

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATION

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by authority of Wyoming Statutes § 23-1-103, § 23-1-302, § 23-1-703, § 23-2-101, § 23-2-106, § 23-3-104, § 23-3-111, § 23-3-304, § 23-3-305, § 23-3-306 and § 23-3-308.

Section 2. Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in Title 23 of the Wyoming Statutes, the Commission also adopts the following definitions for the purpose of all hunting and trapping regulations:

(a) “Accompanied by a Mentor” means being directly supervised at all times by a mentor who is within sight and direct voice contact.

(b) “Adult” means a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.

(c) “Antlered” means a deer, elk or moose that has visible antler growth plainly protruding from the skull. Where a minimum number of antler points are specified, points shall be counted on the side with the greater number of points.

(d) “Antlerless” means a deer, elk or moose that has no antler growth plainly protruding from the skull. Females and young-of-the-year without visible antlers are antlerless big game animals.

(e) “Approved Landfill or Incinerator” means a landfill or incinerator permitted by the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to dispose of animal carcasses.

(f) “Artificial Light or Lighting Device” means any man-made light or lighting device which projects a visible light outside the device, or any electronic device that provides an enhanced ability to see in the dark.

(g) “Bag Limit” means the maximum number of big game or trophy game animals that may be taken by an individual possessing a proper license.

(h) “Buck Antelope” means male antelope with visible horns and a dark cheek patch at the base of the ear.

(i) “Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.)” means the land management agency administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

(j) “Bureau of Reclamation Land” means lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

- (k) “Calf” means young-of-the-year elk or young-of-the-year moose.
- (l) “Central Flyway” means the portion of Wyoming east of the Continental Divide, excluding the Great Divide Basin.
- (m) “Certificate of Competency and Safety in the Use and Handling of Firearms” means a certification issued for the completion of an approved hunter safety course.
- (n) “Conservation Order” means an action to reduce the mid-continent population of light geese, which is promulgated in accordance with 50 CFR 20.21 and 50 CFR 21.60, revised as of August 8, 2019, which does not include any later amendments or editions of the incorporated matter. A copy of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be viewed at Department Regional Offices.
- (o) “Cow” means an adult female elk or an adult female moose.
- (p) “Daily Bag Limit” means the maximum number of game birds or small game animals that may be legally taken in a single day.
- (q) “Dark Geese” means Canada goose, cackling goose, white-fronted goose and brant.
- (r) “Doe” means an adult female antelope or adult female deer.
- (s) “Drainage” means all lands within the watershed of a named river or stream, including all tributaries and standing waters, which drain into that river or stream.
- (t) “Edible portion of big game animal” means the meat from the front quarters as far down as the knees, meat from the hindquarters as far down as the hocks, and the meat along the backbone between the neck and hindquarters including the loins and tenderloins, excluding meat on the ribs and neck.
- (u) “Ewe” means an adult female bighorn sheep.
- (v) “Fawn” means young-of-the-year antelope or young-of-the-year deer.
- (w) “Federal Duck Stamp” means Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp or Electronic Duck Stamp.
- (x) “Handgun” means a firearm that has a barrel length of less than sixteen (16) inches, has a short stock, and is designed to be fired by the use of a single hand without shoulder support.
- (y) “Hunt Area” means the area within a defined geographic boundary where a license shall be valid.

(z) “Irrigated land” means agricultural lands that are supplied with supplemental water by ditches, pipes, flooding or spraying.

(aa) “Lamb” means a young-of-the-year bighorn sheep.

(bb) “Light Geese” means snow goose, blue goose and Ross’s goose.

(cc) “Mentee” means a person who has received special authorization from the Department to take wildlife and who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms.

(dd) “Mentor” means a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, can demonstrate they have a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms, possesses a valid Wyoming hunting license and is directly supervising not more than one (1) mentee, other than immediate family members, at a time while in the field.

(ee) “Motorized vehicle” means any vehicle powered by an internal combustion or electric engine.

(ff) “Muzzle-loading firearm” means a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading handgun of at least .40 caliber and firing an expanding point bullet or lead ball and using a charge of at least fifty (50) grains of black powder or its equivalent.

