

Fall/Winter 2014

HUNTING

GUIDE



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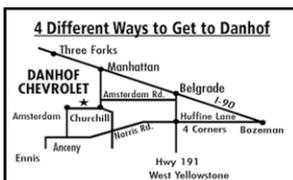
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Fall/Winter 2014

HUNTING GUIDE

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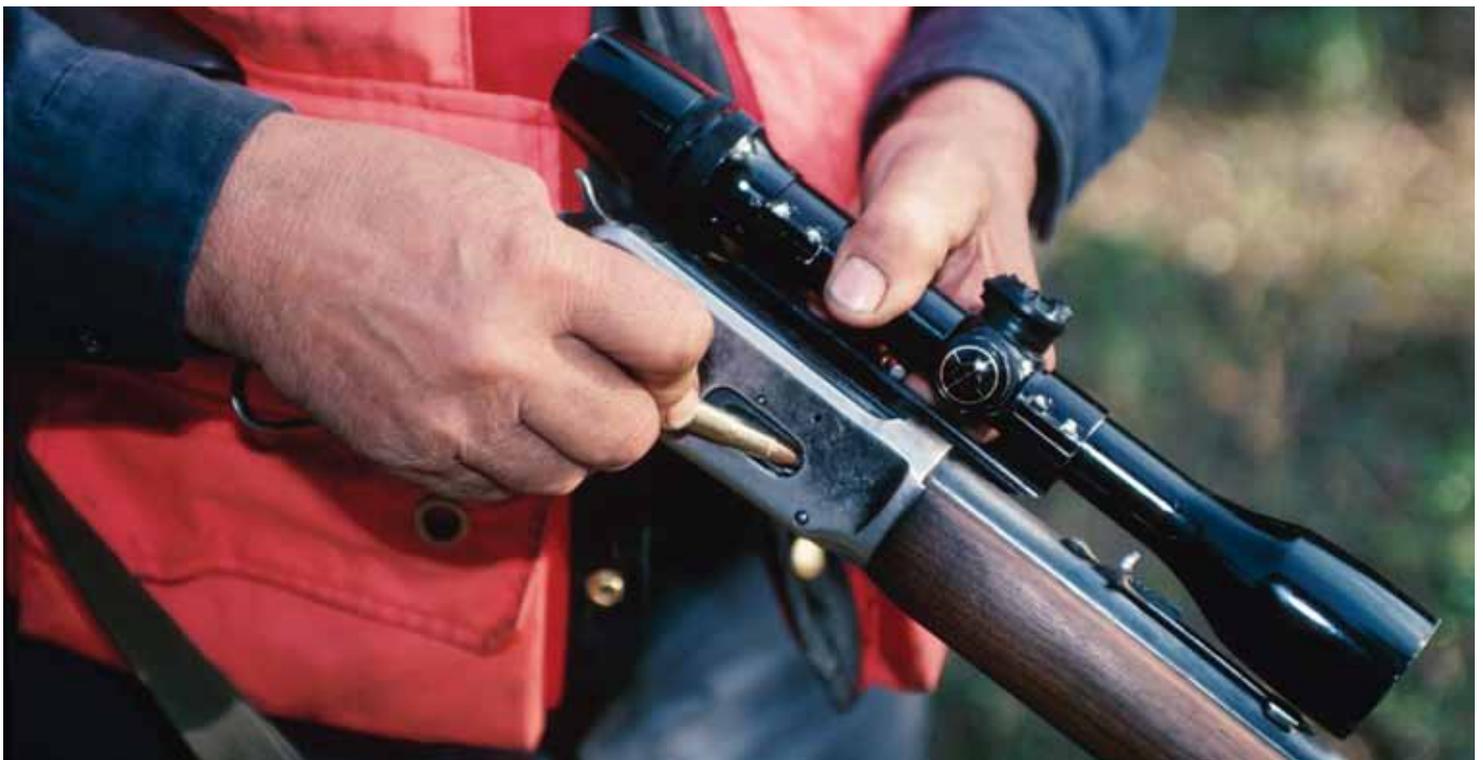
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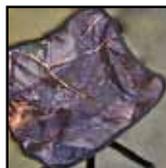
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GOOD YEAR

predicted for waterfowl hunting

By Kelley Christensen
Montana Standard

Though the waterfowl hunting season dates won't be set until the end of August, a Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks official has said it will be a good year.

"Ducks in general are at all time highs," said Ken McDonald, wildlife chief at FWP. "We're expecting really good numbers. There's lots of water in the potholes and the duck habitat. There's been good successful breeding. All in all the ducks are doing really well. We have the most liberal regulations that are allowed."

The only big change this year is that in the southeastern part of the state there's a proposal to split the season so there will be a two-week break in the middle to allow two weeks longer at the end of the season. This change was proposed to give

hunters more opportunity to hunt geese particularly along the Yellowstone River.

Hunting seasons for the species are as follows:

-- In the Central flyway, duck, coot and associated falconry season have yet to be determined. The youth weekend is Sept. 27 and 28, 2014.

-- In the Pacific flyway, duck, coot, scaup and associated falconry season have yet to be determined. The youth weekend is Sept. 27 and 28, 2014.

-- For both the Central and Pacific flyways, goose and its associated falconry season have yet to be determined. The youth weekend is Sept. 27 and 28, 2014.

-- In both Pacific and Central flyways, tundra swan and swan seasons have yet to be determined.



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BY LINE-X

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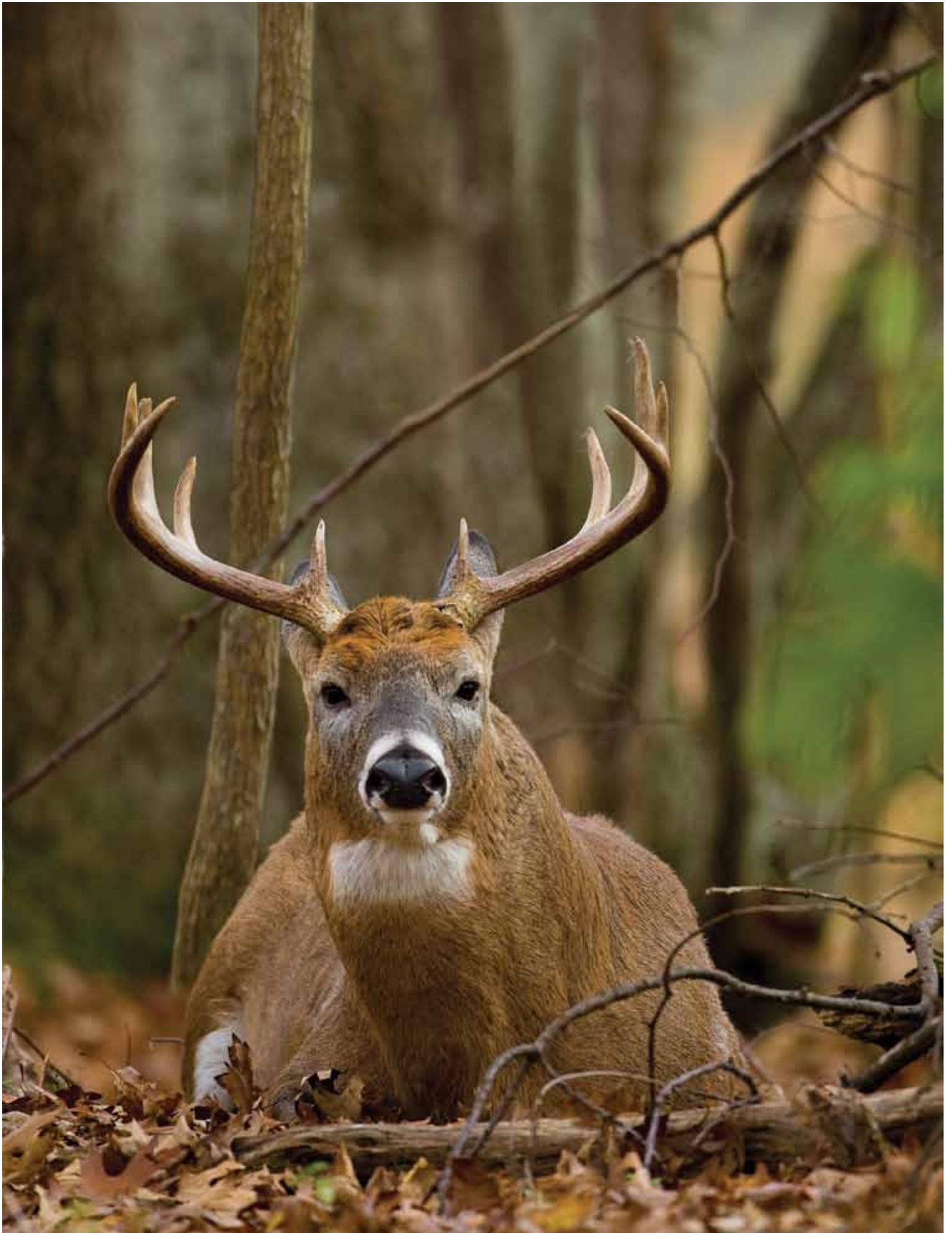


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DEER

hunting preview

By *TOM KUGLIN*
Independent Record

That first glimpse of polished tines darting through underbrush is enough to get any deer hunter's adrenaline pumping, and with six weeks of archery and five weeks of general season, hunters should have ample opportunity this fall to fill their freezers.

