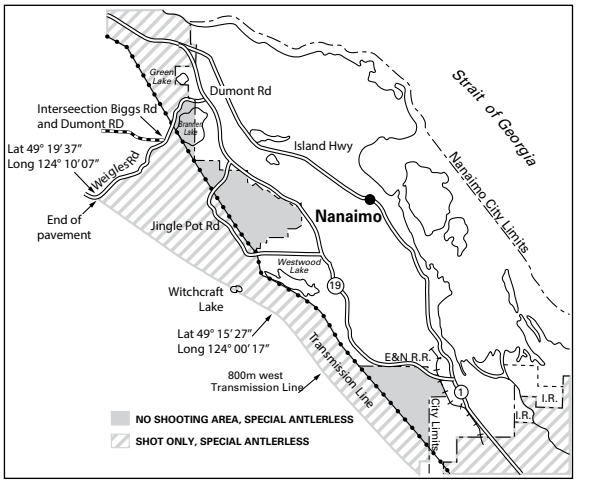
Map A11 Englishman River - No Shooting Area (MU 1-5).



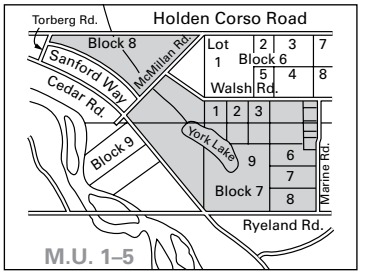
Map A12 Nanaimo River Camp Closed Area during bow only season for grouse, mule (black-tailed) deer and black bear. Use of snowmobiles, electric bicycles, and ATV's (including all motorcycles) prohibited from Sept 1 - Dec 31 (MU 1-5) in the watershed of the S. Nanaimo River.



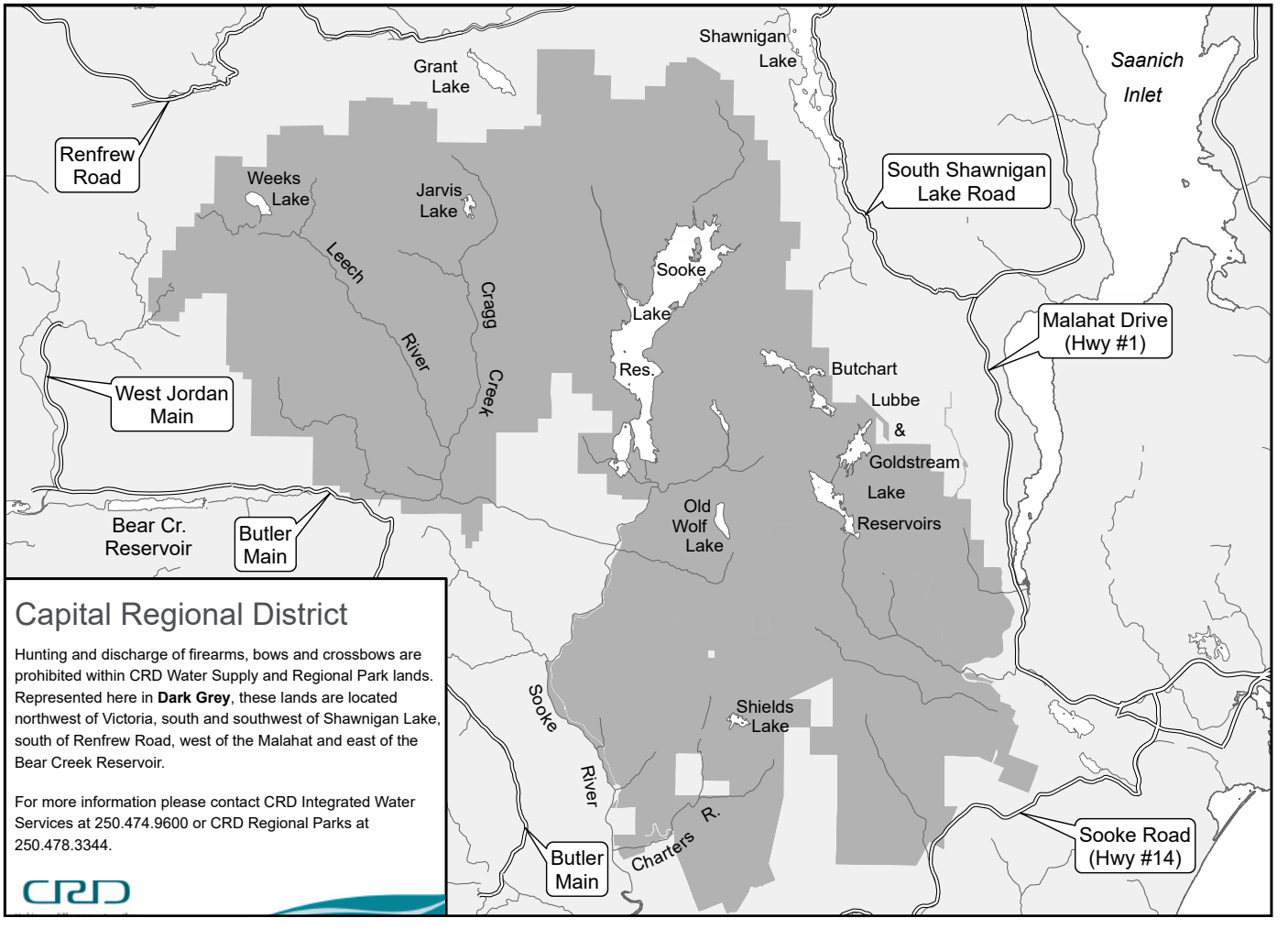
Map A13 Ladysmith/Malahat - Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 1-2, 1-4, 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season.



Map A14 Nanaimo - No Shooting Area and Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season.



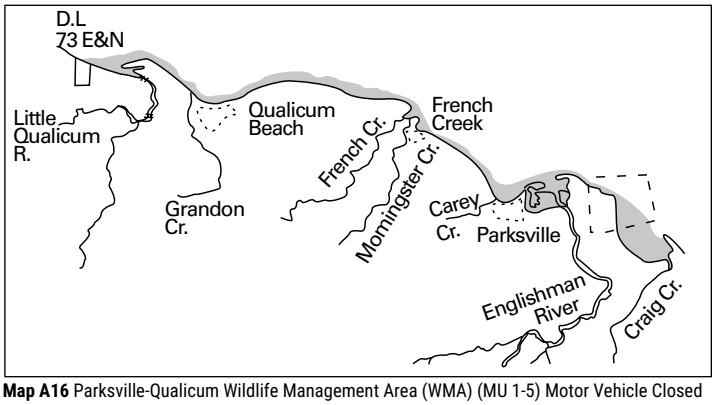
Map A15 York Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 1-5).



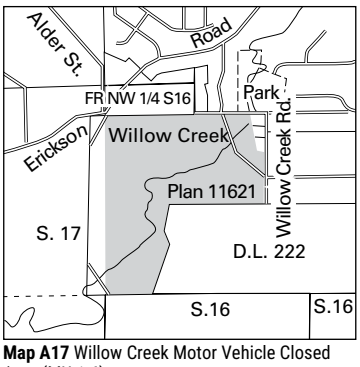
Capital Regional District

Hunting and discharge of firearms, bows and crossbows are prohibited within CRD Water Supply and Regional Park lands. Represented here in **Dark Grey**, these lands are located northwest of Victoria, south and southwest of Shawnigan Lake, south of Renfrew Road, west of the Malahat and east of the Bear Creek Reservoir.

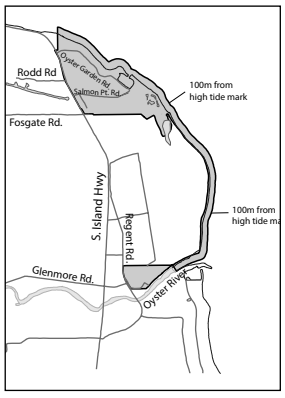
For more information please contact CRD Integrated Water Services at 250.474.9600 or CRD Regional Parks at 250.478.3344.



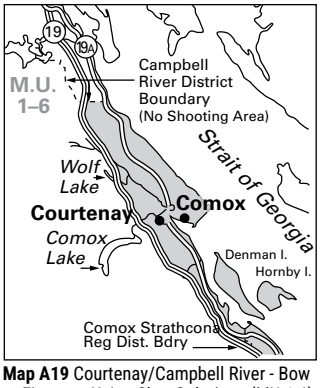
Map A16 Parksville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (MU 1-5) Motor Vehicle Closed Area.



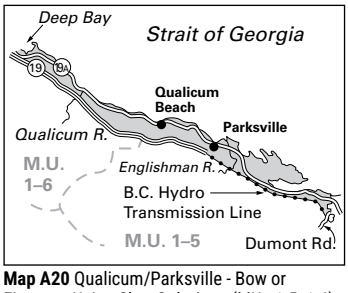
Map A17 Willow Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 1-6).



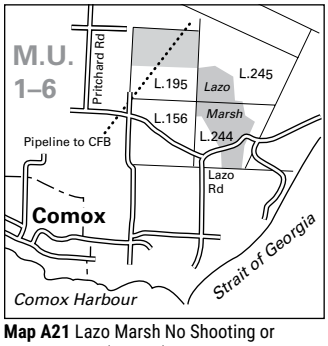
Map A18 Woodhus Slough No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



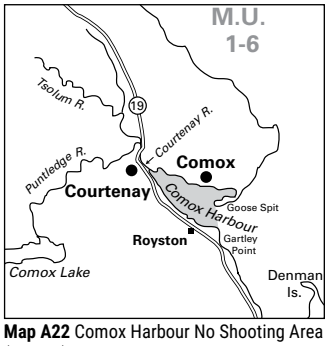
Map A19 Courtenay/Campbell River - Bow or Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-6) and special antlerless mule deer season. Gulf Island Special Licence is required on Denman and Hornby Islands - see page 20.



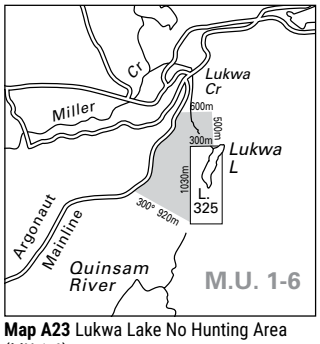
Map A20 Qualicum/Parksville - Bow or Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 1-5, 1-6) and special antlerless mule deer season.



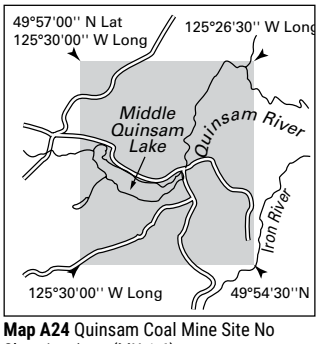
Map A21 Lazo Marsh No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



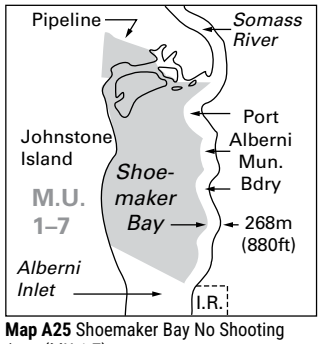
Map A22 Comox Harbour No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



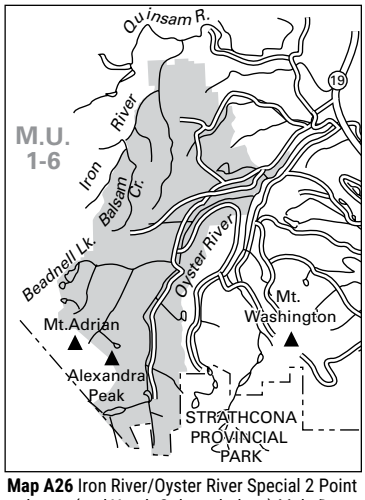
Map A23 Lukwa Lake No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



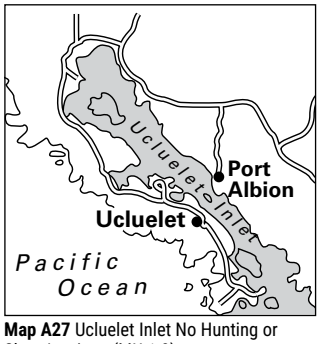
Map A24 Quinsam Coal Mine Site No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



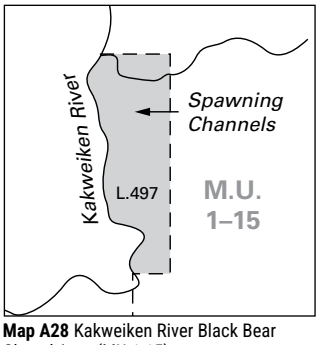
Map A25 Shoemaker Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-7).



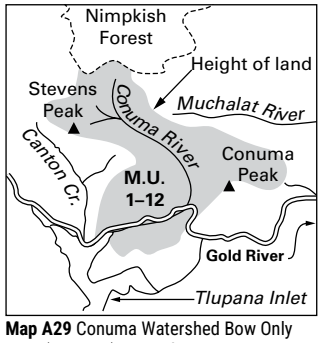
Map A26 Iron River/Oyster River Special 2 Point or better (and Youth Only antlerless) Mule Deer Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



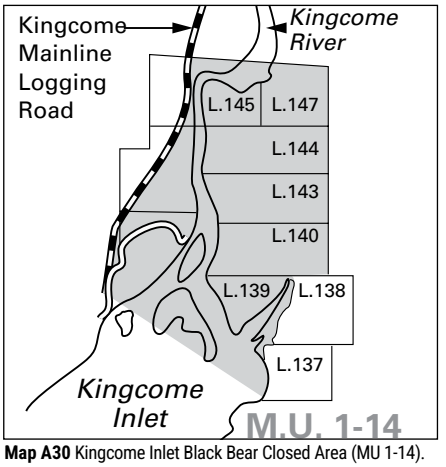
Map A27 Ucluelet Inlet No Hunting or Shooting Area (MU 1-8).



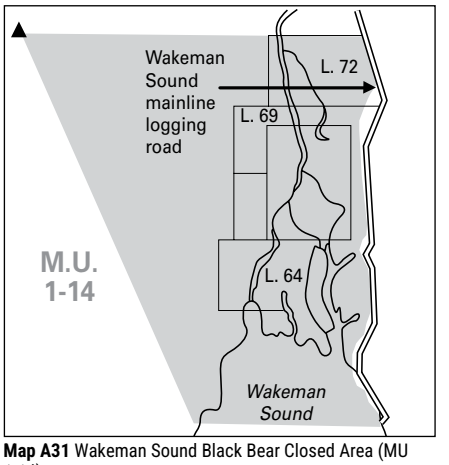
Map A28 Kakweiken River Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



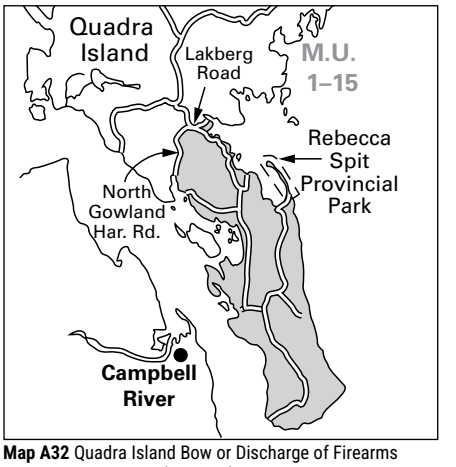
Map A29 Conuma Watershed Bow Only Area (MU 1-12). Open for Bow Only Hunting of all big game with open seasons in MU 1-12.



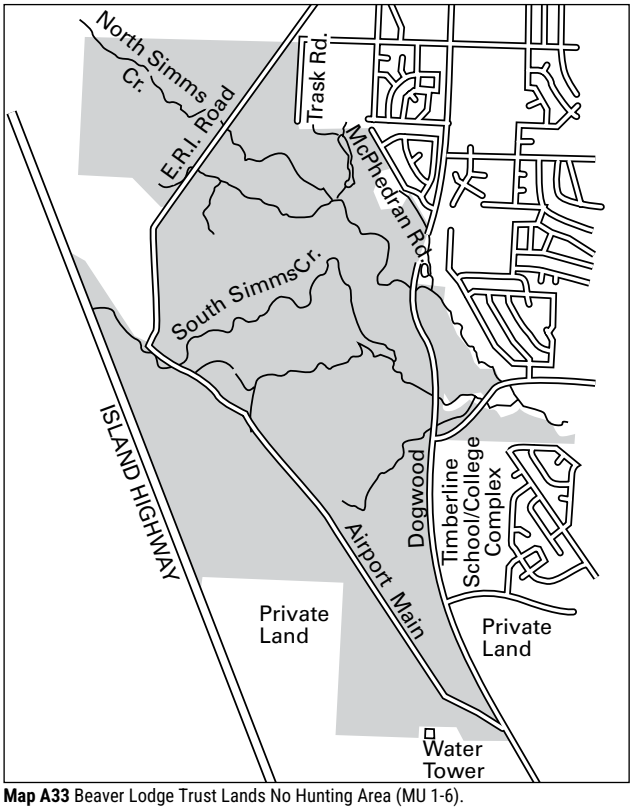
Map A30 Kingcome Inlet Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-14).



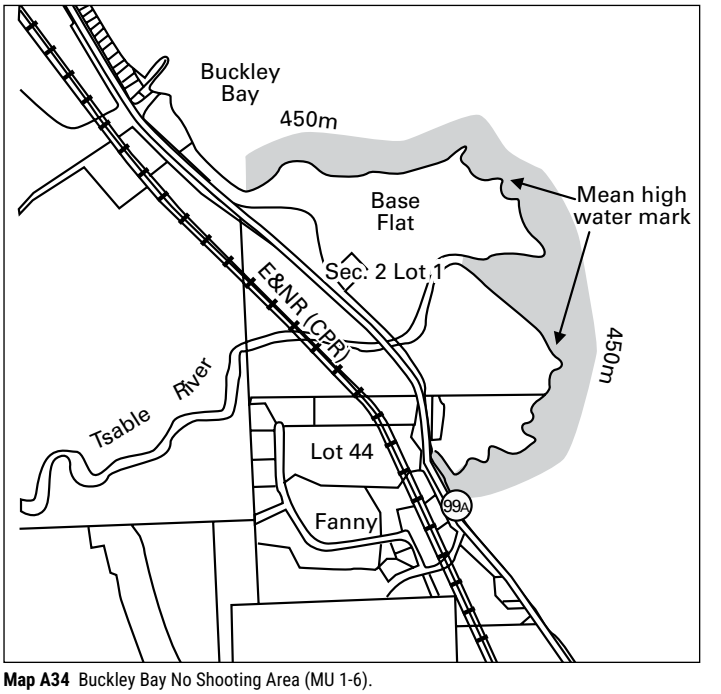
Map A31 Wakeman Sound Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-14).



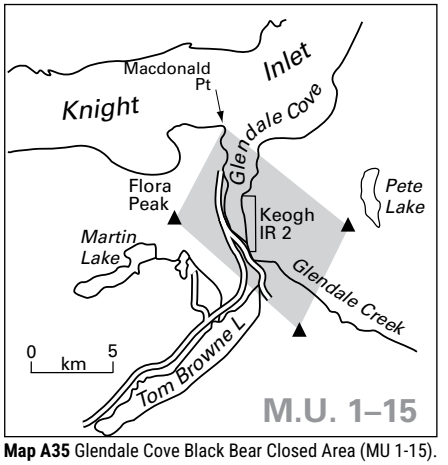
Map A32 Quadra Island Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-15) and special antlerless mule deer season.



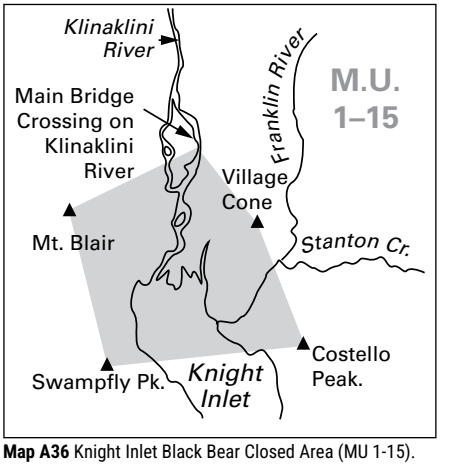
Map A33 Beaver Lodge Trust Lands No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



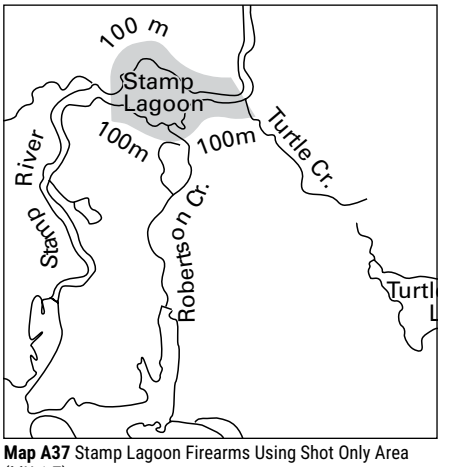
Map A34 Buckley Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



Map A35 Glendale Cove Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



Map A36 Knight Inlet Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



Map A37 Stamp Lagoon Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-7).

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

200-10428 153 Street
Surrey BC V3R 1E1
(604) 586-4400

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Chilliwack, Mission, Powell River, Sechelt, Squamish.

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: No drop-ins, by appointment only.

- Agassiz
- Langley
- Squamish
- Sunshine Coast

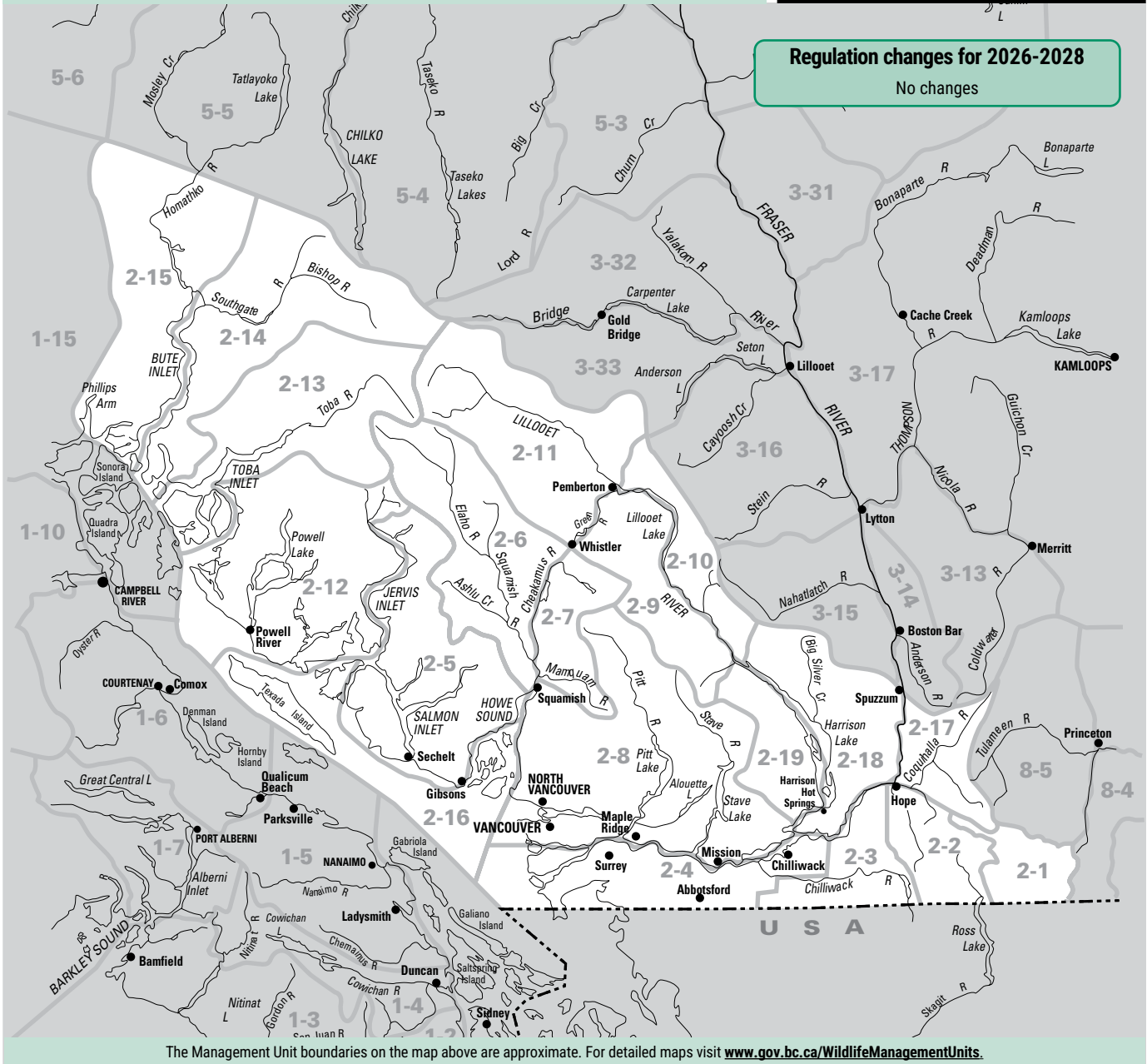
Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information



The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: Unless otherwise indicated, the bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 2, one of which may be antlerless.

Grouse: The daily aggregate bag limit for sooty/dusky (blue), spruce and ruffed grouse is 10.

Notice to Hunters

» Unless lawfully hunting or trapping, the discharge of firearms is prohibited:
- Within 400 m of select roads in the Fraser Valley Regional District. For a map of the firearms restrictions visit **www.fvrd.ca/assets/Government/Documents/NoShootingAreas.pdf**.
- Within the Squamish Valley, as described on Map B11.
- Within portions of MU 2-19 (Chehalis) as described on Map B33.

» No person shall use lead shot for any purpose when discharging a firearm on any dyke or on the water side (seaward or river side) of any dyke in the municipality of Delta, or on any foreshore dyke facing Mud Bay in the city of Surrey.

» Fraser Valley Special Area - Hunters should take note of the special licence area in the Fraser Valley (see Map B10). These special licences are available through Service BC, FrontCounter BC, participating vendors and online at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.**

» No Hunting and No Shooting Areas: Hunters should be aware of these areas as outlined on page 10 and regional maps.

» Burns Bog (MU 2-4) No Hunting or Trapping Area - no hunting or trapping in the Burns Bog Partnership Lands.

» The discharge of rifles is prohibited on Keats Island (MU 2-16, east of Gibsons).

» Bowen Island No Shooting Area (MU 2-16) - contact the Bowen Island Municipal Clerk (604-947-4255) for important information on municipal bylaws (including those for use of bows) that also cover this area.

» Bowen Island No Hunting Area (MU 2-16) - within 150 m of any public highway, school building, school yard, public park, playground, church, workshop, place of business, dwelling house, or farm building.

» Vancouver Harbour: The discharge of firearms is prohibited in Burrard Inlet east of a straight line drawn from Point Grey to Point Atkinson (Lighthouse Park).

» A small population of white-tailed deer has become resident to the Herrling Island area (MU 2-3) near Hope, B.C. Hunters are reminded that there is no open season for white-tailed deer in this area.

» Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area (MU 2-4) is closed to snipe hunting. This includes all foreshore areas seaward of the dykes surrounding Boundary, Mud and Semiahmoo Bays.

» Whistler Olympic Park No Hunting Area. Hunting is prohibited within the boundaries of Whistler Olympic Park.

» Sea to Sky Hwy./Callaghan Road – No Hunting and No Shooting Area within 400 m of the following road allowances:
- Hwy 99 between the northern boundary of the District of Squamish and the southern boundary of the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and
- Callaghan Road between the northwest corner of the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the gate at Whistler Olympic Park.

Access Restrictions

» Region 2 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/southcoastaccess.**

» Information signs are posted, or gates are placed at the points for motor vehicle closures. These signs are for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunters' responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not. Contact local Ministry offices for details.

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Area (See page 10)**: Apr 1 - June 15, unless otherwise indicated.

MU 2-4

★ Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area - effective year-round.

MU 2-6

★ beyond the bridge crossing at 50.5 mile of the Elaho G-Main Forest Service Road (FSR).

★ beyond the bridge crossing over Pikett Creek located at 30 miles on the Ashlu Creek North FSR.

★ North Sloquet Creek FSR.

MU 2-8

★ Pitt Addington Marsh - effective year-round

MU 2-9

★ beyond the bridge crossing over an unnamed creek located 5 km north of the bridge crossing over North Sloquet Creek on the North Sloquet Creek FSR.

MU 2-11

★ Lillooet South FSR west of the 2 km mark; Apr 1 - June 15, Sept 16 - Nov 30.

★ Birkenhead Lake FSR west of the junction with Branch 10 (at approx. 4 km); July 15 - Oct 31.

★ beyond the first bridge crossing over South Creek on the South Creek FSR

★ on the Salal Creek FSR beyond 3 km North of the junction of the Upper Lillooet North FSR and the Salal Creek FSR

★ in the Phelix Creek FSR beyond the junction of Phelix Creek FSR and the Blackwater Creek FSR

★ beyond the bridge crossing over Delilah Creek on the North Creek FSR

★ beyond the bridge crossing over Hotsprings Creek on the Meager Creek South FSR

★ beyond the gate located at 9 km on the Meager Creek North FSR

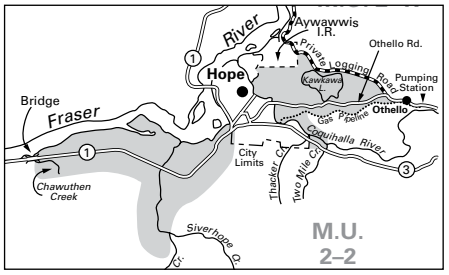
★ beyond the bridge crossing over Tenquille Creek on the Birkenhead FSR

★ prohibited year-round beyond the bridge crossing over the Ryan River located 8 km on the Ryan River FSR

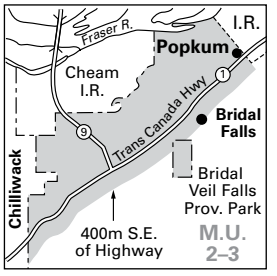
Lower Mainland General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	2-2 to 2-4, 2-6 to 2-8, 2-13 to 2-15, 2-17 to 2-19	Bucks	Sept 10 - Dec 15	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 27 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	2-9 to 2-11	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	◆ 2-5, 2-12	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	▲2-16	Bucks	Sept 10 - Dec 15	
	▲2-16	Antlerless	Nov 5 - Nov 20	
Youth/Senior Only***	2-11**	Antlerless	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
Youth Only*	▲2-16	Antlerless	Oct 21 - Oct 31	
Bow Only	▲2-2 to 2-19	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	▲★2-16	Bucks	Sept 1 - Dec 15	
Bow Only	▲★2-16	Antlerless	Nov 5 - Dec 5	
Bow Only	▲★2-16	Either Sex	Jan 1 - Jan 15	
Bow Only	❄2-16	Either Sex	Dec 16 - Jan 15	
▲ In those portions of MU 2-16 being Bowen Island and Texada Island, the bag limit for deer is 3(2). ★ Season applies to Bowen Island only. See Notice to Hunters. ❄Season applies to Texada Island only. * Restricted to hunters under the age of 18. ** Season applies only to portions of MU 2-11. See Maps B15 and B20. This area is almost entirely privately owned property and hunters are reminded to get permission before hunting or accessing private property *** Restricted to hunters under the age of 18 and those 65 years of age or older. ◆ The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer bucks from September 10 to November 30 in M.U.s 2-5 and 2-12 is one				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	2-5		Sept 10 - Oct 15	1
	★2-6		Sept 10 - Sept 30	
	▲2-12 to 2-15		Sept 10 - Oct 31	
★ See Map B9 ▲ See Maps B18, B19 Compulsory Inspection Required.				
BLACK BEAR	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 10 – Nov 30	★ 2
	2-2 to 2-19		Apr 1 - June 15	
Bow Only	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
★ The bag limit for black bears is two per licence year (Apr 1 - Mar 31)				
WOLF	2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16		Sept 10 - Mar 31	3
	2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16		Apr 1 - June 15	
Compulsory Reporting required				
COYOTE	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 10 - June 15	NBL
RACCOON, SKUNK	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 1 - Mar 31	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	2-5 to 2-19		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (Daily)
BOBCAT Compulsory Reporting required	2-2 to 2-19		Nov 15 - Feb 15	1
COUGAR	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
	2-2 to 2-19		Apr 1 - June 15	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. All cougars taken in region 2 must be Compulsory Inspected.				
GROUSE: SOOTY (Blue), RUFFED & SPRUCE	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 10 - Dec 15	10 (30)
Bow Only	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Sooty/Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30.				
PTARMIGAN	2-2, 2-3, 2-5 to 2-19		Sept 10 - Dec 15	5 (15)
Bow Only	2-2, 2-3, 2-5 to 2-19		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
PHEASANT (Cocks)	2-4, 2-8	Oct 10, 2026 - Nov 30, 2026	Oct 9, 2027 - Nov 30, 2027	2(6)
BAND-TAILED PIGEONS	2-2 to 2-19		Sept 15 - Sept 30	5 (15)
BRANT	2-4		Mar 1 - Mar 10	3 (9)
COMMON SNIPE	2-2 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10 (30)
Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area is closed to Snipe hunting.				
COOTS	2-2 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10 (30)
DUCKS	2-2 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	2-2, 2-3, 2-4 ▲, 2-5 ▲, 2-6 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 5, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 4, 2028	10 (30)★
	2-2, 2-3, 2-4 ▲, 2-5 ▲, 2-6 to 2-19	Feb 20, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Feb 21, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
Notes: ★ The aggregate bag and possession limit for snow geese and Ross's Geese in MUs 2-2, 2-3, and 2-6 to 2-19 is 10 (30), no more than 5 (15) may be Ross's Geese. ▲ The aggregate bag and possession limit for snow geese and Ross's Geese in MUs 2-4 and 2-5 is 15 (45), no more than 5 (15) may be Ross's Geese.				
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	2-2 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	2-2 to 2-19	Sept 5, 2026 - Sept 15, 2026	Sept 4, 2027 - Sept 14, 2027	10 (30)
	2-2 to 2-19	Oct 10, 2026 - Nov 22, 2026	Oct 9, 2027 - Nov 21, 2027	
	2-2 to 2-19	Dec 19, 2026 - Jan 10, 2027	Dec 18, 2027 - Jan 9, 2028	
	2-2 to 2-19	Feb 10, 2027 - Mar 10 2027	Feb 11, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
Note: The open season for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in M.U. 2-4 (March 10 and preceding 28 days) does not apply to the area 100 metres on either side of any dyke in the Municipality of Delta, other than Westham Island.				

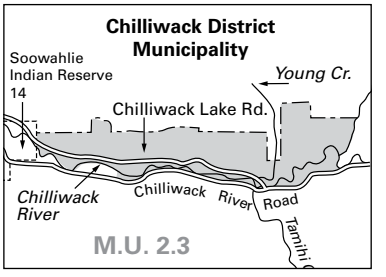
Visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html for more information on Migratory Game Birds in BC.



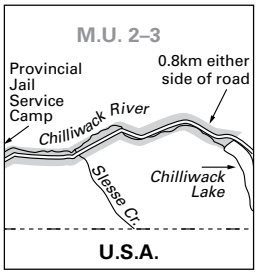
Map B1 Hope - No Shooting Area (MUs 2-2 and 2-17).



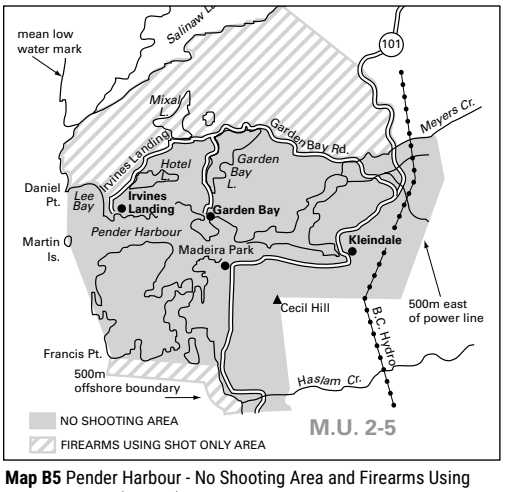
Map B2 Popkum - No Shooting Area (MU 2-3).



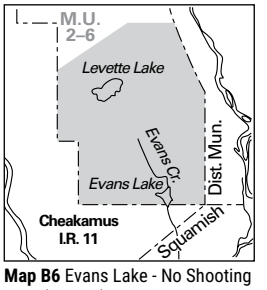
Map B3 Chilliwack Valley - Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 2-3).



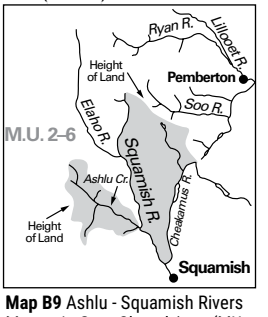
Map B4 Provincial Jail Camp No. 1 No Shooting Area (MU 2-3).



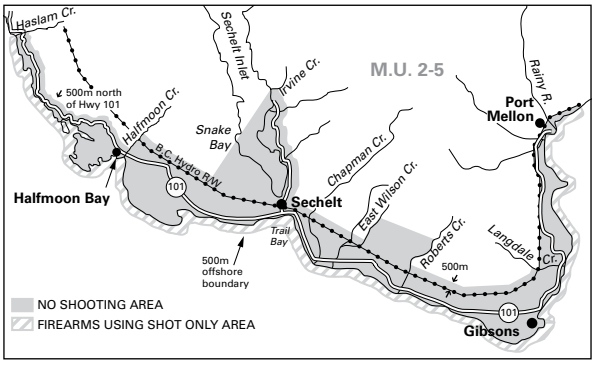
Map B5 Pender Harbour - No Shooting Area and Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 2-5).



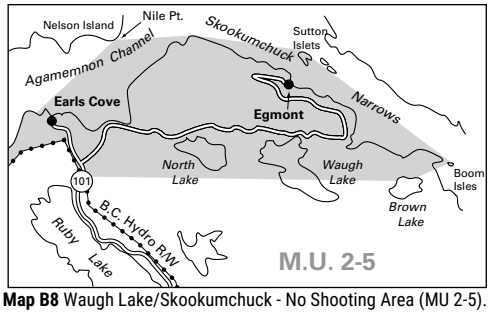
Map B6 Evans Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 2-6).



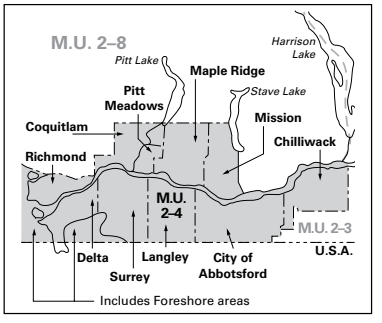
Map B9 Ashlu - Squamish Rivers Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 2-6).



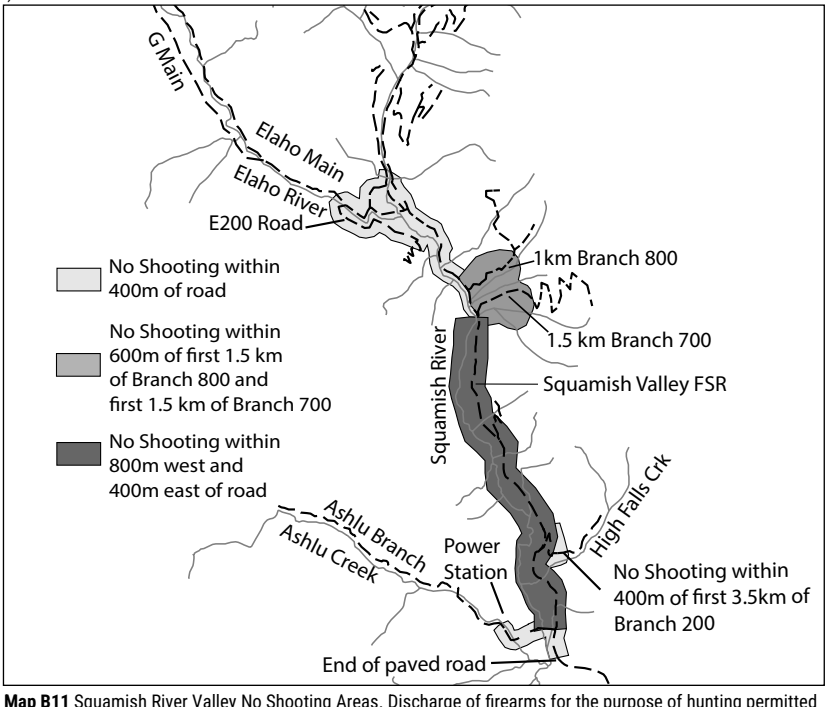
Map B7 Sechelt/Gibsons - No Shooting Area and Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 2-5).



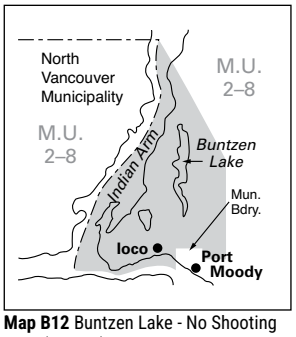
Map B8 Waugh Lake/Skookumchuck - No Shooting Area (MU 2-5).



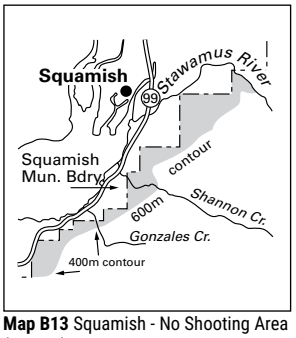
Map B10 Fraser Valley Special Licence Hunting Area (FVSLHA) (MUs 2-4, 2-8). All persons hunting within MU 2-4 and those portions of MU 2-8 within the corporate limits of the corporation of the district of Maple Ridge, the corporation of the district of Pitt Meadows, the district of Mission, the corporation of the district of Coquitlam are required to purchase a Fraser Valley Special Area Hunting Licence in addition to other Provincial licences and for hunting migratory game birds, the Migratory Bird Licence. $1,000,000.00 Public Liability and Property Damage insurance is required.



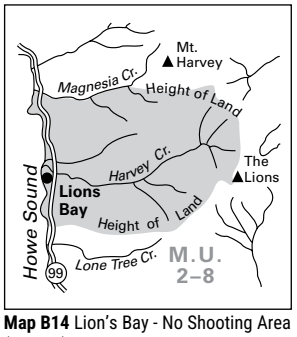
Map B11 Squamish River Valley No Shooting Areas. Discharge of firearms for the purpose of hunting permitted (MU 2-6).