(gg) “National Elk Refuge Permit” means a permit that allows a properly licensed elk hunter to access the National Elk Refuge to take an elk.

(hh) “Nontoxic Shot” means steel or any other federally approved nontoxic shot.

(ii) “Off National Forest” means lands other than those administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(jj) “On National Forest” means lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(kk) “On National Grassland” means the Thunder Basin National Grassland and Bankhead-Jones lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

(ll) “Pacific Flyway” means the portion of Wyoming west of the Continental Divide, including the Great Divide Basin.

(mm) “Park Permit” means a permit issued by Grand Teton National Park that allows a properly licensed elk hunter to take an elk within Grand Teton National Park.

(nn) “Partridge” means chukar partridge and gray partridge.

(oo) “Point” means any protrusion from an antler one (1) inch or more in length.

(pp) “Possession Limit” means the maximum number of game birds or small game animals that may be legally in possession. Wildlife in transit or storage shall be considered in possession. For migratory game birds, when a person hunts in more than one (1) state, flyway or zone, the person’s total limit shall not exceed the largest daily bag or possession limit prescribed for any one of the states, flyways or zones in which the hunting takes place.

(qq) “Private Land” means all fee title/deeded lands owned by a private individual, partnership or corporation.

(rr) “Processor” means a custom meat processor licensed by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

(ss) “Public Road or Highway” (except as otherwise provided) means any roadway that is open to vehicular travel by the public. The road surface, the area between the fences on a fenced public road or highway, and an area thirty (30) feet perpendicular to the edge of the road surface on an unfenced public road or highway shall be considered the public road or highway. Two-track trails on public lands are not public roads.

(tt) “Ram” means a male bighorn sheep that is one (1) year or older.

(uu) “Real Time Video Photography Equipment” means any video or photography equipment capable of utilizing cellular or Wi-Fi technology to transmit images or video for remote viewing.

(vv) “Regular Hunting Seasons” mean seasons which delineate the dates and hunt areas for the taking of big game or trophy game animals with legal weapons in accordance with the license types and limitations as set forth in Section 2 of Chapters 5 (Antelope), 6 (Deer), 7 (Elk), 8 (Moose); Sections 3 and 7 of Chapter 9 (Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat); Section 9 of Chapter 3 (Black Bear); Section 3 of Chapter 42 (Mountain Lion); and Section 4 of Chapter 47 (Gray Wolf) of the Commission regulations.

(ww) “Season Limit” means the maximum number of sandhill cranes or pheasants that may be legally taken during the entire season.

(xx) “Site of the Kill” means the location where the harvested animal died.

(yy) “Special Archery Seasons” mean seasons that delineate the dates and hunt areas for the taking of big game or trophy game animals with legal archery equipment, in which a hunter with the proper hunting license and an archery license may hunt in addition to the regular hunting seasons in accordance with the limitations as set forth in Section 2 of Chapters 5 (Antelope), 6 (Deer), 7 (Elk), 8 (Moose); Sections 3 and 7 of Chapter 9 (Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat); and Section 9 of Chapter 3 (Black Bear).

(zz) “Spike Elk” means an elk with at least one (1) antler consisting of a single unbranched beam.

(aaa) “State Trust Land” or “State Land” means lands administered by the Office of State Land and Investments.

(bbb) “Type” means a limitation on a license in a particular hunt area for the sex of animal, the species of animal, the length of the season, the type of weapon or a portion of the hunt area in which the license shall be valid.

(ccc) “Upland Game Birds” means any sage grouse, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, partridge, sharp-tailed grouse or pheasant.

(ddd) “Waste” means to leave, abandon or allow any edible portion of meat from a big game animal, game bird, game fish or small game animal to become tainted, rotten or otherwise unfit for human consumption prior to processing at a person’s home or at a processor.

(eee) “Waterfowl” means ducks, geese, coots and mergansers.