Whether it's a high mountain pass where a mule buck with deep forks stands in an alpine meadow, or a narrow creek bottom holding that perfect 5x5 whitetail nestled beneath a willow, more than 50,000 deer call Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 3 home.

And lest we forget the wily pronghorn, the fastest land animal in North America and resident of several western Montana valleys.

Finding animals could be more of a challenge this year because of strong moisture through the spring and summer, said Jay Sherley, avid hunter and owner of Capital Sports and Western Wear in Helena.

"There's a lot of green grass out there, and it might be a little bit harder to pinpoint animals because it's usually so dry and only a few green patches bringing animals in," he said.

When it comes to getting started for the novice hunter, Sherley recommends heading to the hills early to scout for animals and taking the time to go into a sporting goods or archery shop and talking with knowledgeable people.

Mule deer numbers have fluctuated in Region 3 while whitetails in the region have avoid diseases plaguing them in other areas of the state, said Howard Burt, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist who oversees Region 3.

"For mule deer it's defiantly variable and obviously in

some areas they're down quite a bit," he said. "But this has been a pretty darn good year with some timely rains. We're seeing some pretty good recruitment and fawn survival."

While there has been a downward trend for mule deer for much of Region 3 in recent years, some areas have started coming back from those low numbers, Burt said.

The 10-year average for mule deer in Region 3 came in at nearly 42,500, while the total estimated population for 2013 based on aerial surveys and harvest was 33,700.

Most hunting districts in Region 3 require a special hunting license for antlered or antlerless mule deer, so hunters need to be aware of regulations for their unit.

Deer numbers look pretty good for some areas near Dillon as well as the Gravelly units 322 and 330, Burt said.

Low mule deer numbers led FWP to cut doe tags for much of the state, although biologists have added tags in some areas.

For hunting districts 380 in the Elkhorns, and 390, 391, and 393 in the Belts, FWP eliminated antlerless mule deer tags, said area biologist Adam Grove.

"The mule deer are still down and we're hoping they've hit rock bottom but coming back up," he said.

With mule deer numbers down last year, FWP anticipated harvest would be down as well. That turned out not to be the case, as harvest came in at average or a little better, Grove said.

Sherley heard about plenty of success last fall from customers at Capital Sports, he said.

Continue on page 8

“It seemed like last year customers’ success rates were way up,” Sherley said. “We’re also seeing more archery hunters and more females getting into it for sure.”

FWP biologist Vanna Boccadori based in Butte has also seen mule deer down in her area, although numbers are high enough in district 319 to offer some antlerless tags, she said.

“We’ve seen a west-wide decline in mule deer populations,” she said. “But we’ve done some winter range habitat improvements and upped lion quotas so I’m doing what I can.”

While areas near Missoula and in eastern Montana have seen whitetail deer ravaged by disease, Region 3 has made it through mostly unscathed, Burt said.

Whitetail deer numbers are down from the 10-year average of nearly 24,000, with around 20,600 estimated through surveys and harvest.

“We did not pick that up here as far as any large die offs like in some areas,” Burt said. “We have seen a little lower numbers of deer in some areas, but not those massive die offs.”

Grove did not have as much data on whitetails as mule deer, but they seem to be holding on a little better through the winter, he said.

While temperatures did get cold, they fluctuated enough the ground cleared for forage and spring came a couple of weeks earlier for his area than some others in western Montana, Grove said.

“We probably lost a few fawns but for the most part we had decent fawn recruitment which is a good indication of winter kill at about average,” he said.

While not many whitetails occupy the high country near Butte, they seem to be holding steady, Boccadori said.

Although far fewer pronghorn reside in the western half of the state, the speedy antelope can be found

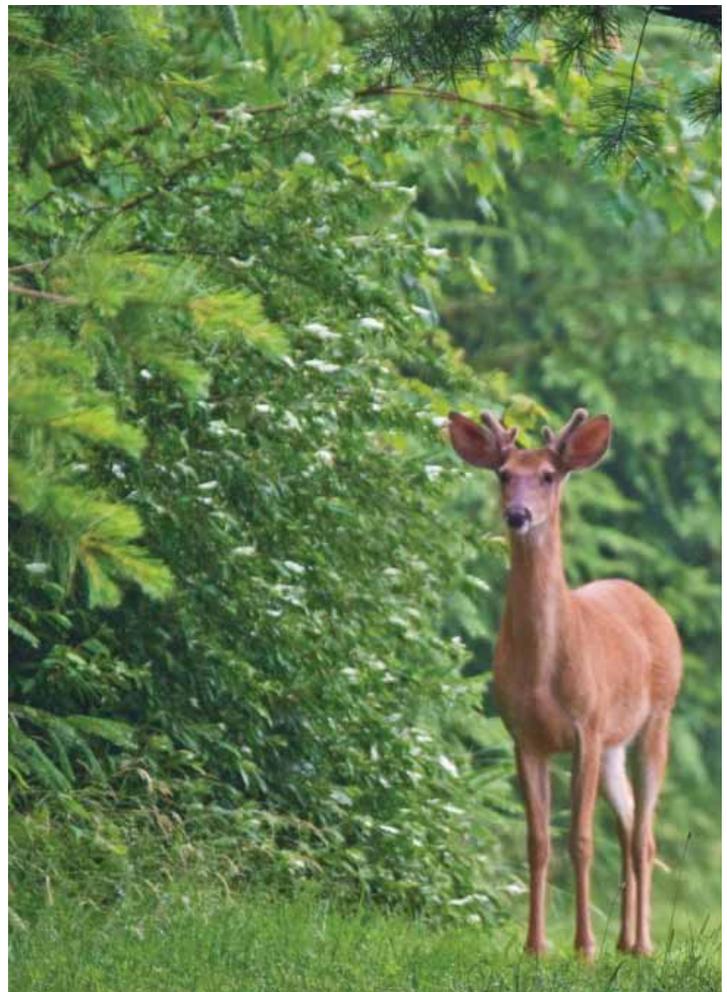
in many of the grassy flatlands with limited tags offered by lottery. Some antelope hunters started off their seasons August 15 when archery season opened for the state with a special archery only tag.

Pronghorn in the Centennial Valley are stable to slightly decreasing in numbers while around Butte, FWP increased tags, he said. Antelope around Sheridan were doing pretty fair, although surveys have not been completed for last year, Burt said.

When it comes to trophies, an antelope with a bow and arrow is the hardest to get given the open country and the animals’ exceptional vision, Sherley said.

“This August has been amazing and the weather’s been good,” Sherley said. “It’s exciting for people to get out into the woods, but they still need to be cautious of fires and all that stuff.”

For many hunters, hunting season cannot come soon enough.





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PREVIEW



By **TOM KUGLIN**
Independent Record

Soon the scorching summer days will step aside for the cooler days of September and on into the fall, bringing with it the first chance for most big game hunters to venture into the woods.

For many hunters in the Helena and Butte areas, nothing can match the bugle of a bull elk supercharged with the heat of the rut. Bugles can echo for miles across canyons as bulls search of mates, but can also give archers a sizeable advantage locating a trophy.

The end of October means rifle hunters can hardly wait to don hunter orange and make a few tracks through the season's first snow in search of long ivory tips etched in the predawn light. But no matter your choice of weapon, the fall brings anticipation across the state, and hunters hoping for success are always looking for the best areas to bring them luck.

While elk hunting and simply finding elk can be hit or miss, sporting goods stores are gearing up for the season in their busiest time of year.

"I've been in business for 26 years, and every year archery has grown and my sales are up every single year," said Gary Dudden, owner of Rocky Mountain Archery in Butte.

Dudden also teaches bow hunter education, and the July field day graduated an incredible 162 bow hunters, he said.

One of the biggest mistakes novice archers make is using hand-me-down equipment that does not fit them, he said. Using archery gear with the proper draw length and draw weight is crucial to becoming a deadly shot, even if it means passing up a sweet deal on a bow from your uncle, Dudden joked.

Despite national polls showing hunter numbers down, Jay Sherley at Capital Sports and Western Wear in Helena is in the middle of another busy summer getting Helenans ready to hunt.

Continue on page 12

The advertisement for SportDOG features a central image of a black and white dog sitting on a rocky outcrop, looking up at a pheasant in flight. In the background, a hunter in orange safety gear stands in a field. The SportDOG logo is in the top right corner with the tagline "BEAT THE WAY YOU'D DESIGN IT". An orange banner at the top left reads "NOT ALL RELIGIOUS UPBRINGINGS INVOLVE SCRIPTURE." In the bottom right, an open notebook shows handwritten notes and a drawing of a dog. The website "SPORTDOG.COM" is visible in the bottom left of the image area.

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Capital Sports added an archery shop last May, and the addition has brought in a huge influx of customers, he said.

“It’s crazy, we have three full-time guys and have a hard time keeping up,” Sherley said. “And elk is probably people’s prime elusive animal.”