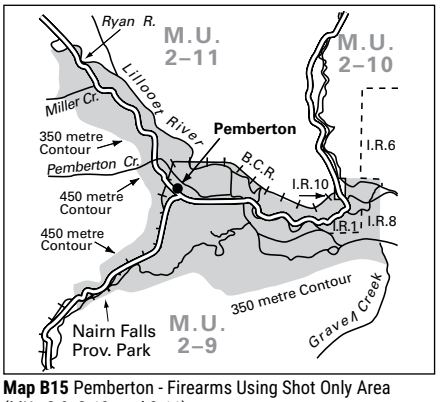
Map B12 Buntzen Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 2-8).



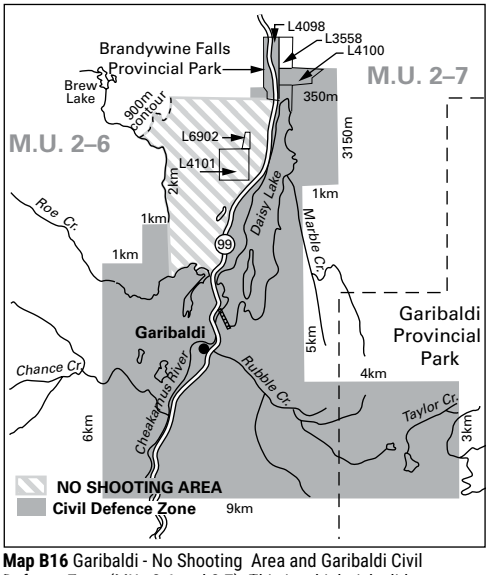
Map B13 Squamish - No Shooting Area (MU 2-8).



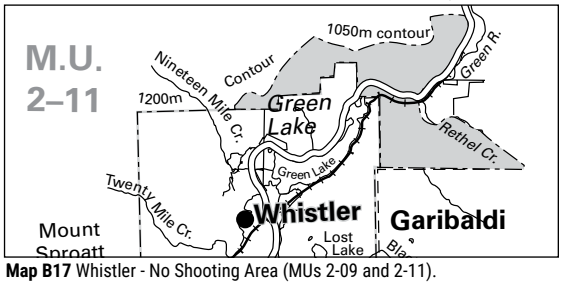
Map B14 Lion's Bay - No Shooting Area (MU 2-8).



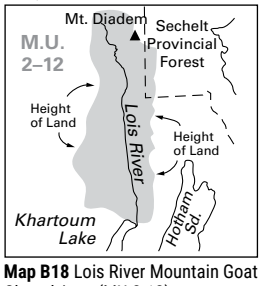
Map B15 Pemberton - Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 2-9, 2-10, and 2-11).



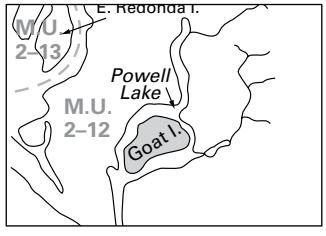
Map B16 Garibaldi - No Shooting Area and Garibaldi Civil Defence Zone (MUs 2-6 and 2-7). This is a high risk slide area. People who hunt or trap in this area do so at their own risk.



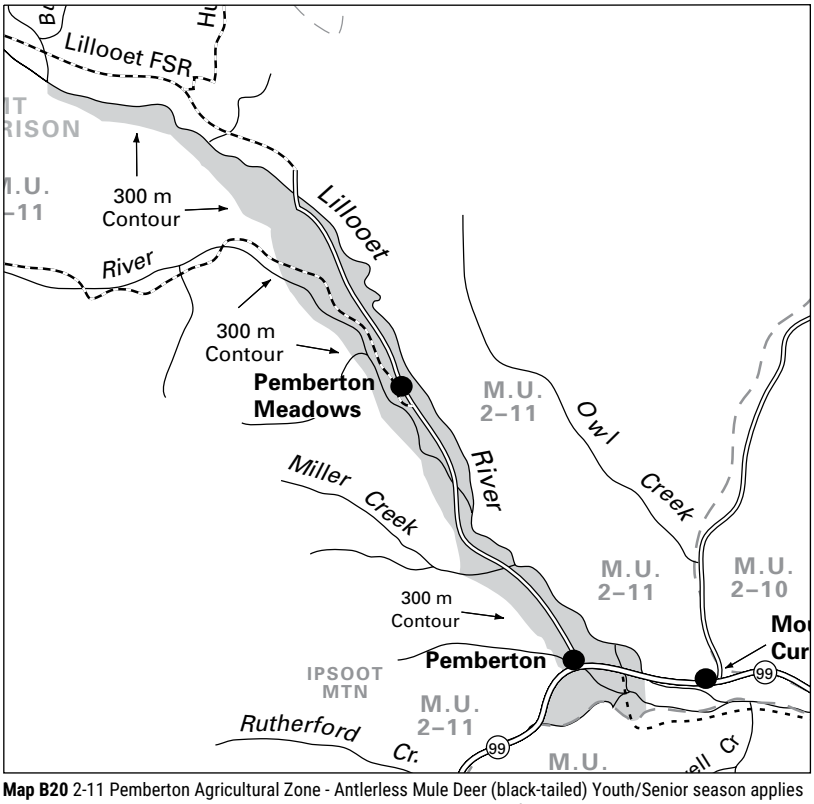
Map B17 Whistler - No Shooting Area (MUs 2-09 and 2-11).



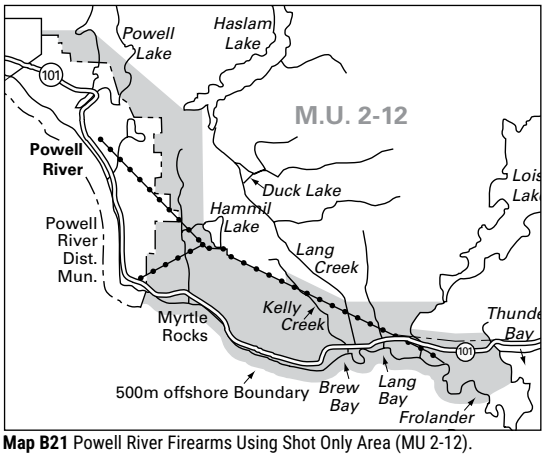
Map B18 Lois River Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 2-12).



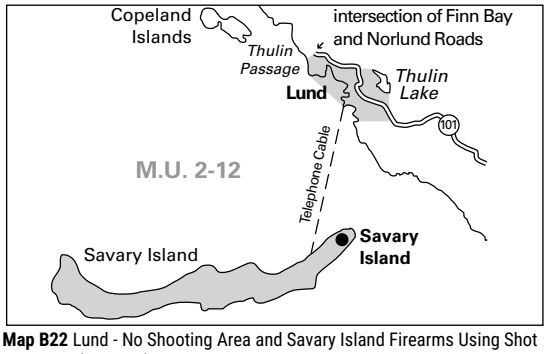
Map B19 Goat Island Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 2-12).



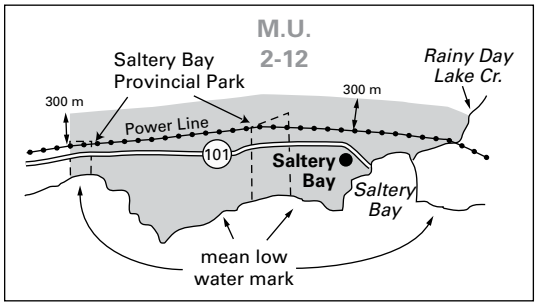
Map B20 2-11 Pemberton Agricultural Zone - Antlerless Mule Deer (black-tailed) Youth/Senior season applies to this area only. Hunt area is almost entirely private land, permission from landowner must be obtained prior to accessing land. See Map B15 for Pemberton firearms restrictions.



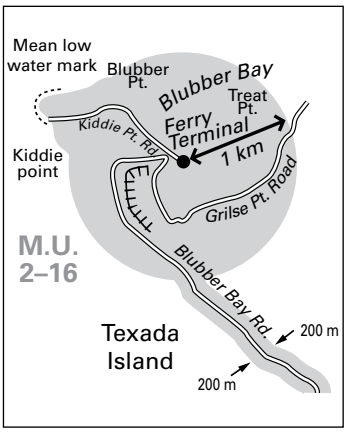
Map B21 Powell River Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 2-12).



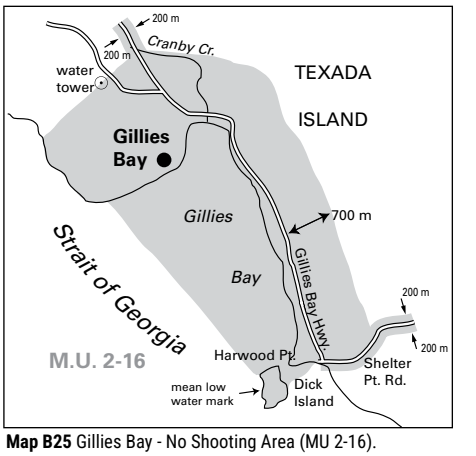
Map B22 Lund - No Shooting Area and Savary Island Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 2-12).



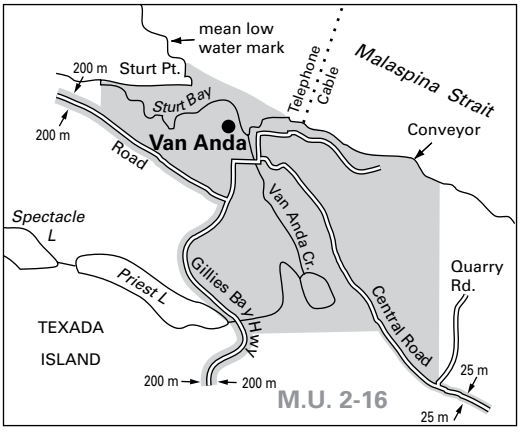
Map B23 Saltery Bay - No Shooting Area (MU 2-12).



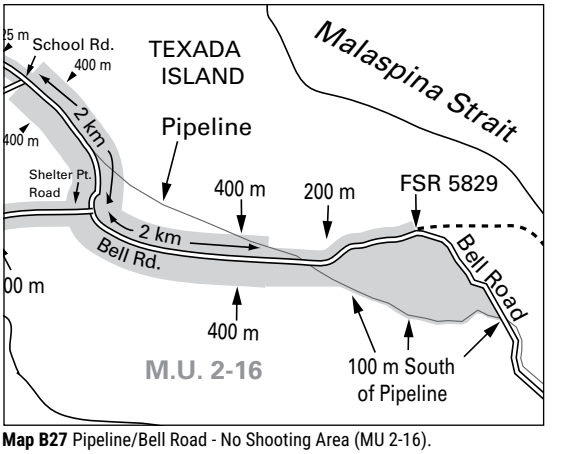
Map B24 Blubber Bay - No Shooting Area (MU 2-16).



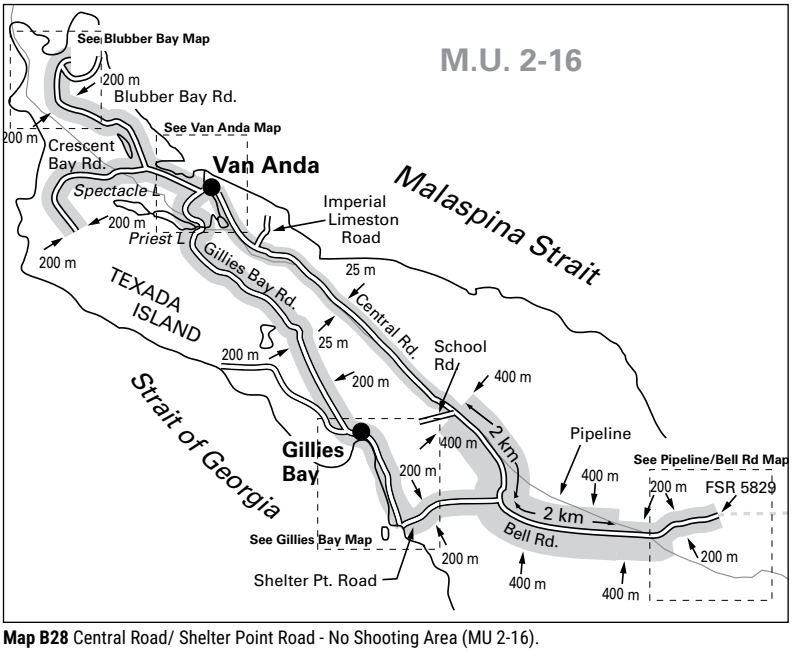
Map B25 Gillies Bay - No Shooting Area (MU 2-16).



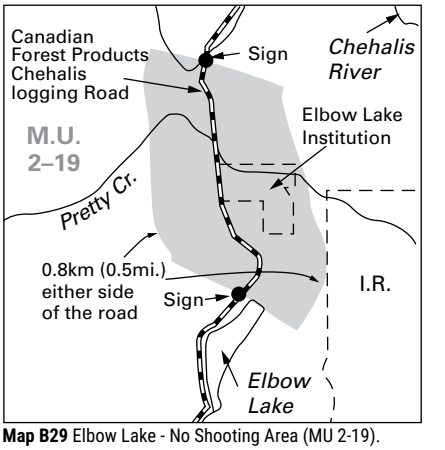
Map B26 Vananda - No Shooting Area (MU 2-16).



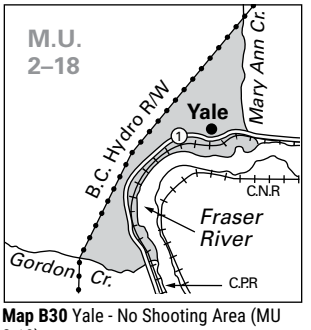
Map B27 Pipeline/Bell Road - No Shooting Area (MU 2-16).



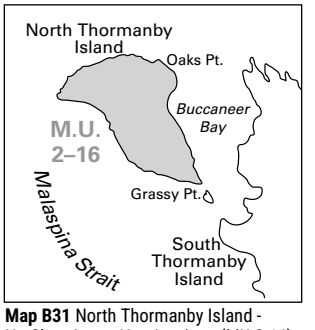
Map B28 Central Road/ Shelter Point Road - No Shooting Area (MU 2-16).



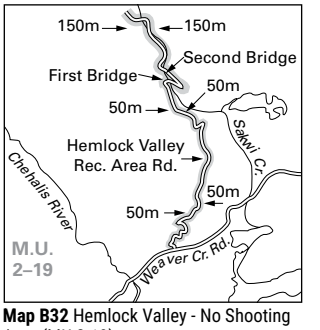
Map B29 Elbow Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 2-19).



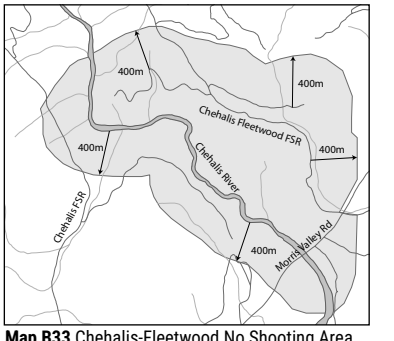
Map B30 Yale - No Shooting Area (MU 2-18).



Map B31 North Thormanby Island - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 2-16).

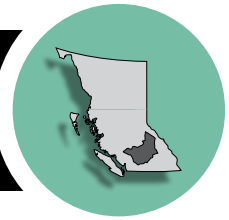


Map B32 Hemlock Valley - No Shooting Area (MU 2-19).



Map B33 Chehalis-Fleetwood No Shooting Area. Discharge of firearms for the purpose of hunting permitted (MU 2-19).

Region 3 – Thompson



Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office
1259 Dalhousie Drive
Kamloops BC V2C 5Z5
(250) 371-6200

Conservation Officer Service
Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Clearwater, Kamloops, Lillooet, Salmon Arm and Merritt

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres
Compulsory Inspection for hunter harvest will now be provided by both qualified Compulsory Inspectors, for species other than mountain goats and mountain sheep, at the locations specified below and by appointment, for all species, at the region 3 Kamloops office. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** for more information.

CI Locations: No drop-ins, by appointment only.

- Kamloops
- Merritt
- Salmon Arm

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information

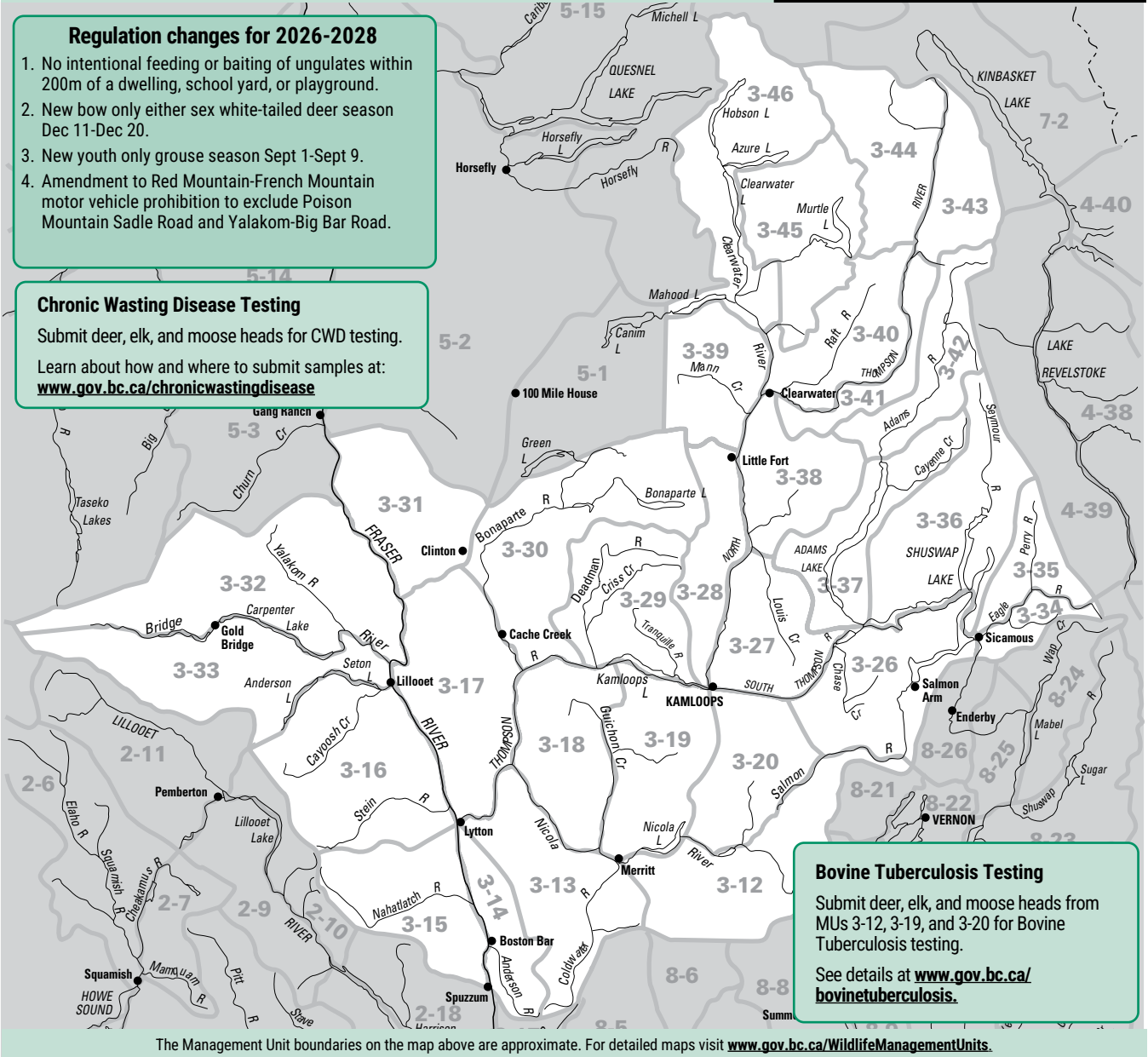
Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. No intentional feeding or baiting of ungulates within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground.
2. New bow only either sex white-tailed deer season Dec 11-Dec 20.
3. New youth only grouse season Sept 1-Sept 9.
4. Amendment to Red Mountain-French Mountain motor vehicle prohibition to exclude Poison Mountain Sadle Road and Yalakom-Big Bar Road.

Chronic Wasting Disease Testing

Submit deer, elk, and moose heads for CWD testing.

Learn about how and where to submit samples at: **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease**



Bovine Tuberculosis Testing

Submit deer, elk, and moose heads from MUs 3-12, 3-19, and 3-20 for Bovine Tuberculosis testing.

See details at **www.gov.bc.ca/bovinetuberculosis.**

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Region 3 – Thompson

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: The aggregate bag limit for deer is 3. The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 1. Antlerless mule (black-tailed) deer are under LEH only. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, either sex.

Access Management Areas

» Region 3 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/thompsonaccess.**

» Approximately one million hectares of Crown Land has been closed to snowmobile use to support Mountain Caribou recovery in the Thompson, Kootenay, Cariboo, and Omineca regions. Snowmobile closure maps with boundaries, legal access trails, prohibited dates, and identified riding areas are no longer published in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis; they will be available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures**.

» Information signs are posted at the points of closure for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunter's responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not. Contact Kamloops Regional Office for details.

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:**

★ The operation of all motor vehicles, excluding snowmobiles is prohibited in region 3 above 1,700 m elevation, except on existing roads and trails. See page 3 for definition of existing road or trail.

★ Above the elevation of 1800 m in the Mt Hewitt-Bostock and Stoyoma Mountain area (MUs 3-13, 3-14) from May 1 - Nov 30 inclusive (except for Cabin Lake Rd). See Map C1.

★ Skull Mountain Special Resource Management Zone (MU 3-28) other than indicated open roads (see Map C13) or under permit Sept 1 - Dec 10.

★ Lac du Bois and Dewdrop in MUs 3-28 and 3-29. See Map C15.

★ Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA (MU 3-29). See Map C16.

★ Above 1920 m elevation in MU 3-16 and 3-32 in the following areas:

- Cayoosh Mountain Range
- Shulaps Mountain Range
- China Head Mountain (excluding Yalakom-Big Bar Road)
- Nine Mile Ridge
- Red Mountain - French Mountain (excluding Poison Mountain Sadle Road and Yalakom-Big Bar Road).
- Hogback Mountain

★ Clinton Creek Watershed (MU 3-31). See Map C19. An authorized trapper is exempt from this restriction with respect to the trapping of furbearing animals (restricted to Clinton Creek Access Road).

★ Spruce Lake area in MU 3-32. See Map C20.

★ Watersheds of Miledge, Chappell and Lempriere Creeks above 1700 m in MU 3-44 (snowmobiles are permitted in designated area between Dec 1 and May 31). See Map C22.

★ Texas Creek watershed (MU 3-16), upstream of 3 km on the Texas Creek Forest Service Road closed from Apr 15 - Nov 30.

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:**

- Greenstone Mountain Burn (MU 3-19) (except for Duffy Lake Road, Beaton Lake Road and Greenstone Mountain Road). See Map C5.

❄ **Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:**

- year-round in MU 3-45, 3-46, and Apr 1 - Dec 14 in MU 3-28. An authorized trapper is exempt from this restriction with respect to the trapping of furbearing animals.

◆ **ATV for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:**

- from Sept 1 - Dec 10 in MUs 3-28, 3-29, 3-30, and that portion of MU 3-17 shown on Map C3.

Notice to Hunters

» Cattle grazing takes place on both public and private land. To keep cattle in the correct pasture, it is important that hunters leave gates and fences as they are found. Hunters should read the Access Restrictions section for more information about private property.

» Hunters should note firearms restrictions in the No Hunting and No Shooting Areas section page 10 and regional maps.

» Hunting and the discharge of firearms are prohibited in MU 3-45 (Wells Gray Park).

» Hunters are requested to report sightings of Bison on public land to the RAPP line 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

It's Unlawful

» To intentionally bait or feed ungulates within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground in region 3.

Notice to hunters!

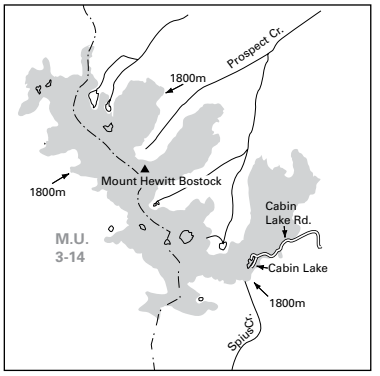
The Stake Lake cross country ski trails are closed to unauthorized vehicles, motorbikes, all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles – effective all year. See **www.gov.bc.ca/recreation-orders** for more information.

The discharge of firearms and bows is prohibited on that portion of Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area or Crown lands that are within the City of Kamloops municipal boundary. Hunters can view a map of the municipal restriction at **bcparks.ca/lac-du-bois-grasslands-protected-area/**

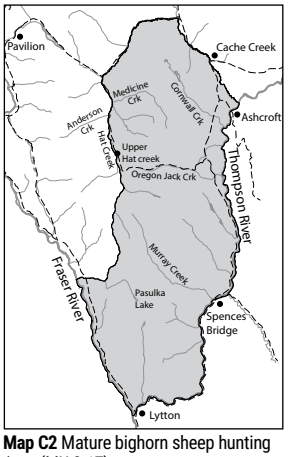
Thompson General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	3-15, 3-16, 3-32, 3-33	▲4 Point Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 33 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44	▲4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
	3-46	▲4 Point Bucks	Sept 20 - Sept 30	
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 31	
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46	▲4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Dec 10	
Youth Only*	3-12 to 3-14, 3-17 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-31, 3-34 to 3-44	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	3-12 to 3-14, 3-17 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-31, 3-34 to 3-44	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
▲ See Definitions Section: Mule deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence. * Season restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44	Bucks	Sept 10 - Dec 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 33 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	3-46	Bucks	Sept 20 - Dec 10	
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
Youth Only*	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Youth Only*	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46	Either Sex	Dec 11 - Dec 20	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
MOOSE	3-34 to 3-38, 3-40 to 3-44, 3-46	✻Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 20 - Oct 31	1
	3-15 to 3-17, 3-31 to 3-33	✻Spike-fork Bulls	Oct 15 - Nov 15	
	3-12 to 3-14, 3-18 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-30, 3-39	✻Spike-fork Bulls	Nov 1 - Nov 15	
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details. ✻ See Definitions Section: Moose. Antlers must accompany the species licence.				
BIGHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	3-31, +3-32	Full Curl Bighorn Rams	Sept 10 - Oct 20	1
	✻3-17	Mature Bighorn Rams	Sept 10 - Oct 20	
✻ A portion of MU 3-17 only. See Map C2. + A portion of MU 3-32 is closed to Mountain Sheep hunting. See Map C21. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 1 - Nov 30	2
	3-46		Sept 20 - Nov 30	
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44, 3-46		Apr 1 - June 30	
WOLF	3-12 to 3-16, 3-18 to 3-20		Sept 10 - June 15	3
	3-17, 3-26 to 3-44		No closed season	NBL
COYOTE	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 1 - June 30	NBL
COUGAR	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33		Nov 15 - Mar 31	2
	3-34 to 3-44		Sept 10 - Mar 31	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions Section: Cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BOBCAT	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Nov 15 - Feb 15	1
LYNX	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Nov 15 - Feb 15	1
RACCOON	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		No Closed Season	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		No Closed Season	NBL
The open season for Columbian Ground Squirrel restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners before hunting on private land.				
GROUSE: DUSKY (Blue), RUFFED & SPRUCE	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 each (15 each)
	3-46		Sept 20 - Nov 30	
Youth Only*	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30. *Restricted to hunters under the age of 18				
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	✻3-30, 3-31		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (10)
✻ There is no open season for sharp-tailed grouse in that portion of MU 3-30 south of the Scottie Creek Forest Service Road (5040 FSR). See Map C18				
PTARMIGAN	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
CHUKAR PARTRIDGE	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Oct 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GRAY PARTRIDGE (Hungarian)	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Oct 1 - Nov 30	3 (9)
PHEASANT (Cocks)	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Oct 1 - Nov 30	2 (6)
DOVE: MOURNING, EURASIAN COLLARED	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 1 - Sept 30	5 (15)
BAND-TAILED PIGEONS	3-13 to 3-17		Sept 15 - Sept 30	5 (15)
COMMON SNIPE	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Dec 23	10 (30)
COOTS	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Dec 23	10 (30)
DUCKS	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Dec 23	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Dec 23	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Dec 23	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Sept 8 - Sept 20	10 (30)
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Oct 1 - Dec 23	
	3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-44		Mar 1 - Mar 10	

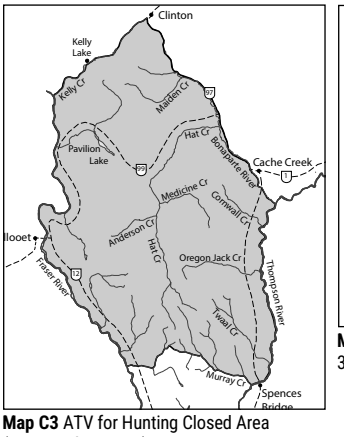
Visit **https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



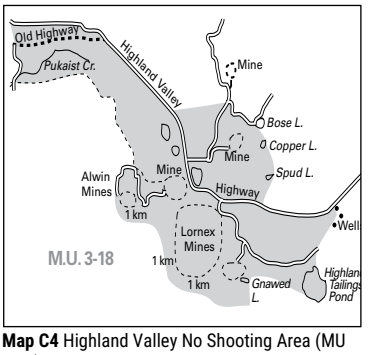
Map C1 Stoyoma Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 3-13 and 3-14) above 1800 m elevation from May 1 - Nov 30, except on Cabin Lake Rd.



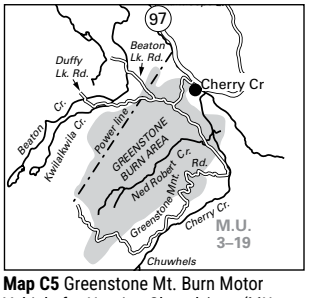
Map C2 Mature bighorn sheep hunting Area (MU 3-17).



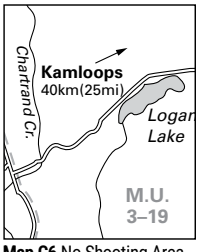
Map C3 ATV for Hunting Closed Area (portion of MU 3-17).



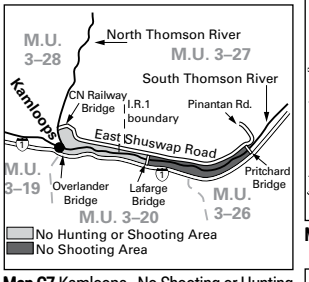
Map C4 Highland Valley No Shooting Area (MU 3-18).



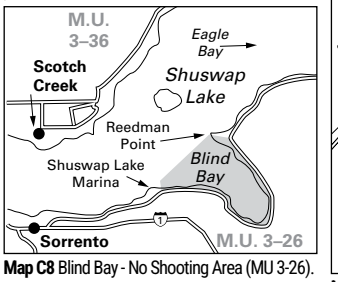
Map C5 Greenstone Mt. Burn Motor Vehicle for Hunting Closed Area (MU 3-19). Roads shown as open lines are open year-round.



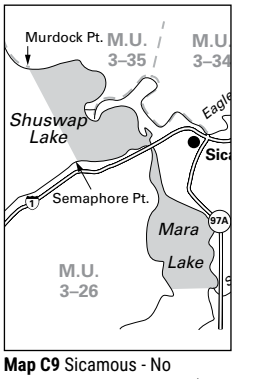
Map C6 No Shooting Area (MU 3-19).



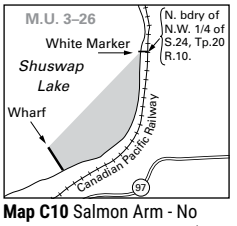
Map C7 Kamloops - No Shooting or Hunting Area and No Shooting Area (MUs 3-19, 3-20, 3-26, 3-27, and 3-28).



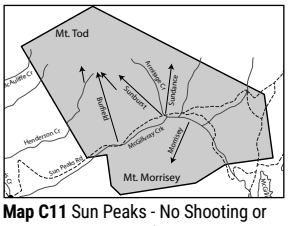
Map C8 Blind Bay - No Shooting Area (MU 3-26).



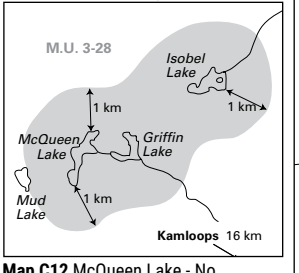
Map C9 Sicamous - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 3-26).



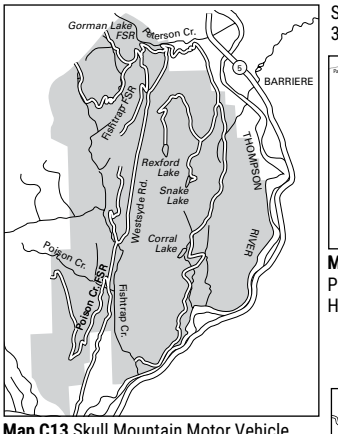
Map C10 Salmon Arm - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 3-26).



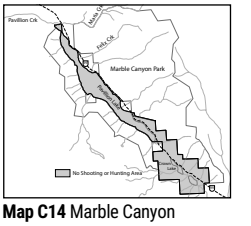
Map C11 Sun Peaks - No Shooting or Hunting Area 400 m from existing ski lift, run, facility or development of the Sun Peaks Resort (MU 3-27).



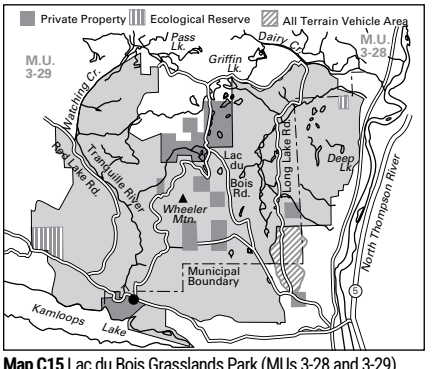
Map C12 McQueen Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 3-28).



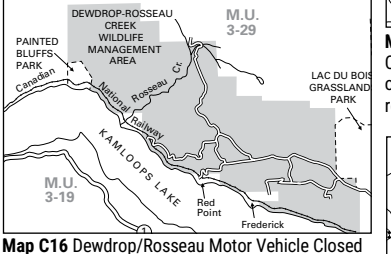
Map C13 Skull Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 3-28). Roads shown as open lines are open year-round. All other roads closed from Sept 1 - Dec 10.



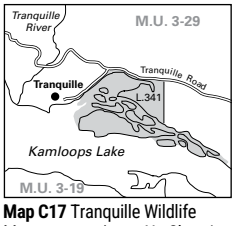
Map C14 Marble Canyon Provincial Park - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 3-17).



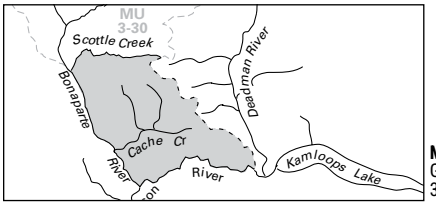
Map C15 Lac du Bois Grasslands Park (MUs 3-28 and 3-29). Vehicle access restricted to highlighted roads except as posted.

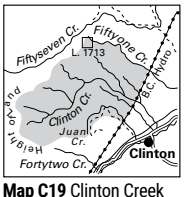


Map C16 Dewdrop/Rosseau Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 3-29). Roads shown as open lines are open year-round.



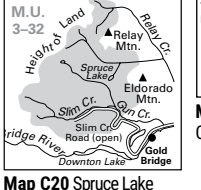
Map C17 Tranquille Wildlife Management Area - No Shooting or Hunting Area (Lac du Bois Grasslands Provincial Park in MU 3-29).



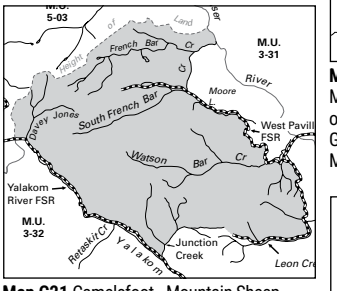


Map C19 Clinton Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 3-31).

Map C18 Sharp-tailed Grouse closed area (MU 3-30).

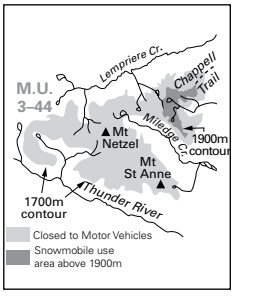


Map C20 Spruce Lake Motor Vehicle Closed Area (Spruce Lake Protected Area in MU 3-32). Closed from June 1 - Nov 30. Roads shown as open lines are open year-round.

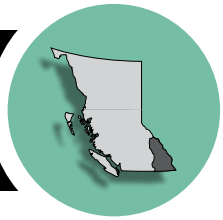


Map C21 Camelsfoot - Mountain Sheep Closed Area (MU 3-32).

Map C22 Miledge, Chappell, and Lempriere Creeks Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 3-44). Snowmobile use allowed in area shown (above 1900 m contour) from Dec 1 - May 31.



Region 4 – Kootenay



Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:
205 Industrial Road (closed to the public)
Cranbrook BC V1C 7G5
Call (250) 426-1766 to contact office staff

401-333 Victoria Street
Nelson BC V1L 4K3
(250) 354-6333

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere, and Nelson

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Cranbrook
- Creston
- Radium Hot Springs
- Revelstoke
- Sparwood
- Trail

Stay Up to Date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. The requirement for hunters to submit harvested cougars for compulsory inspection has been extended from 4 days to 30 days after the kill.

Recreation Access Management Plans

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

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

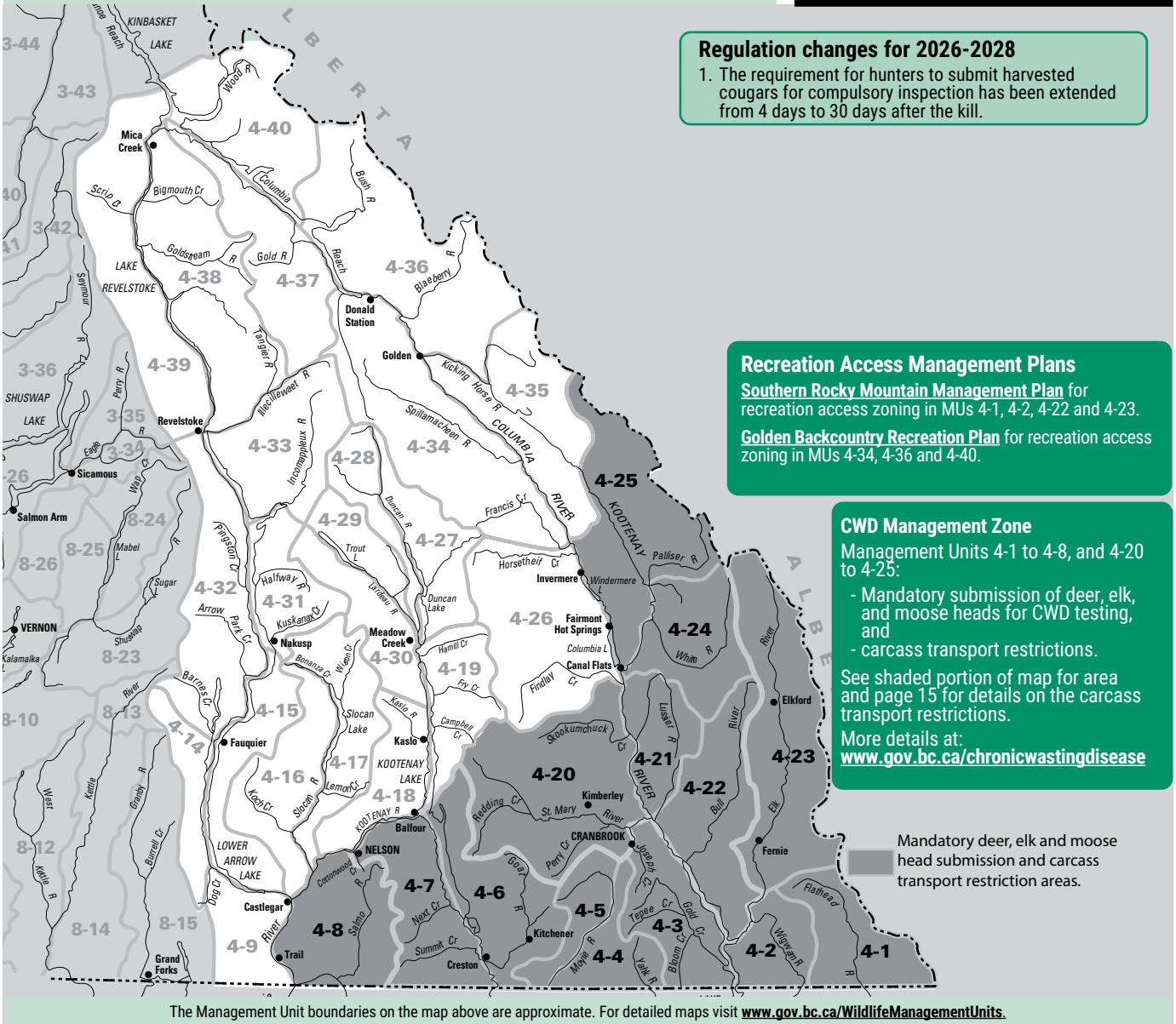
CWD Management Zone

Management Units 4-1 to 4-8, and 4-20 to 4-25:

- Mandatory submission of deer, elk, and moose heads for CWD testing, and
- carcass transport restrictions.

See shaded portion of map for area and page 15 for details on the carcass transport restrictions.

More details at: **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease**



Mandatory deer, elk and moose head submission and carcass transport restriction areas.

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Bobcat: The bag limit for Bobcat is 1.

Cougar: The bag limit for Cougar is 2, except in MUs 4-1 to 4-5, 4-9 to 4-27, 4-32 to 4-37 and 4-40 where the bag limit is 1.

Coyote: No bag limit (NBL).

Wolf: The bag limit for wolf is 3.

Deer: The aggregate bag limit in the Kootenay Region is 2. The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 1. The bag limit for white-tailed is 2; one may be antlerless and one may be a buck. One additional deer (white-tailed or mule deer, antlered or antlerless) may be taken during the January 5-31 Cranbrook Deer Hunt (see map D27). Hunters cannot exceed the provincial bag limit of 3 deer.