Section 3. Bag Limits and Numbers of Licenses. No person shall apply for or receive more than one (1) license for each big game species during any one (1) calendar year, except as otherwise provided in Commission Regulations. The maximum bag limit for big game animals and trophy game animals for any person with the proper licenses and permits shall not exceed the following number of animals: one (1) elk per license; one (1) moose per license; one (1) bighorn sheep per license; one (1) mountain goat per license; one (1) antelope per license; one (1) deer per license; one (1) black bear per license; one (1) mountain lion per license; one (1) gray wolf per license. Section 4 of this Chapter, Chapter 34, Depredation Prevention Hunting Seasons and other Commission regulations may provide for taking additional game animals with the proper licenses.

Section 4. Issuance of Deer and Antelope Limited Quota Licenses, Reduced Price Doe/Fawn Licenses, Elk Limited Quota Licenses and Reduced Price Cow/Calf Licenses.

(a) For deer, no person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) full price deer license (General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may apply for and receive up to two (2) full price deer licenses provided that at least one (1) license is a Limited Quota Type 3 any white-tailed deer license. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of two (2) full price deer licenses valid for the taking of antlered or any deer, of which not more than one (1) shall be valid for antlered or any mule deer.

(b) For doe/fawn deer, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of two (2) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may apply for and receive up to four (4)

limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses. In Hunt Areas 24 or 65 after the leftover drawing is completed, any person may purchase an unlimited number of limited quota reduced price doe/fawn deer licenses.

(c) For antelope, no person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) full price antelope license (Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) through the initial drawing.

(d) For doe/fawn antelope, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of two (2) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing. After the initial drawing is completed, any person may apply for and receive up to four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses. However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of four (4) limited quota reduced price doe/fawn antelope licenses.

(e) For elk, no person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) full price license (General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9) and one (1) reduced price cow/calf license (Type 6, 7 or 8) through the initial drawing.

(i) After the initial drawing, a person may apply for and receive up to a total of three (3) elk licenses, of which no more than one (1) shall be a General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3 or 9 license.

(ii) However, no person shall apply for and receive more than a total of three (3) elk licenses which shall include not more than one (1) General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3 or 9 license in a single hunting season, except as authorized in Commission regulations.

(iii) After the leftover drawing, any person may apply for and receive an unlimited number of Type 8 reduced price cow/calf elk licenses.

(f) For bighorn sheep, any person may apply for and receive a maximum of one (1) limited quota full price bighorn sheep license (Type 1 or Type 2) and one (1) limited quota reduced price ewe/lamb license (Type 6 or Type 7), except as authorized in Commission regulation.

(g) It is a violation to apply for and receive more than the specified number of licenses allowed by Commission regulations.

Section 5. Open Hours for Taking Big Game, Small Game, Trophy Game, Upland Game Birds and Wild Turkey.

(a) Big game, trophy game and small game animals may only be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, upland game birds and wild turkey may only be taken from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset.

Section 6. Retention of Evidence to Identify Sex, Species and Horn or Antler Development of Big Game Animal Harvested. Any person who takes any big game animal in a hunt area where the taking of either sex, species, or antler or horn development is controlled or prohibited by regulation shall comply with this section while said animal is in transportation from the site of the kill to the residence of the person taking the animal, or delivered to a processor for processing.

(a) In hunt areas where the taking of any big game animal is restricted to antler point or horn size by regulation, the antlers or horns shall accompany the carcass, or edible portions thereof.

(b) In hunt areas where the taking of any big game animal is restricted to a specific sex of animal by regulation, either the visible external sex organs, head or antlers shall accompany the carcass, or edible portions thereof.

(c) In hunt areas where the taking of a species of deer is controlled or prohibited by regulation, either the head or the tail of the deer shall accompany the carcass or edible portion thereof as evidence of the species taken.

Section 7. Dating and Display of Big and Trophy Game Animal/Wild Turkey/Sandhill Crane Carcass Coupons.

(a) When dating a carcass coupon, the entire day and month of the kill shall be completely cut out and removed.

(b) The carcass coupon shall be signed, dated and attached to the carcass of any big game or wild turkey or the carcass or hide of any trophy game animal in such a manner as to be plainly visible before leaving the site of the kill. The carcass coupon shall be attached to the carcass of any sandhill crane taken in limited quota areas in such a manner as to be plainly visible. When the animal is in transportation, the carcass coupon may be carried by the person accompanying the carcass so that the coupon shall not be lost. While quarters or pieces of an animal are being packed from the field, the carcass coupon shall remain with the person transporting the animal.