Sherley recommends talking with experienced hunters and callers before going to the woods, adding that Capital Sports will offer an elk calling seminar on Aug. 26. For rifle hunters, Sherley recommends a minimum caliber of a .270 or 7mm_08, especially for kids or women starting out.

Elk across much of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 3 are at or above management objectives, according to the latest aerial surveys, and doing well considering the severity of last winter.

“Most of the region is looking pretty good from an elk standpoint,” said Howard Burt, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist who oversees Region 3.

Areas north of Helena like 339 are near objective, while

the lower end of the Belts are above objective in districts 390, and 391, he said. The hunting districts in the Big Hole are at or above objective as well, he added.

Some areas come in well over objective, with districts in the Gravelly Range estimated at 2,000 elk above and some of 390, 391 and 393 at double or triple objectives. FWP biologist Adam Grove oversees, 380 in the Elkhorns and the 390 districts in the lower Belts. Getting hunters access to some private lands where elk frequent has kept numbers especially high for those areas, he said.

“There wasn’t much winter kill for elk,” Grove said, adding that harvest numbers for elk in both the Elkhorns and Belts was close to average. “We’re generally well above objective.”

High elk numbers was echoed by FWP biologist Vanna Boccadori for her area near Butte, which includes districts 340, 350 and 370, making up an area known as the Highlands. The three districts are significantly above objectives, and offer a nine day cow hunt with a general license, providing a good opportunity for hunters to fill the freezer and also bring numbers back towards management goals, she said.



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“Calf crops look pretty good considering the winter,” she said. “We did have some weather that really settled in, and some areas that normally are windswept were not.”

Boccardori did see some elk winter kill in her area either due to weather or predation, she said. Hunting districts 319 and 341 on the Fleecer Mountain Wildlife Management Area surveyed below objective.

Despite the deep freeze throughout much of Region 3, calf numbers stayed as high as 40 calves per 100 cows meaning good numbers for this year and into the future, she said.

“In general we’re seeing one calf to every two cows,” Boccardori said. “Various areas are going to offer some really good opportunities.”

Much of the Gallatin area and near Gardiner surveyed below objective, Burt said.

Districts 310, 311, 360N, 360S all reported below for the Gallatin/Madison units. District 313 north of Yellow-

stone National Park reported 1,000 elk below objective. Some of the Gallatin/Madison districts did meet management goals, with Districts 301, 314, and 362 hitting their objectives.

Districts 331 East and 332 West in the Pioneers also came in low, but district 329 was at objective with more than 900 elk estimated in the unit.

Hunting districts can vary widely in regulations, and some require special permits available through drawings held earlier this year. Hunters should double check before heading out to their favorite local, as regulations could have changed from last year.

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- Only one license or permit of any type may be purchased each year, unless otherwise specified and allowed in the regulations, such as a hunter may purchase more than one deer B license.
- Many licenses or permits may be purchased from license providers or online licensing. Some licenses and permits are available only through a drawing.
- Refer to the Licenses Available Chart for a complete list of resident and nonresident licenses and application or purchase deadlines.

Online Licensing

- You may apply for permits and/or licenses and purchase many general hunting licenses from FWP Online Licensing between approximately 5:15 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., MST, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates.
- Go to <https://app.mt.gov/Als/Index> and follow the instructions.
- Online purchases must be made by using a MasterCard or Visa credit card.
- Montana residents must have purchased a conservation license through the automated licensing system (ALS) in a previous license year and have an ALS number to buy licenses online. See Residency.
- Don't wait until the last minute to buy your hunting license online as carcass tags are mailed to you within 10 days of your purchase.
- All online license purchases and applications are final and cannot be changed or withdrawn.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC)

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

Residency

- It is illegal to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain an original or duplicate resident hunting and/or fishing license OR to assist an unqualified applicant in obtaining a resident license.

Resident

- To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:
 - have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;
 - register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
 - be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
 - not possess (or have applied for any) current resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;
 - file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.

- Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days per year (days need not be consecutive).
- A person is NOT considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:
 - claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or
 - is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.
- To purchase an annual resident conservation license you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver's License (MDL), a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC) or a valid Tribal Identification Card.
- If your MDL or MIC was issued less than six months ago, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. An out-of-state driver's license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.

Nonresident

- Montana's nonresident guests are eligible to purchase or apply for most Montana fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license and/or permit quota for a district. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.
- Nonresident unmarried minors, at least 12 (by Jan 16, 2015) but not older than 17 years of age, can hunt in Montana as a resident if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana. See "Youth Hunter" chart for details on youth 11 years of age.

Armed Forces

- A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's dependent who resides in the member's Montana household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if:
 - the member was a resident of Montana under the provisions listed under residency at the time the member entered the armed forces and continues to meet these residency criteria; or,
 - the member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for a least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

Prerequisites

Conservation License

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

year begins on March 1 and runs through the last day of February.

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

Hunting Access Enhancement Fee (HAEF)

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

Game Damage Hunt Roster Rules

- The game damage hunt roster is a randomized list of hunters' names. If FWP identifies a need to implement a game damage hunt, the game damage hunt roster will be used to select hunters. Selected hunters will be contacted by FWP.
- Sign up for the game damage hunt roster is from June 15 –July 15, 2014, and only on the FWP website.

12-hour Closure

- In Administrative Region 4, elk HD 424 and HD 442 may be subject to 12-hour closure for the antlerless portion of the general brow-tined bull or antlerless elk season,
- If the elk quota is reached, the general season will revert to only the brow-tined bull regulation until the end of the general season.
- Contact Region 4 Headquarters or the Augusta Check Station for updates.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education Requirements

If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

Youth must be 11 years old before they can begin taking the Hunter Education course.

Bowhunter Education Requirements

To purchase a Montana bow and arrow license, a hunter must:

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

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Duplicate Certificates

Bowhunter or Hunter Education certificates of completion for the Montana hunter education and/or bowhunter education courses may be obtained from FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

License and Permit Types

Bow and Arrow License

A bow and arrow license, plus the proper hunting license is required during: (1) the deer, elk and/or antelope Archery Only Season; or (2) to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district.

Conservation License

Prerequisite for all resident and nonresident licenses. It includes the state lands recreation license which is required for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes on State School Trust Lands.

Deer License

General Deer License

- The general deer license is Montana's license valid for one deer. Hunters may hold only one general deer license. It can be used for deer as indicated under the "General Deer License" heading on the deer and elk hunting district pages of these regulations.
- Residents may purchase only one deer and/or one elk general license each year. Licenses may be purchased from license providers or online licensing beginning mid January. Each license year, a new Conservation License is required in order to purchase any fishing, trapping or hunting license(s), or to apply for any license or permit.
- Resident hunters may purchase a general Deer license over the counter at FWP offices and other license vendors. Residents may also buy a sportsman's license, which includes a general deer license. Some disabled, youth, and senior hunters may qualify for discounted licenses.
- Nonresidents cannot buy their general deer license over the counter. They must obtain what's known as a "deer combination" license, which includes a general deer license as well as several other licenses. Montana makes 4,600 General Drawing and 2,000 land owner sponsored licenses available each year. Demand is greater than supply, so to get a deer combination license, you need to apply in a random lottery drawing by March 15 for either a:
 - Big game (deer and elk) combination license, which is also good for fishing and upland bird hunting, or a
 - Deer combination license, which is also good for fishing and upland bird hunting.
 - You can apply for only one of these licenses each year.

Deer B License

- Valid for one deer during a specific time period, or for a certain species and sex, and in a particular hunting district or group of districts. May be offered through a drawing or over-the-counter.
- A deer B license is usually a license for antlerless mule deer or white-tailed deer, depending on the license type and hunting district.

- The deer B license allows you to kill a deer in addition to the deer you could harvest with your general deer license.
- There is no particular order in which the general deer and deer B licenses must be purchased or used.
- Most deer B licenses are available through the **June 2** drawing but some are available for purchase at License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing.
- A hunter may possess a total of seven deer B licenses in any combination.
- A hunter may purchase only one single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer per year.
- The single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer is in addition to other deer B licenses a person may obtain through a drawing or purchase at License Providers. You must designate the region in which you will use the single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer at the time of purchase. Check the hunting district in which you will hunt for specific regulations and valid dates for the single-region license.

Single-Region Deer B Licenses for White-tailed Deer

- A hunter may purchase only one single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer per year.
- The single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer is in addition to other deer B licenses a person may obtain through a drawing or purchase at License Providers. You must designate the region in which you will use the single-region deer B license for white-tailed deer at the time of purchase.
- Licenses are available beginning August 4 from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing.
- Check the hunting district in which you will hunt for specific regulations and valid dates for the single-region license.
- The following Single-Region White-tailed Deer B License opportunities for residents and/or nonresidents are offered for the 2014 hunting season.

Single-Region Resident/Nonresident

White-tailed Deer B Licenses

R3	003-00. All Region 3 HDs, except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA
R7	007-00. All Region 7 HDs.

Single-Region Resident Only

White-tailed Deer B Licenses

R7	007-01. 2nd WT B License. All Region 7 HDs.
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Deer Permit

- Permits are valid for hunting the specified sex-age class during the time period(s) listed.
- Hunters who receive a deer permit must use it with a current general deer license. A deer permit does not allow you to take a second deer.