Grouse: The daily aggregate bag limit for grouse: blue (dusky), spruce (Franklin), and ruffed is 5.

Turkey: The regional aggregate bag limit for turkey is 3. Only one turkey may be taken in the spring and only two turkey may be taken in the fall.

Notice to Hunters

- It is unlawful to intentionally feed or bait ungulates or turkeys in the Kootenay Region.
- Several animals have been radio-collared for research in the Kootenay Region to provide data on survival rates, habitat use, and migratory behaviour. If you harvest a radio-collared animal, please return the collar to the Ministry office in Cranbrook or Nelson to ensure the information is collected.

NO SHOOTING AREAS:

- The discharge of firearms is prohibited on or within 50 m of either side of the Whiteswan FSR from Inlet Creek Campground on Whiteswan FSR to White River bridge crossing and the Whiteswan FSR/ White-Moscow main junction to the Moscow/Home Basin Campground junction. Total road length approximately 4.9 km.
- See firearms restrictions as outlined in the No Hunting and No Shooting Areas section and region's maps on pages 40-41.

Access Restrictions

- Region 4 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are avilable online at **www.gov.bc.ca/kootenayaccess** or by contacting the regional office at 250-426-1766.
- Access Permits are required for hunting or fishing activities in the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. For more details on acquiring permits visit **www.crestonwildlife.ca** or call 250-402-6900.
- Approximately one million hectares of Crown Land is closed to snowmobiles to support Mountain Caribou recovery in the Thompson, Kootenay, Cariboo, and Omineca regions. Snowmobile closure maps with boundaries, legal access trails, prohibited dates, and identified riding areas are no longer published in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis, they will be available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures**.
- Information signs are posted at the points of closure for road and vehicle restrictions. These signs are for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunters' responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not.
- That portion in MU 4-22 within DD5116 or DL132 including sand peninsula. Motorized use is prohibited all year. Excluding public beaches #1 and #2, public access by land, water or air is prohibited April 15 - July 15. Dogs must be leashed April 1 - July 31. Boat launch ramp open only for launching watercraft not for use to access foreshore. "Waldo Cove Road" is open year-round.
- Public access is prohibited beyond 3 m of either side of Sulphur Creek Road in mineral lick area (MU 4-22) year-round.
- **Symbol Key:** Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following areas (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9).

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** Year-round, unless indicated otherwise.

Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas (See page 10)**:** designated areas where the operation of all motor vehicles, including electric bicycles, to hunt, transport wildlife, transport equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport hunters to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited. An authorized trapper is exempt from this prohibition with respect to the trapping of furbearing animals.

❇ Year-round
◆ closed Apr 1 - June 30 and Sept 1 - Feb 28
✖ closed Sept 1 - June 30
▲ closed Apr 1 - June 30 and Sept 1 - Nov 30
✢ closed Sept 1 - Nov 30

Region-wide Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Area (See page 10): The use of snowmobiles to hunt, to transport wildlife, or to transport hunters to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited in the entire Kootenay Region from Apr 1 - Nov 30. An authorized trapper is exempt from this prohibition with respect to the trapping of furbearing animals.

MU 4-1
★ McDougall Wildlife Sanctuary (Map D1)
★ Upper Flathead
★ East Flathead

MU 4-2
★ Wigwam Flats-Mt. Broadwood /Sportsman Ridge (includes Windfall Creek drainage)
★ Galton Range.
★ Upper Wigwam River drainage
✖ Soowa Mountain

MU 4-3
◆ Purcell Creek watershed upstream of the Linklater Creek Bypass Road
◆ Elizabeth Lake (Map D2)
★ Linklater Creek (AMA)
✢ Linklater Creek (MVHCA)

MU 4-4
▲ the northerly watershed above Hawkins Creek Road west of an unnamed stream flowing southwesterly into Hawkins Creek from Mt. Mahon approximately 2 km northwest of the confluence of Canuck Creek and Hawkins Creek and including the western slopes of Mt. Mahon and the Manson Creek watershed.

MU 4-5
▲ Irishman Cr watershed upstream of Hwy 3/95
✖ Lamb Creek

MU 4-6
★ Channel Road northwest of the pullout located at 49° 12' 21" N and 116° 35' 41" W, seasonal closure from Mar 15 - Apr 30 and Aug 15 - Oct 15.
★ the watershed of Leadville Creek upstream of the 8 km on the Leadville Creek Road. Snowmobiles and trappers are exempt.
★ the southern and eastern facing slopes of the Sanca Creek Watershed above the Sanca Creek Forestry Road.

MU 4-7
▲ Topaz Creek watershed upstream of Midgely Mountain Road at the 1425 m (4700 ft) elevation
★ all areas north of Corn Creek in the Corn Creek watershed, upstream of Acorn Creek, including Buckworth Creek, closed from Sept 1 - June 1. Corn Creek FSR is open.

The Kootenay Region offers a diversity of wildlife and habitats and significant opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Every person should have a stewardship mindset to take care of the impact they may have on the living and non-living components. Biologists have a few important reminders for hunters in the Kootenay Region:

- Chronic Wasting Disease was confirmed in white-tailed deer and mule deer populations in the Kootenay Region in January 2024.
- An emergency response has been initiated to prevent spread and access samples to better understand the extent of the outbreak.
- A high risk boundary (the CWD Management Zone) that includes MUs 4-1 to 4-8 and 4-20 to 4-25 has been defined based on animal movement and proximity to CWD cases in BC, Alberta and Montana.
- Mandatory testing is expanded to include deer, elk and moose harvested within the CWD Management Zone and samples must be submitted to a designated freezer before leaving this area. For freezer locations see **www.gov.bc.ca/CWDdropoff**
- There is a 24-hour exemption after harvest on specified routes for deer, elk or moose harvested in M.U. 4-7, M.U. 4-8, and M.U. 4-25 that require travel outside of the CWD Management Zone to immediately access a designated CWD freezer. See page 15 for specific routes.
- Brain tissue and spinal column (except for the tail) from deer, elk and moose harvested within the CWD Management Zone cannot be transport outside of this boundary. It is recommended to leave these parts at or near the kill site or dispose of them at a landfill before leaving the area.
- We encourage hunters to continue hunting in the affected areas; hunting can help to suppress transmission and spread by removing infected animals from the landscape. It is estimated that less than 1% of cervids currently have CWD in these areas.
- Hunting is the most important tool for managing CWD as it helps to suppress disease prevalence and provides essential information to support science-based management of CWD.
- For more information visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease**

Region 4 – Kootenay

MU 4-9
▲ the watersheds of Malde, Goodeve, Morris and Shepard Creeks and the Cambridge Creek watershed upstream of the 750 m elevation
◆ Tiger Creek watershed upstream of the Gopher Creek Crossing

MU 4-14
✢ commencing on the north side of Peter Creek bridge crossing and includes both Faith and Peter Creek watersheds

MU 4-15
▲ Commencing at 11 km on the Rialto Cr FSR and above the 760 m contour in the watersheds of Tulip Creek in the west to Rialto Creek in the east including all watersheds in between (Syringa, Allendale, Yarrow and several unnamed) and including areas within Syringa Provincial Park.
✢ Deer Creek Road:
- commencing at 19 km on the Deer Cr. FSR including all roads/trails on Cougar Ridge),
- commencing at 23 km on the Rusty Cr. FSR and including Twobit, Sunshine, Gladstone Hutchinson and Sangrida watersheds above 750 m.

MU 4-18
❊ Grohman Creek Motor Vehicle for Hunting Closed Area
★ Marsden Face during the period Dec 1 - April 15
◆ the watershed of Sproule Creek and commencing at the start of the Sproule Creek FSR, and not including that portion of the Smallwood FSR located within the Sproule Creek Watershed.

MU 4-20
★ Wycliffe Conservation Properties District Lots 6034, 6667 and 7318
★ Baribeau Creek Watershed upstream from 1.0 km on the Baribeau Creek Road snowmobiles and trappers are exempt
◆ the watershed of Bradford Creek
◆ the watershed of an unnamed creek (locally known as Patrick Creek) flowing into Dewar Creek between Mt. Patrick and Mt. Manson upstream of the Dewar Creek access road
◆ the watershed of Skookumchuck Creek upstream from a point downstream 1 km from its confluence with Greenland Creek
★ Cherry Creek
◆ the watershed of Copper Creek upstream of the Skookumchuck Forest Access Rd crossing
◆ the watershed of Buhl Creek from 0.5 km upstream of the Skookumchuck Creek Bridge crossing near the confluence of Buhl Creek with Skookumchuck Creek

MU 4-21
◆ the watershed of the easterly headwaters of Coyote Creek
★ Premier Ridge
★ portions of Lewis Creek. See Map at **www.gov.bc.ca/kootenayaccess**
✖ Island Pond

MUs 4-22, 4-23, and 4-24
✖ White River and Bull River

MU 4-22
★ Baynes Lake area (Map D11)
★ Powerplant area
★ the Pickering Hills and Sheep Mtn. areas excludes Lot 3, Plan 12040, District Lot 325, Kootenay land District
★ the watershed of North Galbraith Creek and of that portion of the watershed of Galbraith Creek south and east of their confluence
◆ the watershed of Big Tower, Little Tower, Swanson Creek, Harrison Creek and Haynes Creek. The main Harrison Creek FSR open to motorized use for hunting. All roads leading off main Harrison Creek FSR above 67 km are closed to motorized use for hunting. All other roads within this MVHC remain closed to motorized use for hunting.
◆ the watershed of Burton Creek upstream of 3.5 km on Burton Creek FSR
◆ the watershed of McDermid Creek
◆ the watersheds of Little Sand Creek and of Big Sand Creek upstream of its confluence with Whimster Creek
◆ the watersheds of Iron, Lime, and Oveson Creek
◆ the watershed of Quinn Creek upstream of its confluence with Alpine Creek, including the watershed of Alpine Creek

MU 4-23
◆ Barnes Lake (snowmobiles allowed)
★ Chauncey-Todhunter area
★ Grave Prairie area
★ Corbin Creek
★ Weigert Creek (snowmobiles allowed)
★ Upper Elk Valley/Fording River (snowmobiles allowed). Snowmobiles prohibited above 1900 m on Mt. Bleasdell/Abby Ridge. Snowmobiles continue to be allowed elsewhere within this AMA.
★ Alexander Creek Access Management Area.

MU 4-24
★ that portion of the Mutton Creek watershed upstream of the westerly boundary of Whiteswan Lake Park
◆ Blackfoot Creek watershed upstream from 38 km on the Blackfoot Creek Road
◆ Fenwick Creek watershed upstream from 50 km on the Fenwick Creek Road
◆ Elk Creek watershed upstream from the White Rock Forestry Access Road
◆ the watershed of Nilksuka Creek upstream of the North White River haul road
◆ Grave Creek watershed upstream from 48 km on the Main Grave Creek Road
◆ the watershed of Nine Mile Creek upstream of 1300 m elevation
◆ the watershed of the middle fork of White River upstream of the first bridge crossing

MUs 4-25, 4-26, 4-34, and 4-35
Use of a conveyance of any description which is powered by a motor which exceeds a rating of 10 hp is prohibited within the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area (MUs 4-25, 4-26, 4-34, and 4-35). Boats operating on NAVIGABLE portions of the Columbia River are exempt from the regulation, and the following rights of way are also excluded from this regulation:
- Horsethief Creek Forest Service Road #5467.01 located at Radium
- Plan 22153 of DL 11383 located at Brisco
- Plan 26T1689of DL 2566 located at Spillimacheen
- Spillimacheen Forest Service Road # 7752.01 located at Parsons
- Canyon Creek Road located at Nicholsen
- The Dogtooth Rd located at Golden (Map D21)

NOTE: Boats operating within the Columbia Wetland Wildlife Management Area are subject to the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation (SOR/2007-127); Schedule 2 (Part 2, Items 100 and 100.1), Schedule 6 (Part 1, Item 23) and Schedule 7 (Part 2, Item 10), under the *Canada Shipping Act*.
http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2008-120/index.html

MU 4-25
★ Stoddart Creek area
★ Columbia Lake area
◆ Albert River watershed
◆ Cross River watershed upstream from 27.3 km on the Cross River Road, and on side roads further than 100 m road distance from the Cross River main line between 20.4 km and 27.3 km
◆ the watershed of Pedley Creek
◆ North fork of Dry Creek watershed upstream from 19.6 km on Dry Creek Rd
◆ the upper watersheds of Madias Creek and Tatley Creek upstream from the easterly boundary of the Columbia Lake Indian Reserve

MU 4-26
★ Hoodoo Conservation Property
★ that portion of the watershed of Goldie Creek upstream of 1525 m elevation
★ Dutch Creek-Findlay
★ the watersheds of Dutch Creek and the unnamed drainage between the drainages of Dutch Creek and Brewer Creek above the Dutch/Brewer Creek forest access road and the drainages of Brewer Creek upstream of and including the watershed of Thorald Creek
◆ Crown land in the watershed of Lavington Creek upstream of the northerly boundary of sublot 137, Kootenay Land District

MU 4-29
◆ the easterly watershed of the Lardeau River between the northerly boundaries of District Lots 7527 and 9378, Kootenay Land District and the northerly height of land of Lake Creek (including the Lake Creek watershed), from Oct 20 - Dec 10.

MU 4-30
★ the Duncan-Lardeau area, highway 31 is open year-round

MU 4-32
◆ the watershed on the northeast side of Barnes Creek upstream of the 30 km marker on east Barnes Creek Main, south of the height of land with Keefer Lake and south of the height of land with Fife Creek. The closure on the Fife Creek side commences at the height of land on Branch 40 by way of Fife Creek FSR

MU 4-34
★ Holt and Lang Creek area. The Holt Creek closure begins at approximately 4.8 km on Holt Creek Road. The Lang Creek closure begins at approximately 3.4 km on the Lang Creek Road.

MU 4-35
◆ the drainages of Ice River and the easterly watershed of Beaverfoot River upstream of Ice River.

MU 4-38
◆ the watershed of Downie Creek including the Sorcerer Creek drainage, upstream of the 15 km sign on the Downie Creek FSR.

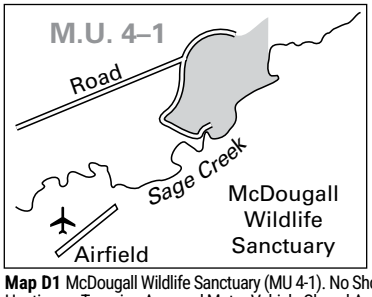
Kootenay General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	▲4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits p. 37 and Deer Bag Limits p. 14
Youth Only *	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
	★4-3 to 4-5, 4-20	Either Sex	Jan 5 - Jan 31	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
▲ See Definitions for Mule (black-tailed) deer. Antlers must accompany the species licence. * Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
Mandatory submission of deer heads for CWD testing in highest risk areas. See details at: www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease. See transport restrictions Page 15				
★ Restricted to portions of MUs 4-3 to 4-5 and 4-20 (See map D27 - Cranbrook Deer Hunt).				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 37 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	4-28 to 4-31, 4-38, 4-39	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
	4-1 to 4-6, 4-20 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37, 4-40	Antlerless	Oct 21 - Oct 31	
	★4-3 to 4-5, 4-20	Either Sex	Jan 5 - Jan 31	
Youth Only*	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Youth Only*	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Either Sex	Dec 1 - Dec 20	
Mandatory submission of deer heads for CWD testing in highest risk areas. See details at: www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease. See transport restrictions Page 15				
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18. ★ Restricted to portions of MUs 4-3 to 4-5 and 4-20 (See map D27 - Cranbrook Deer Hunt).				
ELK	4-1 to 4-7, 4-20 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-36, 4-40	▲6 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 20	1
	4-8, 4-9, 4-14 to 4-19, 4-27 to 4-33, 4-37, 4-38	▲6 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 5	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-7, 4-20 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-36, 4-40	Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	4-8, 4-9, 4-14 to 4-19, 4-27 to 4-33, 4-37, 4-38	▲6 Point Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
▲ See Definitions section: Bull. Antlers must accompany the species licence.				
All individuals with an elk species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details.				
Mandatory submission of elk heads for CWD testing in highest risk areas. See details at: www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease. See transport restrictions Page 15				
MOOSE	4-7 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-18, 4-27 to 4-33, 4-36 to 4-40	★Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 20 - Oct 31	1
	4-1 to 4-6, 4-19 to 4-26, 4-34, 4-35	★Spike-fork Bulls	Oct 15 - Oct 31	
Bow Only	4-7 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-18, 4-27 to 4-33, 4-36 to 4-40	★Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 19	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-6, 4-19 to 4-26, 4-34, 4-35	★Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 1 - Oct 14	
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details.				
Mandatory submission of moose heads for CWD testing in highest risk areas. See details at: www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease. See transport restrictions Page 15				
★ See Definitions section: Moose. Antlers and an incisor tooth must accompany the species licence.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	4-28 to *4-30, 4-37 (open season north and west of Windy Creek), 4-39, 4-40		Sept 10 - Nov 30	1
* Portion of MU 4-30 only (Map D24). Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 10 - Nov 30	2
	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Apr 1 - June 30	
	▲4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Aug 1 - Aug 31	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
▲ Restricted to private land only, hunter must obtain permission from landowners prior to access.				
WOLF	▲4-5 to 4-8, 4-17, 4-18, 4-20, 4-27 to 4-31, 4-33, 4-37 to 4-40		Sept 1 - Jun 15	NBL
	▲4-1 to 4-4, 4-9, 4-14 to 4-16, 4-19, 4-21 to 4-26, 4-32, 4-34 to 4-36		Sept 10 - Jun 15	3
▲ In those portions of MUs 4-2, 4-3, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-24 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37 and 4-40 in the East Kootenay Trench and MUs 4-4 to 4-7, below 1100 m in elevation, there is no closed season.				
COYOTE	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 10 - Mar 31	NBL
LYNX	4-1, 4-2, 4-6 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-19, 4-21 to 4-40		Nov 15 - Dec 31	1
	4-3 to 4-5, 4-20		Dec 1 - Dec 31	
BOBCAT	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Nov 15 - Feb 15	1
COUGAR	4-1 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-36		Sept 10 - Feb 28	1
	4-6 to 4-8, 4-28 to 4-31, 4-38, 4-39		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
	4-9 to 4-19, 4-27, 4-32, 4-33, 4-37, 4-40		Sept 10 - Mar 31	1
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		No Closed Season	NBL
The open season for Columbian Ground Squirrel is restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners before hunting on private land.				
SNOWSHOE HARE	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
RACCOON	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 10 - Mar 31	NBL
SKUNK	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Aug 1 - Apr 30	NBL
GROUSE: DUSKY (Blue), RUFFED & SPRUCE	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
For Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 5; the aggregate possession limit is 15.				
PHEASANT (Cocks)	4-6, 4-7		Oct 15 - Nov 30	3 (daily)
Possession Limit: 6; Season Limit: 12				
PTARMIGAN	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 10 - Nov 30	10 (30)
TURKEY	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bearded	Apr 15 - **May 25**	1
	4-1 to 4-4, 4-14 to 4-24, 4-26 to 4-40	Any turkey	Oct 1 - Oct 15	*2
	4-5 to 4-9, 4-25	Any turkey	Oct 1 - Nov 30	
	▲4-7 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-18	Any turkey	Dec 1 - Dec 31	
Bow Only	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40	Bearded	Sept 1 - Sept 30	
* The aggregate bag limit for turkey is 3, only one may be taken in the spring and two in the fall. ▲ Restricted to private land only, must have permission from landowners prior to access.				

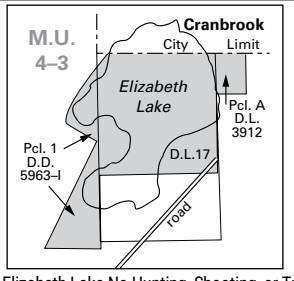
Kootenay General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
DOVE: MOURNING, EURASIAN COLLARED	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 1 - Sept 30	5 (15)
COMMON SNIPE	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	10 (30)
COOTS	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	10 (30)
DUCKS	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-40		Sept 8 - Dec 23	10 (30)

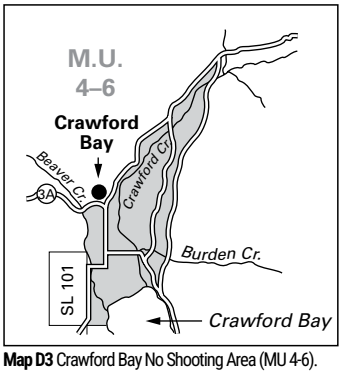
The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area opens to hunting for coots, common snipe, ducks, and geese on Oct. 1.
Access permit is required for hunting activities in the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, for more information, phone 250-402-6900 or www.crestonwildlife.ca.
Visit www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



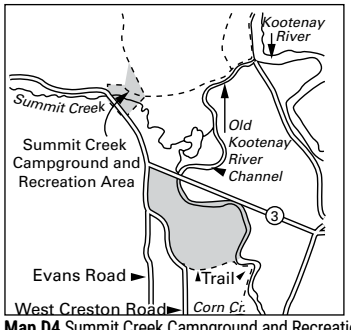
Map D1 McDougall Wildlife Sanctuary (MU 4-1). No Shooting, Hunting, or Trapping Area and Motor Vehicle Closed Area.



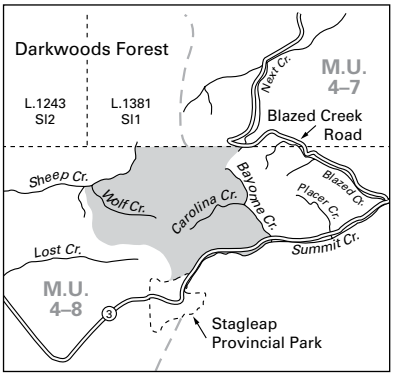
Map D2 Elizabeth Lake No Hunting, Shooting, or Trapping Area and Motor Vehicle Closed Area AMA (MU 4-3).



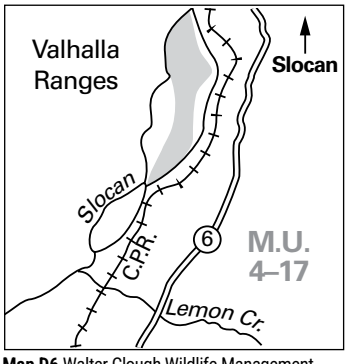
Map D3 Crawford Bay No Shooting Area (MU 4-6).



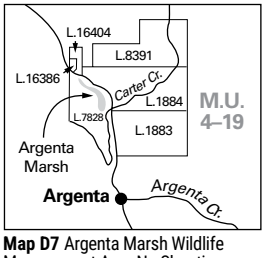
Map D4 Summit Creek Campground and Recreation Area and Corn Creek Marsh No Hunting Areas (MU 4-7).



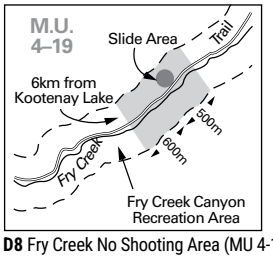
Map D5 Selkirk No Shooting Area (MUs 4-7 and 4-8). Watch for mountain caribou.



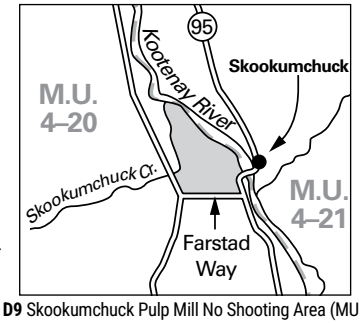
Map D6 Walter Clough Wildlife Management Area No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 4-17).



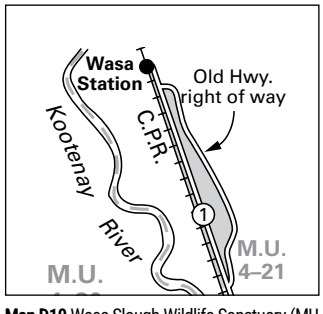
Map D7 Argenta Marsh Wildlife Management Area No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 4-19).



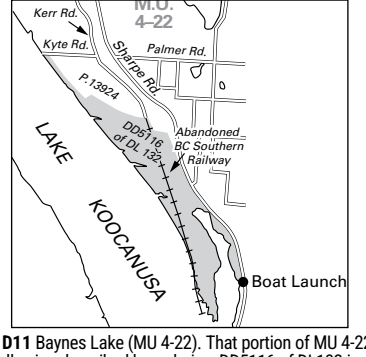
Map D8 Fry Creek No Shooting Area (MU 4-19).



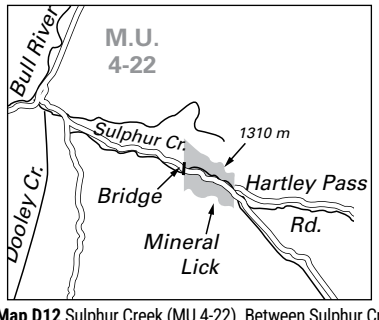
Map D9 Skookumchuck Pulp Mill No Shooting Area (MU 4-20).



Map D10 Wasa Slough Wildlife Sanctuary (MU 4-21) No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area.



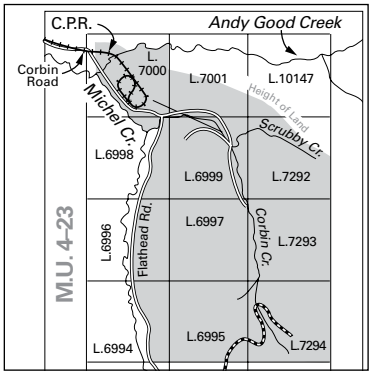
Map D11 Baynes Lake (MU 4-22). That portion of MU 4-22 within the following described boundaries: DD5116 of DL132 including sand peninsula. Motorized use prohibited all year. Excluding public beaches #1 and #2, public access by land, water or air is prohibited Apr 15 - July 15. Dogs must be leashed Apr 1 - July 31. Boat launch ramp open only for launching watercraft not for use to access foreshore. "Waldo Cove Road" is open year-round.



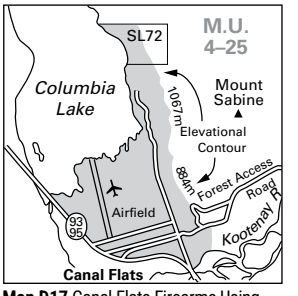
Map D12 Sulphur Creek (MU 4-22). Between Sulphur Creek Bridge and the junction of Sulphur Creek Road and Hartley Pass Road, public access is prohibited beyond 3 m of either side of Sulphur Creek Road and up to 1310 m elevation level of either side of that road.

Hunters are reminded that restrictions apply to Recreation Sites (e.g., Cranbrook Community Forest). See Recreation Sites and Trails on page 9.

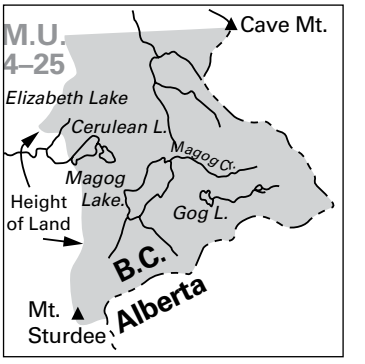
Region 4 Motor Vehicle Prohibition Maps are no longer published in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis, they will be available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/kootenayaccess** OR by contacting the regional office at 250-489-8540.



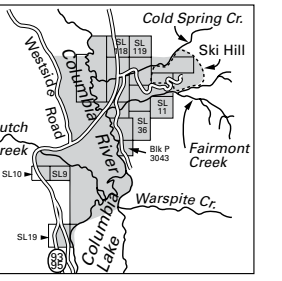
Map D13 Teck Coal Limited Coal Mountain Mine No Shooting Area (MU 4-23).



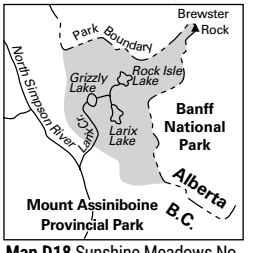
Map D17 Canal Flats Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 4-25).



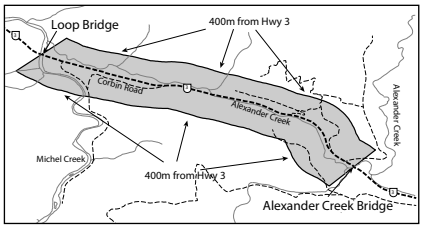
Map D15 Mount Assiniboine Park No Hunting Area (MU 4-25).



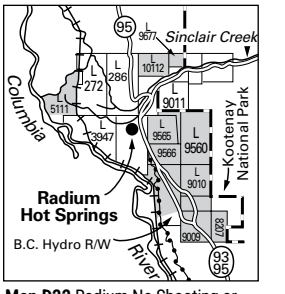
Map D19 Fairmont No Shooting Area (MU 4-25).



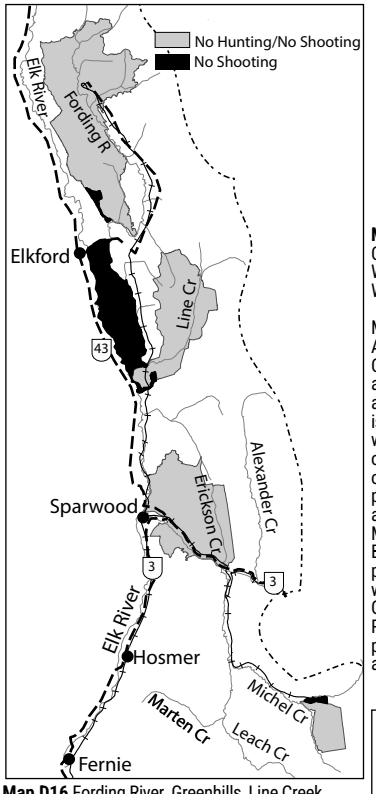
Map D18 Sunshine Meadows No Hunting Area (MU 4-25).



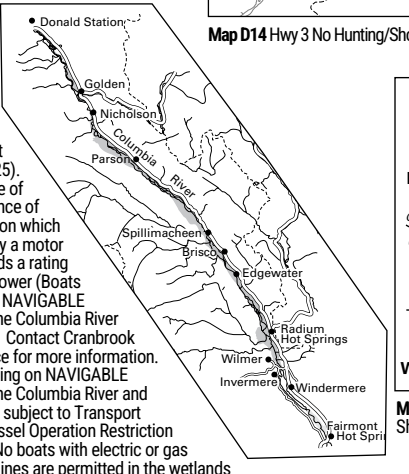
Map D14 Hwy 3 No Hunting/Shooting Area (MU 4-23)



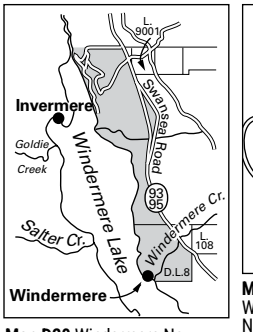
Map D22 Radium No Shooting or Hunting Area (MUs 4-25 and 4-35).



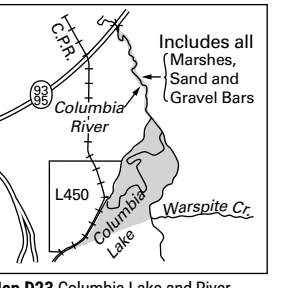
Map D16 Fording River, Greenhills, Line Creek, Elkview, Coal Mountain Operations No Hunting/ No Shooting and No Shooting Areas (MU 4-23) are situated on private property and permission from companies is required prior to entry. Detailed maps for each mine are available at gate houses.



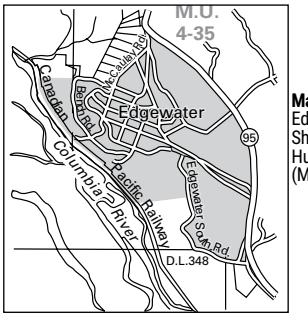
Map D21 Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area (MU 4-25). Closed to use of any conveyance of any description which is powered by a motor which exceeds a rating of 10 horsepower (Boats operating on NAVIGABLE portions of the Columbia River are exempt). Contact Cranbrook Ministry office for more information. Boats operating on NAVIGABLE portions of the Columbia River and wetlands are subject to Transport Canada's Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation. No boats with electric or gas powered engines are permitted in the wetlands and no towing in the main channel.



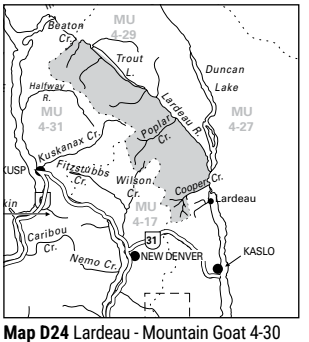
Map D20 Windermere No Shooting Area (MU 4-25).



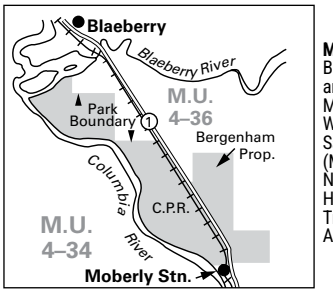
Map D23 Columbia Lake and River Wildlife Sanctuary (MUs 4-25 and 4-26) No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area.



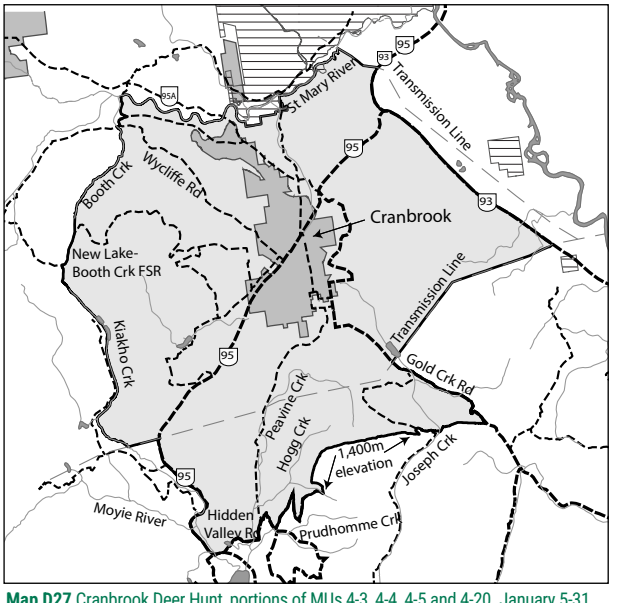
Map D25 Edgewater No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 4-35).



Map D24 Lardeau - Mountain Goat 4-30 Season (MU 4-30).



Map D26 Bergenham and Moberly Marsh Wildlife Sanctuaries (MU 4-36) No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Areas.



Map D27 Cranbrook Deer Hunt, portions of MUs 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-20. January 5-31 general open season on any deer (white tailed or mule, antlered or antlerless). Bag limit for this hunt is one deer, this is in addition to regional bag limits. Hunters must not exceed the provincial bag limit of 3 deer.

Region 5 – Cariboo

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

400-640 Borland Street
Williams Lake BC V2G 4T1
(250) 398-4530

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

100 Mile House, Bella Coola, Quesnel, and Williams Lake

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Williams Lake

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

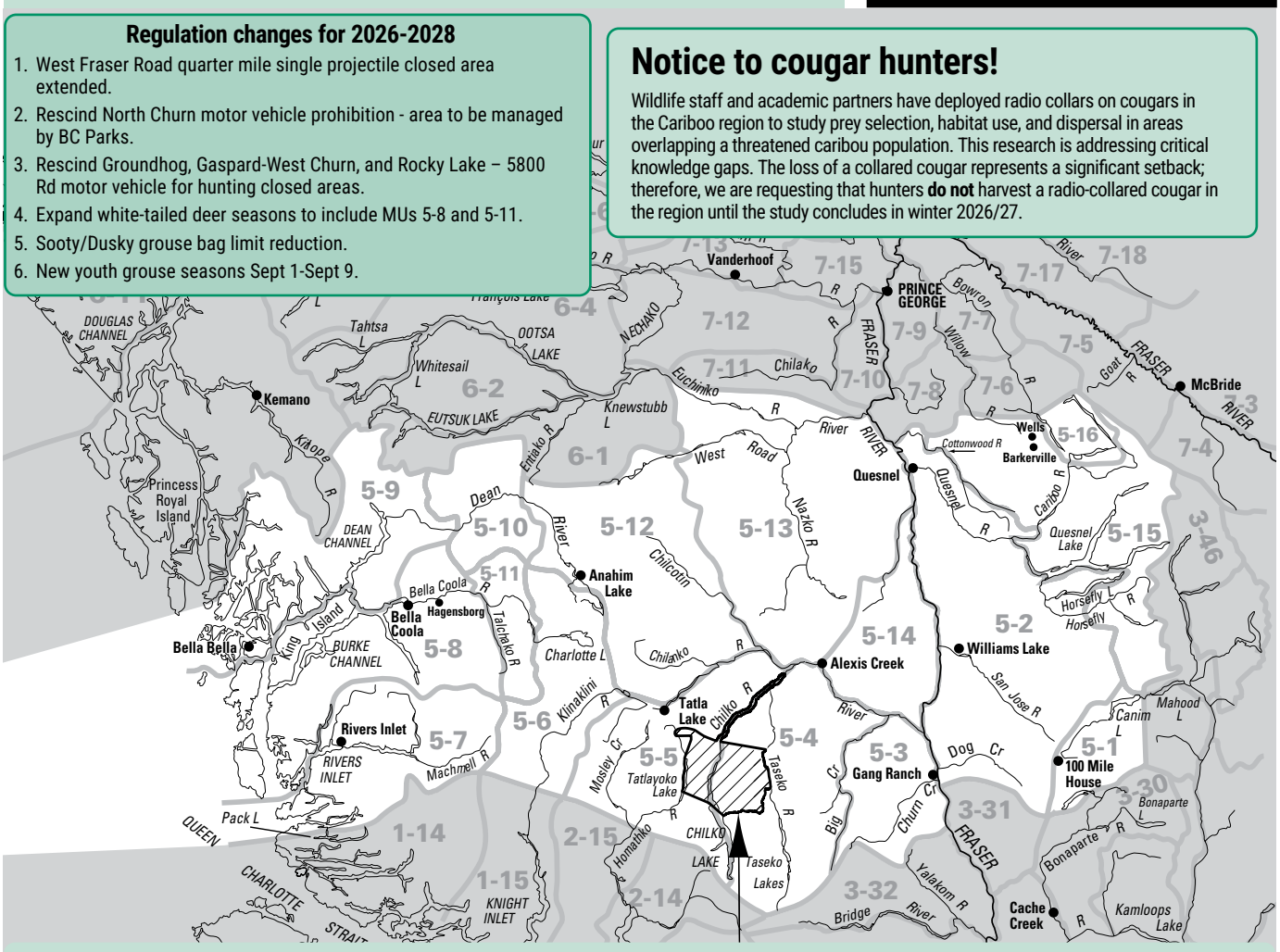
Refer to page 2 for more information

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. West Fraser Road quarter mile single projectile closed area extended.
2. Rescind North Churn motor vehicle prohibition - area to be managed by BC Parks.
3. Rescind Groundhog, Gaspard-West Churn, and Rocky Lake – 5800 Rd motor vehicle for hunting closed areas.
4. Expand white-tailed deer seasons to include MUs 5-8 and 5-11.
5. Sooty/Dusky grouse bag limit reduction.
6. New youth grouse seasons Sept 1-Sept 9.

Notice to cougar hunters!

Wildlife staff and academic partners have deployed radio collars on cougars in the Cariboo region to study prey selection, habitat use, and dispersal in areas overlapping a threatened caribou population. This research is addressing critical knowledge gaps. The loss of a collared cougar represents a significant setback; therefore, we are requesting that hunters **do not** harvest a radio-collared cougar in the region until the study concludes in winter 2026/27.



Notice to hunters!

On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada granted the Tsilhqotin'in Nation a declaration of Aboriginal title, see the hatched area on the map above. For the purposes of hunting, titled land should be treated the same as private land. Hunters are advised not to enter the Tsilhqotin'in title area and to contact the Xeni Gwet'in band office for guidance on authorized and prohibited activities on title lands.

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 2, but only one may be a buck. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, but only one may be a buck. Antlerless mule (black-tailed) deer are under LEH only.

Wolf: The bag limit for wolf is 3, except in MU's 5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-15 where there is no bag limit.

Bobcat: The bag limit for bobcat is 1.

Notice

» It is unlawful to intentionally feed or bait ungulates in the Cariboo Region within 200 m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground.

» **Notice to black bear hunters:** There is no open season for black bears in the Mussel Inlet Special Management Area (MU 5-9)

Firearms Restricted Areas

» Hunting is prohibited within 400m of those portions of Chilko Newton Road and Elkin Creek Lord River FSR that lie within declared Aboriginal Title Lands - see Maps E10 and E11

» **No Shooting Areas:** note the Highway No Shooting Areas outlined in the No Hunting and No Shooting Areas section on page 10.

» **No Shooting Areas** The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the following areas:

- 100 Mile House (MU 5-2) - see Map E1.
- Rose Lake (MU 5-2) - see Map E2.
- Gibraltar Mines (MU 5-2) - see Map E4.
- Reidemann Wildlife Sanctuary (Alkali Lake) (MU 5-2) - no hunting, trapping or discharge of firearms - see Map E5.
- Williams Lake and Williams Lake River (MU 5-2) - see Map E3.
- Nekite River Spawning Channel (MU 5-7) - Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 m of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans spawning channel.
- Snootli Creek Park (MU 5-8)
- Ocean Falls No (MU 5-9) - see Map E8.
- Stum Lake (MU 5-13) - Between Mar 1 and Aug 31, hunting, trapping and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within the Stum (Pelican) Lake Park. The area includes all of Stum Lake below the high water mark and all of the islands.
- Wells (MU 5-15) - see Map E23.

Quarter Mile Single Projectile (Firearm) Closed Areas

The discharge of a firearm using a single projectile within 400 m (1/4 mile) on either side of the road allowance is prohibited in the following areas. Use of firearms using shot permitted:

» Robertson Road and any side roads (MU 5-2) from its intersection with Hwy 97 at D.L. 61 (Cariboo Land District) north to its intersection with Hwy 97 at the village of McLeese Lake.

» Tatlayoko Road (MU 5-5) - either side of the mid-line south from Eagle Lake Road to its end.

» Horn-Bluff Lakes Road (MU 5-5) - see Map E12.

» West Fraser Road (MU 5-13) south from the City of Quesnel limits to the northern boundary and entry point of the Fraser River Breaks Provincial Park on Meldrum Creek Road (52.22244, -122.28515), see Map E18.