(c) Subsections 7(a) and (b) shall be in addition to the requirements in W.S. § 23-3-104.

Section 8. Emergency Closure. Big game hunting seasons may be closed because of an emergency upon forty-eight (48) hours notice. Trophy game hunting seasons may be closed upon immediate notice.

Section 9. Established Check Stations, Mandatory Reporting. Every hunter, angler or trapper of furbearing animals shall stop and report at every check station on route to or from the hunting, fishing or trapping area regardless if the person has wildlife in possession.

Upon request of any authorized Department representative, anyone who has been hunting, fishing or trapping shall produce a valid license and conservation stamp, if required and special management permit, if required, for game animals, game birds, furbearing animals or fish. Even if the game meat or fish in possession has been cut and wrapped or processed, the person transporting shall stop and report at the check station. Any person transporting wildlife harvested in another state or country shall stop at check stations on their route.

(a) Check stations shall be signed and established at a point on a highway or road clearly visible at a distance of not less than two hundred (200) yards in either direction.

(b) Check stations shall be at a point where flashing warning lights shall be visible to oncoming traffic for a distance of not less than two hundred (200) yards. The emergency warning lights on a marked law enforcement vehicle or a yellow flashing light on a marked Department non-enforcement vehicle shall be in operation.

(c) At least one (1) person working the check station shall be in Department uniform.

Section 10. Placement of Name of Outfitter and Outfitter's License Number on Back of License. Any big or trophy game hunter utilizing the services of an outfitter shall legibly print the name of the outfitter, the outfitter's license number and the type of outfitter license on the back of the licensee's big or trophy game license.

Section 11. Archery Hunting. No person shall hunt big game or trophy game animals with archery equipment during a special archery hunting season without first obtaining an archery license and the applicable hunting license. An archery license shall not be required in addition to a limited quota (Type 9) license to participate in a limited quota archery only season. Legal archery equipment and firearms may be used to hunt big game or trophy game animals during the regular hunting seasons as set forth in Commission regulations.

(a) Archery hunters who are hunting during any special archery season and archery hunters who are hunting with a limited quota Type 9 archery only license are exempt from wearing an external garment of a fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink color.

Section 12. Use of Aircraft to Spot or Locate Wildlife. No person shall use any aircraft with the intent to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any big game animal from August 1 through January 31 of the following calendar year. Additionally, no person shall use any aircraft to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any trophy game animal during any open season. Nothing in this Section shall apply to the operation of an aircraft in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate any game animal, such as aircraft used for the sole purpose of passenger transport.

Section 13. Retrieval of Game Animals from the Field.

(a) The Department may require substantive proof from any person who fails to retrieve from the site of kill all edible portions of a big game animal as to why the edible portions were not removed from the field.

(b) **Wounding and Retrieving.** No person shall wound or kill any game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession. For the purpose of this subsection, making a reasonable effort shall include a person physically going to the nearest location where the game animal was when a person attempted to take the game animal, in order to search for any sign the game animal was wounded or killed, and take the game animal into possession.

Section 14. Baiting of Big Game Animals Prohibited Except by Qualified Persons. Any legally blind person, person confined to a wheelchair, person hunting with a permit issued pursuant to W.S. § 23-3-304(d)(iv) or any person hunting with a license issued pursuant to W. S. § 23-1-705 (j) may place a bait for big game or take a big game animal by the use of bait.

Section 15. Transportation and Disposal of Deer, Elk and Moose Taken within Wyoming - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Provisions.

(a) Deer, elk and moose taken in Wyoming may be transported within Wyoming to a camp, a private residence for processing, a taxidermist, a processor, or a CWD sample collection site in Wyoming, provided the head and all portions of the spinal column remain at the site of the kill or such parts are disposed of in any approved landfill or approved incinerator in Wyoming.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, only the following parts of any deer, elk or moose taken in Wyoming may be transported in Wyoming: edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head; cleaned hide without the head; skull or skull plate or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth; or, finished taxidermy mounts.