- Hunters who receive a deer permit valid for taking an antlered buck mule deer (with their general deer license) are restricted to taking an antlered buck mule deer only in the district or portion of district specified on the permit. They may not hunt antlered buck mule deer anywhere else in Montana even if the General Season or Archery Only Season is open to mule deer buck hunting with a general deer license. This applies to all deer permit areas, whether limited or unlimited, for antlered buck mule deer.
- Deer permits are available through the March 15 drawing to Residents and Nonresidents. Be sure to check individual hunting district regulations for specific deer permit details. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license/permit quota.
- Residents must hold a general deer license before using a deer permit.
- Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Deer Combination License before applying for a deer permit.
- The following White-tailed and Mule Deer Permit opportunities are offered for the 2014 hunting season.

Deer Permits Resident/Nonresident

R1	109-50, 130-50
R2	202-50, 204-50, 210-50, 212-50, 213-50, 214-50, 215-50, 240-50, 240-51, 250-50, 261-50, 270-50, 281-50, 291-50, 291-51, 292-50
R3	300-50, 302-50, 312-50, 318-50, 319-50, 324-50, 329-50, 335-50, 339-50, 343-50, 380-50, 390-50, 391-50, 392-50
R4	441-50, 455-20 (either sex MD or WT)
R5	510-50, 530-50
R6	630-20 (either sex WT deer, Residents with Disability Conservation License), 652-50

Over-the-Counter (OTC) B License

- Certain deer B licenses with unlimited quotas are available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers beginning August 4.
- The following over-the-counter Deer B License opportunities are offered for the 2014 hunting season. See individual hunting district regulations for specifics.

OTC Deer B Licenses

R1	170-00
R2	212-20, 260-01, 262-01, 262-02, 290-00
R3	003-00, 312-00, 317-00, 320-00, 322-00, 333-00, 340-00, 360-00, 388-00
R7	007-00, 007-01

Elk License

General Elk License

- A general elk license is the basic license for hunting elk. Montana's general elk-hunting license is valid for one elk. Hunters may hold only one general elk license. It can be used only according to the specific regulations of the hunting district in which you hunt.
- Resident hunters may purchase this license over the counter at FWP offices and other license vendors for \$20 plus the required conservation license (\$8) and hunter access enhancement fee (\$2). Residents may also buy a sportsman's license (prices vary), which includes a general elk license. Some disabled, youth, and senior hunters may qualify for discounted licenses.
- Nonresidents cannot buy their general elk license over the counter. They must obtain what's known as an "elk combination" license, which includes a general elk license as well as several other licenses. Montana makes 17,000 of these General Drawing licenses available each year. Demand is greater than supply, so to get a combination license, you need to apply in a random lottery drawing by March 15 for either a:
 - Big game (deer and elk) combination license, which is also good for fishing and upland bird hunting, or a
 - Elk combination license, which is also good for fishing and upland bird hunting.
 - You can apply for only one of these licenses each year.

Elk B License

- The elk B license is valid for taking an antlerless elk during a specific time period and in a particular hunting district or group of districts.
- The elk B licenses are designed to control elk numbers and many are only valid on private land.
- A limited elk B license is obtained only through the drawing and has an application deadline date of June 2.
- Unlimited elk B licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and are available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing. See individual hunting districts for details.
- The only prerequisite for the elk B license is a conservation license.
- Each hunter may possess only one elk B license per license year in addition to a general elk license.
- Elk B license hunting opportunities may be restricted to portions of individual hunting districts. See individual hunting districts for specific details.

- In the districts 100, 101, 103, 104, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 130, 132, 140, 200, 201, 202, 204, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 240, 261, 270, 282, 283, 285, and 291 the following restriction applies: **Hunters who receive a B license to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Archery and/or Firearm Seasons may not take an antlered elk in the district for which the B license is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the B license is valid for only a portion of the season.**
- The following limited and unlimited Elk B License opportunities are offered for the 2014 hunting season.

Elk B Licenses

R1	100-00, 103-00, 110-00, 121-02, 130-00	101-00, 104-00, 120-00, 122-00, 132-00	101-01, 109-00, 121-00, 123-00, 133-00	101-02, 109-02, 121-01, 124-00, 140-00
R2	200-00, 212-00, 214-00, 240-00, 270-00, 270-04, 283-03, 291-00	201-00, 212-01, 215-00, 261-00, 270-01, 270-05, 285-01, 293-00	201-01, 212-03, 215-01, 261-01, 270-02, 282-00, 285-02, 298-00	202-00, 211-00, 213-00, 216-00, 262-01, 270-03, 283-02, 290-00
R3	300-00, 315-01, 320-00, 329-00, 340-00, 361-00, 380-02, 392-01	302-00, 317-00, 321-00, 334-00, 341-00, 370-00, 390-00, 393-01	312-00, 318-00, 323-00, 335-00, 343-00, 380-00, 391-00	314-00, 319-00, 328-00, 339-00, 360-01, 380-01, 392-00
R4	004-00, 416-00, 425-02, 442-00	410-00, 422-00, 425-03, 448-00	410-01, 425-00, 425-04, 455-00	411-00, 425-01, 425-05
R5	005-00	520-00		
R6	620-00, 631-00, 690-01	621-00, 631-01	621-01, 632-00	622-00, 690-00
R7	700-00	798-01, 799-00	900-00	

Elk Permit

- Elk permits, allotted by drawings, allow you to hunt in a restricted area or time period or to harvest a bull where bull harvest restrictions exist for hunters who have only a general elk license.
- Permits are not a second license for killing an additional elk. Rather, you must use them with your general elk license.
- Elk permits are available through the March 15 drawing to Residents and Nonresidents. Be sure to check individual hunting district regulations for specific deer permit details. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license/permit quota.

- Learn about the hunting district you wish to hunt before applying for a permit. For instance, don't put in for a backcountry area if you aren't willing and prepared to backpack in. And don't apply in hunting districts that are mostly private land if you aren't certain you can get permission.
- Residents must hold a general elk license before applying for an elk permit.
- Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Big Game Elk Combination License before applying for an elk permit.
- In all or a portion of each of the following hunting districts a hunter is required to have successfully drawn a special permit before hunting a bull elk or brow-tined bull elk in all or a portion of the fall hunting seasons. See individual hunting districts for specific regulations.
- The following limited and unlimited Bull Elk Permit opportunities are offered for the 2014 hunting season.

Bull Elk Permits

R2	212-45, 283-10	250-45, 270-50, 282-10
R3	310-45, 339-20, 380-20	310-46, 313-10, 313-50
R4	401-20, 412-20, 426-20, 450-20	410-20, 417-20, 441-20, 445-20, 455-20
R5	411-20, 570-20, 590-20	500-20, 575-20, 580-21, 580-22
R6	620-20, 631-20, 690-20	620-21, 621-20, 632-20, 632-21
R7	798-20, 798-21, 799-20, 900-20	

Over-the-Counter (OTC) B License

- Certain elk B licenses with unlimited quotas are available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers beginning August 4.
- The following over-the-counter Elk B License opportunities are offered for the 2014 hunting season. See individual hunting district regulations for specifics.

OTC Elk B Licenses

R2	212-03, 283-03, 290-00
R3	393-01

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Replacements

Replacements of lost, stolen or destroyed licenses or permits may be purchased at FWP offices and FWP License Providers. A second duplicate license for the same species within a two-year period may only be purchased at an FWP office. A person may not replace a license requiring a carcass tag a third time for the same species within a two-year period. A fee of \$5 per license will be charged for each duplicate license.

It is unlawful to:

- Swear or affirm to a false statement in order to obtain a duplicate.
- Possess an original as well as a duplicate license(s). If the original is found, it must be returned to FWP at any regional office.
- Allow a license of any type to be used by another person.

SuperTag Lottery

Open to residents and nonresidents.

Species	Deadline to Purchase SuperTag Chances (\$5 each)
Antelope	July 3
Bighorn Sheep	
Bison	
Deer	
Elk	
Moose	
Mountain Goat	
Mountain Lion	

- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion.
- An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year.
- Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species.
- Moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat 7-year waiting period does not apply to SuperTags.
- Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the online licenses at fwp.mt.gov.
- Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
- For more information visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

Availability of Licenses & Permits

Purchase your fishing license, hunting licenses(s) and apply for drawings online
<https://app.mt.gov/AIs/Index>

Deadlines and Cost

- A complete list of licenses, cost and deadlines for drawing applications is available on pages 114-115 in the Licenses & Permits Availability Chart.
- Applications, as well as some general licenses, and many licenses and permits awarded through a drawing, have a purchase or application deadline.
- Applications are available at FWP License Providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website. Nonresidents may call 406-444-2950 to request an application through the mail.
- You may have your application entered directly into the system at an FWP office or you may mail in your application. If the application is mailed, it must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. The postmark must be an official U.S. Postal Service mark. A postage meter postmark will not be accepted.
- FWP encourages hunters to apply online for permits/licenses awarded through a drawing as safeguards will not accept incomplete applications. Also, your information is retained for future purchases or license applications.