» Soda creek road and Williams Lake Cutoff road intersection along Buckskin Road (Commencement point 52.25153, -122.24537) joining with the current no shooting zone on West Fraser FSR.

» Tibbles Road - see Map E19.

Access Management Areas

» Region 5 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/caribooaccess.**

» Approximately one million hectares of Crown Land has been closed to snowmobile use to support Mountain Caribou recovery in the Thompson, Kootenay, Cariboo, and Omineca regions. Snowmobile closure maps with boundaries, legal access trails, prohibited dates, and identified riding areas are no longer published in the synopsis, they will be available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**

» Information signs are posted at the points of closure for most road and vehicle restrictions. These signs are for the benefit of hunters. It is the hunter's responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not.

» **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles, excluding snowmobiles, is prohibited year-round in Region 5 above 1700 m elevation, except on existing roads and trails. See page 3 for definition of existing road or trail.

» **Symbol Key:** Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following regional MUs (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9):

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles is prohibited year-round in these areas unless otherwise indicated.

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles. including electric bicycles, for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport equipment, firearms and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

✖ **ATVs and Snowmobile Closed Areas** (See page 10): year-round in these areas unless otherwise indicated.

■ **ATVs and Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of snowmobiles and ATVs (including motorcycles and electric bicycles) for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport firearms or equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport a hunter to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

MU 5-2

● Access to Mount Polley mine site is prohibited under the *Mines Act* and *Trespass Act*.

★ Knife Creek Vehicle Restricted Area - see Map E6.

MU 5-3

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

★ Red Mountain and French Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area above the 1920 m elevation (excluding Poison Mountain Saddle Road and Yalakom-Big Bar Road).

▲ Gaspard-Churn Creek Forest Service (2800) Road (including any side roads) - restricted south of Kilometre 35 of this road.

✖ Gaspard-Churn Creek except for commercial activities other than hunting; and snowmobiles allowed Dec 1 - May 1 - see Map E7.

MU 5-4

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

▲ Battlement Ridge Mining Road - entire road, Sept 1 - Oct 31 only.

■ Taseko Lake and Chilko Lake ATV and Snowmobile Restricted Area. See Map E9.

MU 5-5

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

▲ Valleau Creek - see Map E15.

★ Chilko-Newton Rd., from Henry's Crossing to Gwe Da Ts'ih Campground, Sept 1 - Oct 31.

MU 5-6

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

MU 5-8

▲ Nusatsum-Noeick FSR and any side roads - southerly and westerly from Kilometre 15.

MU 5-12

▲ Upper Dean River Main Haul Road northerly from 66.5 km.

▲ Beef Trail Road.

★ Corkscrew Road - Except for industrial forestry purposes.

■ MU 5-12 (entire management unit) from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

MU 5-13

■ MU 5-13 (entire management unit) from Sept 1 - Nov. 30.

MU 5-12 and 5-13

★ Itcha Ilgachuz - trails open as indicated on Map E25 (does not apply to a person who uses or operates a motor vehicle, except a snowmobile, for a commercial purpose other than hunting).

MU 5-14

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

★ Junction -Roads open as shown on Map E20. Commercial vehicles allowed for purposes other than hunting.

MU 5-15

★ Eureka Peak - Motor Vehicle Closed Area applies to the operation of all vehicles for any purpose - see Map E21. Snowmobiles are allowed in portions of the Eureka Peak motor vehicle closure from Dec 1 - Apr 30 - see **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**

▲ Spanish No-Name Lake Forest Service Road - northerly and easterly from the No-Name Lake Forest Service Recreational Site.

▲ Crooked Lake Forest Service Road (South side of Crooked Lake) and any side roads from its point of commencement to its termination.

Cariboo General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 43 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Nov 10	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 21 - Nov 30	
	5-7 to 5-9	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	5-1 to 5-15	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 31	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-3, 5-7 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-14	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-6, 5-13 and 5-14	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	▲5-8, 5-11	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 24	
★ See Definitions section: Mule (Black-tailed) deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence. ▲ A portion of MU 5-11 only. See Map E17.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 43 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
Youth Only*	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Youth Only*	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1, 5-2, 5-8, 5-11, 5-13, 5-14	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
BIGHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	5-2	Full Curl Bighorn Rams	Sept 10 - Oct 20	1
Compulsory Inspection required.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	*5-5 to 5-9, 5-11, 5-15		Sept 1 - Oct 31	1
* See Maps E14, E22. See LEH. Mountain goat populations are sensitive to harvest. Hunters are requested to select male mountain goat. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	5-1 to *5-10, 5-12 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Nov 30	2
	5-1 to *5-10, 5-12 to 5-15		Apr 1 - June 30	
	5-11		Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	5-11		Apr 1 - May 31	
* Parts of MU 5-9, 6-3, and 6-11 are closed to black bear hunting. See Map F14 (Skeena Section, Page 52). Open season for black bear within 1km of Korich River, Kainet River, Lard River and Salmon Bay is Apr 1 - Apr 30 and Oct 16 - Nov 30.				
WOLF	5-7 to 5-9		Apr 1 - June 15	3
	5-7 to 5-9		Aug 1 - Mar 31	
	5-10, 5-11		Sept 1 - Mar 31	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
COYOTE	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Mar 31	NBL
LYNX	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Nov 1 - Jan 31	1
COUGAR	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Apr 30	2
	5-11		Nov 15 - Mar 31	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BOBCAT	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Dec 1 - Dec 31	1
RACCOON	5-1 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
The open season for Columbian Ground Squirrel is restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners before hunting on private land.				
GROUSE: SOOTY/DUSKY (Blue)	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (15)
Youth*	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Sooty/Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30.				
GROUSE: SPRUCE & RUFFED	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	10 (30)
Youth*	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Sooty/Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30.				
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-14		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (10)
See closed areas in MUs 5-3 and 5-14, Maps E7 and E25.				
PTARMIGAN	5-3 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-12, 5-15		Sept 1 - Nov 1	5 (15)
CHUKAR PARTRIDGE	5-3		Sept 10 - Nov 20	5 (15)
RAVEN	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15; private land only		Mar 1 - Mar 31	5
	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15; private land only		Apr 1 - May 31	
COMMON SNIPE	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)
COOTS	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)
DUCKS	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)

Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.

Region 5 – Cariboo

Notice to hunters:

The Cariboo Region overlaps the Traditional Territories of the four member nations of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (Xatśūll Cmetem' (Soda Creek)), Stswēcem'c Xgāt'tem (Canoe/Dog Creek), T'ēxelc (Williams Lake First Nation) and Tsq'ēsceń (Canim Band), and independent Secwepemc communities: Esk'etemc, High Bar, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band; the six member nations of the Tsilhqot'in Nation (Tl'etinqox, Tl'esqox, ʔEsdilagh, Tŝideldel, Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesît'in), Ulkatcho First Nation, three member nations of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (Lhoosk'uz Dene, Lhtako Dene and Nazko First Nation), Nuxalk, Wuikinuxv, Gitga'at, Heiltsuk, Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Xwémalhkwu (Homalco), and Nanwakolas Council member nation Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala.

Members of these First Nations exercise their aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, and trap throughout their territory in the region and hunters are asked to be respectful of these traditional practices. Culturally sensitive areas are located throughout the Cariboo and hunters are asked to minimize their impacts to the land through responsible hunting and camping practices and packing out what is packed in. Indigenous Nations monitor activities within their traditional territories and may connect with hunters to share information and foster positive relations between resident hunters and indigenous communities.

If you are interested in learning more about Indigenous traditional values and stewardship practices, hunters may contact local First Nation offices directly.

Notice to hunters - Report feral pigs

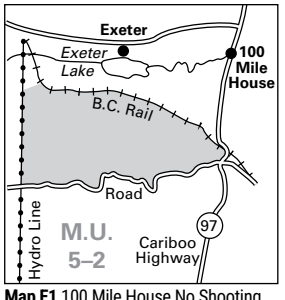
In B.C., feral pigs are previously domesticated pigs, or their descendants, and have been reported in low numbers in parts of the province, including in the Cariboo Region. Feral pigs are destructive to crops and private property. They can prey upon livestock such as goats and sheep and can spread diseases and parasites to people, livestock, and wildlife. Feral pigs can also affect ecosystem processes from the soil up, by extensive digging and their wallows can affect pond and wetland structure. They also compete with native wildlife for food, as well as feed on reptiles, eggs of ground nesting birds, and small mammals.

Please report feral pig sightings in the Cariboo Region via the webform available on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website: **www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species**.

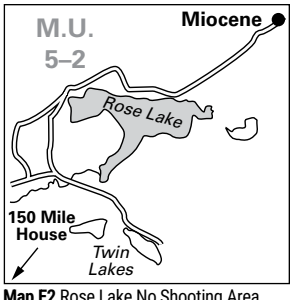
Notice to hunters – Report elk sightings

Historically elk ranged across much of the grasslands and forests of the Cariboo Region and were a critical species supporting predator-prey systems and were highly valued by First Nations for traditional uses. Elk are becoming more numerous and increasing their range in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, with increased reports of sightings and increased counts during population inventories.

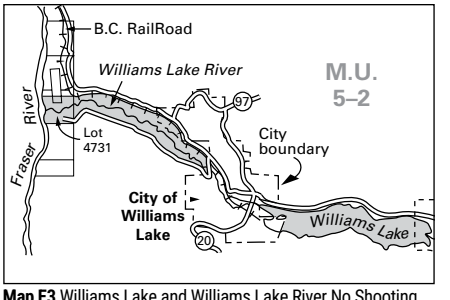
The Cariboo Region is currently undertaking elk management planning and reports of elk observations will support this process. Please report Elk sightings to the FrontCounter BC Williams Lake Office at (250) 398-4574.



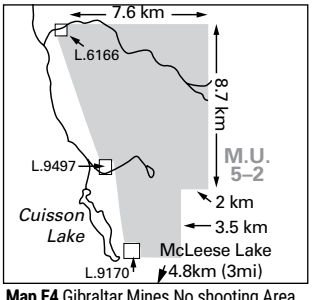
Map E1 100 Mile House No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



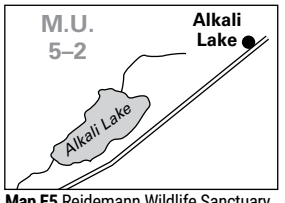
Map E2 Rose Lake No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



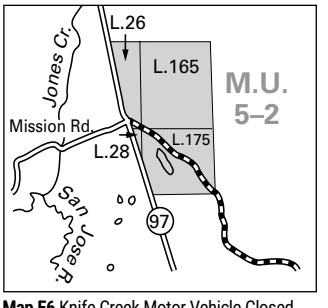
Map E3 Williams Lake and Williams Lake River No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



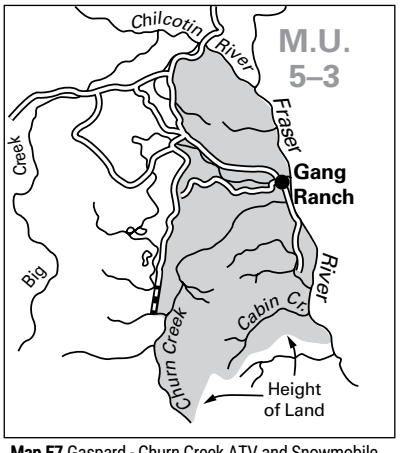
Map E4 Gibraltar Mines No shooting Area (MU 5-2).



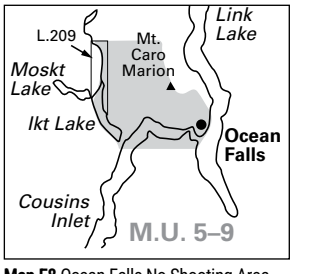
Map E5 Reidemann Wildlife Sanctuary (MU 5-2). No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area.



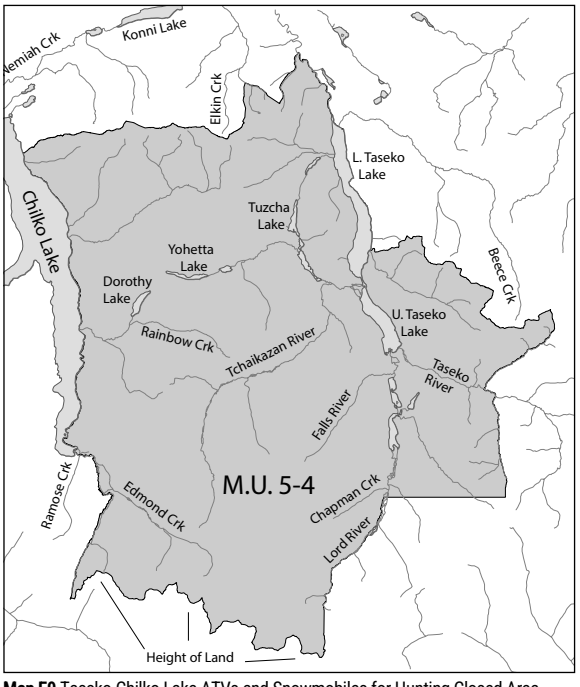
Map E6 Knife Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-2). Road shown as dashed line is open.



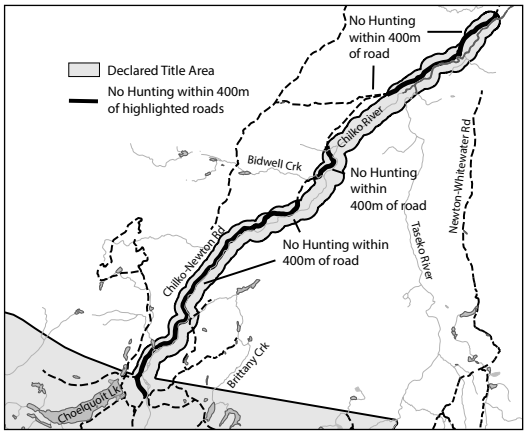
Map E7 Gaspard - Churn Creek ATV and Snowmobile Closed Area and sharp-tailed grouse closed area (MU 5-3).



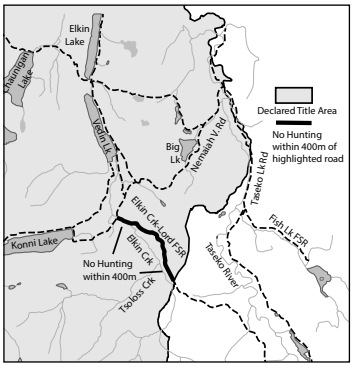
Map E8 Ocean Falls No Shooting Area (MU 5-9).



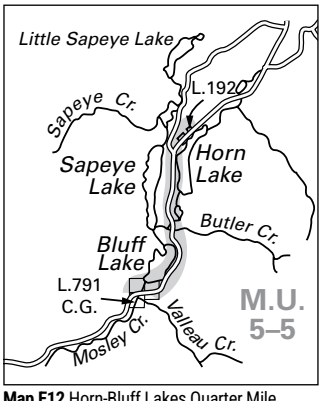
Map E9 Taseko-Chilko Lake ATVs and Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Area (MU 5-4).



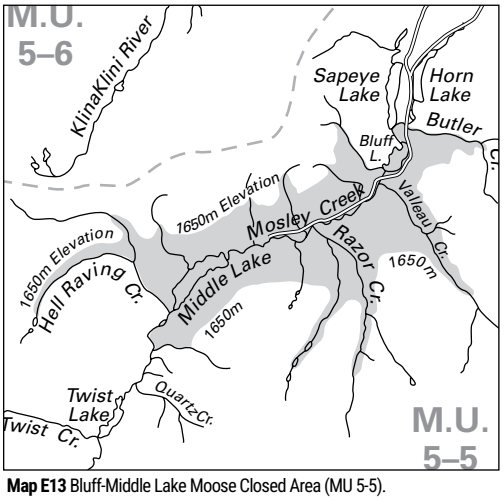
Map E10 No Hunting Area within 400m of the portion of the Chilko-Newton Road that lies within the Declared Title Area. (MU 5-4 and 5-5).



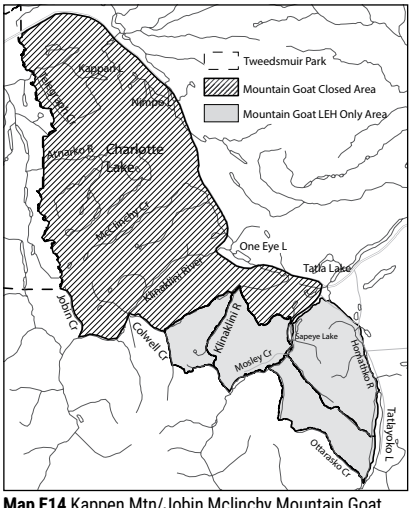
Map E11 No Hunting Area within 400m of the portion of the Elkin Creek-Lord River Forest Service Road that lies within the Declared Title Area. (MU 5-4).



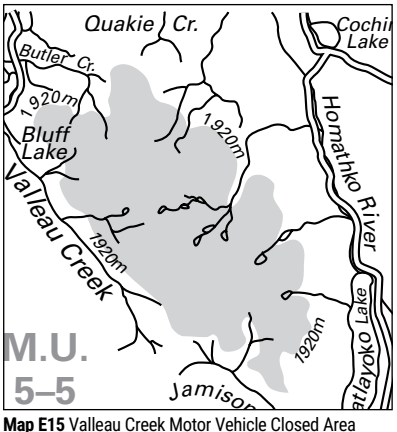
Map E12 Horn-Bluff Lakes Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MU 5-5).



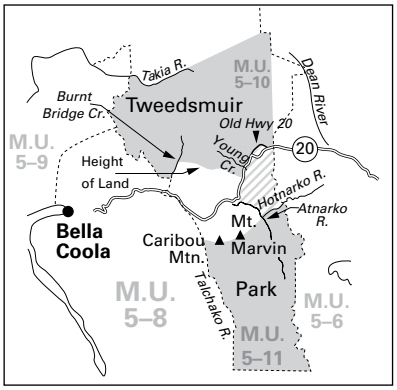
Map E13 Bluff-Middle Lake Moose Closed Area (MU 5-5).



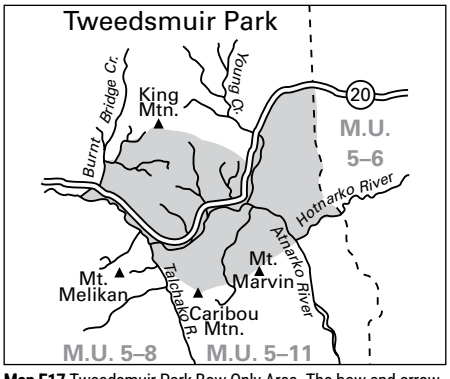
Map E14 Kappen Mtn/Jobin Mclinchy Mountain Goat Closed Areas. Ottarasko Mtn, Nuit Mtn, Perkins Peak and Cherry Creek Mtn. Goat LEH Areas (MUs 5-5 and 5-6).



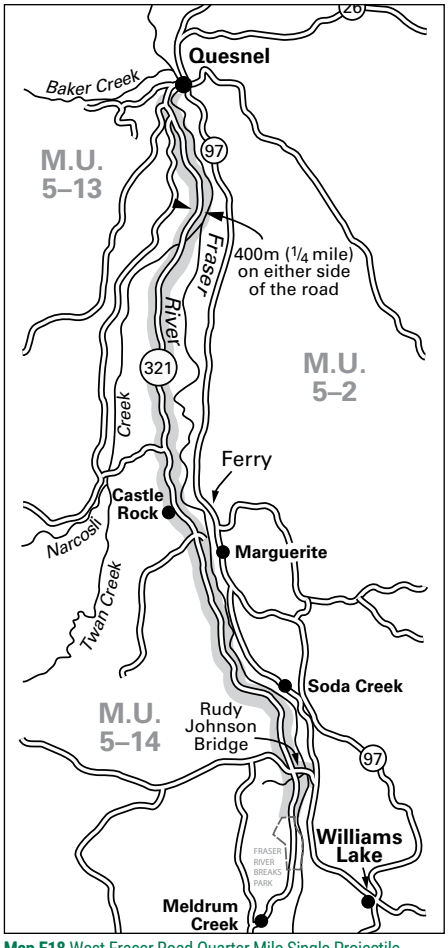
Map E15 Valleau Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-5).



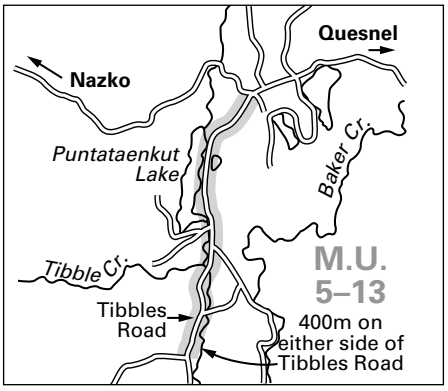
Map E16 Tweedsmuir Park No Hunting Areas (MUs 5-10, 5-11, 6-1, and 6-2). Hatched areas shows LEH Bull Moose hunting area. See Map F1 on page 51 for more details.



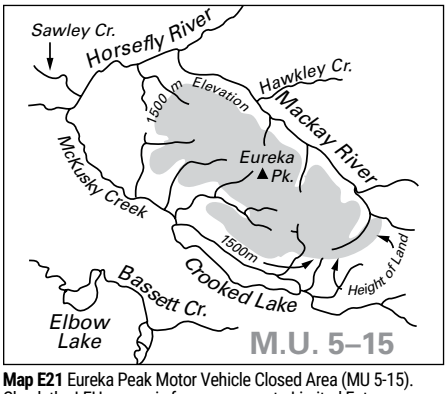
Map E17 Tweedsmuir Park Bow Only Area. The bow and arrow only season for mule (black-tailed) deer bucks is Dec 1 - Dec 24 (MU 5-11). See Map E17 for Tweedsmuir Park No Hunting Areas.



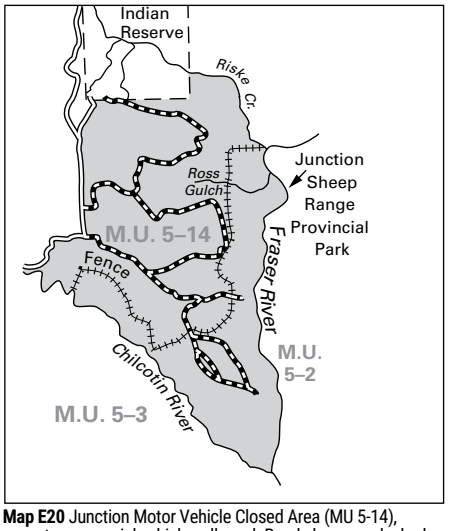
Map E18 West Fraser Road Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MUs 5-2, 5-13 and 5-14).



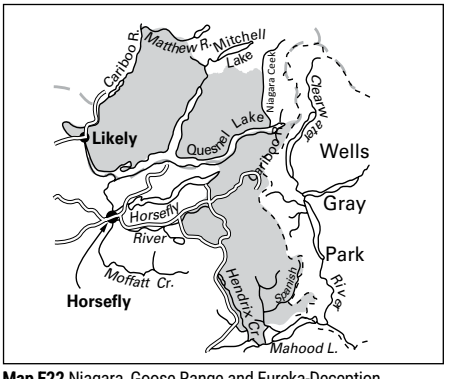
Map E19 Tibbles Road Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MU 5-13).



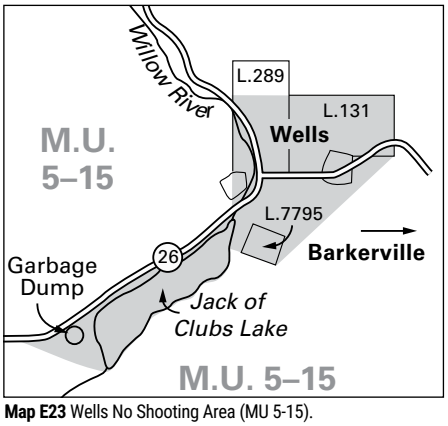
Map E21 Eureka Peak Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-15). Check the LEH synopsis for areas open to Limited Entry Hunting. Snowmobiles are allowed in portions of the Eureka Peak motor vehicle closure from Dec 1 - Apr 30. To view areas where snowmobiles are allowed go to **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**



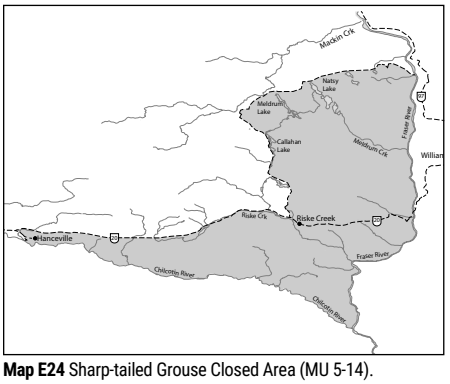
Map E20 Junction Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-14), except commercial vehicles allowed. Road shown as dashed lines are open Apr 1 - Nov 30.



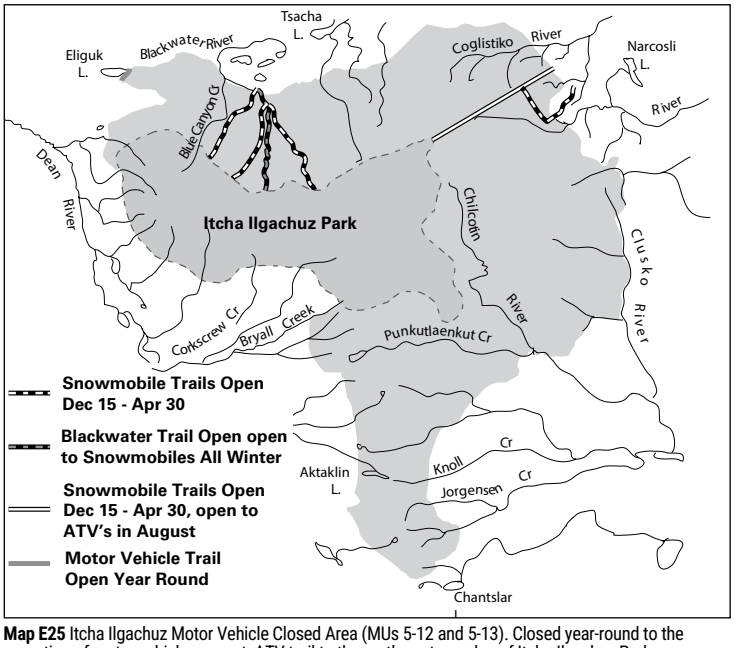
Map E22 Niagara, Goose Range and Eureka-Deception Mountain Goat Closed Areas (MU 5-15). See LEH synopsis for area open to LEH.



Map E23 Wells No Shooting Area (MU 5-15).



Map E24 Sharp-tailed Grouse Closed Area (MU 5-14).



Map E25 Itcha Ilgachuz Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 5-12 and 5-13). Closed year-round to the operation of motor vehicles except: ATV trail to the north-eastern edge of Itcha Ilgachuz Park open in August; snowmobile trails open from Dec 15 - Apr 30 except the Blackwater Trail which is open to snowmobiles as soon as passable; motor vehicle track on the northwestern edge open all year. Commercial vehicles are exempt for purposes other than hunting.

Region 6 – Skeena

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers BC V0J 2N0
(250) 847-7260

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Atlin, Daajing Giids, Dease Lake, Smithers, and Terrace

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Atlin
- Smithers
- Terrace

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

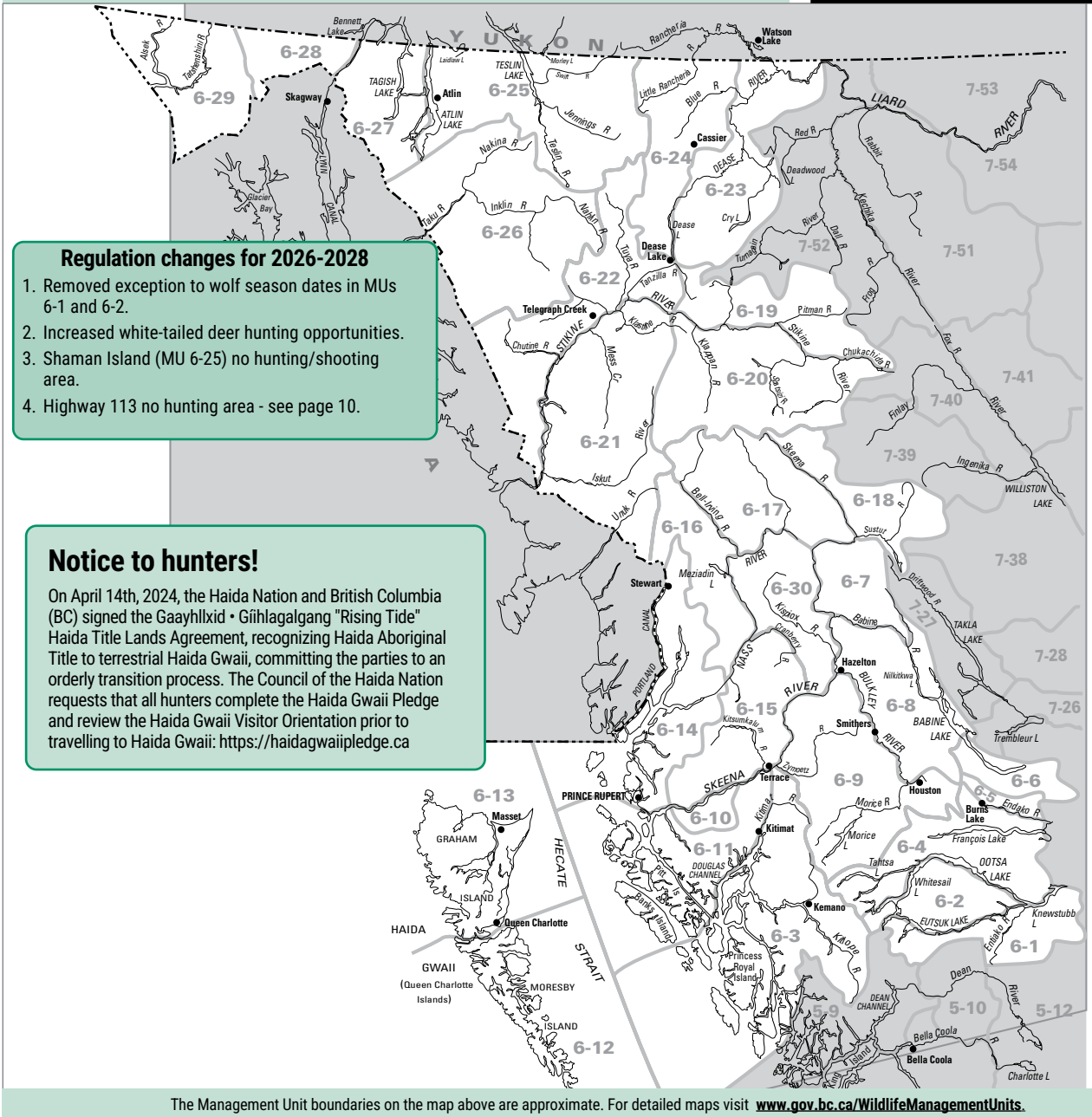
Refer to page 2 for more information

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. Removed exception to wolf season dates in MUs 6-1 and 6-2.
2. Increased white-tailed deer hunting opportunities.
3. Shaman Island (MU 6-25) no hunting/shooting area.
4. Highway 113 no hunting area - see page 10.

Notice to hunters!

On April 14th, 2024, the Haida Nation and British Columbia (BC) signed the Gaayhllxid • Gíihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement, recognizing Haida Aboriginal Title to terrestrial Haida Gwaii, committing the parties to an orderly transition process. The Council of the Haida Nation requests that all hunters complete the Haida Gwaii Pledge and review the Haida Gwaii Visitor Orientation prior to travelling to Haida Gwaii: https://haidagwaiipledge.ca



The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

DEER: The bag limit and possession limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 2, of which only one may be a buck and only one may be antlerless, except in MUs 6-12 and 6-13, where the bag limit is 15 and possession limit is 5. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, only one of which may be a buck, and one of which may be antlerless.

COUGAR: The bag limit for cougar is 1.

BLACK BEAR: The bag limit for black bear in MUs 6-12 and 6-13 is 1 per licence year.

Access Restrictions

» Region 6 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/skeenaaccess.**

Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Areas (See page 10)**:**

» The use of snowmobiles to hunt wildlife is prohibited in MUs 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-8, 6-9, 6-15, and 6-30 year-round.

» Snowmobiles may be used as transport vehicles while hunting wildlife, transporting wildlife, transporting equipment or supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport hunters to or from the location of wildlife in MUs 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-7, 6-10 to 6-14 and 6-16 to 6-29.

» The use of snowmobiles is permitted to transport wildlife, transport equipment, firearms or supplies or transport hunter to and from the location of wildlife in MUs 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-8, 6-9, 6-15, and 6-30 from Dec 16 - Mar 31 only.

Year-round Motor Vehicle Closed Area (See page 10)**:**

» Year-round above 1400 m in elevation on Tsatia Mountain (MU 6-20), Klastline Plateau (MU 6-21), Level Mountain (MU 6-22 and 6-26) and Gnat Pass on the east side of Hwy 37 (MU 6-19). This applies to both road and off-road areas.

» MU 6-18 above 1450 m. Trappers exempt. Commercial vehicles allowed, provided they stay on existing roads.

Seasonal Motor Vehicle Closed Areas (See page 10)**:** From May 1 - Nov 15, the operation of all motor vehicles is only allowed within 400 m on either side of the road/trail, or 10 m on either side of the road/trail as stated, when the road/trail is accessed from the point of commencement as described below:

» Jade/Boulder Mining Access Road (MU 6-19), commencing at the junction of that road and Hwy 37 to the height of land at Cariboo Pass that separates the watershed of the Turnagain River from the watershed of the Tanzilla River.

» Middle Range Road (MU 6-19), commencing at the junction with Jade/Boulder Road, to 400 m from the ends of the trail at N 58° 20' 48.36" and W 129° 36' 49.44"; N 58° 19' 5.90" and W 129° 37' 18.84"; and N 58° 19' 27.42" and W 129° 42' 28.74".

» Goldpan Road (MU 6-23), commencing at the junction with Hwy 37, to where it crosses Little Eagle River.

» Adsit Lake Road (MU 6-24), commencing at N 58° 48' 12.36" and W 130° 8' 56.21", to a point 400 m beyond the end of both roads and including the road leading to Porcupine Lake.

» Hot Lakes Road (MU 6-24), commencing at Hwy 37 to N 59° 29' 1.8" and W 129° 38' 3.6" (start of alpine), then within 10 m of either side to 10 m from the end of the trail at N 59° 30' 13.5" and W 129° 32' 12.0".

» Cassiar Townsite/Quartzrock Creek Access Trail (MU 6-24), commencing at the junction of Quartzrock Creek Road and Hwy 37 to N 59° 22' 37.53" and W 129° 42' 37.97" (height of land), then within 10 m of either side of the trail and side trails to 10 m from the end at N 59° 19' 34.74" and W 129° 50' 25.75".

» Midway Mine Access Trail (MU 6-24), commencing at N 59° 55' 39.96" and W 130° 26' 13.44" to 400 m from its end at a point 5 km north of the Little Rancheria River: See Map F32.

» One Ace mountain mining Access Road (MU 6-24), commencing near the junction with Hwy 37 at N 59° 52' 49.51" and W 129° 10' 13.0" to 400 m from the end of the trail and side trails at N 59° 48' 37.55" and W 129° 36' 53.89"; at N 59° 50' 5.76" and W 129° 37' 56.09"; and N 59° 55' 35.54" and W 129° 32' 13.82".

» Netalzul Mountain Area Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 6-8) above 1500 m from Oct 1 - Apr 30 (see Map F6).

» Telkwa Mountains Area (MU 6-9) year-round Motor Vehicle Closed Area with the exception of Grizzly Plateau (open Nov 1 - Apr 30) and the Meat Cache (open Dec 15 - Apr 1). See Map F10.

Notice to Hunters

» It is prohibited to intentionally feed or bait ungulates within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground on Haida Gwaii (MUs 6-12 and 6-13).

» Mule deer hunters are strongly encouraged to submit a front incisor tooth (including the root) and a photograph of the antlers to any Skeena Ministry office, 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers (drop off tooth - please do not mail).

» Access to the Endako Mines and Huckleberry Mines Sites (MU 6-4) is prohibited under the *Mines Act* and *Trespass Act*.

» The discharge of a firearm is prohibited within 400 m of either side of the road allowance of Granisle Hwy (Hwy 118) between Topley and Granisle (MU 6-8).

» The hunting of all wildlife is prohibited within 2 km of either side of the Muddy Lake/Golden Bear Access Rd (MUs 6-22 and 6-26).

» White and blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear are closed to hunting. Note that these animals are rarely pure in colour and are usually somewhat dirty. Hunters should pass up any very light-coloured black bear.

» Hunting, trapping and the discharge of firearms are prohibited on Lucy Island (MU 6-13).

» Please avoid shooting collared wildlife (See page 11

» The move to a billy-only archery season for mountain goat in MU 6-8 reflects high nanny harvest, which is a growing concern for parts of the Skeena Region. More restrictive regulations may be considered for harvesting mountain goats if the high nanny harvest trend continues. Please educate yourself on identifying billies and nannies using the resources provided in this synopsis.

» There is a no shooting, no hunting area on Shaman Island (MU 6-25). Shaman Island is a sacred and culturally important site to Teslin Tlingit Council. Burial sites and all other heritage sites and resources are protected under First Nation and Provincial/ Territorial laws.

Notice to hunters!

The traditional territories of 34 First Nations have existed for time immemorial in this area prior to the creation of Wildlife Management Units and licensed hunting. Hunters are encouraged to learn about the history and culture of the First Nation(s) and their traditional territories that you'll be hunting on. Please respect the land by leaving your campsites clean and free of garbage and avoid using traditional camp sites and cabins. If you encounter Indigenous land guardians during your travels treat them with respect as they fulfill their duties as stewards of the land and our partners in resource stewardship. **www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing**

» The Nisga'a Government wishes to urge hunters to use caution when hunting in the Nass Valley, because there may be a large number of people picking mushrooms during the hunting season.

» Lake Babine Nation (LBN) is requesting the assistance of hunters to ensure that all parts of wildlife harvested within their traditional territory (MU 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, and 6-8) are utilized. LBN requests that hunters phone the Natural Resource Office at (250)-692-4780 to coordinate drop-off of any portions of carcasses they are willing to share or would otherwise leave in the field (e.g., heads, hide, heart, and kidneys) and encourages BC hunters to contact them prior to beginning a trip. For further information on meat sharing and other initiatives, please find contact info at www.lakebabine.com/.

» The Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) is requesting the assistance of hunters to ensure that all parts of wildlife harvested within the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory in northern BC (MU 6-25) are used. TTC requests that hunters contact TTC Game Guardians (867-390-2532 ext. 377 or 373) to arrange for sharing portions of any wildlife harvest that would otherwise be left in the field (e.g., heads). Game Guardians are active in the Traditional Territory, educating the public and promoting safe and respectful hunting. TTC encourages BC hunters to contact the Lands and Resources office prior to beginning your trip.

» The Kaska Nation are requesting the assistance of hunters to ensure that all parts of wildlife harvested within their traditional territories in northern British Columbia (MU 6-23, 6-24, and 6-25) are utilized. The Kaska Nation request that hunters drop off any portions of carcasses they would otherwise leave in the field (e.g., heads) or are willing to share. For further information on culturally sensitive areas, meat sharing, and other initiatives, please find contact info for the Kaska Nation at: www.kaskadenacouncil.com

»The Gitxsan Simgigyet (Hereditary Chiefs) and their Wilp (members) manage their Laxyip (Traditional Lands). You may encounter Gitxsan Laxyip Management Guardians monitoring conditions and activities within the Laxyip, on behalf of their Simgigyet and Wilp. Wildlife Management Units 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 6-15, 6-17, 6-18, 6-30, 7-27, and 7-39 overlap the Gitxsan Laxyip. Hunters are encouraged to respect the land and wildlife and minimize impacts to the land through responsible hunting and camping practices which follows the Gitxsan Ayookw (Traditional Laws) to ensure that the Laxyip remains healthy for future generations. For further information, including maps and meat sharing opportunities, please contact the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office at 250-842-0755.