(c) Only the following parts of any deer, elk or moose taken in Wyoming may be transported to other states, provinces or countries: edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head; cleaned hide without the head; skull or skull plate or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth; or, finished taxidermy mounts. Whole deer, elk and moose carcasses shall not be transported out of Wyoming.

(d) Nothing in this section shall apply to the transportation or disposal of deer, elk and moose taken by any governmental agency or educational institution.

Section 16. Importation of Deer, Elk or Moose Taken From Outside of Wyoming. Deer, elk or moose taken from within any other state, province or country shall only be imported into Wyoming if carcasses are transported directly to a private residence for processing, to a taxidermist, to a processor or to a CWD sample collection site provided the head and all portions of the spinal column are disposed of in an approved landfill or incinerator.

Section 17. Mandatory CWD Sample Submission. The Department may mandate hunters submit CWD samples from harvested deer, elk and moose from designated hunt areas within Wyoming.

(a) Mandatory submission of CWD samples from harvested deer, elk and moose may be established annually by the Department when necessary to meet its CWD testing and monitoring requirements or to implement and evaluate management actions related to CWD. Mandatory CWD sample submission of deer, elk and moose shall end when the Department achieves sampling goals for designated hunt areas, as stipulated by Department personnel prior to enacting any mandatory CWD sample submission. The Department shall determine the type, time frame and method of CWD sampling required for submission.

(b) When the Department mandates hunters submit CWD samples, public notice shall be given through posting of mandatory submission requirements in Department offices and designated license selling agents, electronic or traditional mailings to known license holders (and other sportspersons) and through the Department website, publications and news releases.

(c) It shall be a violation of Commission regulation for a hunter to fail to submit mandated CWD samples in accordance with this section.

Section 18. Temporary Hunter Safety Exception.

(a) Any person born on or after January 1, 1966, who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms may apply to the Department for a special authorization to take wildlife with the use of a firearm while being accompanied by a mentor. A special authorization issued to an individual shall be in the possession of the recipient at all times while in the field. The applicant shall apply on the Department website.

(b) Any person acting as a mentor to a mentee with a special authorization pursuant to this section shall accompany the mentee at all times to provide constant supervision.

Section 19. Areas Closed to the Taking of Specified Wildlife. All areas within the State not opened by specific order of the Commission shall be closed to the taking of all big game animals, trophy game animals, small game animals, furbearing animals and game birds.

Section 20. Use of Specialized Hunting Technologies and Equipment.

(a) No person shall use any device attached to a legal firearm, muzzleloader or archery equipment, capable of producing a thermal or infrared image, or other imaging outside the normal visible light spectrum, with the intent to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison.

(b) No person shall use any real-time video photography equipment, thermal or infrared imaging device, or other imaging device outside the normal visible light spectrum with

the intent to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison.

(c) A trail camera, or similar device, that can only store an image, picture or video inside the device, and which does not have the capability to utilize cellular or Wi-Fi technology to transmit images or video for remote viewing is permissible for use in the taking of any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison.

(d) No person shall sell or barter any geographic location information for any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison to aid in the taking of any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison.

Section 21. Hunting Predatory Animals with Artificial Light or Lighting Devices, Thermal or Infrared Imaging or Other Light Imaging at Night on Public Lands

(a) Hunting of predatory animals on public or state land shall be in accordance with W.S. 23-3-306.

(b) Any person hunting predatory animals on public land with an artificial light or lighting device, thermal or infrared imaging or other light imaging device shall display an activated infrared (IR) strobe beacon on their person visible from at least one hundred (100) yards in every direction. If the predator hunter is enclosed inside a vehicle, an activated IR strobe beacon shall be displayed on the exterior roof of the vehicle so as to be visible for at least one hundred (100) yards around the vehicle.

(c) Hunting of predatory animals at night with artificial light or lighting devices, thermal or infrared imaging or other light imaging on public land shall be closed from September 1 through December 31.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By: Richard A. Ladwig
Richard Ladwig, President

Dated: April 16, 2024