Drawing Applications

- Drawing applications are available from FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov and from License Providers.
- Applications for deer and elk permits must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before **March 15**. Applications for deer B, elk B, antelope and/or antelope B licenses must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before **June 2**. Hunters may apply online no later than **March 15** for deer and elk permits or **June 2** for deer B, elk B, antelope and antelope B licenses.
- Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to apply for most of the licenses awarded through the drawings. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license and/or permit quota.
- Drawings are based upon the final quotas adopted by the F&W Commission which may differ from the quotas listed in the printed hunting district regulations.
- For specific license/permit opportunities please refer to the hunting district regulations where you will find a complete list of all available hunting opportunities for each hunting district.

Party Applications

- Applicants may apply as a "party." If you apply as a party, each party member must list the identical license/permit choices in the identical order on his/her application. If one or more party member does not pay the bonus point fee, but the other members pay the fee, those who have not paid the fee will be taken out of the party. It is unlawful to loan or transfer a license to another or to use a license issued to another.
- Either everyone in the party is successful in obtaining a license or everyone is unsuccessful. A party of individuals is assigned one random number in the computer. If that number is drawn, each member of the party receives a permit/license.
- The success rate for applying as a party versus as an individual is about the same. However, if

a resident applies with a nonresident in a party, the whole party is considered "nonresident" because of the 10 percent quota limit on nonresident licenses and/or permits.

- The maximum number of applicants in a party is 5 members.

Licenses and Permits Through A Drawing

- You may apply for a permit and/or license that allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area or time period. You may also decide to participate in the bonus point system.
- Residents must hold a general deer license before using a deer permit.
- Residents must hold a general elk license before applying for an elk permit.
- Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Deer Combination License before applying for a deer permit.
- Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Big Game Elk Combination License before applying for an elk permit.
- Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License are reminded that the license (including deer B licenses) entitles them to hunt deer only on the deeded lands of the sponsoring landowner. This license may not be used on leased or public land. However, the license is valid statewide for fishing and hunting upland game birds.
- Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License may apply for a deer permit or deer B license only in the hunting district where they are authorized to hunt deer.

Bonus & Preference Point System

Bonus Points can increase your chances to draw a license or permit.

- Bonus points essentially offer you additional drawing chances and are used for first choice drawings only.
- Existing bonus points will be mathematically "squared" prior to the drawing. That means if you already have 3 "base" bonus points those will be "squared" and you'll then have 9 bonus points going into the drawing.
- If you wish to participate in the Bonus Point program (to use or gain points), make sure to check "YES" on the Bonus Point questions and include the \$20 (nonresident) or \$2 (resident) Bonus Point fee for each license/permit drawing applied for.
- If you're unsuccessful, you'll be awarded an additional base bonus point for next year's drawing.
- All "base" bonus points accumulate over time until you obtain a license/permit or you fail to participate in the bonus point system for that species. Bonus points are lost if they are not used for 2 consecutive years.
- Bonus points are nontransferable; they cannot be transferred between the species drawings or individuals.
- The base bonus points for a party are the average of their individual base bonus points rounded to the nearest whole number.

Landowner Preference

- Montana landowners (resident and nonresident) may qualify for preference in the license/permit drawings for deer, elk, and antelope.
- In order to claim landowner preference for deer B, deer permit, and/or antelope drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 160 contiguous acres of land within the hunting district applied for. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, the landowner must own land within that portion and the land must be used primarily for agricultural purposes.
- In order to claim landowner preference for the elk B license and/or elk permit drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 640 contiguous acres of land within a district regularly used by elk for one or more seasonal activities. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, a landowner must own land within that portion to claim preference.
- A landowner may designate his/her preference to a member of his/her immediate family (blood or marriage related) or a ranch manager (paid employee who has state, federal, or FICA taxes withheld from pay). Only one person may use designated preference in a partnership or corporation.
- Nonresidents owning land in Montana should contact FWP Headquarters in Helena at 406-444-2950 for details on how to apply for landowner preference. See the Licenses Available Chart for prerequisite license requirements and deadlines to apply.

Drawing Results

License	Drawing Results	Refunds Mailed
Nonresident Combination	Mid-April	End of April
Deer & Elk Permits	Mid-April	End of April
<u>SuperTags</u> for: Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat, Mountain Lion	After July 16	NA
Antelope, Deer, Elk Licenses	Mid-July	End of August
Check for drawing results at fwp.mt.gov		

Fees and Refunds

- In addition to the cost of each permit or license, there is a \$5 nonrefundable application fee for each license or permit you apply for. The \$5 fee covers the cost of printing and processing the application.
- In some situations, FWP may refund resident or nonresident –in full or in part –fees for licenses and/or drawings.
- The appropriate documentation (death certificate, medical statement, etc.) must

accompany the unused license(s) and a signed request form certifying the license(s) has not been used. Nonresident license holders should call 406-444-2950 for information.

- Situations include:

Reason	Deadline	Refund
Death of licensee	12/31/14	100%
Death of family member	12/31/14	90%
Medical emergency	12/31/14	90%

Call Licensing at 406-444-2950

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

License Discount Opportunities

- Montana resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve or Active Duty, who participated after September 11, 2001 in a contingency operation outside the state for two months and have been released from active duty or discharged, are entitled to a free conservation license OR a sportsman without bear license for a fee of \$2. These licenses will be issued only at FWP offices. DD 214 and supporting documentation is required.
 - To take advantage of this opportunity you must obtain the license in the year you returned from military service, or in the following year.
- A veteran with certain combat connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau Chief for details at 406-444-2663.
- Nonresidents who hold a current upland game bird license, big game combination, elk combination or deer combination license may purchase a nonresident turkey license for \$55.
- Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be sold for \$490.50 beginning March 1 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate family member sponsor (applicant's natural or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother or sister who is 18 years of age or older) who possesses a current resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game, elk combination or nonresident deer combination license. The youth must be accompanied by the sponsor while hunting. Applications are available from FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov and will be processed at the FWP headquarters in Helena. For further details and an application, contact Licensing at 406-444-2950.
- Nonresident children of residents may be entitled to reduced rate licenses for up to six years from the date they received their diploma or GED. To qualify the child must have: 1) been born and

raised in Montana; 2) attended and completed high school or attained a GED in Montana; and 3) the parent(s) still reside in Montana. Licenses will be issued at FWP offices with verification of Birth Certificate, Montana high school diploma or GED, and proof that natural or adoptive parent is still a current Montana resident. Any nonresident youth hunting with this license must be accompanied by a licensed resident family member while hunting in the field.

- Nonresident students enrolled as a full-time student (12 or more credits) in a postsecondary educational institution in Montana or Nonresident full time students in another state who graduated from MT High School and their parent is a MT resident are now eligible for discounted hunting licenses. The new nonresident college student big game combination license will cost \$70.00 and includes Conservation, fishing, upland bird, deer and elk.
 - Application for the nonresident college student big game combination license may be made after the second Monday in September at any FWP Regional office or Department Headquarters in Helena. To qualify, the applicant shall present a valid student identification card and copy of paid tuition as current full-time enrollment at a post secondary education institution in Montana. Payment of the \$10 Hunting Access Enhancement Fee is also required.

Youth Elk Hunts

- Youth 12 (by Jan 16, 2015) -15 years of age may hunt elk as listed in the specific hunting district regulations without applying for an elk permit through the drawing in the following hunting districts. Be sure to check specific hunting district regulations as youth hunting opportunities in some of the districts listed below may not include either-sex or antlered bull elk.

Resident and Nonresident

Youth Opportunities

with a General License

R 2	204, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 240, 261, 262, 270, 280, 281, 283, 291, 292, 293
R 3	300, 301, 302, 310, 311, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 328, 329, 331, 332, 334, 335, 340, 341, 343, 350, 360, 361, 362, 370, 380, 391, 392
R 5	560

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Youth Elk Permits and Elk B Licenses

- Elk permits and elk B licenses only for youth 12 (by Jan 16, 2015) -15 years of age to hunt elk as listed in the specific hunting district regulations are offered in hunting districts listed below.
- To qualify, the applicant must:
 - be 12 (by Jan 16, 2015) -15 years of age at time of application.

- show proof of successfully completing hunter education.
- be accompanied, while hunting, by an adult and/or guardian who is at least 18 years of age.
- Youth that are 15 years of age at the start of the general season, October 25, are eligible to hunt in the youth areas even if they turn 16 years of age during the season.

Youth Resident/Nonresident	
Permits	
R2	282-10
R3	313-10
B Licenses	
R6	621-00, 631-01, 690-00

Youth Hunter

Age	Available To	Opportunities and Requirements
11	Resident & Nonresident	A youth 11 years of age who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2015 and can show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course at the time of purchase/application, may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After August 15, 2014, hunt any game species for which their license is valid during an open season. • Purchase a hunting license, except spring turkey and spring black bear. • Apply for any drawing, except spring turkey.
11-13	Resident & Nonresident	In order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, as per Montana law.
12-15	Resident & Nonresident	Youth Statewide Two-Day Deer Hunt – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The F&W Commission is allowing two additional days to provide a hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in deer hunting. • Legally licensed hunters 12 through 15 years of age may hunt deer during the Statewide Two-day Youth Only Deer Season –October 16-17. – During these two days, youth hunters with a general deer or deer B license may take those deer species and sex otherwise available on their general or deer B license the first day of the general firearm season in the specific hunting district the youth is hunting. • A non-hunting adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter in the field. • Shooting hours, hunter safety requirements and all other regulations that apply to the regular deer firearm season shall apply to this youth two-day deer season.
12-17	Resident Only	A youth who has successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, and is purchasing his/her first Montana hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free-of-charge.
14	Resident Only	A youth 14 years of age who purchases a discounted general deer or elk license, may use the license throughout the season, even if he/she turns 15 before or during the season.
12-17	Nonresident Only	Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be sold for \$490.50 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate family member sponsor (applicant's natural or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother or sister who is 18 years of age or older) who possesses a current resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game, elk combination or nonresident deer combination license. The youth must be accompanied by the sponsor while hunting. Applications are available from FWP's website and may be processed at any FWP Office. For further details and an application, contact Licensing at 406-444-2950.