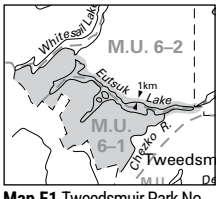
Skeena General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	6-12, 6-13	Bucks	June 1 - Feb 28	◆15 (15)
	6-12, 6-13	Antlerless	Sept 1 - Feb 28	
	▲6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-9, 6-30	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 – Sept 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 49 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	6-3, 6-10, 6-11, 6-14, 6-15	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	▲6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-9, 6-30	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 19	
	6-7 to 6-9, 6-30	★4 Point Bucks	Oct 20 - Nov 30	
	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-6	★4 Point Bucks	Oct 20 – Nov 15	
Bow Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	6-3, 6-10, 6-11, 6-14, 6-15	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	6-7 to 6-9, 6-30	★4 Point Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	6-10, 6-11, 6-14, 6-15	Antlerless	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
▲See Notice to Hunters, page 49, regarding request for harvest data. ★See Definitions section: Mule (Black-tailed) Deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence. ◆The possession limit for deer in MUs 6-12 and 6-13 is 5 - see Deer Licences section on page 7.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Bucks	Sept 10 - Dec 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 49 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
*Youth Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Bucks	Sept 1 – Sept 9	
*Youth Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Either Sex	Dec 1 - Dec 20	
Bow Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Bucks	Sept 1 – Sept 9	
Bow Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, 6-30	Either Sex	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
MOOSE	6-1, ★6-2	Bulls	Oct 20 - Oct 22	1
	▲ 6-17 to 6-29	Bulls	Aug 23 - Oct 31	
	▲ 6-28, 6-29	Bulls+	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
Bow Only	6-1, ★6-2	Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	6-1, ★6-2	Bulls	Nov 16 - Nov 20	
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details. ★ Hunters Note: The bull moose season in that portion of MU 6-2 within Tweedsmuir Park is Oct 20 - Nov 15, see Map F1. ▲ Hunters Note: Parts of several MUs have special regulations, are closed to Moose hunting or are open by LEH authorization only. See Maps F25, F39, F40; + Antler restricted season applies to those areas within the Haines Highway area only, see Map F40. Open only for bull moose (a) having no more than two points (tines) on one antler ("Spike-fork bull moose"), (b) having antlers with at least three points (tines) on one brow palm ("Tripalm bull moose") or (c) having at least one antler with a minimum of 10 points (tine), including the brow palm. See definitions section: Moose. The antlers must accompany the species licences. See Maps F39. Detailed maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/huntingmaps**				
ELK	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-6, 6-8, 6-9	▲ 6 Point Bulls	Oct 1 - Oct 9	1
	6-13	Bulls	Sept 15 - Nov 15	
Bow Only	6-13	Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 14	
All individuals with an elk species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details ▲ See Definitions section: Bull. Antlers must accompany the species licence.				
THINHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	6-17, ▲6-18 to 6-26, ★6-27	Full Curl Thinhorn Rams	Aug 1 - Oct 15	1
★ A portion of MU 6-27 only. See Map F36. ▲ Parts of several MUs are open by LEH authorization only and/or have special restrictions. See Maps F26, F28, F30, F34 and F36. Compulsory Inspection required.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	▲6-7, 6-17 to 6-30		Aug 1 - Oct 15	1
	▲6-3, 6-11, 6-14 to ★6-16, ★★6-9		Aug 1 - Nov 15	
	*6-14		Aug 1 - Feb 28	
Aug 15 - Oct 19 Bow Only Season in part of MU 6-8, this season is restricted to Billy (Male) mountain goats only - see Map F4. ▲ Parts of several MUs have special regulations or are open by LEH authorization only. See Maps F13, F22, F24, F27, F29, F30, F31, F33, F36 and F37. ★ Portion of MU 6-16 closed. See Map F24. ★★ Part of MU 6-9 only, see Map F2. * Part of MU 6-14 only see Map F22. Compulsory Inspection required				
CARIBOU	LIMITED ENTRY HUNTING ONLY			
BLACK BEAR	▲6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Aug 15 - Nov 30	2
	▲6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Apr 1 - June 30	
▲ Portions of MUs 5-9, 6-3 and 6-11 are closed to black bear hunting. See Map F14.				
WOLF	6-1 to 6-30		Aug 1 – June 15	3
COUGAR	6-1 to 6-11		Sept 10 - Apr 30	1
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required. The cougar season will close 72 hours after the regional manager has published that during the current licence year the total number of female cougars killed in these MUs has reached 5.				
COYOTE	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Mar 31	10
WOLVERINE	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Sept 15 - Feb 28	1
Compulsory Reporting required.				
LYNX	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-9, 6-15 to 6-30		Nov 15 - Feb 15	1
Compulsory Reporting required.				

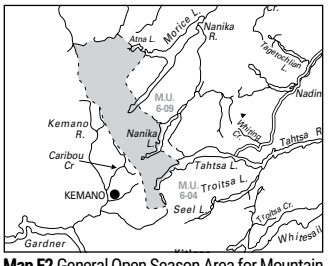
Skeena General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
RACCOON	6-12, 6-13		No Closed Season	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	6-1 to 6-30		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
GROUSE: SOOTY/DUSKY (Blue), RUFFED & SPRUCE	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Sept 10 - Nov 15	10 (30)
	6-12, 6-13		Sept 10 - Nov 15	5 (15)
Bow Only	6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Sept 9	10 (30)
Bow Only	6-12, 6-13		Sept 1 - Sept 9	5 (15)
The daily aggregate bag limit in MUs 6-1 to 6-11 and 6-14 to 6-30 is 10 and the aggregate possession limit is 30. The daily aggregate bag limit in MUs 6-12 and 6-13 is 5 and the aggregate possession limit is 15.				
PTARMIGAN	6-1 to 6-6, 6-8 to 6-11, 6-15 and 6-30		Aug 15 - Feb 28	5 (15)
	6-7, 6-14, 6-16 to 6-29		Aug 15 - Feb 28	10 (30)
COMMON SNIPE	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	
COOTS	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	
DUCKS	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	8 (24)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10, 6-15 to 6-30		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
	6-3, 6-11 to 6-14		Oct 1 - Jan 15	

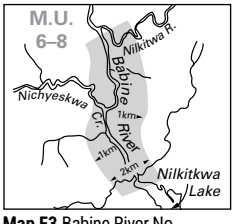
Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



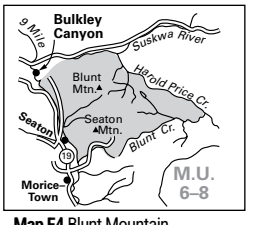
Map F1 Tweedsmuir Park No Hunting Areas (MUs 6-1 and 6-2). The general open hunting season for bull moose in that portion of 6-2 located within Tweedsmuir Park is Oct 20 - Nov 15.



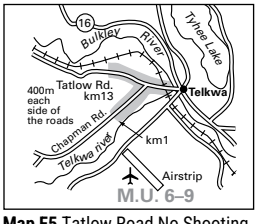
Map F2 General Open Season Area for Mountain Goat (portions of MU 6-09).



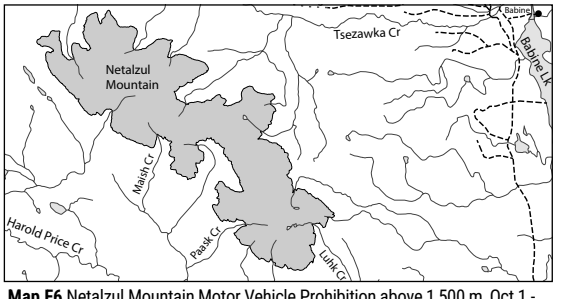
Map F3 Babine River No Shooting Area (year-round) 1 km on either side of river (MU 6-8).



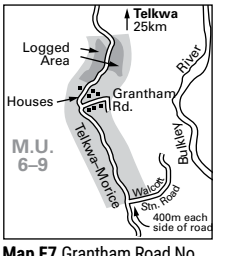
Map F4 Blunt Mountain Special Bow Only Season (MU 6-8). The bow only open season for billy (male) mountain goats only is Aug 15 - Oct 19.



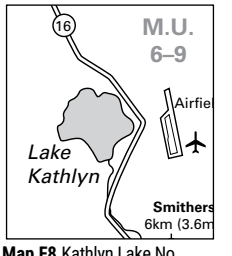
Map F5 Tatlow Road No Shooting Area 0.4 km either side of road (MU 6-9).



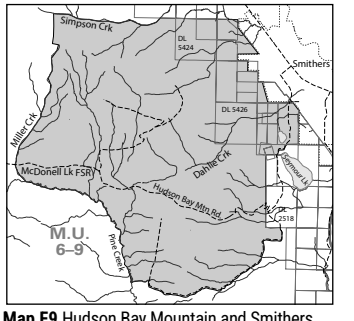
Map F6 Netalzul Mountain Motor Vehicle Prohibition above 1,500 m, Oct 1 - Apr 30 (MU 6-8).



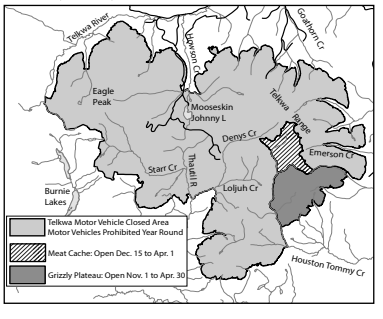
Map F7 Grantham Road No Shooting Area (MU 6-9).



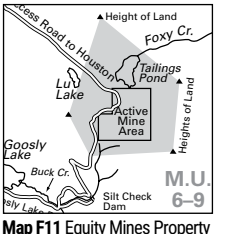
Map F8 Kathlyn Lake No Shooting Area (MU 6-9).



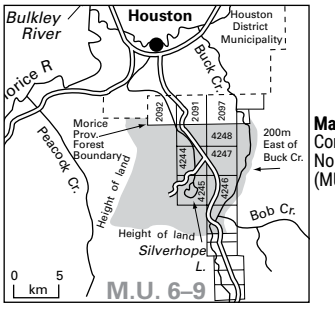
Map F9 Hudson Bay Mountain and Smithers Community Forest No Shooting Area (MU 6-9).



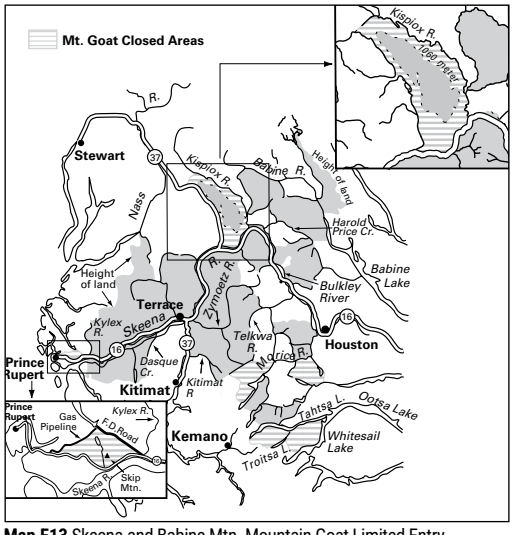
Map F10 Telkwa Mountains Area (MU 6-9). Use of motor vehicles prohibited year-round with the exception of Grizzly Plateau and the Meat Cache. Grizzly Plateau is open to motor vehicles from Nov 1 - Apr 30 and the Meat Cache is open to motor vehicles from Dec 15 - Apr 1.



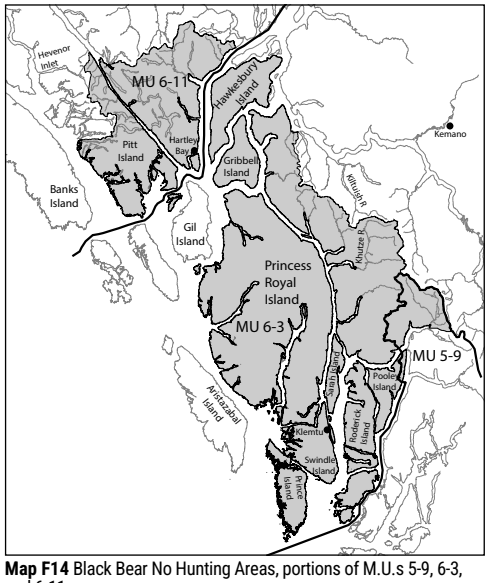
Map F11 Equity Mines Property No Shooting Area (MU 6-9).



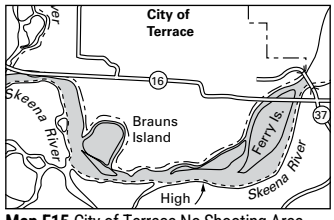
Map F12 Houston Community Forest No Shooting Area (MU 6-9).



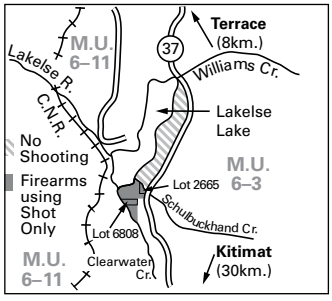
Map F13 Skeena and Babine Mtn. Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting only areas (MUs 6-8, 6-9, 6-10, 6-11, 6-14, 6-15, and 6-30) and Mountain Goat Closed Area in MU 6-30. Note: no open season for mountain goats on Skip Mountain (MU 6-14).



Map F14 Black Bear No Hunting Areas, portions of M.U.s 5-9, 6-3, and 6-11.

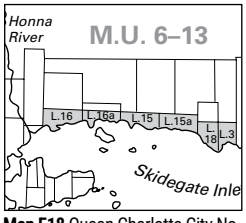


Map F15 City of Terrace No Shooting Area (MUs 6-11 and 6-15).

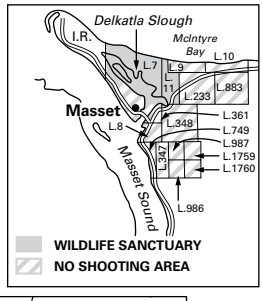


Map F16 Lakelse Lake No Shooting Area and Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 6-11).

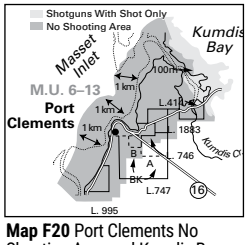
Map F17 Sandspit No Shooting Area (MU 6-12).



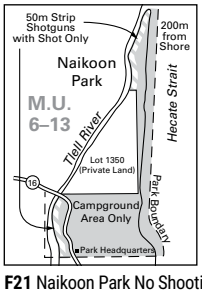
Map F18 Queen Charlotte City No Shooting Area (MU 6-13).



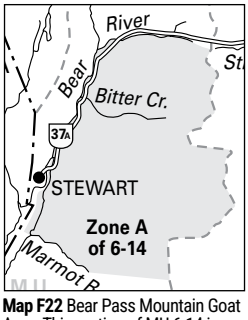
Map F19 Masset No Shooting Area (MU 6-13) and Delkatla Slough Wildlife Sanctuary No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area.



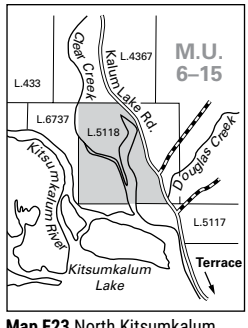
Map F20 Port Clements No Shooting Area and Kumdis Bay Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 6-13).



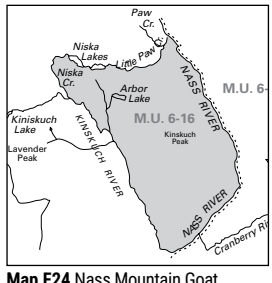
Map F21 Naikoon Park No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 6-13). The 50 m strips along the banks of the Tlell River are open for Firearms Using Shot Only as indicated on map (closed along Hwy).



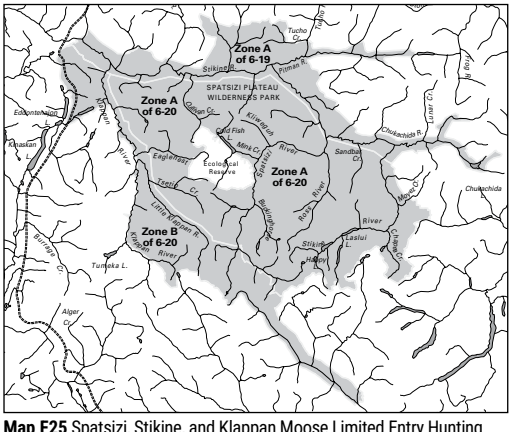
Map F22 Bear Pass Mountain Goat Area. This portion of MU 6-14 is open Aug 1 - Feb 28.



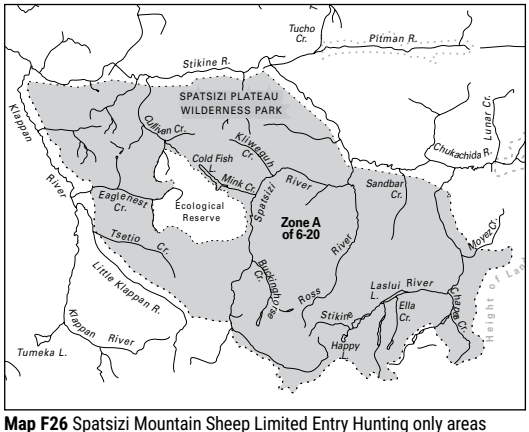
Map F23 North Kitsumkalum Lake No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 6-15).



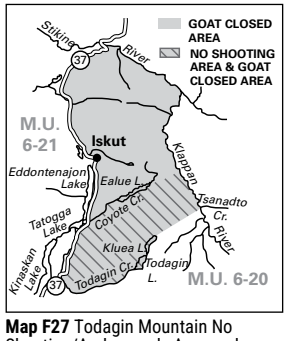
Map F24 Nass Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 6-16).



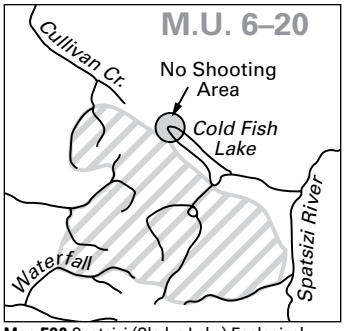
Map F25 Spatsizi, Stikine, and Klappan Moose Limited Entry Hunting only areas (MUs 6-19 and 6-20). See Map F29.



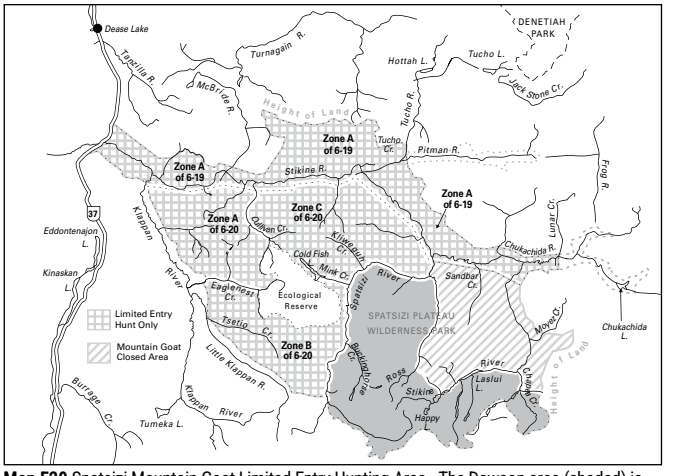
Map F26 Spatsizi Mountain Sheep Limited Entry Hunting only areas (MUs 6-19 and 6-20). See Map F28.



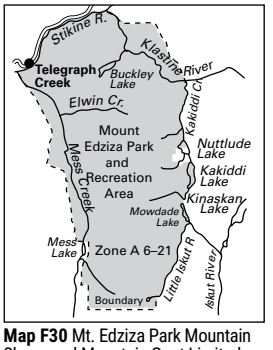
Map F27 Todagin Mountain No Shooting/Archery only Area and Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 6-20). See page 49 for mining access road restrictions.



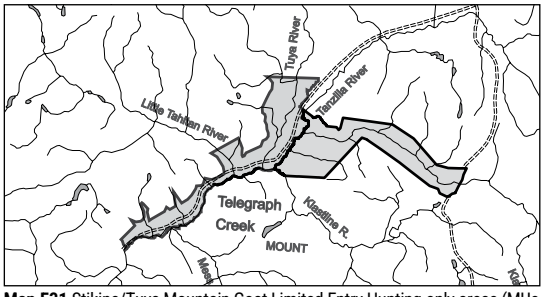
Map F28 Spatsizi (Gladys Lake) Ecological Reserve No Hunting Area (MU 6-20). Cold Fish Lake Camp No Shooting Area: The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 1 km of Cold Fish Lake Camp.



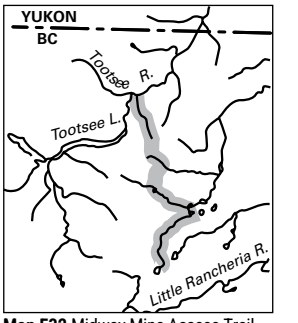
Map F29 Spatsizi Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting Area. The Dawson area (shaded) is general open season for Mountain Goat (MUs 6-19 and 6-20).



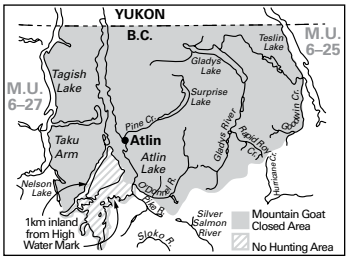
Map F30 Mt. Edziza Park Mountain Sheep and Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting only areas (MU 6-21).



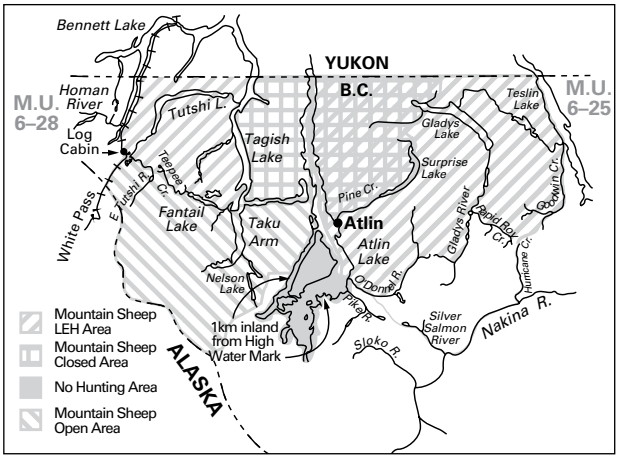
Map F31 Stikine/Tuya Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting only areas (MUs 6-21 and 6-22).



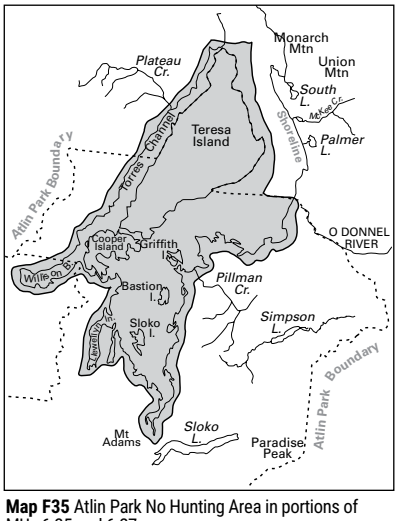
Map F32 Midway Mine Access Trail (MU 6-24). See page 49.



Map F33 Atlin Mountain Goat Closed Area and No Hunting Area (MUs 6-25, 6-27).

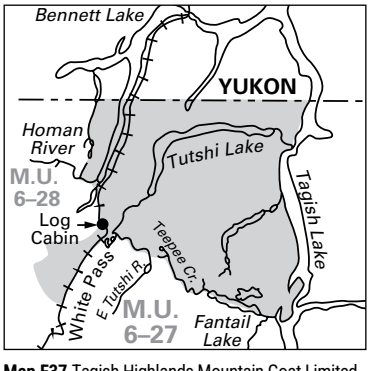


Map F34 Atlin Mountain Sheep Limited Entry Hunting Area and Mountain Sheep Open Area (MUs 6-25 and 6-27).

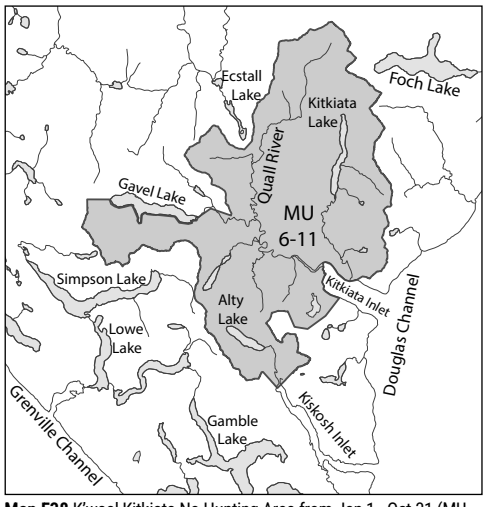


Map F35 Atlin Park No Hunting Area in portions of MUs 6-25 and 6-27.

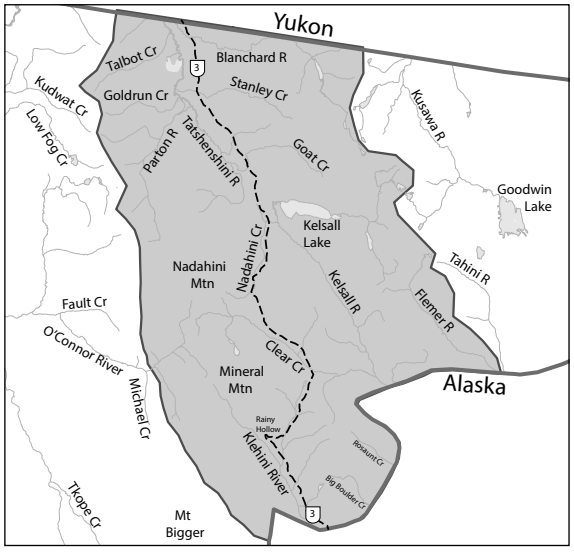
Map F36 Atlin Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting only Area and Atlin Park Mountain Sheep Closed Area (MUs 6-25, 6-26, and 6-27).



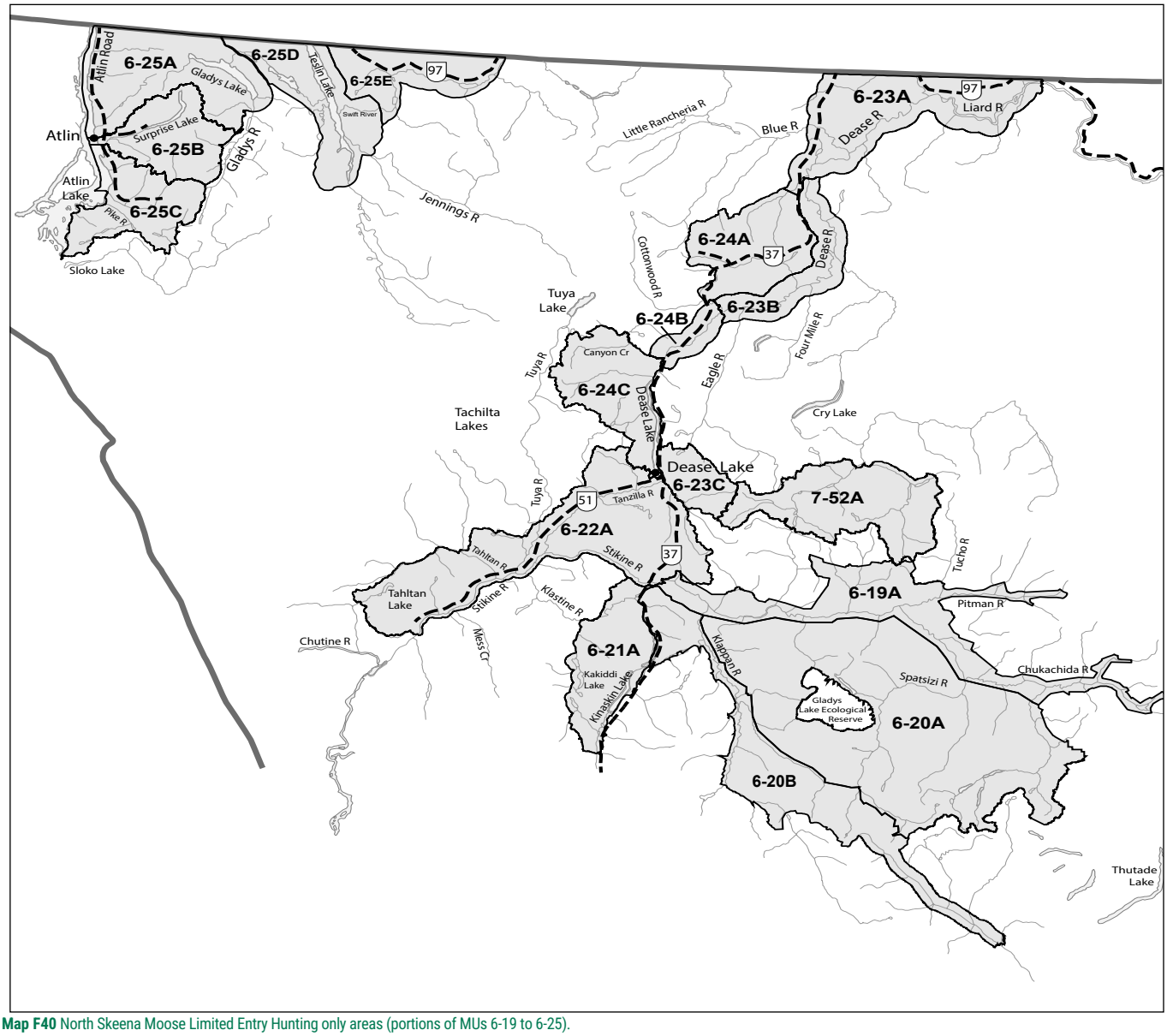
Map F37 Tagish Highlands Mountain Goat Limited Entry Hunting Area (MUs 6-27 and 6-28).



Map F38 K'waal Kitkiata No Hunting Area from Jan 1 - Oct 31 (MU 6-11).



Map F39 Haines Highway Area Moose Restricted Area, Aug 23 - Aug 31 open for any bull. Sept 1 - Oct 31 open for spike-fork, tri-palm, or 10 point bull only (MUs 6-28 and 6-29).



Map F40 North Skeena Moose Limited Entry Hunting only areas (portions of MUs 6-19 to 6-25).

Region 7A – Omineca

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

2000 Ospika Blvd S
Prince George BC V2N 4W5
(250) 614-7400

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Burns Lake, Mackenzie, Prince George, and Vanderhoof

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Prince George
- Vanderhoof

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

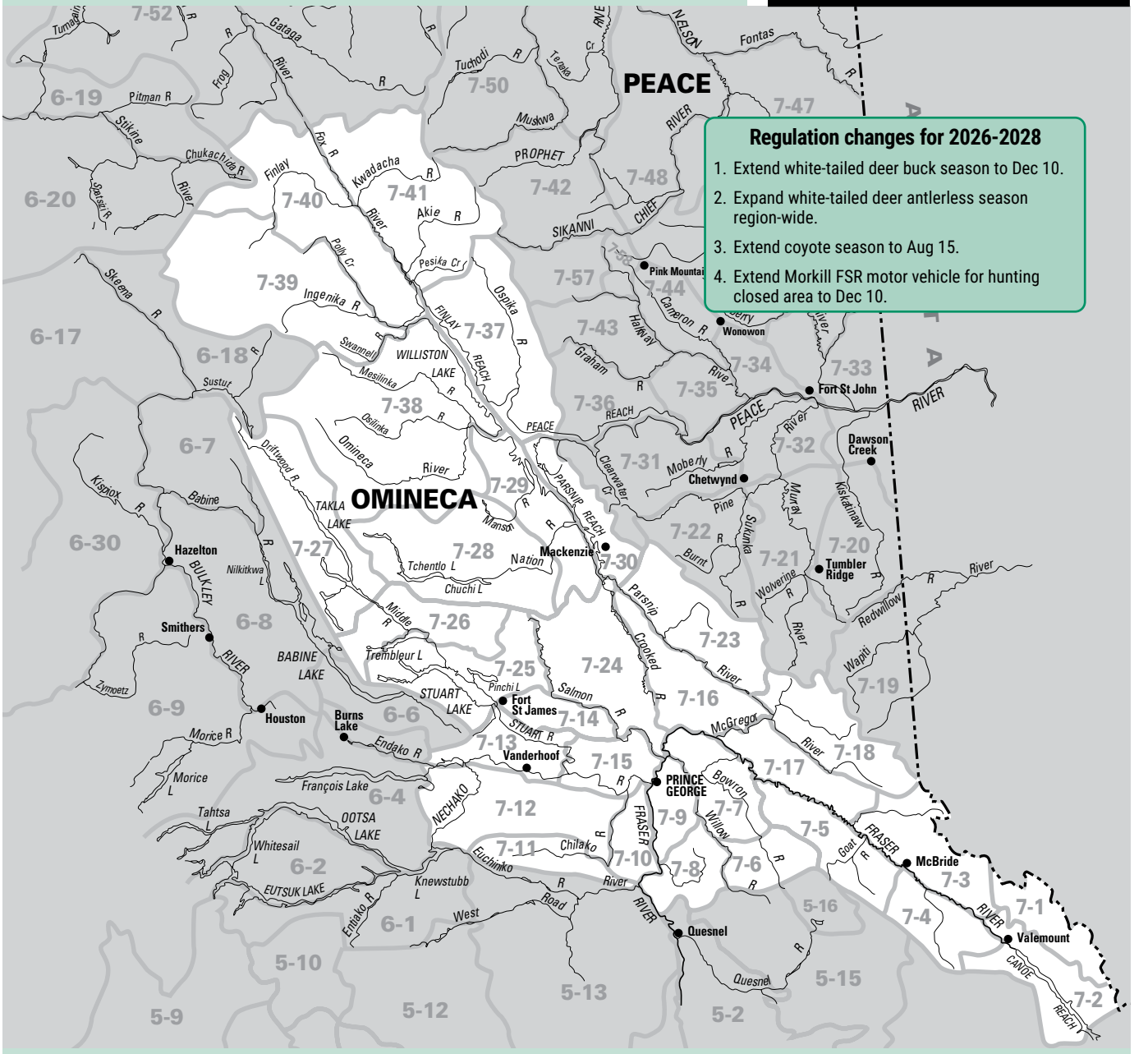
RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. Extend white-tailed deer buck season to Dec 10.
2. Expand white-tailed deer antlerless season region-wide.
3. Extend coyote season to Aug 15.
4. Extend Morkill FSR motor vehicle for hunting closed area to Dec 10.



The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

» **Deer**: The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer in region 7A is 1. The bag limit for white-tailed deer in region 7A is 2, only one of which may be a buck, and one of which may be antlerless.

» **Grouse**: The regional daily aggregate bag limit for grouse: blue (dusky), spruce (Franklin), ruffed is 10. The regional daily bag limit for ptarmigan is 10.

Access Management Areas

» Region 7A Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/ominecaaccess.**

» Approximately one million hectares of Crown Land has been closed to snowmobile use to support Mountain Caribou recovery in the Thompson, Kootenay, Cariboo, and Omineca regions. Snowmobile closure maps with boundaries, legal access trails, prohibited dates, and identified riding areas are no longer published in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis, they are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures**.

» Vanderhoof Access Management Plan is available at **www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/land-use-planning/regions/omineca/vanderhoof-lrmp/vanderhoof-amp**

» There are a number of restrictions and prohibitions in this Region. See definitions of "motor vehicle", "ATV" and "snowmobile" in Definitions section.

» Information signs may be posted at the points of closure for road and vehicle restrictions. These signs are for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunters' responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not.

» **Symbol Key**: Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following regional MUs (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9 and regional maps).

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10).

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of all motor vehicles, including electric bicycles, for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport equipment, firearms, and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

◆ **ATVs for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of ATVs (including motorcycles and electric bicycles) for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport firearms, or equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport hunters to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

● **Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of snowmobiles for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport firearms or equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

MUs 7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, and 7-37 to 7-39

● from Mar 31 - Nov 30.

MUs 7-3 and 7-17

▲ Morkill Forest Road during the periods Apr 15 - June 30 and Aug 15 - Dec 10.

MUs 7-7 to 7-15 and 7-24 to 7-29

◆ 4:30 am to 8:00am from Aug 15 - 31

◆ 5:30 am to 9:00am from Sept 1 - 30

◆ 6:30 am to 10:00am from Oct 1 to Nov 15

MU 7-18

● access road to Kakwa Recreation Area due north of Buchanan Creek (MU 7-18)

MUs 7-38, 7-39, and 7-40

◆ the entire area of MUs 7-38, 7-39

★ Finlay area (MUs 7-38, 7-39, 7-40) above 1450 m elevation. Authorized trappers exempt from restriction. Other commercial vehicles allowed, provided they stay on existing mining and logging roads. Closure does not apply on the road surface of the Omineca Mining Road through Lawyers Pass from Aiken Lake to the south shore of the Toodoggone River or on the road to Johanson Lake.

Notice to Hunters

» Hunters, while returning from hunting, are required to keep the antlers of a bull moose taken in the Omineca region, and the species licence under which the moose was taken together and available for inspection by an officer.

» A few white moose have been noticed in the Omineca region. Hunters are requested not to shoot a white moose due to their uniqueness and viewing value to all people who enjoy wildlife.

Notice to hunters!

McLeod Lake Indian Band asks hunters to respect their Treaty Settlement Lands. Access to these lands require permission from the local Band Office and it is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of these Treaty Settlement Lands/ Indian Reserves. For more information visit **www.mlib.ca/departments/land-stewardship/hunter-information/.**

For persons hunting in MUs 7-29 (north of Nation River), 7-37 or 7-38 you will be within the traditional territory of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation (TKDN). For persons hunting in MUs 7-39 to 7-41 you will be within either the traditional territory of the Kwadacha or Tsay Keh Dene Nation depending on your location. Before you hunt, please check at the appropriate Nation's office, by phone or email, to receive important information pertinent to safety and environmental concerns. TKDN offers a voluntary Licensed Hunter Registration System for those hunting in TKDN territory. This system informs the Nation of hunting and harvest statistics while providing a safety and communication resource for hunters. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the department of Lands and Resources at fw.coordinator@tkdb.ca or (250) 562-8882. **www.tsaykeh.com/departments/lrto/**

If you will be hunting in Kwadacha Nation's traditional territory, it is strongly encouraged that you contact the Lands and Resources Officer (LRO) in Kwadacha at (250) 471-2302 or email **lands@kwadacha.com.** We ask that you visit **www.kwadacha.com** website and fill out both the Notification to Hunt and Hunter Harvest Surveys and submit to the LRO, so that safety and open communication between hunters and the Dane Nan Yé Dāh Land Guardians is established.

Nak'azdli Whut'en is requesting the assistance of hunters to ensure that all parts of wildlife harvested within the Nak'azdli Whut'en Traditional Territory are used. Nak'azdli Whut'en requests that hunters contact the Land Guardians (250-996-0088) to arrange for sharing portions of any wildlife harvest that would otherwise be left in the field (e.g., hides, organs) in MUs 7-13 to 7-15, 7-24 to 7-26, 7-28, 7-29, and 7-38. Nak'azdli Whut'en also encourages hunters to contact the Yinka Huwunline office prior to beginning your trip in these MUs.

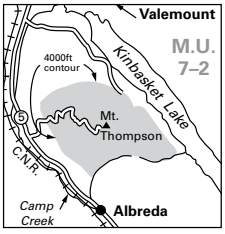
Wildlife Management Update from the Omineca Region

Results from population monitoring since 2020 suggest that moose numbers have stabilized in the southern and central parts of the region and have slightly increased west of Prince George. While the recent trends are positive, numbers are still well below densities observed in the early 2000s. Research on the factors influencing moose population dynamics continues (**www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/moose/moose-conservation/moose-research**) and moose habitat work has provided moose-friendly approaches to forest harvesting, including Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWRs) for moose where forest harvesting is paired with management requirements to maintain or improve moose habitat. Inventory work continues for elk, mule deer, thinhorn sheep, mountain goat, caribou, grizzly bear, wolf, lynx, fisher, and marten. Collaborations among Ministry biologists, First Nations, and stakeholders are further investigating limiting factors and monitoring approaches for mountain goats, elk, and thinhorn sheep in the region. Harvesting a collared animal is not illegal if taken lawfully. If you harvest a collared animal, please report it to the RAPP line to confirm whether the animal is safe to eat due to the possible presence of wildlife immobilization drugs in the meat and return the collar to the Conservation Officer Service or any Ministry office. BC strives to maintain the health of wildlife populations in collaboration with our partners for the benefit of all British Columbians. Our goals are to ensure that Indigenous hunters can exercise their right to hunt within their Traditional Territories and to promote licensed hunter and trapper opportunities, including resident experience and a sustainable guide-outfitter industry.

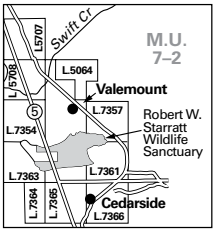
Omineca General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	7-2 to 7-11, 7-15 to 7-18, 7-23, 7-26 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 56 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	7-12 to 7-14, 7-24, 7-25	★4 Point Bucks	Oct 1 - Nov 15	
	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
	7-2 to 7-11, 7-15 to 7-18, 7-23, 7-26 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
*Youth Only	7-2 to 7-11, 7-15 to 7-18, 7-23, 7-26 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
*Youth Only	7-12 to 7-14, 7-24, 7-25	Either Sex	Oct 1 - Oct 19	
*Youth Bow Only	7-12 to 7-14, 7-24, 7-25	Antlerless	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
★ See Definitions section: Mule (black-tailed) Deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence. * Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Sept 10 - Dec 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 56 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
*Youth Only	7-2 to 7-5, 7-7 to 7-10, 7-12, 7-13, 7-15, 7-17	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
*Youth Only	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Sept 1 – Sept 9	
Bow Only	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41	Bucks	Sept 1 – Sept 9	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
MOOSE	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-38	★Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 10 - Nov 5	1
	7-37, 7-39 to 7-41	★Spike-fork Bulls	Aug 15 - Nov 5	
Bow Only	7-2 to 7-15	★Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details.				
★ See Definitions section: Moose. Note: for all bull moose taken in region 7, the antlers must accompany the species licence.				
ELK	7-37, 7-41	★6 Point Bulls	Aug 15 - Oct 31	1
	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-38 to 7-40	★6 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 9	
Bow Only	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-38 to 7-40	★6 Point Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
All individuals with an elk species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details				
★ See Definitions section: Elk. Antlers must accompany the species licence.				
BIGHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	7-18	Full Curl Bighorn Rams	Aug 15 - Sept 30	1
Compulsory Inspection required.				
THINHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	7-37, 7-39 to 7-41	Full Curl Thinhorn Rams	Aug 1 - Oct 15	1
Tatlatui Park in MU 7-39 is closed to mountain sheep hunting. Compulsory Inspection required.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	7-3 to 7-5, 7-17, 7-18, 7-27 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 15 - Oct 15	1
For areas that are closed to Mountain goat hunting or are LEH only see Maps G1, G5 to G9, G18, G21, G23, G24.				
Mountain goat are sensitive to harvest. Hunters are requested to select male mountain goat when hunting. Compulsory Inspection required.				
CARIBOU	LIMITED ENTRY HUNTING ONLY			
BLACK BEAR	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 15 - Nov 15	2
	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Apr 1 - June 30	
WOLF	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 1 - June 30	NBL
COUGAR	7-2 to 7-8, 7-16 to 7-18, 7-23		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
	7-9 to 7-15, 7-24, 7-25		Sept 10 - Mar 31	1
Hunters are reminded that all cougars must be Compulsory Inspected. Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten.				
COYOTE	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 15 - Mar 31	NBL
WOLVERINE	7-3, 7-17, 7-18, 7-37 to 7-41		Oct 15 - Jan 15	1
Compulsory Reporting required.				
LYNX	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Nov 1 - Feb 15	1
Compulsory Reporting required				
RACCOON	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Apr 1-Mar 31	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		No Closed Season	NBL
The open season for Columbian Ground Squirrel is restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners before hunting on private land.				
DUSKY (Blue) GROUSE	7-2 to 7-7, 7-17, 7-18, 7-23, 7-27, 7-28, 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 15	10 (30)
SPRUCE & RUFFED GROUSE	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 15	10 (30)
PTARMIGAN	7-2 to 7-6, 7-17, 7-18, 7-23, 7-27 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Aug 15 - Feb 28	10 (30)
COMMON SNIPE	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
COOTS	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
DUCKS	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-37 to 7-41		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)

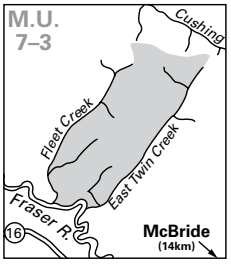
Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



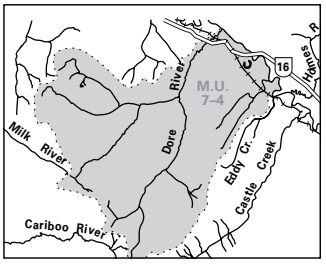
Map G1 Mount Thompson Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-2).