Hunters with a Disability

- Certification for "special considerations" are lifetime certifications and do not need to be renewed annually.
- For applications, detailed eligibility requirements, and information on licenses and permits for hunters with disabilities contact any FWP office or on the FWP website. See addresses and phone numbers on page 113.

Resident With a Disability Conservation License

- Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may purchase a conservation license for \$8 which includes fishing, upland game bird (excluding turkey), state waterfowl license, and state lands recreational use license for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes.

- The license holder may also purchase a general deer and general elk license at a discounted price. Applications for a Resident With a Disability Conservation License are available at all FWP offices and on the FWP website.
- The certification is valid for the life of the holder or until changed by the Montana Legislature.

Permit To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV)

- Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially non-ambulatory, as defined by State Law, may apply for a PTHFV.
 - Specific PTHFV field regulations apply. A copy of these regulations will be provided at the time of certification. Noncompliance may result in loss of this privilege.

Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE)

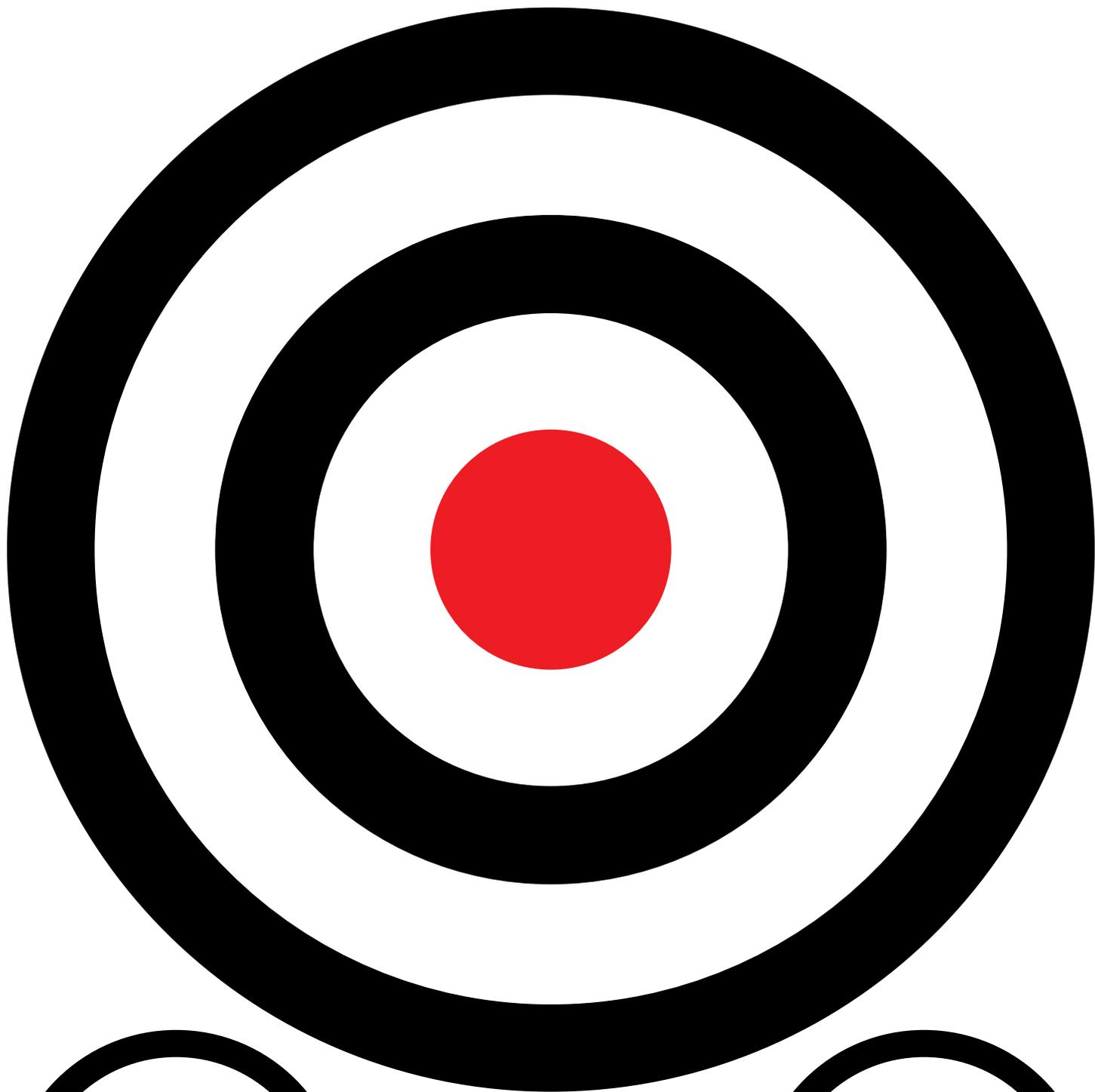
- Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as

defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTMAE. The PTMAE allows a person with a disability to use archery tackle that supports the bow, and draws, holds, and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability.

- Arrows are not exempt, and must meet requirements for the Archery Only Season.
- This permit does not entitle the holder to use a crossbow during the Archery Only Season.
- The permit only allows modification of legal archery tackle and must be used with a valid bow and arrow license and appropriate hunting license.

Certain Combat Disabled Veterans

- A veteran with certain combat-connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau for details at 406-444-2663.



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VEHICLE-KILLED WILDLIFE SALVAGE PERMIT

The 2013 Legislature passed a bill that allows for the salvage of deer, elk, moose, and antelope killed as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle.

The bill allows a permit to be issued for the salvage of ONLY deer, elk, moose and antelope.

Permits are available at no cost, either through law enforcement officers on the scene of collisions or online through this web page.

Some important information on the salvage permit
To possess salvaged wildlife a person must obtain a salvage permit. A person has 24 hours to apply for and get a salvage permit.

If a person is involved in a vehicle-animal collision, the Montana Highway Patrol and some other law enforcement officers responding to the collision will have the ability to process a permit on site. If not, a person must apply for a permit online themselves. This is accomplished through this web page.

A person may pick up an animal that he/she did not hit. The process is the same and he/she must obtain a salvage permit through this web page.

Anyone who salvages a road-killed deer, elk, moose, or antelope will be required to remove the entire animal from where it is found. Parts or viscera cannot be left at the site. To do so is a violation of state law and would encourage other wildlife to scavenge in a place that would put them at risk of also being hit.

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

A permit cannot be issued without a person agreeing to the Affirmation on the following page. Be sure to read the Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle Killed Wildlife thoroughly and completely before going on to the permit application page. It constitutes a legal document similar to that which is signed when a person buys a hunting or fishing license. A law enforcement officer may require inspection of the animal, parts, meat and may request the permittee take the officer to the physical site where the animal was picked up. Be sure to fill out the application fully. The system will not allow you to print a permit that does not have complete information.

Once the application has been made, go to the “PRINT PERMIT” box and click. When the permit is printed, be sure to keep it as it is the legal document that allows possession of the salvaged animal.

Click the link below to read the Conditions for the Salvage and Possession of Vehicle Killed Wildlife and apply for your permit.