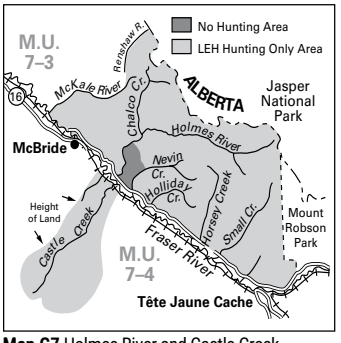
Map G2 Robert W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area (MU 7-2).



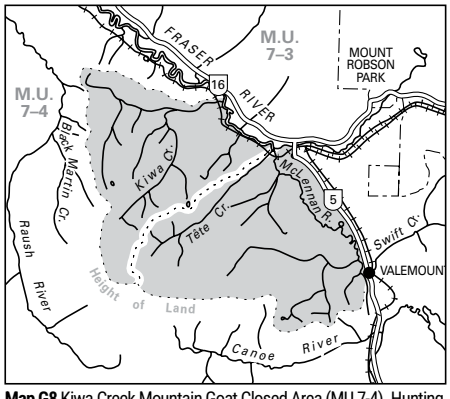
Map G5 East Twin Creek Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-3).



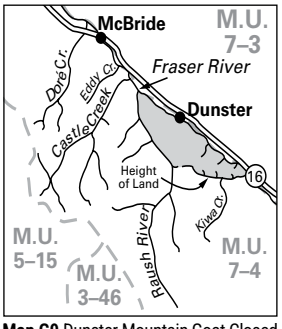
Map G6 Dore River Mountain Goat closed area (MU 7-4). Hunting of Mountain Goat is prohibited except for LEH permit holders.



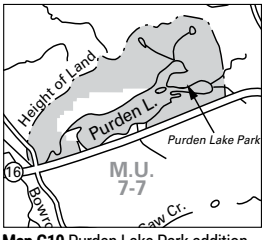
Map G7 Holmes River and Castle Creek Mountain Goat closed areas (MUs 7-3 and 7-4). Hunting of Mountain Goat is prohibited except for LEH permit holders



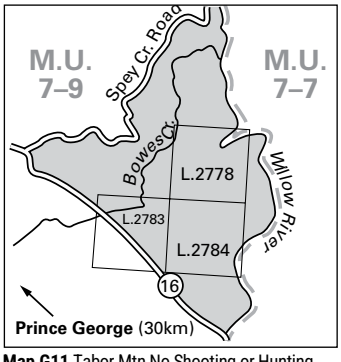
Map G8 Kiwa Creek Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-4). Hunting of Mountain Goat is prohibited except for LEH permit holders.



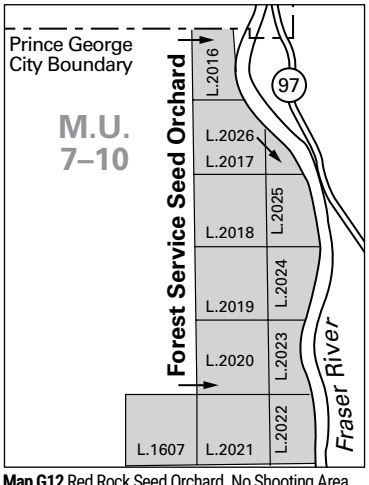
Map G9 Dunster Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-4).



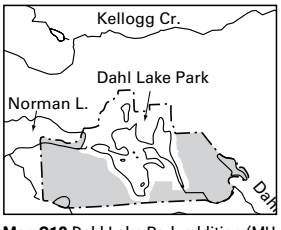
Map G10 Purden Lake Park addition (MU 7-7). Shaded area is open to hunting and the discharge of firearms, bows, crossbows only during a lawful game hunting season.



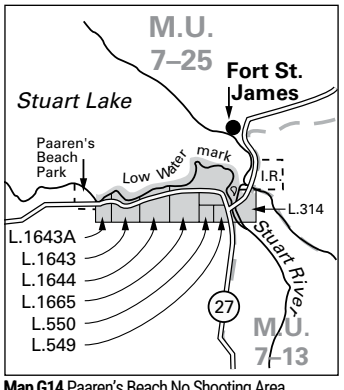
Map G11 Tabor Mtn No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 7-9).



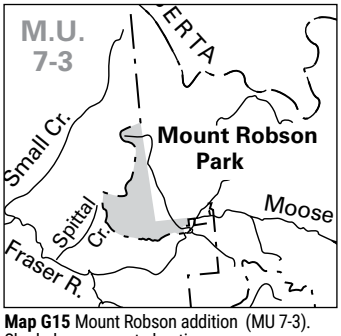
Map G12 Red Rock Seed Orchard. No Shooting Area (MU 7-10).



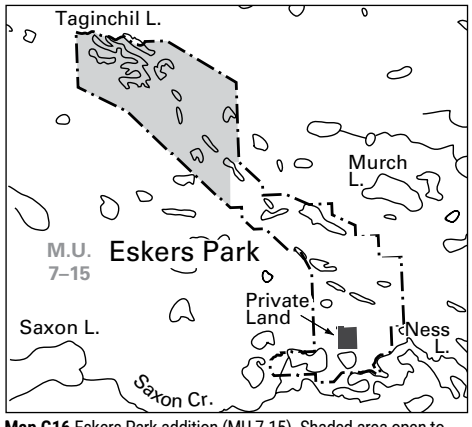
Map G13 Dahl Lake Park addition (MU 7-12). Shaded area is open to hunting and the discharge of firearms, bows, crossbows only during a lawful game hunting season.



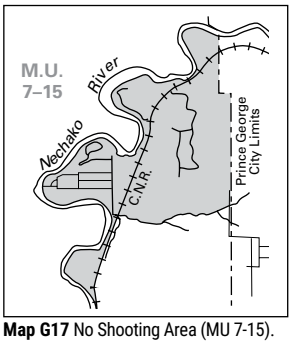
Map G14 Paaren's Beach No Shooting Area (MUs 7-13 and 7-25).



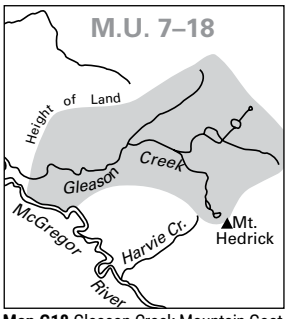
Map G15 Mount Robson addition (MU 7-3). Shaded area open to hunting.



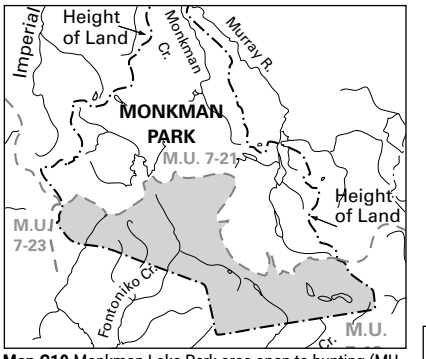
Map G16 Eskers Park addition (MU 7-15). Shaded area open to hunting.



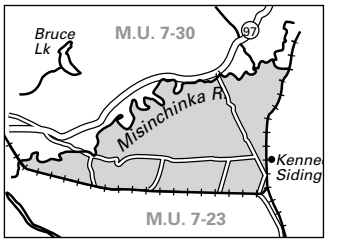
Map G17 No Shooting Area (MU 7-15).



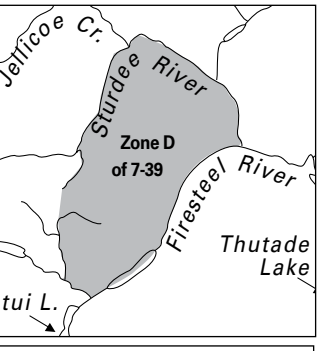
Map G18 Gleason Creek Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-18).



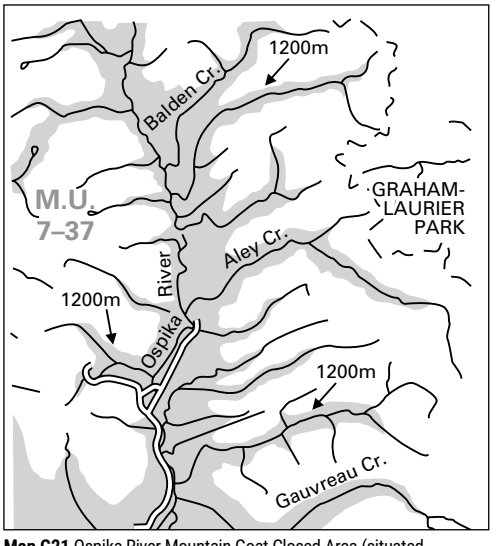
Map G19 Monkman Lake Park area open to hunting (MU 7-18).



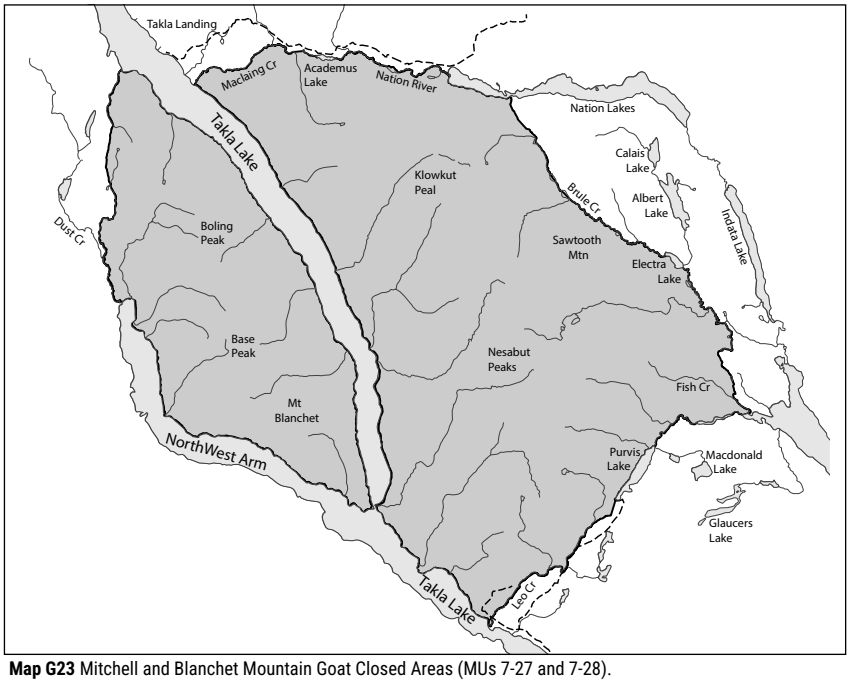
Map G20 Kennedy Siding No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 7-23). Hunting and discharge of firearms is prohibited from Sept 1 - Mar 31.



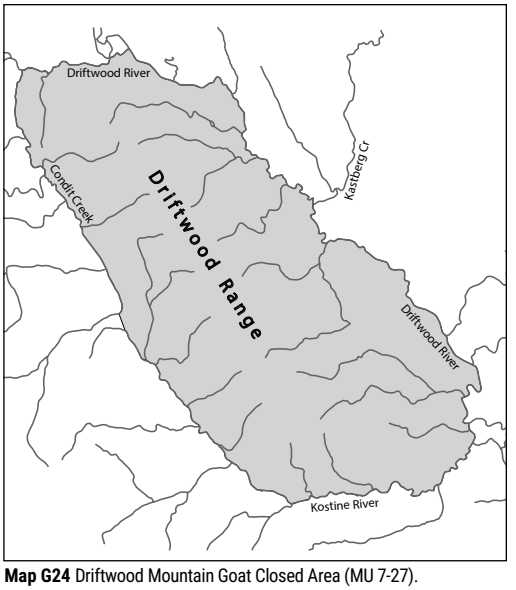
Map G22 Hunting of caribou is prohibited in Zone D of MU 7-39 except for LEH permit holders.



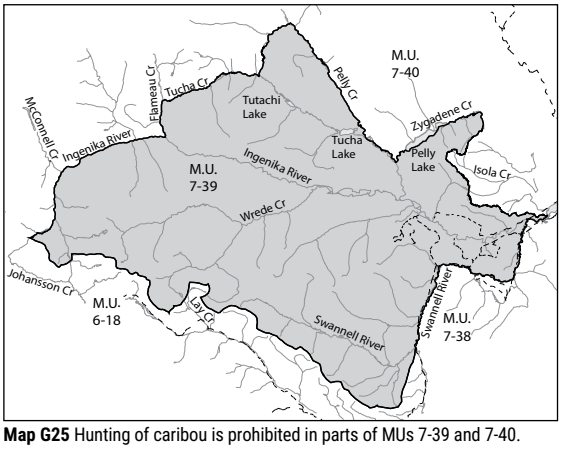
Map G21 Ospika River Mountain Goat Closed Area (situated in MU 7-37).



Map G23 Mitchell and Blanchet Mountain Goat Closed Areas (MUs 7-27 and 7-28).



Map G24 Driftwood Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-27).



Map G25 Hunting of caribou is prohibited in parts of MUs 7-39 and 7-40.

Region 7B – Peace

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

400-10003 100 Avenue
Fort St. John BC V1J 6M7
(250) 787-3415

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, and Fort St. John.

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the Peace Fish and Wildlife Regional Office for information on CI Centres. By appointment only.

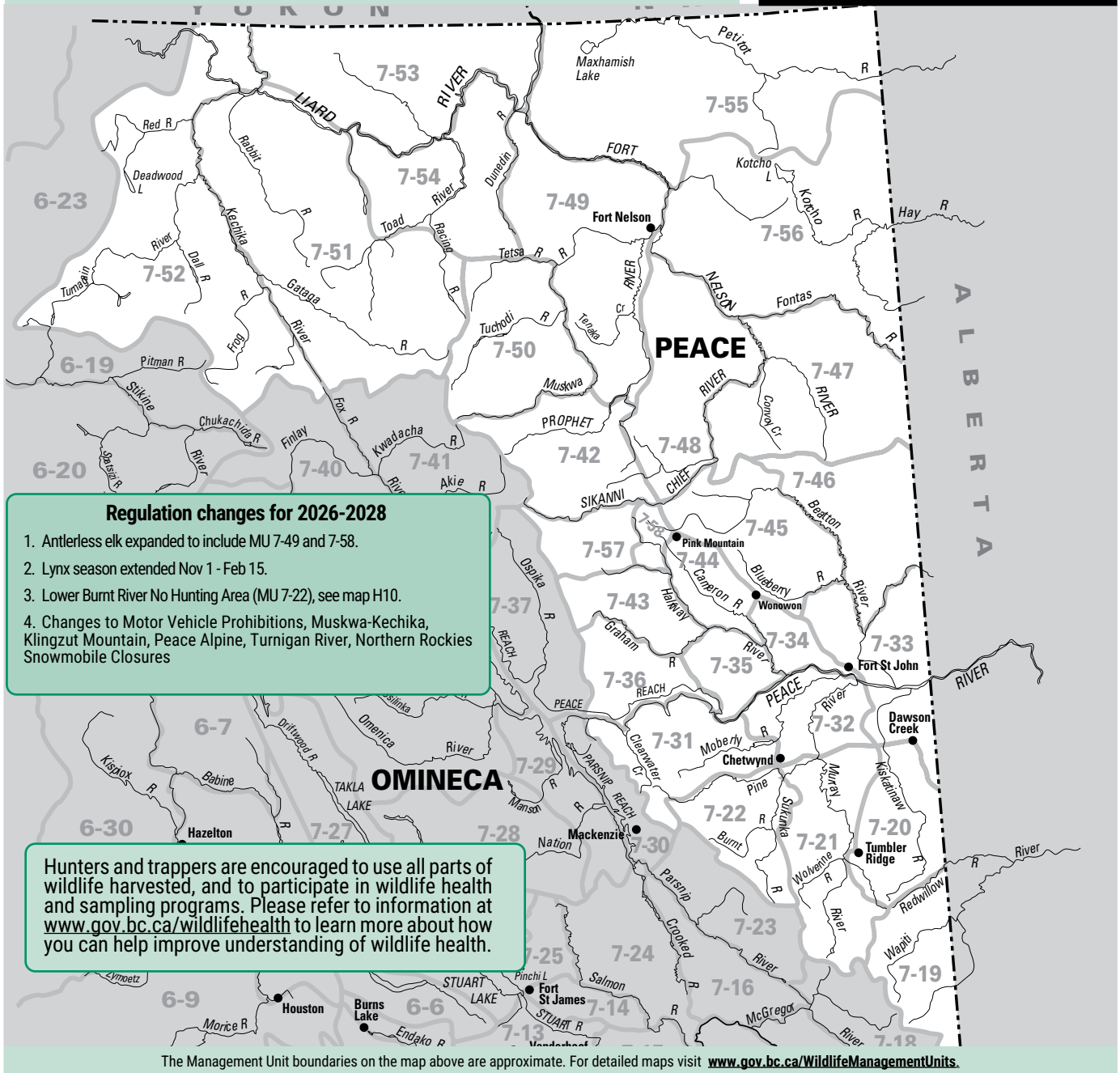
Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information



Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. Antlerless elk expanded to include MU 7-49 and 7-58.
2. Lynx season extended Nov 1 - Feb 15.
3. Lower Burnt River No Hunting Area (MU 7-22), see map H10.
4. Changes to Motor Vehicle Prohibitions, Muskwa-Kechika, Klingzut Mountain, Peace Alpine, Turnigan River, Northern Rockies Snowmobile Closures

Hunters and trappers are encouraged to use all parts of wildlife harvested, and to participate in wildlife health and sampling programs. Please refer to information at www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth to learn more about how you can help improve understanding of wildlife health.

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

» **DEER**: The combined bag limit for deer in region 7B is 2. The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 1. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, only one of which may be a buck, and one of which may be antlerless.

» **GROUSE**: The regional daily aggregate bag limit for grouse: blue (dusky), spruce (Franklin), ruffed is 10.

» **Ptarmigan**: The regional daily bag limit for ptarmigan is 10.

» **Sharp-tailed grouse**: The regional daily bag limit for sharp tailed grouse is 3. See page 12 for possession limits.

Firearms Restricted Areas

» See the Highway No Shooting Areas, page 10.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited on the west half of Lot 1323, Peace River District, in which Halfway Elementary School is located. See Map H18.

» The discharge of firearms using single projectiles is prohibited within 400 m (1/4 mile) of either side of:

- Road 520 (Canyon Drive) between Hudson's Hope and the W.A.C. Bennett Dam.
- Road 190 (Twelve Mile Road) between Road 520 and Dunlevy Creek.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily in the Dawson Creek Environmental Demonstration Area. See Map H13.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Area. See Map H4.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited on Fort St. John's sewage lagoons, that is the Northeast 1/4 of Section 19, Township 83, Range 18, West of the 6th Meridian; and Southwest 1/4 of Section 30, Township 83, Range 18, West of the 6th Meridian.

» Hunting is prohibited on either side of the Lower Burnt Forest Service Road between kilometer 20 (latitude 55.31683; longitude -121.943050) and the crossing of the Burnt River and the Lower Burnt Forest Service Road at kilometer 22.2 (latitude 55.306279; longitude -121.971300) in MU 7-22. The northern boundary of the closure follows the north bank of the Burnt River, and the southern boundary is 400 m from the center line of the Lower Burnt Forest Service Road. See map H10.

» No shooting or hunting within 200 m of the high water mark of Radar Lake in the vicinity of the City of Dawson Creek.

» No shooting/hunting within Stone Mountain Park within 1 mile of the Alaska Hwy.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the Dokie subdivision in the vicinity of Chetwynd (MUs 7-22 and 7-31). See Map H9.

» Firearms using shot only Jun 1-Oct 15 at One Mile Pasture. See Map H3

» Hunting is prohibited in the vicinity of the community of Fontas. See Map H21

Access Management Areas

» Region 7B Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/peaceaccess.**

» There are a number of restrictions and prohibitions in this region. Note definitions of "Motor Vehicle", "ATV", "Electric Bicycle" and "Snowmobile" in Definitions section.

» Information signs may be posted at the points of closure for road and vehicle restrictions. These signs are for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunters' responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not.

» **Symbol Key**: Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following regional MUs (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9):

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of all motor vehicles for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport equipment, firearms and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

◆ **ATVs for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of ATVs (including motorcycles) for purposes of hunting, or to transport hunters, hunting supplies, wildlife, or firearms to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

MUs 7-19, 7-21 (portion), 7-22 (portion), 7-31, 7-35, 7-36, 7-43, 7-57, and 7-58.

★ above 1400 m in elevation. However, the use of snowmobiles (less than 450 kg in weight) is allowed from Nov 1 - Apr 30. Onion Lake Trail (MU 7-21) and West Bullmoose Road are open year-round. Contact Ministry office in Fort St. John for more information. See Map H7. Detailed maps can be reviewed online at **www.gov.bc.ca/peaceaccess**

MUs 7-19, 7-21 TO 7-23, 7-30 and 7-31.

★ Northern Rockies snowmobile closed areas. See map at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures**.

MU 7-21

★ Dickebush Creek/Trapper Mainline Road. See Map H6.

MU 7-36

◆ east of Aylard Creek and the unnamed creek due north of Aylard Creek that flows into the Graham River, from Aug 15 - Oct 31.

MUs 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, 7-51, 7-52, 7-54, and 7-57

★ Muskwa Kechika Access Management Area and Klingzut Mountain - Restriction applies to vehicles other than aircraft in portions of these MUs. For information and maps showing specific routes and vehicle restrictions within the Muskwa Kechika, contact Ministry office in Fort St. John and Ministry of Forests offices in Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek. Please note there are several trails where travel is restricted to within 10 m of the route and only vehicles under 750 kg are permitted. See Map H26.

MU 7-52

★ A person may use or operate a motor vehicle on a road highlighted green as shown on **Map 1-58/26** and within 400m of the midline of such a road from May 1 to November 15.

Notice to Hunters - Invasive Species

» Individuals are reminded that when they take livestock into the wilderness, they should purchase locally grown feed that is known to be invasive plant-free or use pelletized and processed feed. The spread of invasive plants is common every year and can be prevented by using local weed-free feed, pelletized and processed feed and checking and cleaning all vehicles to ensure they are weed-free before leaving home. It is suggested to ensure that livestock are fed weed-free feed 2 days prior to departure and including travel time into the wilderness. It is recommended to bring and utilize feed bags, buckets, or troughs with you while in the wilderness to minimize potential ground disturbance by feeding or salting at temporary camp sites and trail heads. For further information on this matter, please contact your local Ministry of Agriculture and Food or Ministry of Forests. Play an important role in invasive species with the **Report Invasives BC** app. For more information on the app visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species**

Notice to hunters!

Treaty 8 is the foundation of the relationship between Treaty 8 First Nations, the Crown, and all people present in Treaty 8 territory. Treaty 8 First Nations exercise their treaty rights to hunt, fish, and trap throughout the region and ask that hunters be respectful of others on the land base and of treaty rights, culturally sensitive areas and treaty settlement lands. You may encounter Indigenous Guardians monitoring conditions and activities on the land. Respectful dialogue with the Guardians and Treaty 8 members is welcome and encouraged

Dane nan yé dāh Kaska Land guardians are actively monitoring and patrolling in the Kaska traditional territory, interacting and sharing information with all land users in regards to promoting safe and respectful hunting. Daylu Dena Council encourages B.C. hunters to contact the Daylu Lands and Resources (located in Lower Post) office at 250-779-3161 Ext. 0 and Dease River First Nation Lands and Resources officer (located in Good Hope Lake) at 250-239-3646 prior to beginning your trip.

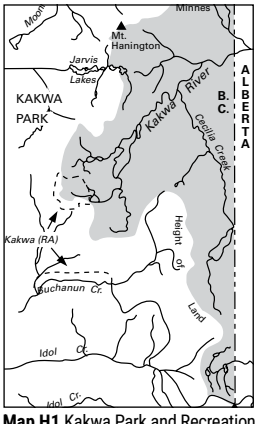
Peace General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	7-19, 7-36, 7-42, *7-43, 7-48 to 7-52, 7-57, 7-58	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Oct 5	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 61 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	7-20 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-35, **7-43 to 7-47, 7-54	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Bow Only	7-20, 7-21, 7-32 to 7-35, 7-44 to 7-47	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 30	
Bag limit for mule deer bucks is one. * Restricted to western portion of MU 7-43 See Map H22. ** Restricted to eastern portion of MU 7-43 See Map H23. ★See Definitions Section: Mule (Black-tailed Deer). The antlers must accompany the species licence.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-50, 7-54 to 7-58	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 61 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	7-20*, 7-21*, 7-32, 7-33, 7-34, 7-35*, 7-45*, 7-46*	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
★Youth Only	7-20*, 7-21*, 7-32, 7-33, 7-34, 7-35*, 7-45*, 7-46*	**Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
★Youth Only	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-50, 7-54 to 7-58	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-50, 7-54 to 7-58	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
★ Restricted to hunters under the age of 18. * Restricted to portions of MUs 7-20, 7-21, 7-35, 7-45 and 7-46. See Map H12. ** The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2; one may be antlerless and one may be a buck.				
MOOSE	7-19 to 7-22, *7-31, 7-33, 7-35, 7-46 to 7-49, 7-55	★ Bulls	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 10 - Nov 11	1
	7-36, 7-42, **7-43, 7-50, +7-51, ***7-52 to 7-54, 7-57	★ Bulls	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details. * Portion of MU 7-31 closed to moose hunting. See Map H11. + Portion of MU 7-51 closed to moose hunting. See Map H32. ** Portion of 7-43 only. See LEH Synopsis map 7P for LEH only area. *** Portion of 7-52 only. See LEH Synopsis map 7R for LEH only area. ★ Open for or bull moose: (a) having no more than two points (tines) on one antler ("Spike-fork bull moose"), (b) having antlers with at least three points (tines) on one brow palm ("Tripalm bull moose") or (c) having at least one antler with a minimum of ten points (tines), including the brow palm. See Definitions section: Moose. The antlers must accompany the species licence.				
ELK	★★7-42, 7-57	▲ 6 Point Bulls	Aug 15 - Oct 31	1
	★7-42, 7-49, 7-50	▲ 3 Point Bulls	Aug 15 - Sept 9	
	★7-42, 7-48, 7-49, 7-50	▲ 6 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 31	
	7-51 to 7-54	▲ 6 Point Bulls	Sept 5 - Sept 15	
	7-19,✢7-20, ✢7-21, 7-22, 7-31, 7-36, **7-43, ✢7-46	▲ 6 Point Bulls	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
	*7-20, *7-21, 7-32 to 7-35, ***7-43, 7-44, 7-45, *7-46, 7-58	▲ 3 Point Bulls	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
	*7-20, *7-21, 7-32 to 7-34, *7-35, ***7-43, 7-44, 7-45, *7-46, 7-49, 7-58	Antlerless	Sept 15 - Oct 15	
Bow Only	7-50	▲ 3 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 31	
All individuals with an elk species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details ★Restricted to northern portion of MU 7-42, see Map H20. ★★ Restricted to southern portion of MU 7-42, see Map H21. * Restricted to shaded portions of MUs 7-20, 7-21, 7-35 and 7-46, see Map H12. ** Restricted to western portion of MU 7-43, see Map H22. *** Restricted to eastern portion of MU 7-43, see Map H23 ✢Those portions of MUs 7-20, 7-21, and 7-46 located outside the shaded portion of the MU. See Map H12. ▲ See Definitions section: Elk. The antlers must accompany the species licence.				
BIGHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP Compulsory Inspection required.	7-19	Full Curl Bighorn Rams	Aug 15 - Sept 30	1
THINHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, *7-51, 7-52, *7-54, 7-57	Full Curl Thinhorn Rams	Aug 1 - Oct 15	1
*Parts of MUs 7-51 and 7-54 (along the Alaska Hwy in Muncho Lake Park) is closed to Mtn Sheep hunting (see Map H31). Compulsory Inspection required				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	▲7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, 7-51, 7-52, 7-54, 7-57		Aug 25 - Oct 15	1
▲ See regional maps H18, H27, H28, H29, H30, and H31. Mountain goats are sensitive to harvest. Hunters are requested to select male mountain goat. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BISON	★7-42, 7-57, 7-58	Either Sex	Sept 1 - Jan 31	1
★ Restricted to portions of MUs 7-42, 7-57, and 7-58. See Map H25.				
BLACK BEAR	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Aug 15 - Nov 15	2
	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Apr 1 - June 30	
WOLF	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		▼Aug 1 - Mar 31	3
	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		▼Apr 1 - June 15	
▼ No closed season below 1100 m elevation.				

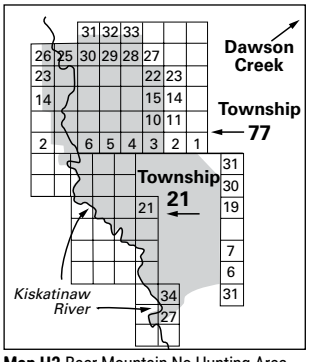
Peace General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
COUGAR	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: Cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
COYOTE	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		▼Sept 1 - Mar 31	NBL
▼ No closed season below 1100 m elevation.				
WOLVERINE	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-47 to 7-58		Oct 15 - Jan 15	1
Compulsory Reporting required				
LYNX	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Nov 1 - Feb 15	1
Compulsory Reporting required				
SNOWSHOE HARE	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
DUSKY (Blue) GROUSE	7-21, 7-22, 7-31, 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50 to 7-52, 7-54, 7-57, 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 15	10 (30)
The daily aggregate bag limit for Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse combined is 10; the aggregate possession limit for Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse combined is 30.				
SPRUCE & RUFFED GROUSE	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 15	10 (30)
The daily aggregate bag limit for Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse combined is 10; the aggregate possession limit for Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse combined is 30.				
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	7-20 to 7-22, 7-32 to 7-35, 7-44 to 7-49, 7-52 to 7-56, 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 15	3 (6)
PTARMIGAN	7-19, 7-21,7-22, 7-31, 7-36, 7-42,7-43, 7-50 to 7-55, 7-57		Aug 15 - Feb 28	10 (30)
RAVEN	▲7-20, 7-21, 7-32 to 7-35, 7-45, 7-46		No Closed Season	5
▲ Restricted to private land (with permission of the landowner)				
COMMON SNIPE	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
See Map H17 for Peace River migratory game bird closed area MU 7-33				
COOTS	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
See Map H17 for Peace River migratory game bird closed area MU 7-33				
DUCKS	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
See Map H16 for Peace River migratory game bird closed area MU 7-33				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58		Sept 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
All Geese: See Map H17 for Peace River migratory game bird closed area MU 7-33				

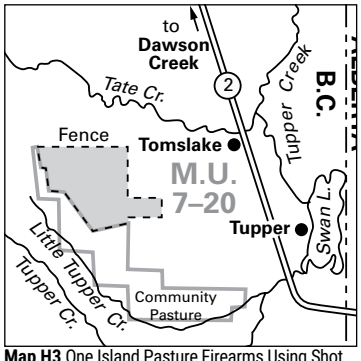
Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



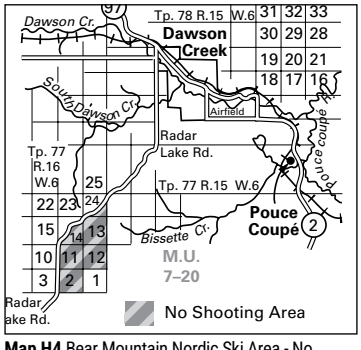
Map H1 Kakwa Park and Recreation Area No Hunting Area (MU 7-19).



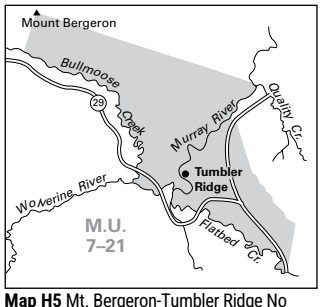
Map H2 Bear Mountain No Hunting Area (MU 7-20), from June 1 - Oct 15.



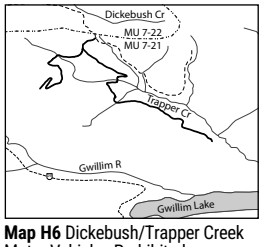
Map H3 One Island Pasture Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 7-20) from June 1 - Oct 15.



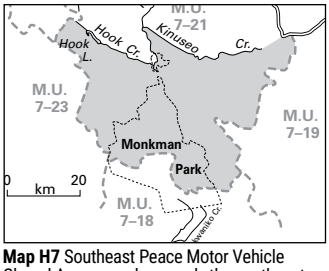
Map H4 Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Area - No Shooting Area (MU 7-20).



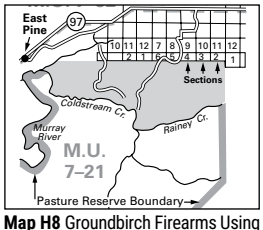
Map H5 Mt. Bergeron-Tumbler Ridge No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 7-21).



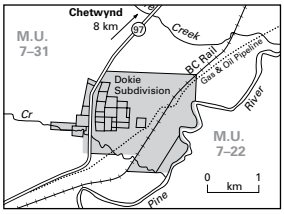
Map H6 Dickebush/Trapper Creek Motor Vehicles Prohibited year-round on the road shown in solid black (MU 7-21).



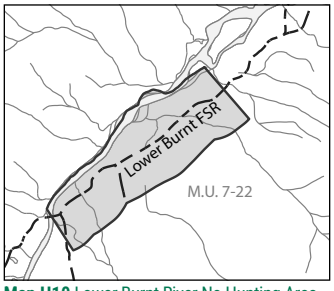
Map H7 Southeast Peace Motor Vehicle Closed Area map shows only the southeast portion of MU 7-21 above 1400 m.



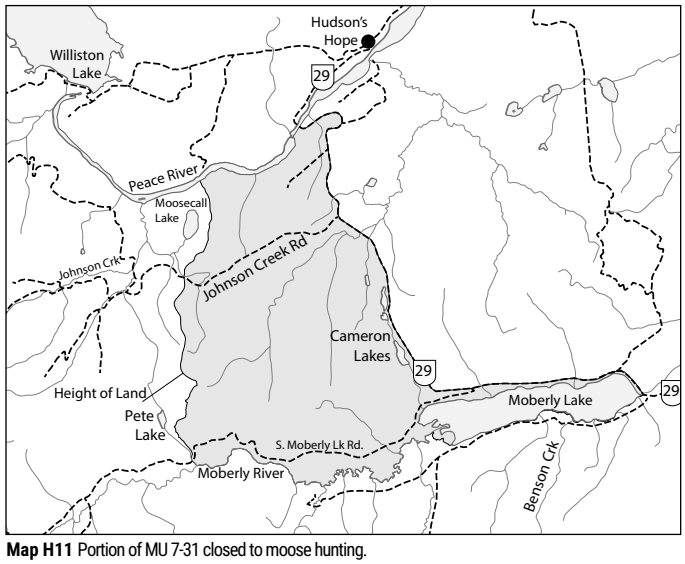
Map H8 Groundbirch Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 7-21) from June 1 - Oct 31.



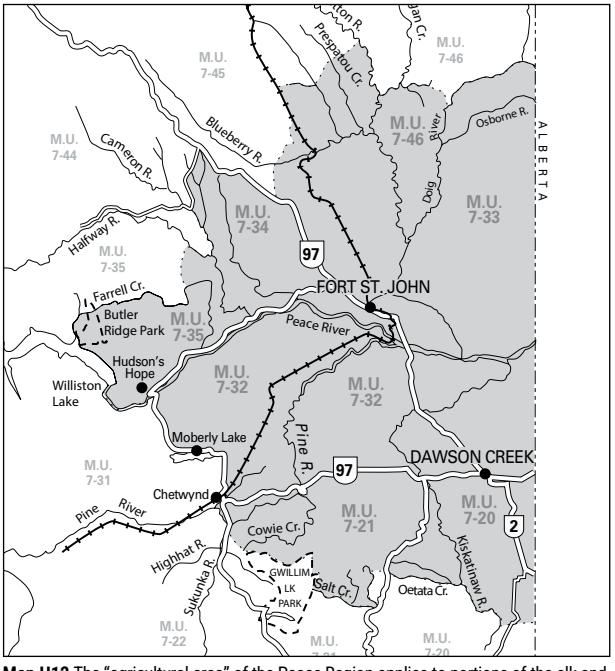
Map H9 Dokie Subdivision No Shooting Area (MUs 7-22 and 7-31).



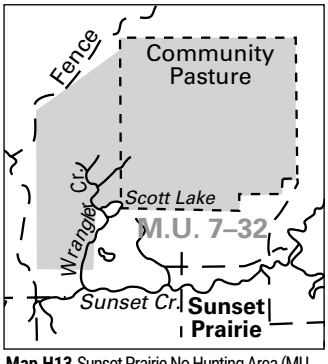
Map H10 Lower Burnt River No Hunting Area (MU 7-22).



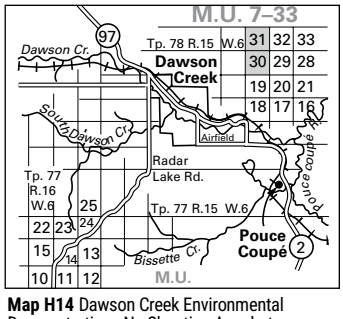
Map H11 Portion of MU 7-31 closed to moose hunting.



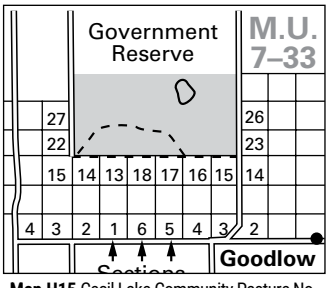
Map H12 The "agricultural area" of the Peace Region applies to portions of the elk and white-tailed deer GOS and youth any elk LEH hunt. This area includes all of MUs 7-32 to 7-34 and portions of MUs 7-20, 7-21, 7-35, 7-45, and 7-46.



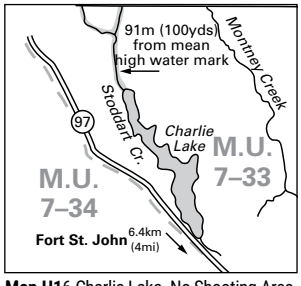
Map H13 Sunset Prairie No Hunting Area (MU 7-32) from June 1 - Oct 31.



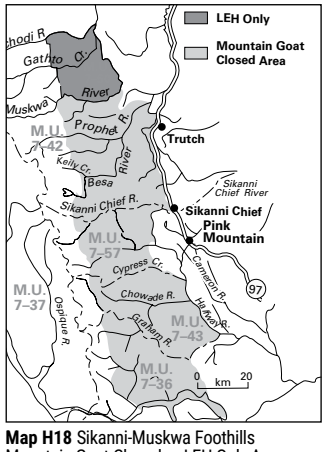
Map H14 Dawson Creek Environmental Demonstration - No Shooting Area between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm daily. (MU 7-33).



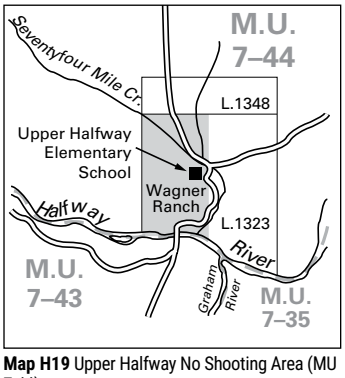
Map H15 Cecil Lake Community Pasture No Hunting Area (MU 7-33) from June 1 - Oct 15.



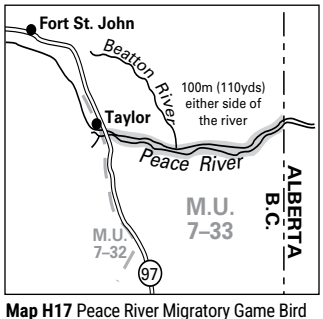
Map H16 Charlie Lake. No Shooting Area (MU 7-33).



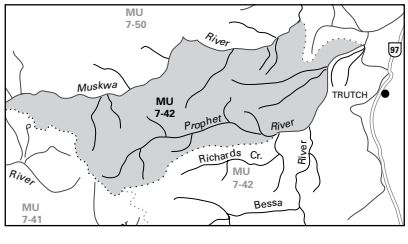
Map H18 Sikanni-Muskwa Foothills Mountain Goat Closed or LEH Only Areas (MUs 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, and 7-57).



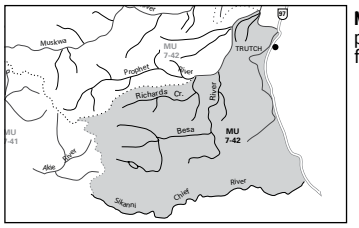
Map H19 Upper Halfway No Shooting Area (MU 7-44).



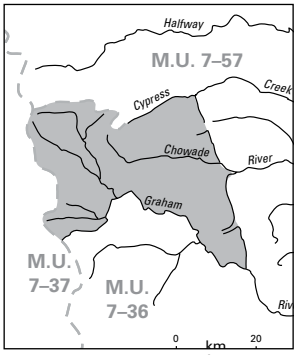
Map H17 Peace River Migratory Game Bird Closed Area (MU 7-33).



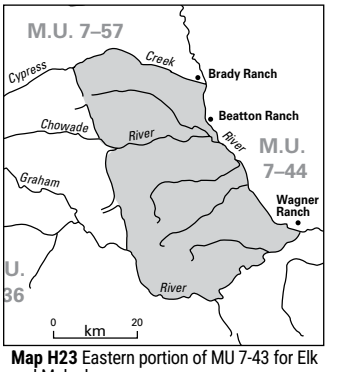
Map H20 Northern portion of MU 7-42 for Elk.



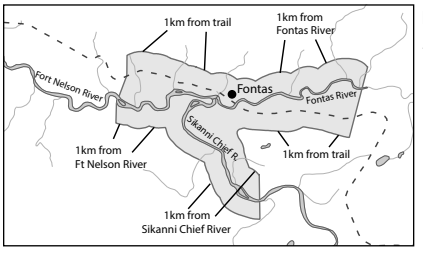
Map H21 Southern portion of MU 7-42 for Elk.