ATTENTION:

The salvage permit system is not designed to operate on mobile devices. Do NOT attempt to apply for a permit on any mobile device.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

These dates are provided **only as a general reference**. Check current regulations for specific dates. Visit our website @ fwp.mt.gov

2014 Big Game Seasons

- Antelope
 - 900 seriesAug 15–Nov 09
 - archery.....Sept 6–Oct 10
 - general.....Oct 11–Nov 09
- Bighorn Sheep
 - archery.....Sept 5–Sept 14
 - general.....Sept 15–Nov 30
- BisonNov 15–Feb 15, 2015
- Black bear
 - spring.....Apr 15–Varies
(May 15-June 15)
 - fall archerySept 6–Sept 14
 - fall.....Sept 15–Nov 30
- Deer & Elk
 - archery.....Sept 6–Oct 19
 - youth, deer only,
two-day huntOct 16–Oct 17
 - general.....Oct 25–Nov 30
 - backcountry – HD's 150, 151, 280, 316*
 - archery.....Sept 6–Sept 14
 - general.....Sept 15–Nov 30
- MooseSept 15–Nov 30
- Mountain GoatSept 15–Nov 30
- Mountain Lion
 - archery.....Sept 6–Oct 19
 - fall.....Oct 25–Nov 30
 - winterDec 1–Apr 14, 2015

2014 Wolf Seasons

Dates will be adopted in July, 2014

* HD 316 does not have an archery season

These dates are provided **only as a general reference**. Check current regulations for specific dates. Visit our website @ fwp.mt.gov

2014 Upland Game Birds Seasons

- Mountain GrouseSept 1–Jan 1, 2015
- PartridgeSept 1–Jan 1, 2015
- Pheasant.....Oct 11–Jan 1, 2015
- Sage GrouseSept 1–Nov 1
- Sharp-tailed Grouse...Sept 1–Jan 1, 2015
- Turkey
 - spring.....Apr 12–May 18
 - fall.....Sept 1–Jan 1, 2015

2014 Montana Fishing Seasons

- LakesOpen entire year
 - Rivers** and streams
3rd Saturday in May - Nov. 30
- **some rivers are open entire year
– check the fishing regulations

2014 Montana Furbearer Seasons

*For general reference only.
2014 dates adopted in August, 2014.*

- Trapping District 1, 2 & 3
 - BeaverNov 1 - April 15, 2015
 - BobcatDec 1 - Feb 15, 2015*
- Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6 & 7
 - Beaver.....Sept 1 - May 31, 2015
 - Bobcat.....Dec 1 - March 1, 2015*
- Portion of Trapping District 6
 - Swift Fox.....Nov 1 - March 1, 2015*
 - Fisher, Marten, Wolverine
(where open)Dec 1 - Feb 15, 2015*
 - Mink, Muskrat, Otter.....Nov 1 - April 15, 2015*

* May close earlier when the quota is reached.

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2014 Application/Purchase Deadlines

Big Game

Antelope	June 2
Bighorn Sheep	May 1
Bison	May 1
Black Bear	
spring	Apr 14*
fall.....	Aug 31*
Deer & Elk	
special permits	Mar 15
special licenses	June 2
Moose	May 1
Mountain Goat.....	May 1
Mountain Lion	
general license	Aug 31*
special limited entry	Aug 14*
Super Tags	
Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat and Mountain Lion.....	July 3

*see species-specific regulations for license purchase restrictions.

Upland Game, Migratory and Webless Migratory Birds

Crane	July 31
Swan	Sept 4
Turkey	
spring	March 6
fall.....	July 31

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Contacts – FWP State Headquarters and Regional and Area Resource Offices

State Headquarters

1420 East Sixth Ave
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-2535

Region 1

490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

Region 2

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500

Region 3

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

Helena Area Res Office (HARO)

930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
406-495-3260

Butte Area Res Office

(BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953

Region 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

Lewistown Area Res Office (LARO)

215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

Region 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

Region 6

54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

Havre Area Res Office (HvARO)

2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

Region 7

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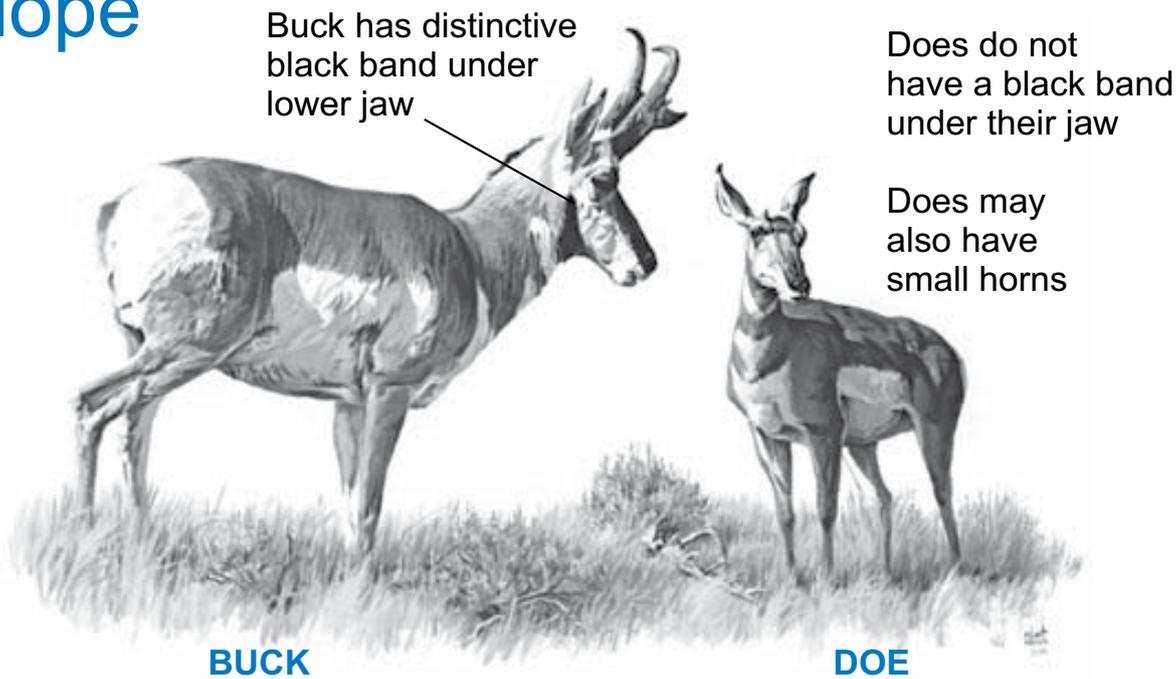



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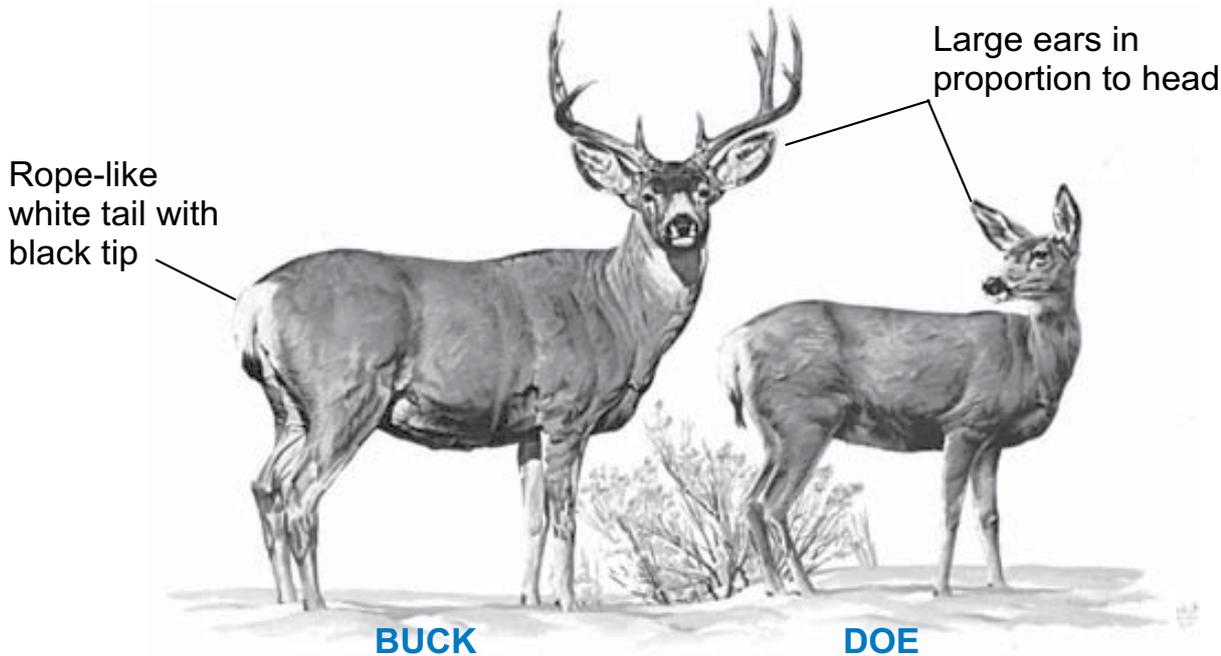
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Antelope



Mule deer

Antlers on an older male fork, and fork again



ANTELOPE DEFINITIONS

Buck (Horned): Any antelope with a horn or horns at least 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

Doe/fawn: Any antelope with horns less than 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

DEER DEFINITIONS

Definitions apply to both mule and whitetail species:

Antlered Buck: A deer with an antler or antlers at least 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

Antlerless: A deer without antlers, or with antlers less than 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.



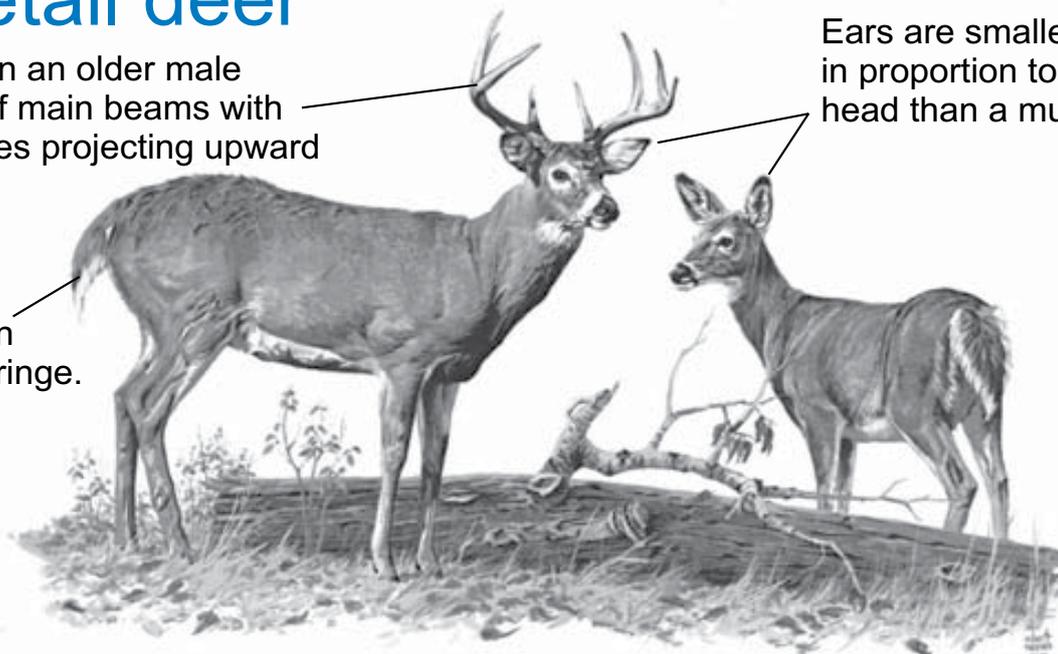
CAUTION: Antlers on mule and white-tailed yearling bucks may look similar

Whitetail deer

Antlers on an older male consist of main beams with 3 to 5 tines projecting upward

Ears are smaller in proportion to head than a mule deer

Tail is brown with white fringe. Erect tail is all white



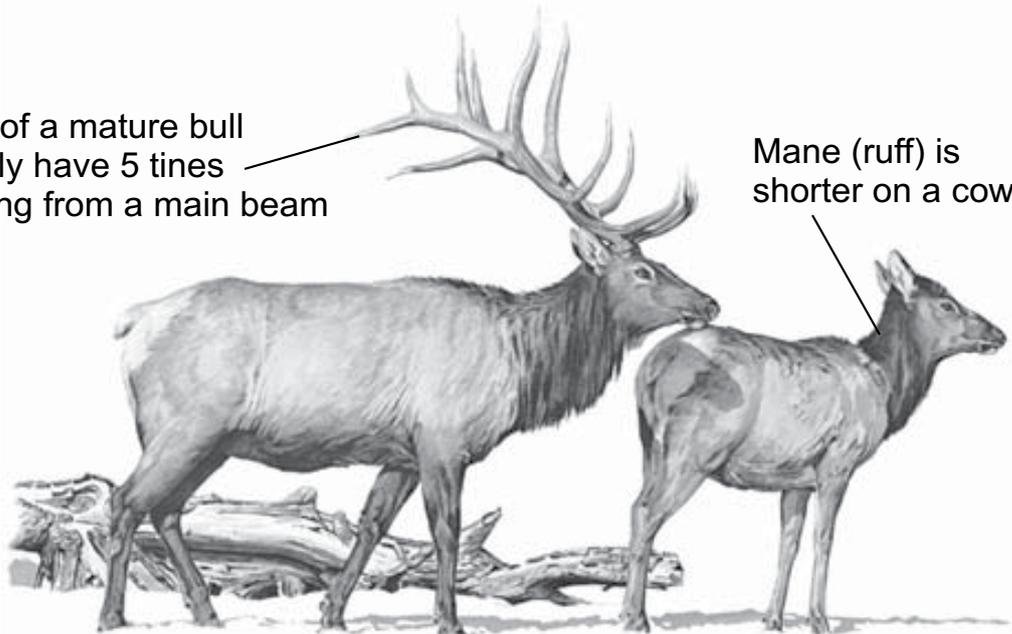
BUCK

DOE

Elk

Antlers of a mature bull generally have 5 tines projecting from a main beam

Mane (ruff) is shorter on a cow



BULL

COW

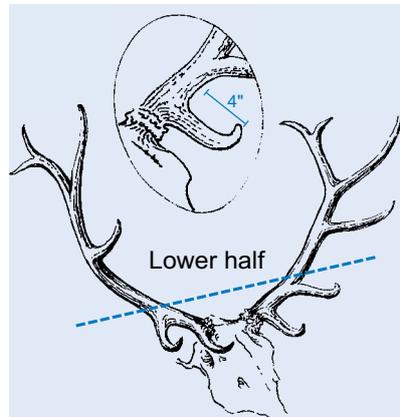
ELK DEFINITIONS

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

Antlered Bull: Any elk having an antler or antlers at least 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull

Antlerless: A female or juvenile male with antlers less than 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

Antler Point Measurement: Legal antler point must 4 inches or longer.

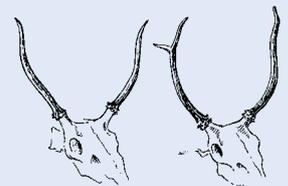


Brow-tined:

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

Spike Bull:

Any elk having antlers which do not branch or, if branched, branch is less than 4 inches long measured from the main antler beam.



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WET YEAR MAKES FOR GOOD UPLAND GAME BIRD HUNTING

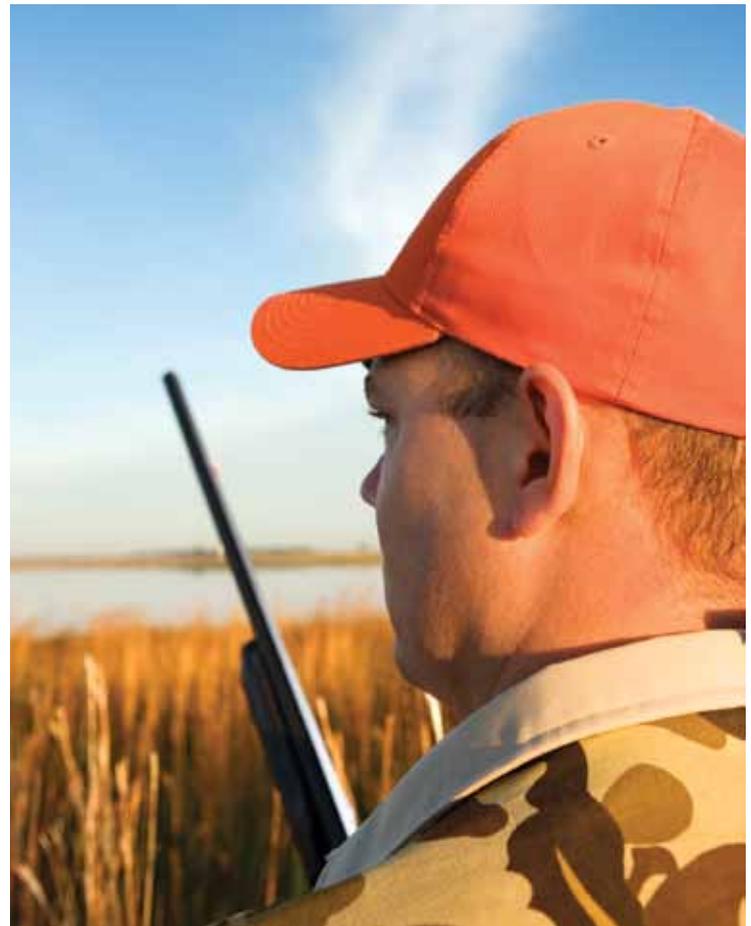
By Kelley Christensen
The Montana Standard

A wet year has made for good upland game bird hunting conditions in Montana this year.

The upland game birds include pheasant, partridge, blue grouse, rough grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse in the Dillon area with a shortened season and reduced bag limit, chucker, doves and turkey. "We haven't been in droughts. This spring wasn't too cold and wet like a few years ago," said Ken McDonald, wildlife chief at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "Our bird numbers are normal to above average around the state."

McDonald said in eastern Montana, a lot of land in CRP has been coming out of the conservation

Continue on page 30



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program designation, resulting in loss of habitat in those areas.

“We lost a lot of habitat,” he said.

In areas with more habitat, the bird numbers are “holding their own,” he said. Region 3, which includes the Butte area, is in such an area.

Montana hunting seasons for the species follow:

Mountain grouse (blue and rough):

Sept. 1, 2014, to Jan. 1, 2015.

Sage grouse:

Sept. 1, 2014 to Nov. 1, 2014

Sharp-tailed grouse:

Sept. 1, 2014, to Jan. 1, 2015

Partridge:

Sept. 1, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015

Pheasant (youth season):

Sept. 27 and 28, 2014

Pheasant (general season):

Oct. 11, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015

Turkey:

Sept. 1, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015

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Butte Gallery

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Helena Gallery

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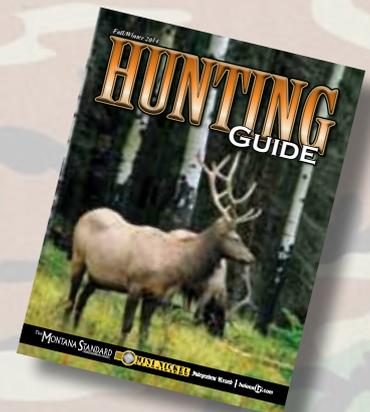
Bozeman Gallery

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