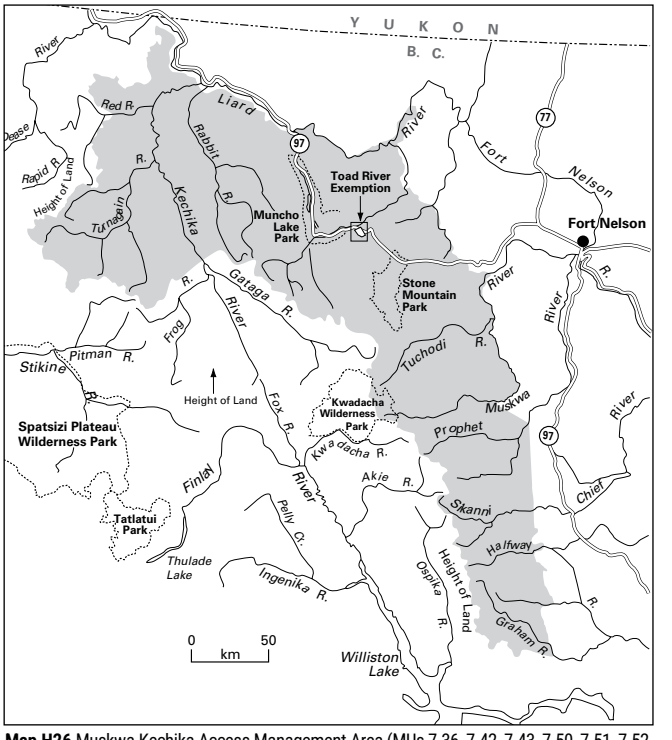
Map H22 Western portion of MU 7-43 for Elk and Mule deer.



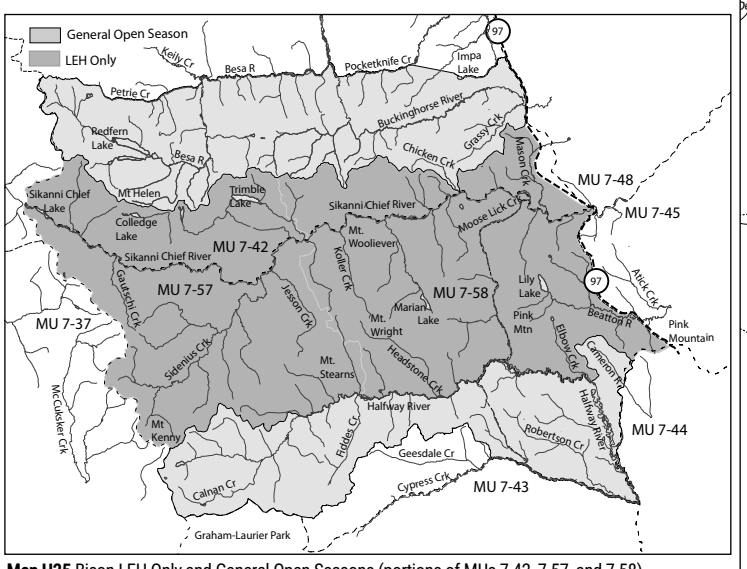
Map H23 Eastern portion of MU 7-43 for Elk and Mule deer.



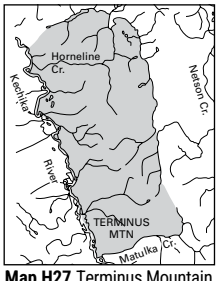
Map H24 Fontas No Hunting Area (MUs 7-47, 7-48, and 7-56)



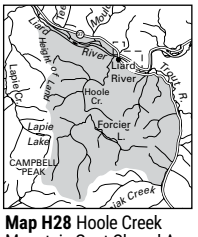
Map H26 Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area (MUs 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, 7-51, 7-52, 7-54, 7-57) and Klingzut Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 7-42). Maps showing boundaries and motor vehicle routes within the Muskwa-Kechika AMA can be viewed in the Ministry offices in Fort Nelson, or in Fort St John (250) 787-3225 and **www.gov.bc.ca/huntingmaps**. Larger scale maps can be purchased from McElhanney Associates in Fort St. John (250) 787-0356. There are several trails where travel is restricted to within 10 m of the route and only vehicles under 750 kg are permitted.



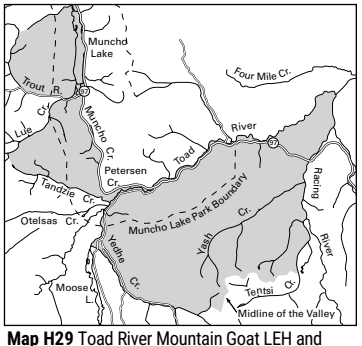
Map H25 Bison LEH Only and General Open Seasons (portions of MUs 7-42, 7-57, and 7-58).



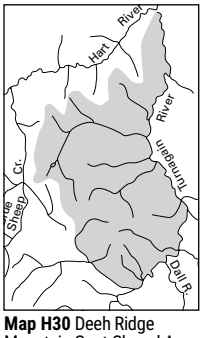
Map H27 Terminus Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-51).



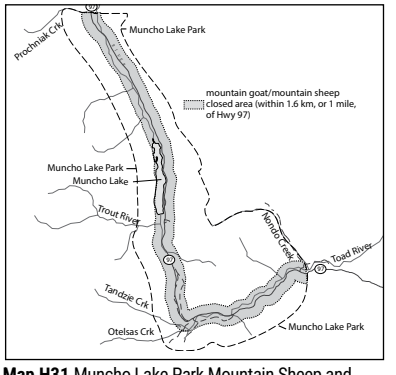
Map H28 Hoole Creek Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-51).



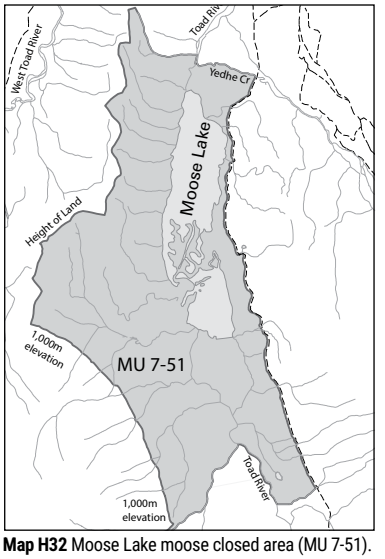
Map H29 Toad River Mountain Goat LEH and Closed Areas (MUs 7-51 and 7-54).



Map H30 Deeh Ridge Mountain Goat Closed Area (MU 7-52).



Map H31 Muncho Lake Park Mountain Sheep and Mountain Goat Closed Area (MUs 7-51 and 7-54).



Map H32 Moose Lake moose closed area (MU 7-51).

Region 8 – Okanagan

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

102 Industrial Place
Penticton BC V2A 7C8
(250) 490-8200

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Grand Forks, Penticton, Kelowna, and Vernon

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Penticton
- Kelowna

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information

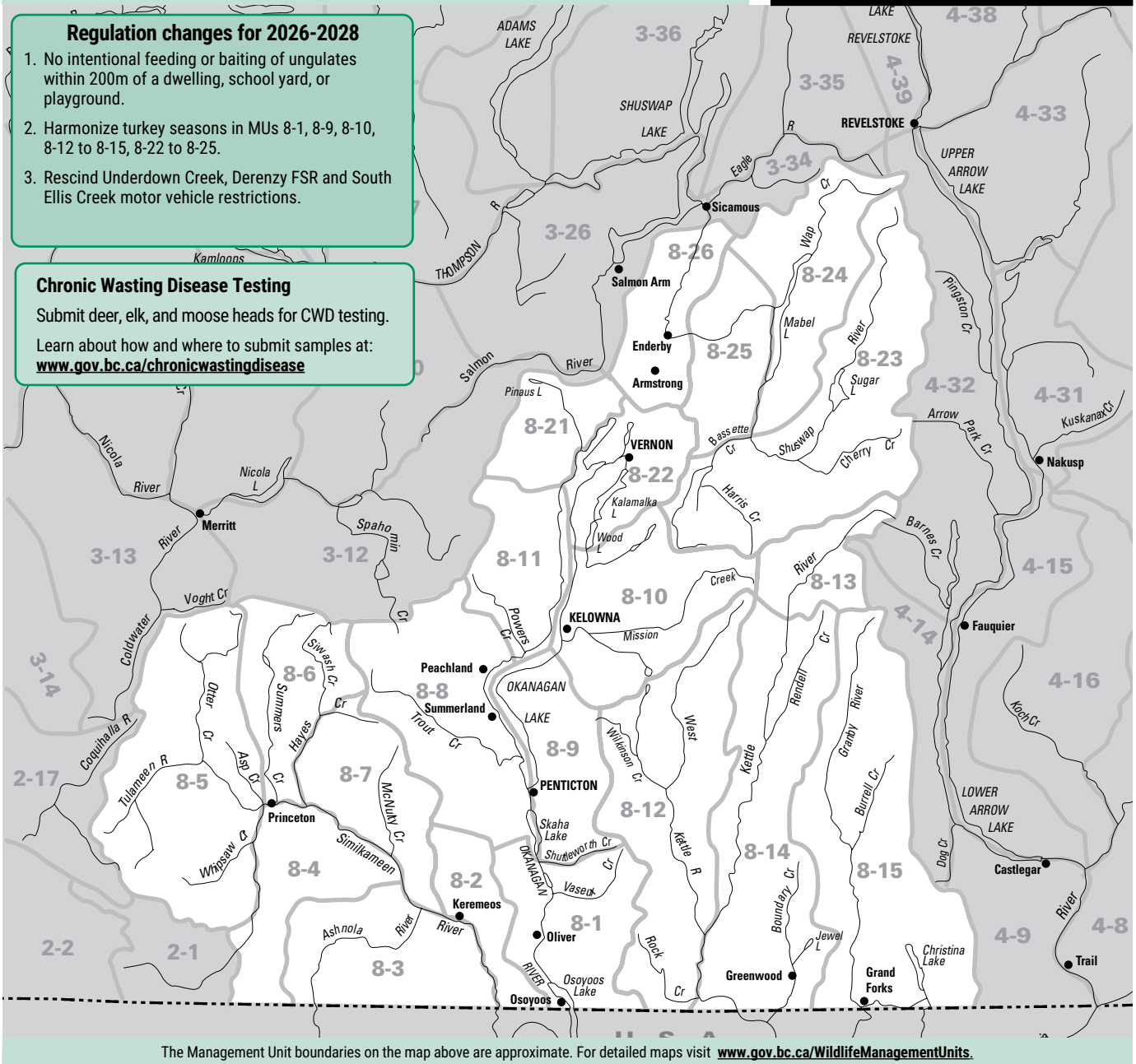
Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. No intentional feeding or baiting of ungulates within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground.
2. Harmonize turkey seasons in MUs 8-1, 8-9, 8-10, 8-12 to 8-15, 8-22 to 8-25.
3. Rescind Underdown Creek, Derenzy FSR and South Ellis Creek motor vehicle restrictions.

Chronic Wasting Disease Testing

Submit deer, elk, and moose heads for CWD testing.

Learn about how and where to submit samples at: **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease**



The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

» **DEER**: The aggregate bag limit for deer is 3. Two deer may be antlerless but only one antlerless deer of each species may be taken. The bag limit for mule deer is 1. Antlerless mule deer are available only through LEH. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, only one of which may be a buck, and one of which may be antlerless.

» **GROUSE**: The daily aggregate bag limit for grouse: blue (dusky), spruce (Franklin), and ruffed is 5.

» **TURKEY**: The regional aggregate bag limit for turkey is 2. Only one turkey may be taken during each open season.

Access Management Areas

» Region 8 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/okanaganaccess.**

» Information signs are posted at the points of closure for the benefit of hunters, but it is the hunter's responsibility to recognize the closures whether a sign is in place or not.

» **Symbol Key:** Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following regional areas (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9):

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10) - Snowmobiles are not exempt unless specified otherwise.

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of all motor vehicles, including electric bicycles, for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport equipment, firearms and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

✖ **ATVs, Electric Bicycles and Snowmobile Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** year-round in these areas unless otherwise indicated.

★ The operation of all motor vehicles (including electric bicycles), excluding snowmobiles is prohibited in region 8 above 1,700 m elevation, except on existing roads and trails. See page 10 for definition of existing road or trail.

★ Oliver Mountain Area (MU 8-1). See Map J3.

★ Crater Mountain Area (MU 8-3). See Map J22.

★ Placer Mountain to Border Lake area (MU 8-3, 8-4). See Map J20.

★ Garnet Valley (MU 8-8). An authorized trapper is exempt from this restriction for the purpose of trapping. See Map J7.

★ Osoyoos Oxbows except established roadways (MU 8-1). See Map J1.

▲ Tulameen Forest Service Road (MU 8-5) south of the point where it crosses Vuich Creek. See Map J4.

★ Skaha Lake Eastside (MU 8-9) - in that portion east of Skaha Lake described as Lot A and Lot B of Sublot 48, DL 2710, Plan 27801, SDYD, and Sublot 48, DL 2710, Plan 1189, SDYD.

★ Granby (MUs 8-14, 8-15). The area is closed 600 m north of the 5 km mark of Burrell-Young Lake FSR, 300 m north of the 2 km mark on Arrow Neck FSR, east of the 22 km mark of Grano FSR, east of the 8 km mark on Arthurs Rd, and 500 m east of the 10 km mark on the Goatskin-Rendall FSR. Snowmobiles allowed Nov 1 - May 31. See Map J14. Detailed maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/okanaganaccess**.

✖ Galloping Hills (MU 8-15) from Jun 1 - Oct 31 except for the primary roads leading to Lightning Peak and Mt. Scaia. See Map J14.

★ Joss, Tsuius, and Mabel Mountains (MU 8-23, 8-24). The operation of vehicles is restricted to permitted forest service roads from May 1 - Nov 30. Snowmobiles allowed. See Map J21.

Notice to Hunters

» White-tailed jackrabbit, Nuttall's cottontail, badger and other species are protected under the authority of the *Wildlife Act* (hunting is prohibited).

Hunters are reminded that there are no hunting seasons for white-tailed jackrabbit, Nuttall's cottontail, or badgers.

» No Shooting Areas: Hunters should note the Highway No Shooting Areas as outlined on page 10. Note also that the closures for Highway 3 between Manning Park and Princeton and for the Coquihalla Phase III (Okanagan Connector) Hwy 97C are No Shooting and No Hunting Closures.

» Hunting is prohibited within the Vaseux Migratory Bird Sanctuary and National Wildlife Areas. For more information visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/vaseux-lake.html**.

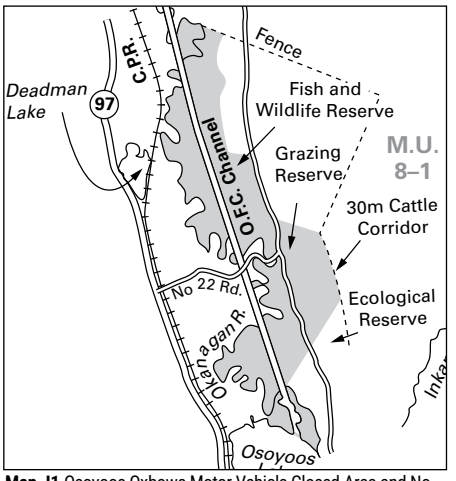
It's Unlawful

» To intentionally bait or feed ungulates within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground in region 8.

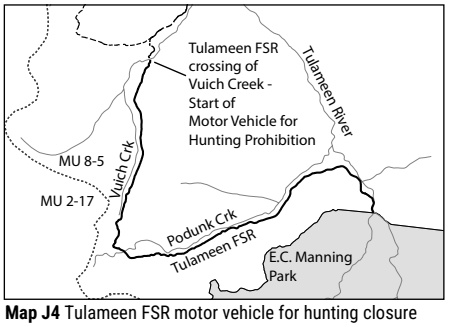
Okanagan General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	8-1 to 8-11, 8-21 to 8-26	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 67 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	8-12 to 8-15	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 10	
	8-1 to 8-11, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 31	
	8-1 to 8-11, 8-21 to 8-26	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Nov 10	
Youth Only*	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 30	
Bow Only	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18. ★ See Definitions section: Mule (Black-tailed) Deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 67 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
Youth Only*	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Youth Only*	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Bow Only	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Either Sex	Dec 1 - Dec 20	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
MOOSE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	★Spike-fork Bulls	Nov 1 - Nov 15	1
All individuals with a moose species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details. ★ See Definitions section: Moose. Antlers must accompany the species licence.				
ELK	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	▲6 Point Bulls	Sept 10 - Oct 20	1
Bow Only	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	▲6 Point Bulls	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
All individuals with an elk species licence must submit a Mandatory Hunter Report by March 31st. See page 16 for more details ▲ See Definitions section: Elk. The antlers must accompany the species licence.				
BLACK BEAR	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Apr 1 - June 30	2
	▲8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Aug 1 - Aug 31	
	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 1 - Nov 30	
▲ MU's 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26 is restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners.				
WOLF	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 10 - June 15	3
COYOTE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 1 - June 30	NBL
BOBCAT	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Nov 15 - Feb 28	1
Hunters may not hunt a bobcat accompanied by one or more bobcat.				
LYNX	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Nov 15 - Feb 28	1
Hunters may not hunt a lynx accompanied by one or more lynx.				
COUGAR	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Nov 15 - Mar 31	1
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: Cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
SKUNK, RACCOON	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		No Closed Season	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
GROUSE: DUSKY (Blue), RUFFED, & SPRUCE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (15)
Youth Only*	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Dec 1 - Dec 10	
For Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 5; the aggregate possession limit is 15. * Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
CHUKAR PARTRIDGE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Oct 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
GRAY (Hungarian) PARTRIDGE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Oct 1 - Nov 30	3 (9)
PHEASANT (Cocks)	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Oct 1 - Nov 30	2 (6)
QUAIL	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Oct 1 - Nov 30	10 (30)
TURKEY	8-1, 8-9, 8-10, 8-12 to 8-15, 8-22 to 8-26	Bearded	Apr 15 - May 15	▼1
	8-1, 8-9, 8-10, 8-12 to 8-15, 8-22 to 8-26	Any Turkey	Oct 1 - Oct 15	
▼ The aggregate regional bag limit is 2 and only one turkey may be taken in each of the spring and fall.				
DOVE: MOURNING, EURASIAN COLLARED	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 1 - Sept 30	5 (15)
COMMON SNIPE	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 23 - Jan 7	10 (30)
COOTS	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 23 - Jan 7	10 (30)
DUCKS	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 23 - Jan 7	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 23 - Jan 7	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 23 - Jan 7	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Sept 20 - Nov 28	10 (30)
	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26		Dec 20 - Jan 5	
	8-1 to 8-15, 8-21 to 8-26	Feb 21, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Feb 22, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	

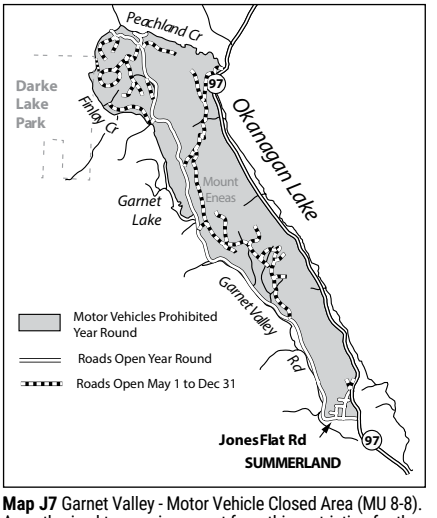
Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.



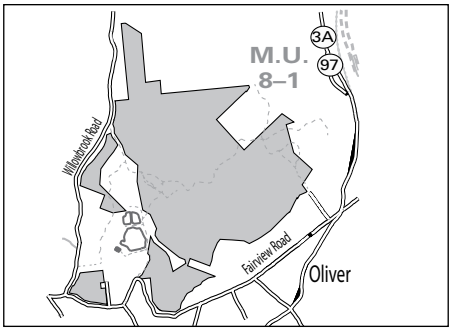
Map J1 Osoyoos Oxbows Motor Vehicle Closed Area and No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 8-1). The operation of vehicles is restricted to established road shown as open lines. No shooting or hunting from Mar 1 - Sept 30, in the restricted area, including the roadways.



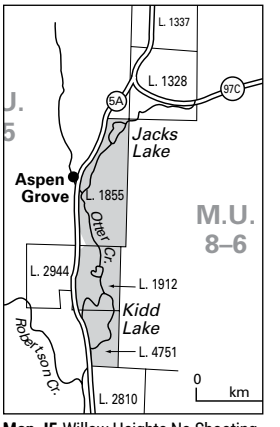
Map J4 Tulameen FSR motor vehicle for hunting closure (MU 8-5).



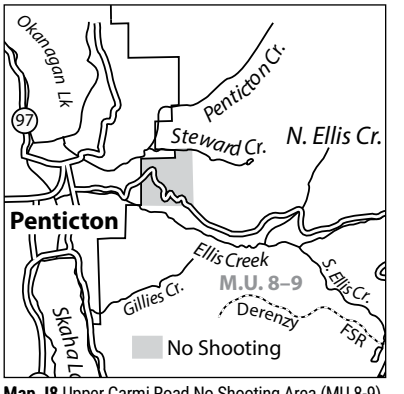
Map J7 Garnet Valley - Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 8-8). An authorized trapper is exempt from this restriction for the purpose of trapping.



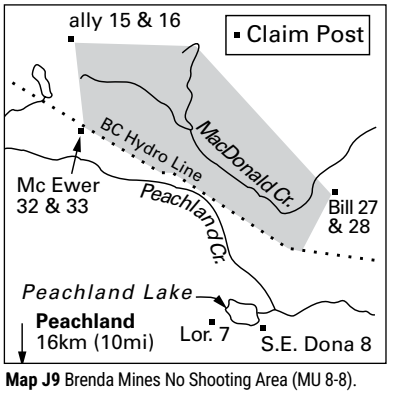
Map J2 Oliver Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 8-1).



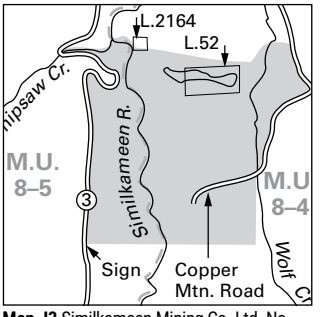
Map J5 Willow Heights No Shooting Area (MU 8-6).



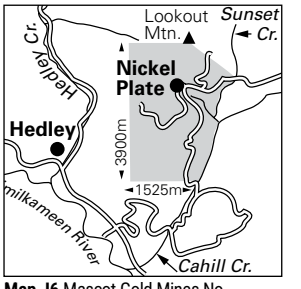
Map J8 Upper Carmi Road No Shooting Area (MU 8-9). The Upper Carmi Road No Shooting Area is almost entirely private land, and it is unlawful to hunt private land without consent of the appropriate landowner.



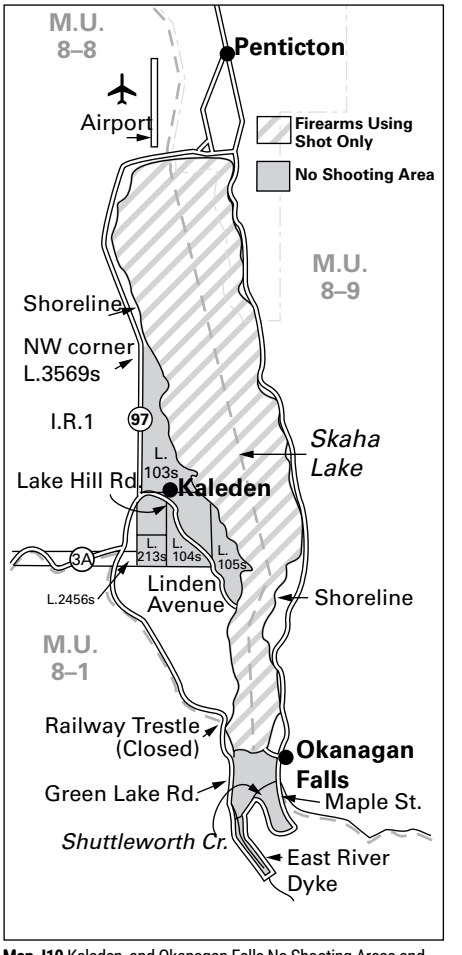
Map J9 Brenda Mines No Shooting Area (MU 8-8).



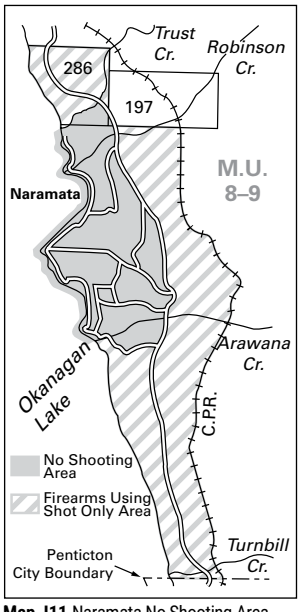
Map J3 Similkameen Mining Co. Ltd. No Shooting or Hunting Area (MUs 8-4 and 8-5).



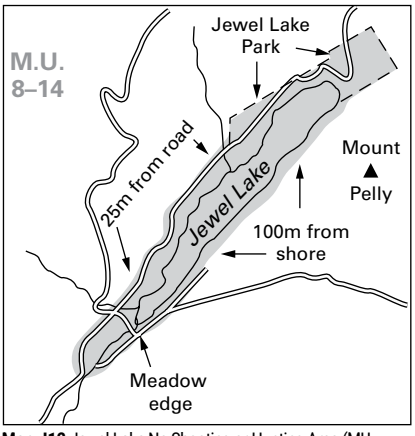
Map J6 Mascot Gold Mines No Shooting Area (MU 8-7).



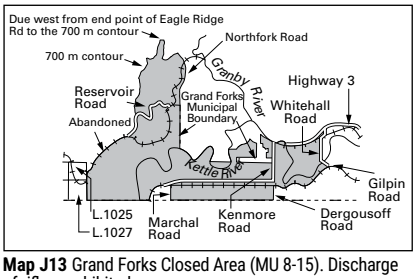
Map J10 Kaleden, and Okanagan Falls No Shooting Areas and Skaha Lake Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 8-1, 8-8 and 8-9).



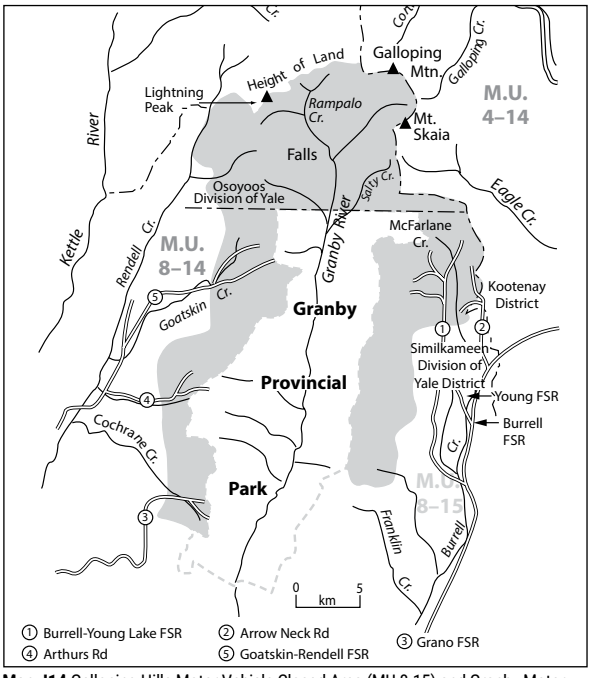
Map J11 Naramata No Shooting Area and Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 8-9).



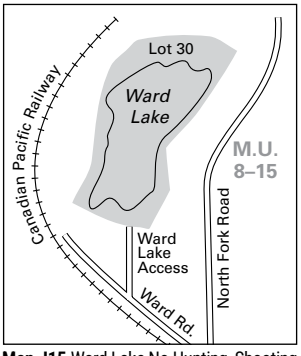
Map J12 Jewel Lake No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 8-14).



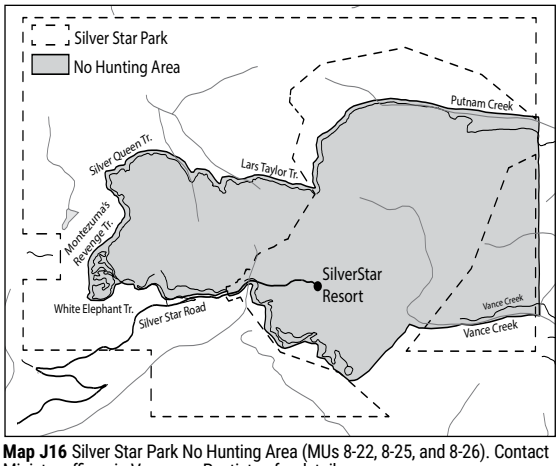
Map J13 Grand Forks Closed Area (MU 8-15). Discharge of rifles prohibited.



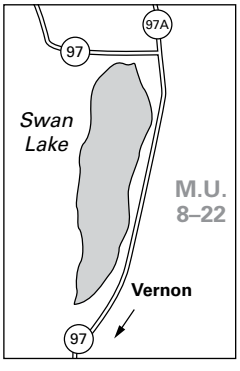
Map J14 Galloping Hills Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 8-15) and Granby Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 8-14 and 8-15). Detailed maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/okanaganaccess**.



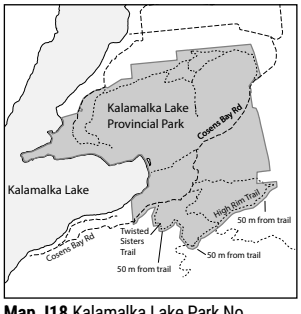
Map J15 Ward Lake No Hunting, Shooting or Trapping Area (MU 8-15).



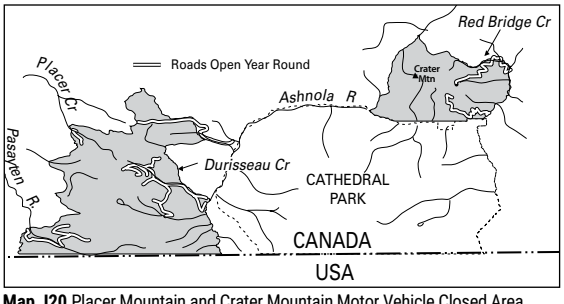
Map J16 Silver Star Park No Hunting Area (MUs 8-22, 8-25, and 8-26). Contact Ministry offices in Vernon or Penticton for details.



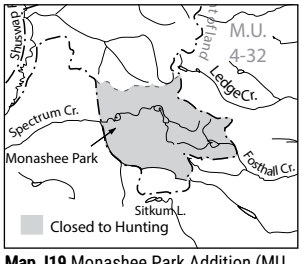
Map J17 Swan Lake No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 8-22).



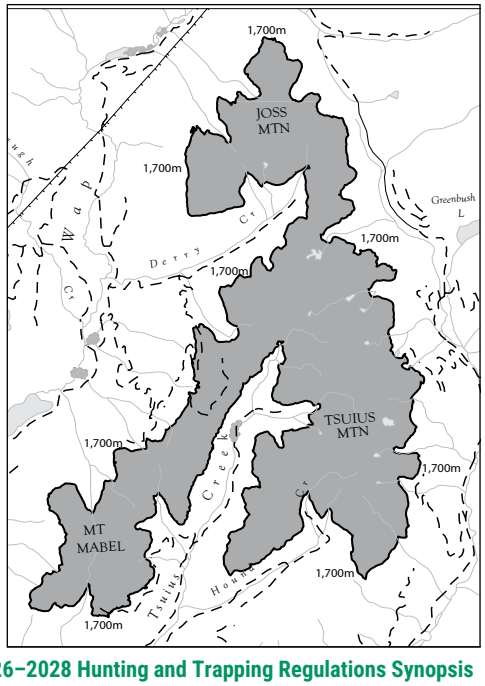
Map J18 Kalamalka Lake Park No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 8-22).



Map J20 Placer Mountain and Crater Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 8-3 and 8-4). Closed year-round to the operation of motor vehicles, except; roads shown as white are open year-round.



Map J19 Monashee Park Addition (MU 8-23) No Hunting Area.



Map J21 Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 8-23 and 8-24). The operation of vehicles is restricted to permitted forest service roads from May 1-Nov 30. Snowmobiles allowed.

Trapping Regulations

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. Fisher exclusion boxes required for all box trap sets in MUs 3-30, 3-31, 5-1, 5-2, 5-12, 5-13 and 5-14, see page 73.
2. Extended Lynx trapping seasin in region 7B.
3. Amended wolverine trapping season in region 6.
4. Updated requirements for use of egg traps, see page 73.
5. Updated list of certified traps, see table on pages 74-75.

Definitions

EGG TRAP - means a holding device set in a manner to capture a raccoon by a front paw.

FOOT SNARE - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the foot or leg.

FURBEARING ANIMAL OR FURBEARER - means any fox, beaver, marten, fisher, lynx, bobcat, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel (excluding ground squirrels), weasel (least, short-tailed, and long-tailed), wolverine, wolf, coyote, and black bear.

KILLING SNARE - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the neck.

KILLING TRAP - means a trap or trapset that is designed to kill an animal.

FOOT-HOLD TRAP - means a trap or device, other than a snare, which is set in such a way as to capture the animal for which it is set by the leg or foot.

MODIFIED FOOT-HOLD TRAP - means a trap which has a minimum space of 5 mm between the jaws of the trap when in the closed position, or has manufactured pads of a rubber-like substance fastened to the trap jaws, or has lamination of the trap jaws to increase the surface area of the jaw face.

TRAPPING - means the act of setting or placing a trap in an operative condition or killing by the use of a firearm.

BC Fur Management Program

» In British Columbia, some 1,200 trappers actively manage furbearing animal species, following standards, legislation, and regulations. About half of the province's trappers are Indigenous.

» The Fur Management Program includes:

- The BC Trappers Association's (BCTA) Trapper Education Program courses for new and experienced trappers.
- The "Furbearer Management Guidelines" available for beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, weasel, wolf, and wolverine. These guidelines outline the role that trappers can play in the wise management of these species. The guidelines can be found on the Trapping in B.C. website at: **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping**.

Regulating harvest

» In general, trapping seasons have been developed by considering a variety of criteria including pelt primeness, relative vulnerability of age and sex classes to harvesting, abundance, and capture technology.

» The registered trapline system continues to be the primary system for setting harvest guidelines and managing furbearing animals. Harvest levels are guided by species management strategies, with furbearers being divided into three classes:

CLASS 1 SPECIES - can be managed on individual traplines. This class includes beaver, fox, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, and weasel.

CLASS 2 SPECIES - move between and among traplines and thus are not manageable on individual traplines. Harvests will be regulated regionally, in consultation with local trappers. This class includes lynx, bobcat, wolverine, fisher, and river otter.

CLASS 3 SPECIES - also move between and among traplines but generally are not vulnerable to over-trapping. This class includes the wolf and coyote. Trappers will be encouraged to trap these species, especially in areas of chronic animal damage control problems.

General Regulations and Information

Checking traps

» A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap commits an offence by failing to examine: **(a)** every 72 hours, every holding or non-killing trap, except an egg trap, set by that licence holder, **(b)** every 24 hours, every egg trap set by that licence holder, and **(c)** every 14 days, every killing trap or killing snare set by that licence holder.

» A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap on private property commits an offence unless the person examines the holding or non-killing traps the person has set on private property at least once every 24 hours.

» It is an offence to trap a furbearing animal, and if the animal is alive when the trap is checked, fail to immediately release or kill the animal.

» Except as authorized by regulation, it is an offence to trap a furbearing animal, and if the animal is alive, to transport it to another area and release it without a permit.

Use of firearms

» It is an offence to trap wildlife using a firearm from one hour after sunset on any day until one hour before sunrise on the day following, unless using a firearm to kill a furbearing animal caught in a trap on a registered trapline.

Trapping near a dwelling or on private property

» It is an offence to trap within 200 m of a dwelling, unless you use:

If trapping on land, a live box trap or egg trap, or if trapping on or in water,

- a Conibear trap not larger than size #330 or equivalent, or
- foot-hold traps not larger than size #2, or
- submarine traps.

» It is an offence to trap on private property or leased land without a trapping licence and the written permission of the property owner or occupier of the land.

Removal of furbearer hides

» It is an offence to hunt and kill a furbearer, other than a black bear, and fail to remove either the hide or the edible portions to the person's normal dwelling place, taxidermist, tanner, fur trader, meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. For black bear the edible portions must be removed.

Use of road-kill wildlife

» Trappers may pick up and transport any dead mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, or any wildlife listed in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) if:

(a) the wildlife is dead as a result of colliding with a motor vehicle, other than a motor vehicle operated by the trapper;

(b) the meat of the wildlife is unfit for human consumption;

(c) the carcass of the wildlife is to be used only

(i) by the trapper, and

(ii) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption; and

(d) at the time of possession and transportation, the trapper has on their person, the trapper's current trapping licence or proof of the trapper's licence exemption.

» Restrictions apply to the transport, disposal and use (for trapping) of road killed deer, elk, or moose from the Region 4 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone (See page 36). Any person that collects road killed (or found dead) deer, elk, or moose in the CWD Management Zone must follow the requirements as outlined in the CWD General Order issued in September 2025. See "Preventing the Spread" on the following website for further information, **www.gov.bc.ca/cwd**.

» Trappers who pick up road-kill wildlife to use as bait must, within 30 days of picking up the road-kill, complete a "Trapper Road-kill Possession Report Form" (available at any regional office, Service BC office, or on the Ministry website: **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping** and submit it to the address shown on the form).

» Trappers must retain a copy of every completed Trapper Road-kill Possession Report Form for at least 2 years after the date of pickup of the roadkill described on the form.

Bait for traplines

» Trappers may keep the carcass of a beaver, coyote, fox, marmot (except Vancouver Island Marmots), mink, mole, muskrat, river otter, squirrel (ground, flying, Douglas, red), weasel (least, short-tailed, and long-tailed), or wildlife described in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) trapped out of season if:

(a) the wildlife carcass is to be used only by the trapper, and

(i) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption, and

(b) at the time of possession and transport, the trapper has on their person,

(i) their current trapping licence or proof of licence exemption, and

(ii) a permit issued under section 2(c)(iii) of the Permit Regulation, BC Reg. 253/2000, permitting them to trap that wildlife during the closed season.

Collared, implanted or ear-tagged furbearing animals

» Several furbearing animal research projects are under way within the province. Please report the harvest of any collared, implanted or ear-tagged animal and return collars or implants to the nearest Ministry regional office. Radio-collars and implants are property of the Crown and must be returned.

Trapline cabins

» Trappers must register their trapline cabins that are on Crown land. Cabin applications may take six months or more to process. Contact the Ministry regional office in the area of the trapline for more information. See below for more information on trapline cabins in parks.

Ecological Reserves, Provincial Parks, Conservancies and Recreation Areas

» Trapping within ecological reserves is prohibited.

» Registered trapline tenure within Provincial Parks is subject to the provisions of the *Park Act* and its regulations. Trappers are required to obtain a Park or Resource Use Permit to trap that part of their trapline occurring within a Provincial Park,

Online Licensed Trapping Harvest Report

The Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship has introduced the online Trapping Harvest Report. Licensed trappers must submit a trapping harvest report each trapping licence year (July 1 to June 30). The report is due 31 days after the end of the licence year (by July 31). A trapper can submit one report at the end of the year, or multiple reports throughout the year. All trapping activity must be reported by July 31 following the end of the trapping licence year. A report is required even if no harvest occurred.

Licensed trappers who do not submit all their trapping activity by July 31 following the licence year will not be able purchase a licence, permit, limited entry hunting application or guide territory certificates under the *Wildlife Act* until a report is submitted. Licensed trappers may also be charged with a $460 fine if a report is not submitted by the deadline.

Trappers can submit their report online through the WILD system, or by submitting a completed report form (available online) to any FrontCounter BC office.

Information required on the report includes:

- Trapper's Fish and Wildlife ID (FWID)
- Management Unit
- Month
- Trapping licence number
- Species
- Park name and Park Use Permit, if applicable
- Trapline number or private property
- Sex and quantity harvested

Additional information on how to submit a report is available on the Trapping in BC website **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping-reporting.**

Compulsory Reporting and Compulsory Inspection of furbearers is still required.

Permit holders do not report their permit trapping activities in the Trapping Harvest Report. Permit holders will continue to report as required under their permit.

Individuals who are exempt from holding a trapping licence in B.C. are not required to report but a voluntary reporting option is provided.

Conservancy or Recreation Area. This permit can be obtained from FrontCounter BC (see page 18).

» Trapline cabins in Provincial Parks, Conservancies, and Recreation Areas also require authorization by a Park Use or a Resource Use Permit.

Trapline Registration, Use and Relinquishment

» It is an offence to set a trap for, hunt, kill, take or capture a furbearing animal in any area of the province unless you are the registered holder of the trapline for that area or are authorized by regulation or permit.

» Registration of a trapline on Crown land may only be granted to a person 19 years of age or older who is a citizen of Canada or has the status of a permanent resident of Canada.

» No more than one trapline shall be registered to a person unless traplines are adjoining, and a fur management plan is approved by the Regional Manager.

» Registration of a trapline does not:
- give the holder of a trapline any proprietary rights in wildlife, or
- restrict the rights of another person to hunt or capture wildlife where authorized by regulation or permit.

» The boundaries of a trapline are defined by the Regional Manager.

» The relinquishment or transfer of a trapline must be approved by the Regional Manager.

» No person shall continue to hold a registered trapline unless the person:
- carries on active trapping on the person's registered trapline to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager,
- obtains permission from the Regional Manager to temporarily discontinue the use of the person's registered trapline for a period not exceeding two years, or
- uses or causes the use of the person's trapline by a licensed trapper or a person exempted from holding a licence.

» A person fails to use a trapline where, within a year, that person fails to take from the trapline furbearing animals of a value of $200, or 50 pelts, except where it is unreasonable for that value of animals or number of pelts to be taken from the trapline.

» The government of B.C. reserves the right to remove nuisance animals from Crown land, whether or not the Crown land in question is under a trapline registration.

Other Restrictions and Information

» The Assigned Trapper Number (ATN) is required by the Fur Trader when accepting, exporting and selling fur. It is also required when paying fur royalties. Please remember to write your ATN on a slip of paper or letter when shipping your fur to a fur trader. This will prevent delays in getting your furs to market and cash returns to you. Fur traders cannot ship or sell fur without recording your ATN.

» You are reminded that, under Sections 247 and 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada, it is an offence for anyone to willfully cause, or permit to be caused, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal or injury to a person.

» A person who knowingly damages or interferes with a lawfully set trap commits an offence.

» It is an offence to have live wildlife in your personal possession except under a licence or permit or as provided by regulation. A trapping licence does NOT authorize the possession of live wildlife.

» Any raw fur or skin of a furbearing animal shipped out of the province for commercial purposes must be accompanied by an Export Permit.

» Trappers possessing furbearers harvested in region 6, who must drive through the Yukon and back into B.C. in order to submit the animal for Compulsory Inspection, are exempt from obtaining an export permit for this purpose.

» When trapping near recreational areas or communities, trappers should evaluate whether lethal traps are necessary at the site. It is important to remember that the landscape is utilized by a number of different user groups and that the safety of non-target species is vital to good trapline management. Warning signs should be used to inform people of trapping activities.

Humane Trapping Standards

» Canada is a signatory to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) which serves to ensure only certified traps that meet or exceed specific animal welfare thresholds are used to trap specific furbearers. Currently, a person using killing traps for beaver, bobcat, fisher, lynx, marten, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, and weasels, or restraining traps for beaver (cage traps), bobcat, lynx, and wolf is required, by law, to use only species-specific traps included in B.C.'s trapping regulations which have been certified under the Agreement; see pages 74-75 for the list of traps. For more information visit **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping**.

» Over 20 box and cage traps have been certified for live trapping raccoons, and over 20 restraining traps have been certified for live trapping coyotes, through the AIHTS trap testing and certification process. Given the number of traps certified for each species, the B.C. government is considering restricting the use of box and cage traps for live-trapping raccoons and restraining traps for live-trapping coyotes to AIHTS-certified traps only, starting in the 2028-2029 trapping year. Other Canadian jurisdictions are making similar updates to their trapping regulations. A current list of these traps can be found at the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Certification and Technologies webpage at **www.fur.ca/fur-trapping/certified-traps/**

Compulsory Reporting and Inspection

» A person must promptly report to an officer when they accidentally kill or wound wildlife.

» In order to better record the harvest of furbearing animals, in addition to the online Trapping Harvest Report (see above), certain species must be reported or submitted to a Ministry office. The information gathered is critical to the management of these populations, and trapper compliance is needed to ensure that seasons are properly set. Please review the following requirements and keep accurate records pertaining to them.

Compulsory Reporting

» Trappers must, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season, report the harvest of:
- **fisher** in all MUs when trapped in a fisher open season;
- **wolverine** in regions 5, 6, 7A, and 7B;
- **bobcat** in region 2; and
- **wolf** in region 1 and MUs 2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16.

» Compulsory Reporting forms are available at any Ministry regional office and **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping**. Reporting may be done by mail (to the address on the form), phone or in person.

» When reporting, please give the following information:
- name, address, and Assigned Trapper Number,
- location and date of kill,
- type of trap and set used,
- number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
- the sex and age class of the animal.

Compulsory Inspection

Furbearers Trapped Outside of an Open Season:

» Trappers must submit the carcass and pelt of furbearers that are killed incidentally in areas or

times with no open season.

» Fishers must be submitted within 30 days of the kill date.

» All other incidentally trapped furbearers must be submitted by June 30 of the licence year that the furbearer was killed.

» These animals cannot be reclaimed by the trapper and may be donated by the Province to the Trapper Education Program.

Furbearers Trapped During an Open Season:

» Trappers must submit the pelt of **wolverine trapped in region 3** to a Compulsory Inspection center, within 15 days after the last day of the continuous season in which the wolverine was killed, and if applicable, before the wolverine is exported from the province.

» Trappers must provide the following to the Compulsory Inspection center:

- name, address, and Assigned Trapper Number,
- location and date of kill,
- type of trap and set used,
- number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
- the sex and age class of the animal.

Licence and Registration Fees

» Applications for trapping licences are available through the FrontCounter BC website at **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping-licences**. For assistance with your application please contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222. (See Wildlife Permits and Commercial Licences article, page 18.)

» The fees payable for the issuance of the following licences are:

1. For a trapping licence issued to a citizen or permanent resident of Canada to trap furbearing animals (includes Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation surcharge)
   One Year Licence...$40.00
   Five Year Licence...$200.00
2. For a duplicate licence to a person who, upon satisfactory proof, shows that their licence has been lost or destroyed...$10.00
3. To transfer registered trapline rights to a person or group of persons...$50.00
4. For a fur trader's licence...$100.00
5. For a fur trader to trade from a place of business in another province...$400.00

Note: Trapping licences are valid from the date of issuance to June 30.

Fur Royalty Regulations

» Royalty must be paid by a person to keep the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal (not raised in captivity) lawfully taken under their TRAPPING licence unless that person sells the pelt or skin to a licensed fur trader.

» Royalty fee payments may be submitted by mail or courier with cheque (payable to The Minister of Finance), money order or credit card to any FrontCounter BC location (see page 18).

» If the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal was lawfully taken under a person's HUNTING licence, a royalty does not need to be paid, unless that person intends to offer the pelt or skin for sale.

FUR ROYALTIES

» Royalty payments for pelts/skins is set at 3% of the average price paid at auction for the pelt or skin of the particular species over the preceding three years.

» Royalty values vary from year to year and generally range between $0.25 to $10 per pelt, depending on the species.

» Because royalties vary from year to year, they are not included in this two year synopsis. Visit **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping** for the current year fur royalties.

Trapper Education Program

» British Columbia is committed to regulating humane traps as they become available and ensuring that trappers are educated in the use of those traps. All trappers have a responsibility to ensure they are trained and use the most humane traps available, that furbearing animals in their trapping areas are managed wisely, and pelts are handled professionally.

» It is an offence to trap unless you have completed a Trapper Education Program (TEP) approved by the Director of the Wildlife Branch. Approved TEP courses include those obtained in British Columbia since July 1, 1982; from Quebec since July 1,1988; and from the Yukon, Alberta, and Ontario since July 1, 1989.

» In cooperation with the Ministry, the BC Trappers Association (BCTA) delivers the 3-day TEP course.

» Instructors are located around the province. The demand for TEP courses continues to be high and the delivery of a course is subject to instructor availability.

» If you are interested in TEP, and want more information on the course, including costs and course dates, please see the BCTA website at **www.bctrappers.ca**, or contact:

Phone: 250-962-5452
Email: info@bctrappers.ca

Important Notice About Fishers

» There is concern for fisher populations in areas of the Thompson, Cariboo, Omineca, and Skeena Regions that have experienced large habitat changes due to forest harvest and salvage of beetle and fire-killed forests. In addition, genetic information indicates that fishers in these dry interior forests are a unique and separate population from those in B.C.'s boreal forest.

» In 2025, the BC Conservation Data Centre completed a status re-assessment for fisher: the Columbian population remains red-listed (i.e., at greatest risk of being lost) while the Boreal population remains blue-listed (i.e., of special concern). The red-listed Columbian population has an estimated population of 272 to 558 mature individuals and is declining. Threats to the population are from habitat loss and degradation, and from trapping when caught in traps set for other species.

» All fishers trapped during an open season must be Compulsory Reported, and those incidentally trapped in areas or at times with no open season must be Compulsory Inspected (see Compulsory Reporting and Inspection requirements, page 72).

» Trappers are strongly encouraged to use a Fisher Exclusion Box when marten trapping in areas where there is a chance of incidentally trapping fishers

» The following traps must be housed in a Fisher Exclusion Box when set on land in MUs 3-30, 3-31, 5-1, 5-2, 5-12, 5-13 and 5-14:

- Bélisle Super X 120
- BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper
- Duke 120 Super Magnum
- LDL B120 Magnum
- Northwoods 155
- Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Magnum Stainless Steel
- Rudy 120 Magnum
- Sauvageau 2001-5
- Sauvageau C120 Magnum

» Exclusion boxes must have a total length, based on the outside dimensions of the box, of at least 17 inches and include an entry hole less than or equal to 56 mm (2¼") in diameter and a side slot that is at least 10" long and no more than 1" high (see diagram below).

Marten box modified for fisher exclusion. The exclusion plate is held in place with wire and splits in the middle to allow for extraction of an animal.

» For more information on fisher exclusion boxes, including specifications, assembly, and other practices to reduce incidental trapping of fishers please visit **www.gov.bc.ca/trapping**.

» For more information about fishers and their habitat, please visit **www.bcfisherhabitat.ca**

It's Unlawful

You should know that it is unlawful to:

» In Region 5, to set a killing snare to trap wolves or coyotes within 10 m of where bait is placed.

» Use a foot-hold trap which has teeth or other projections on the jaws of the trap.

» Use a killing snare on land, unless the snare is equipped with a locking device, or is designed to catch squirrels or hares, or is a mechanically powered killing snare.

» Use a snare made of wire heavier than 20 gauge unless licenced or authorized to trap.

» Use a snare made of braided wire unless licenced or authorized to trap.

» Set spring poles or running poles unless they are equipped with a killing trap.

» Use a trap equipped with a spearing device.

» Use any Conibear trap larger than, but not including, #220 for land sets within any municipality in the province.

» Use a rat trap unless the bait and trigger are completely covered, with an opening not larger than 4.5 cm wide and 5 cm high.

» Trap with a rifle using a full metal jacketed non-expanding bullet, or a tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullet, or with a shotgun using a tracer or incendiary shot shell.

» Use electronic or recorded calls for trapping furbearing animals other than for trapping wolf, coyote, bobcat, or lynx.

» Cause or allow dogs to pursue furbearers under the authority of a trapping licence.

» Use an egg trap unless a person holds a valid trapping licence and the trap is securely fastened or anchored in a manner designed to prevent an animal caught in the trap from dragging the trap away.

Species	Certified Killing Traps			
Beaver Underwater or on land	• Bélisle Classique 330 • Bélisle Super X 280 • Bélisle Super X 330 • B.M.I. 280 Bodygripper • B.M.I. 330 Bodygripper • B.M.I. BT 300 • Bridger 330	• Duke 280 • Duke 330 • Duke 330 Super Magnum • LDL C280 • LDL C280 Magnum • LDL C330 • LDL C330 Magnum	• Rudy 280 • Rudy 330 • Sauvageau 1000-11F • Sauvageau 2001-8 • Sauvageau 2001-11 • Sauvageau 2001-12 • Sauvageau 2001-14	• Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum • Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Bobcat and **Lynx**	• Bélisle Super X 280 • Bélisle Super X 330 • B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 220 Magnum Body Gripper • B.M.I. 280 Magnum Body Gripper	• Bridger 220 • Bridger 280 Magnum Body Gripper • Duke 220 Super Magnum • Duke 280 • Duke 330 Super Magnum	• LDL C220 • LDL C220 Magnum • LDL C280 Magnum • LDL C330 • LDL C330 Magnum	• Rudy 330 • Sauvageau 2001-8 • Sauvageau 2001-11 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Fisher	• Bélisle Super X 120 • Bélisle Super X 160 • Bélisle Super X 220 • Duke 120 Super Magnum	• Duke 160 Super Magnum • Duke 220 Super Magnum • Koro #2 • LDL C160 Magnum	• LDL C220 Magnum • Rudy 120 Magnum • Rudy 160 Plus • Rudy 220 Plus	• Sauvageau 2001-5 • Sauvageau 2001-6 • Sauvageau 2001-7 • Sauvageau 2001-8
Marten	• Bélisle Super X 120 • Bélisle Super X 160 • B.M.I. 126 Magnum Body Gripper • Duke 120 Super Magnum	• Koro #1 • Koro #2 • LDL B120 Magnum • LDL C160 Magnum	• Northwoods 155 • Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Magnum Stainless Steel • Rudy 120 Magnum	• Rudy 160 Plus • Sauvageau C120 Magnum • Sauvageau 2001-5 • Sauvageau 2001-6
Muskrat On land only	• Bélisle Super X 110 • Bélisle Super X 120 • B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper Magnum • B.M.I. 126 Body Gripper Magnum • Bridger 120 • Bridger 120 Magnum Body Gripper • Bridger 155 Magnum Body Gripper • Duke 120	• Duke 120 Super Magnum • Koro Muskrat Trap • Koro Large Rodent Double Spring • LDL B120 • LDL B120 Magnum • Oneida Victor 120 Stainless Steel • Oneida Victor Conibear 110-3 Stainless Steel	• Oneida Victor Conibear 110-3 Magnum Stainless Steel • Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Stainless Steel • Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Magnum Stainless Steel • Ouell 411-180 • Ouell RM • Rudy 110 • Rudy 120	• Rudy 120 Magnum • Sauvageau C120 Magnum • Sauvageau C120 Reverse Bend • Sauvageau 2001-5 • Triple M • WCS SHORTY Tube Trap • WCS Tube Trap International • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120
Muskrat Underwater only	• Any jaw type trap (body gripping or foot-hold) set as a submersion set that exerts clamping force on a muskrat and that maintains this animal underwater.			
Otter	• Bélisle Super X 220 • Bélisle Super X 280 • Bélisle Super X 330 • Duke 220 Super Magnum • Duke 330 Super Magnum	• LDL C220 • LDL C220 Magnum • LDL C280 Magnum • Rudy 220 Plus	• Rudy 280 • Rudy 330 • Sauvageau 2001-8 • Sauvageau 2001-11 • Sauvageau 2001-12	• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
Raccoon	• Bélisle Classique 220 • Bélisle Super X 160 • Bélisle Super X 220 • Bélisle Super X 280 • B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper • B.M.I. 280 Magnum Body Gripper • Bridger 160	• Bridger 220 • Bridger 280 Magnum Body Gripper • Duke 160 • Duke 160 Super Magnum • Duke 220 • Duke 220 Super Magnum • Koro #2 • LDL C160 • LDL C160 Magnum	• LDL C220 • LDL C220 Magnum • LDL C280 Magnum • Northwoods 155 • Oneida Victor C-220 Stainless Steel • Rudy 160 • Rudy 160 Plus • Rudy 220 • Rudy 220 Plus	• Sauvageau 2001-6 • Sauvageau 2001-7 • Sauvageau 2001-8 • Species-Specific 220 Dislocator • Half Magnum • Woodstream Oneida Victor • Conibear 160 • Woodstream Oneida Victor • Conibear 220
Weasel	• Bélisle Super X 110 • Bélisle Super X 120 • B.M.I. #60 • B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper Magnum • B.M.I. 126 Body Gripper Magnum • Bridger 120	• Bridger 120 Magnum Body Gripper • Bridger 155 Magnum Body Gripper • Duke 120 Super Magnum • Koro Muskrat Trap • Koro Rodent Trap • Koro Large Rodent Double Spring • LDL B120 Magnum*	• Ouell 3-10 • Ouell 411-180 • Ouell RM • Rudy 120 Magnum • Sauvageau 2001-5 • Sauvageau C120 Magnum • Sauvageau C120 Reverse Bend	• Triple M • Victor Rat Trap • WCS Tube Trap Int'l • WCS SHORTY Tube Trap • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 • Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120

Species	Certified Restraining Traps
Beaver	• Breathe Easy Live Beaver Trap • Comstock 12 X 18 X 39 Swim Through Beaver Cage • Dam Beaver Live Beaver Trap • Ezee Set Live Beaver Trap • Hancock Live Beaver Trap • Koro "Klam" Live Beaver Trap
Bobcat	• Bélisle Footsnare #6 • Bélisle Sélectif • Oneida Victor #1.5 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs • Oneida Victor #1.75, offset, laminated jaws equipped with 2 coil springs • Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs • Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs • Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), with 2 coil springs
Lynx	• Bélisle Footsnare #6 • Bélisle Sélectif • Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs • Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs • Oneida Victor #3 equipped with at least 8 mm thick, non-offset steel jaws, 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate
Wolf	• Bélisle Footsnare #8 • BFV Beer no 1 PLUS • Bridger Alaskan #5 Offset and Laminated Jaws • Bridger Alaskan #5 Rubber Jaws • Bridger Brawn #9 Rubber Jaws • Duke Pro Series 850-OS • LAY 76 Laminated • Livestock Protection EZ Grip #7 • MB 750 Alaskan OS (3/8') • Muskwa no 9 Laminated Offset • Rudy Red Wolf 4 1/2 • Rudy Red Wolf CS • Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs, a minimum 8mm thick base plate and an anchoring swivel mounted on this base plate • X-treme Wolf

Trapping Methods

	Killing Snare	Modified Foot-hold	Foot-hold - Submerging	Killing Trap	Live Box Trap	Foot Snare	Rifle, Shotgun or Bow	Egg Trap
Beaver	X		X	X[6]	X[8]		X	
Black Bear*							X[3,5]	
Bobcat	X	X[7]		X[6]	X	X[6]	X	
Coyote	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Fisher	X			X[6]	X		X	
Fox	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Lynx	X	X[7]		X[6]	X	X[6]	X	
Marten	X			X[6]	X		X	
Mink	X		X	X			X	
Muskrat	X		X[2]	X[6]			X	
Otter	X		X	X[6]			X	
Raccoon	X			X[6]	X		X	X[4]
Skunk	X			X	X		X	
Squirrel	X			X	X		X	
Weasel	X			X[6]	X		X	
Wolf	X	X[1, 7]		X	X	X[6]	X[3]	
Wolverine	X			X	X		X	

"X" means that this is a legal trapping method in B.C. ***black bear may not be trapped by placing bait or by using a dead animal or part of it as bait.**

1. For solidly fastened foot-hold traps designed to trap wolves, no more than 60 cm of chain between the trap and the point to which it is fastened may be used.
2. A minimum weight of 150 g must be securely attached to all muskrat submerging sets smaller than size # 1 1/2
3. It is an offence to shoot/kill a black bear, or a wolf not caught in a trap or a snare, with a rifle using a rimfire cartridge, or with a shotgun with a bore size of less than 20 gauge or using shells of shot size smaller than No. 1 Buck.
4. Egg traps can only be used by a person who holds a valid trapping licence and the trap must be securely fastened or anchored in a manner designed to prevent an animal caught in the trap from dragging the trap away.
5. Refer to the Hunting Methods table, page 13, for firearm and archery requirements for black bear and the Notice to Black Bear Hunters page 80.
6. Only killing traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 74.
7. Only foot-hold restraining traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 74.
8. Only live box traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 75.

Best Trapping Practices: **www.fur.ca/fur-trapping/certified-traps/**

2026-2028 Provincial Trapping Seasons

Note: The following open seasons apply to the entire region unless specific Management Units (MUs) are stated.

SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)	SEASON DATES
BEAVER	
Region 1	Oct 1 - Apr 30
Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Oct 15 - Apr 30
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B	Oct 1 - May 31
MUs 6-12, 6-13	Jan 1 - Dec 31
BLACK BEAR	
Region 5 (except MUs 5-2, 5-15) and MUs 6-3, 6-11 to 6-14	Oct 15 - May 15
Regions 3, 4, 7B, 8, and MUs 5-2, 5-15	Oct 1 - May 31
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-3, 6-11 to 6-14), 7A	Sept 15 - May 31
Quota = 2 black bear in one licence year	
See the "Bears" and "It's Unlawful" section for general regulations concerning bear parts.	
BOBCAT	
Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Nov 15 - Feb 15
COYOTE	
Region 2	Sept 10 - Jun 15
MUs 1-14, 1-15 and Regions 3, ❖4, 5, 6, 7A, ★7B, 8	Oct 15 - Mar 31
❖ In MU 4-1, open season is Dec 1 - Mar 31 if using a killing snare.	
★ There is no closed season for coyote in MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58 below 1100 m elevation.	
FISHER	
MUs 6-19 to 6-27, and Region 7B	Nov 1 - Feb 15
See Compulsory Inspection and Reporting requirements, page 72	
FOX	
MUs 1-14, 1-15, and Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7A, 7B	Oct 15 - Feb 28
Region 5	Oct 15 - Mar 31
LYNX	
Regions 3, 4, 5, 8	Nov 15 - Feb 15
Regions 6, 7A, 7B	Nov 1 - Feb 15
MARTEN	
Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Nov 1 - Feb 15
Regions 6, 7A, 7B (except MUs 7-49 to 7-54)	Nov 1 - Feb 28
MUs 7-49 to 7-54	Nov 1 - Mar 15
MINK	
Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7B (except MUs 7-49 to 7-54), 8	Nov 1 - Feb 15
Region 2 and MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14	Nov 15 - Feb 15
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14), 7A	Nov 1 - Feb 28
MUs 7-49 to 7-54	Oct 15 - Feb 15
MUSKRAT	
Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8	Oct 15 - Apr 30
Region 2	Nov 15 - Feb 15
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B	Oct 1 - May 31
MUs 6-12, 6-13	Jan 1 - Dec 31
RACCOON	
Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B, 8	Oct 1 - Mar 31
MUs 6-12, 6-13	Jan 1 - Dec 31

SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)	SEASON DATES
RIVER OTTER	
Region 1	Nov 15 - Mar 31
MUs 2-2 to 2-5, 2-12 to 2-16	Nov 15 - Feb 28
MUs 2-6 to 2-11, 2-17 to 2-19 and Regions 3, 4, 5	Oct 15 - Apr 30
Regions 6, 7A, 7B	Oct 1 - May 31
Region 8	Nov 1 - Apr 15
SKUNK	
MUs 1-14, 1-15 and Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8	Oct 15 - Feb 28
SQUIRREL (douglas, northern flying, red)	
Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Nov 1 - Mar 15
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B	Nov 1 - Mar 30
MUs 6-12, 6-13	Jan 1 - Dec 31
WEASEL (least, long-tailed, short-tailed)	
Regions ❖2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Nov 1 - Feb 15
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B	Nov 1 - Feb 28
❖There is no open season for long-tailed weasel in MUs 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-18 and 2-19	
WOLVERINE	
Regions 3, 5, 6 (except MUs 6-1, 6-2)	Nov 1 - Jan 31
MUs 6-1, 6-2 and Regions 7A, 7B	Nov 1 - Feb 28
See Compulsory Inspection and Reporting requirements, page 72	
WOLF	
Region 1	Sept 10 - Jun 30
MUs 2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16	Sept 10 - Jun 15
MUs ◆3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-34 to 3-44	Oct 15 - Mar 31
Regions * ❖4, ◆5, 6, 8	Oct 15 - Mar 31
Regions 7A, ★7B	Oct 15 - May 31
* There is no closed season for wolf below 1100 m elevation in MUs 4-2 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-24 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37, and 4-40. Restricted to the use of certified restraining traps only (see page 75) from Apr 1 - Oct 14.	
◆ On private land ONLY, there is no closed season for wolf in MUs 3-12, 3-13, 3-17 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-35 to 3-42, 5-1 to 5-6, and 5-12 to 5-14. From Apr 1 – Oct 14 only certified restraining traps can be used. Private land is defined as land that is not Crown land and that government does not have a vested interest in (i.e., does not apply to Crown grazing lease).	
❖ The use of killing snares in the Kootenay Region is limited to Dec 1 - Mar 31.	
★ There is no closed season for wolf in MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58 below 1100 m elevation.	

Trappers should be aware of the restrictions described in the It's Unlawful section (pages 11-12) and the Hunting Methods and Restrictions sections (pages 12-13).

Hunting and Trapping Ethics

It is extremely important for hunters and trappers to realize that they use a public resource! With this privilege it is vital to maintain a perception among the public that we hunt and trap in an ethical and humane manner. The majority of British Columbians support hunting and trapping to one degree or another, but there is a prevalent misunderstanding among the general public as to the role that hunters and trappers play in conservation and environmental stewardship. Fueling that misunderstanding are images and media reports of hunters and trappers who are at least perceived to be acting in a less than upstanding manner, or who disrespect the wildlife they pursue.

It is important for all of us to remember not only the legal obligations, but also the unwritten rules of ethics that keep hunting a great sport.

- Safety for yourself, your companions, and the public is the most important aspect of hunter training. Hunting accidents continue to be very rare because we all know that there is no room for recklessness at the expense of safety and courtesy.
- Have respect for the sensitivities of others. Do not display your kill or firearms where it may offend other people. What may impress your friends may not have the same effect on your neighbours.
- Respect wildlife and the sanctity of the harvested animals' lives. Strive to make every kill a clean one. Prepare your firearm in advance of, and during, the season to ensure accuracy and dependability. Practice your marksmanship at a licensed firing range, and do not shoot unless you have a clear shot of a vital part of the animal. Remember: "you can't pull the bullet back."
- Prepare the meat properly. Proper handling of meat is easy to learn and to not do so is both illegal and wasteful.
- Respect the environment by packing out everything you pack in! Nobody wants to arrive at a campsite and clean up the mess left by the previous occupants.
- Do not consume drugs or alcohol while hunting or trapping.
- Respect private property. Always seek permission from landowners and thank them for the opportunities given. Unless explicitly stated, permission granted once does not entitle you to access the property on subsequent occasions.
- Please respect gates, fences, and equipment as they are there for a reason. Leave everything the way you found it.
- Be the eyes and ears for the enforcement agencies and report those who break the law. Remember the RAPP program 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or **rapp.bc.ca**.
- Be aware that you are a mentor when youth are observing.
- Respect your fellow hunters. Work with one another to promote good relationships, safety, knowledge and a fair distribution of opportunity and harvest
- Lead by example, you are an ambassador for the public and media image of hunting.

Ethical hunters and trappers are critical to effective and sustainable wildlife management, and to the ethical hunter we offer our sincerest gratitude. Opportunities for the sustainable use of wildlife are possible because of you.

Notice to hunters!

In-season regulation changes are posted on the **Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis website**.

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

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

Important Notice for Mountain Goat Hunters

Regulations are in place to minimize female (nanny) mountain goat harvest, or on Blunt Mountain (MU 6-8) during the bow only season to prohibit nanny harvest, as an important conservation action. Outreach has consistently encouraged hunters to select a male (billy) mountain goat, when making a decision to harvest. The B.C. regulation states:

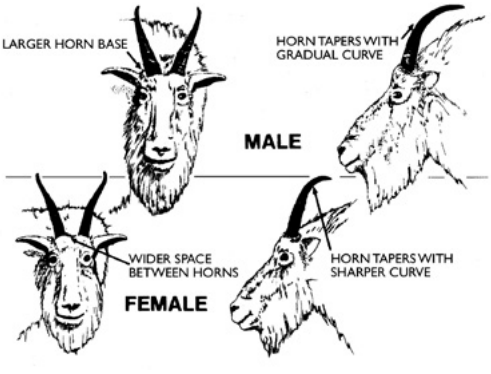
"It is unlawful to hunt a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids."

This regulation does not protect all female mountain goats as a solitary female mountain goat, or a female mountain goat within a group of goats that does not contain kids, would still be legal to harvest. That said, recent analysis of harvest demographic data since 2012 suggests that the proportion of females in the harvest has generally decreased; still in some localized areas, there continues to be concerns over the high proportions of female mountain goats in the harvest.

For more information on how to distinguish between a billy and a nanny visit **m.youtube.com/watch?v=J8gUaMx8G7I**, after watching the video test yourself on mountain goat sex identification at **www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.mountaingoatquiz**.

You can also find additional information on the websites of the BC Mountain Goat Society (**www.bcmountaingoatsociety.ca/**), and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance (**goatalliance.org/**).

The "Management Plan for the Mountain Goat in British Columbia" contains detailed information on managing mountain goats in BC, and is available for downloading at **www.gov.bc.ca/wild-sheep-and-mountain-goat**



(Reproduced with permission from the Department of Renewable Resources, Yukon Government)

Respiratory Disease in Wild Sheep and Mountain Goats

Disease introduction has contributed to declines in bighorn sheep populations across their range. Wild sheep and mountain goats are susceptible to a variety of infectious organisms carried by domestic sheep and goats. Of particular importance are bacteria that cause respiratory diseases such as pneumonia including specific strains of Pasteurella multocida, Mannheimia haemolytica and Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae. These bacteria are often carried by domestic sheep and goats where they may or may not cause disease. In contrast, when wild sheep and goats are exposed to these bacteria, they do not develop an effective immune response and pneumonia outbreaks can occur which may result in die-offs, affecting 5-95% of the herd. Following an outbreak the disease may also persist in survivors, resulting in kid mortalities and many years of low lamb survival, followed by population declines. Research efforts have confirmed that physical separation of wild and domestic sheep and goats is the only management tool currently available to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

To assist in maintaining this separation, producers of domestic sheep and goats on private land located in areas shared by wild sheep or in close proximity to mountain goats are encouraged to better understand this issue and to work with wildlife managers to reduce risk of transmission, see:

- **https://wafwa.org/wpdm-package/2025-recommendations-for-domestic-sheep-and-goat-management-in-wild-sheep-habitat/**
- **www. gov.bc.ca/wildlife-health/wild-sheep-health**
- **www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/sheep-and-goats/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae**

If you observe wild sheep or mountain goats displaying potential signs of poor health (i.e., excessive coughing, running noses, diarrhea, lethargy or scabbing around the eyes, nose, and mouth), or wild sheep or goats in the same pasture as domestic sheep and goats, please report it to the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277, or the local Ministry Regional Office.

For more information on wild sheep and diseases, please see the documents and webpages developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (**www.wafwa.org**), the Wild Sheep Foundation (www.wildsheepfoundation.org) and the Wild Sheep Society of BC (**www.wildsheepsociety.com**). Further, see the Wild Sheep Society of BC's article in this synopsis on the collaborative BC Sheep Separation Program.

Wild Sheep Genetics

Wild sheep species distributions as well as their habitats in North America, have been shaped by repeated, historical glaciation events that created significant barriers to gene flow, resulting in our present-day distributions of Thinhorn and Bighorn sheep.

There are two subspecies of Thinhorn sheep, that have traditionally been classified based on pelage colour: the white coated and more northerly distributed Dall's sheep, and the dark coated and more southerly distributed Stone's sheep. While this system of classification works across the majority of thinhorn sheep range, sheep with a wide range of dark and intermediate colouration occur in south-central Yukon and north-western British Columbia. These sheep are commonly referred to as Fannin sheep and some consider them to be Stone's sheep, because of their non-white pelage.

Over the past two decades, researchers have used genetic analyses to improve our knowledge of Thinhorn sheep genetic relationships, also informing our understanding of Dall's, Stone's and Fannin sheep range distributions. This research has shown that previous geographic and colour-based subspecies classifications are not accurate. Recent work led from BC and in partnership with other jurisdictions and the University of Alberta was able to show that nearly the entire global population of Stone's sheep resides in BC, and that Fannin sheep (once thought to be Stone's sheep), found in south-central Yukon and north-western BC, are genetically more closely related to Dall's sheep than Stone's.

Wild and Domestic Sheep Contact

Across North America wild sheep herds have suffered catastrophic all-age die-offs, compounded by high lamb mortality and slow population recovery periods, from respiratory disease (pneumonia) transmitted from domestic sheep and goats. Despite several attempts, no vaccination, treatments or preventative measures, other than physical separation, have been found to be broadly successful at preventing exposure to Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M. ovi); the bacteria most responsible for most respiratory disease outbreaks in wild sheep. In a number of jurisdictions, test-and remove programs (where wild sheep are captured, health sampled and those that are infected with M.ovi, are removed) have been evaluated as a potential method to manage respiratory disease in affected wildlife sheep herds. Building from this learning,, from disease management initiative tested in other jurisdictions, B.C. along with support from NGOs and First Nations communities, has initiated similar test-and-remove projects in provincial bighorn sheep herds that have continued to struggle with respiratory disease. Ongoing monitoring has demonstrated significant improvement in lamb survival following removal of infected herd mates.

Photo: Lino Grifone

B.C. continues to use many approaches to enhance wild sheep protections and restorie wild sheep populations. With funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wild Sheep Society of BC and support from the Province, the BC Sheep Separation Program is working to test domestic sheep and goats for M. ovi in high risk of contact areas near wild sheep range, and to promote education and outreach to domestic sheep and goat farmers to reduce the risk of contact and disease transmission between domestic and wild sheep and goats. In support of these initiatives, the Province continues to offer information on our websites:

- **www.gov.bc.ca/wildlife-health/wild-sheep-health**
- **www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/sheep-and-goats/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae**

To report any interactions between wild sheep and domestic sheep or goats call the RAPP Line 1-877-952-7277.

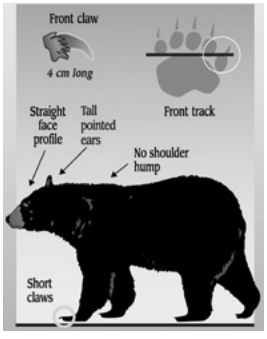
Identifying Bears

Grizzly Bear

1. Colour varies from blond to black.
2. Distinctive shoulder hump.
3. Rump is lower than shoulder hump.
4. Face profile appears dished-in between eyes and snout.
5. Ears are short and rounded.

Black Bear

1. Colour varies from blond to black, including white and blue.
2. No distinctive shoulder hump.
3. Rump is higher than front shoulders.
4. Face profile is straight.
5. Ears are tall and pointed.
6. Front claws are less than 4 cm (2 in) long and curved. Claw marks are not usually visible in tracks.



Colour and size can be misleading. Look for a combination of characteristics.

BC Mountian Goat and Wild Sheep Natal App

The BC Wildlife Program is asking for your observations of Mountain Goat, Thinhorn Sheep and Bighorn Sheep from around B.C. in support of Citizen Science. The Provincial Wild Sheep and Mountain Goat Natal App allows hunter-conservationists and members of the public to easily submit what they see. The data collected will be used to inform BC's Regional Biologists when making important decisions around wild sheep and goat conservation, as well as provide information on the effects of changing climates, disease outbreaks/die-offs and other environmental and human pressures on our wild sheep and goat populations. Regular updates developed from submitted information are prepared and generally available through both the Wild Sheep Society of BC's Facebook page and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance's social media outreach.

Since launching this effort early in 2020, the data we have received has expanded well beyond the original scope and what was anticipated could be learned from citizen observations. Learning about new natal ranges and the timing of lambing and kidding events occurred but new and important information about wildlife health and neonatal (lamb and kid) survival was also received in some areas.Instructions for downloading this free app can be found at: **www.gov.bc.ca/bc-goat-sheep-natal-app**

More information about wild sheep and mountain goats can be found at: **www.gov.bc.ca/wild-sheep-and-mountain-goat**

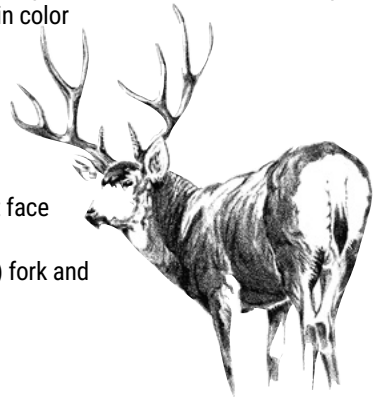
Know the difference
between White-tailed Deer and Mule *(Black-tailed)* Deer

It is important for hunters to be able to distinguish between White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer. Hunters should not rely on one feature, but use a combination of characteristics to identify their target before shooting. The following diagrams and descriptions are intended to aid hunters in field identification of these species.

It is important to remember opportunities for antlerless Mule Deer are generally limited, and only available by LEH in most areas.

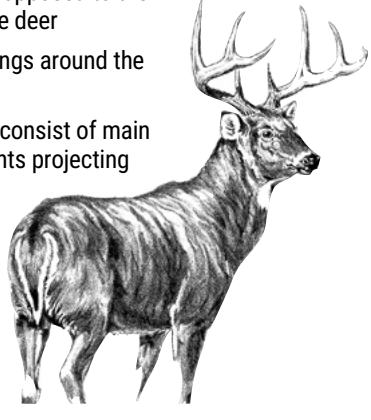
Mule Deer

- Large ears in proportion to head
- Large white rump patch, rope-like white tail with a black tip Body generally greyish in color
- Does not raise its tail when alarmed
- Bounds in stiff-legged gait on all fours when running
- Mature males with light face and nose
- Antlers (of older males) fork and fork again



White-tailed Deer

- Ears are smaller in proportion to the head compared to mule deer
- Brown rump, flattened tail brown in color with a white fringe Underside of tail is white. Body generally brownish in color
- Raises and flags its tail when alarmed
- Runs when escaping, as opposed to the bounding escape of mule deer
- Darker face with white rings around the eyes and nose
- Antlers (of older males) consist of main beams with multiple points projecting upward



Southern Mountain and Boreal Caribou Update

Woodland caribou have roamed British Columbia (B.C.) for thousands of years. They are a nationally recognized icon, contributing to the beauty and biodiversity of our province and nation. Unfortunately, the number of caribou in B.C. declined steadily over past decades, dropping from about 40,000 to approximately 17,000 animals. Southern Mountain and Boreal caribou populations are currently listed as "Threatened" under the Federal Species at Risk Act, and significant efforts are underway to support the protection and recovery of these herds. Recent recovery efforts are helping stabilize and increase some caribou herds, with the population now around 19,000 across B.C.

The reasons for caribou population declines are complex, with multiple interacting factors (e.g., habitat change, predation, natural disturbance, climate change, etc.) and may differ somewhat across the province. In most cases, however, caribou population declines are driven by predator-prey imbalances resulting from habitat change that have led to unsustainable rates of predation towards caribou. Not surprisingly, evidence collected through research and monitoring in B.C. suggests the best results for caribou recovery are achieved when multiple recovery actions are taken (i.e., combinations of habitat protection and restoration, predator reduction, maternal penning, supplemental feeding, etc.). Long-term success for caribou recovery will depend on landscape-level habitat protection and restoration, however, it may be decades before the benefits of such measures are realized. It will be a combination of population recovery actions that provide immediate benefits along with long-term habitat protection and restoration initiatives that will help achieve the overarching objective self-sustaining caribou herds.

The Province continues to use a comprehensive and adaptive approach to conservation that is informed by science and traditional knowledge.

Caribou recovery initiatives currently underway include:

- Together with our partners, the Province is advancing recovery planning and implementation for many caribou herds across the province.
- Predator reduction efforts implemented to support caribou recovery are applied to select herds across B.C. and have contributed to stabilizing or increasing population trends in many of those herds.
- Indirect reduction of wolf populations by stabilizing moose populations through increased hunting opportunities, which is being applied in one caribou range. However, moose enhancement objectives exist in many areas outside of caribou range.
- Maternity pens to protect female caribou and their newborn calves from predators are in place in northern and southern BC.
- Supplemental feeding trials to support nutritional intake are in place in select herds.
- Population monitoring and enhanced research on caribou habitat use, mortality causes, and survival rates through the use of satellite GPS collar technology.
- A number of habitat restoration projects are underway, including ground lichen seeding and restoration of linear features.
- Habitat protection measures, including the establishment of new Ungulate Winter Ranges, Wildlife Habitat Areas, and expansion of Provincial Parks.
- Motorized recreation restrictions and closures to reduce potential disturbance and displacement of caribou.

What should you know as an outdoor recreation enthusiast?

If you are lucky enough to see caribou, shut off any recreational all-terrain vehicles and let the caribou pass. Snow machines, helicopters, or skiers may increase stress on caribou, which can reduce their energy reserves during winter and affect over-winter survival and/or reproductive success the following summer. Continued disturbance can also result in range abandonment by caribou. Your support of recreational closures will contribute to caribou recovery.

Of note, Northern Mountain caribou are listed under the Federal Species at Risk Act as "Special Concern", meaning they are not facing many of the same challenges that Southern Mountain and Boreal caribou are facing. Many Northern Mountain caribou herds are abundant and self-sustaining and can support licensed hunting opportunities.

More information on caribou recovery in B.C. can be obtained at **gov.bc.ca/caribou**

Notice to Black 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. 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 less than two years old or any bear in its company (i.e., the sow). Take the time to ensure that cubs are not nearby.
4. Be aware there is no open season on grizzly bear or white (Kermode) or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.
5. Contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office immediately for important information if you shoot an ear-tagged or radio-collared bear. See Ear Tags and Collars section, page 11.

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

Wildlife Health

Wildlife Health

Wildlife health is closely linked to environmental, domestic animal, and human health. Assessment of wildlife health benefits everyone. Your observations about how wild animals appear and behave can provide information on B.C. wildlife population health and sustainability. Videos, photos, and written/verbal descriptions may be valuable. For more information on/contacts for wildlife health see: **www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth** or the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative website at: **www.cwhc-rcsf.ca.**

Human Health

For threats to human health, (e.g., West Nile virus, parasites, and Lyme's disease), pick up a copy of Diseases You Can Get from Wildlife from a government office or visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth**. For more information on specific diseases see: BC Centre for Disease Control website: **www.bccdc.ca/health-info**. Note information on the recently recognized parasite, Echinococcus multilocularis.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease found in species of the deer family (cervids). Infected animals may not appear sick as signs take months to develop after infection. In advanced stages of the disease, weight loss, behaviour changes, drooling, poor coordination, and trembling may be seen. **If you observe a cervid with these symptoms please report them and their location to the Conservation Officer Service through the RAPP Line (1-877-952-7277) or to the B.C. Wildlife Health Program at CWD@gov.bc.ca**

CWD was confirmed for the first time in B.C. in January 2024. The B.C. CWD Program has implemented a response plan that is focused on limiting disease transmission and spread to new areas.

Hunters can help by understanding the risks of CWD. Materials that contain CWD prions, such as carcasses and urine-based scents, can introduce CWD to new areas, contaminate the environment and expose wildlife. Please follow regulations to reduce the risk of CWD spread by human activity. If transporting cervid parts from areas affected by CWD be aware of the risks and dispose of this material in a landfill. Ensure tools and equipment are properly cleaned (40% bleach solution has been effective on metal surfaces).

Hunters and trappers can also help by submitting samples. CWD testing provides critical information needed to support science-based disease management. If you hunt deer, elk, or moose, please submit samples for testing. **Submission of samples from harvested deer is mandatory in the CWD Management Zone in the Kootenay Region.** Learn about how and where to submit samples at: **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease.**

Jurisdictions neighboring B.C. may have restrictions on the import or transport of cervid carcasses aiming to reduce potential CWD spread. It is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of the regulations that apply in the jurisdiction they are in.

Bird Health

Reports of sick and dead wild birds are of interest to several government agencies and bird enthusiasts. If you find a dead wild bird – please participate in our BC Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Program. What to report: 3 or more dead birds in the same geographic location or individual birds of the following species; species at risk, water-associated birds or raptors. For more information see: **www. gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth** or call 1-866-431-BIRD (2473).