Bighorn Sheep Specific Information

Definition

- Adult ewe - a female bighorn sheep - one year old or older. Lambs (young of year) are not included.

Licenses & General Information

- License holders may legally take one bighorn sheep, subject to all specifications on the license issued.
- Bighorn ram horns greater than one-half curl must be plugged or pinned at any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office within 10 days after harvest. A listing of designated personnel and phone numbers will be provided to all bighorn sheep license holders.
- It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head picked up in the wild.
- There are limited and unlimited bighorn sheep licenses.
  - **Limited Licenses** - A limited bighorn sheep license is awarded only through the special drawing and are designed to limit the number of hunters in a specific hunting district(s). Hunters may apply for one limited license area only and it must be their first and only district choice, with the exception of an adult ewe which may be listed as a second district choice.
    - An applicant who receives a limited either sex or legal ram license is not eligible to apply for or receive another either-sex or legal ram bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding seven years. (see reference chart regarding limited either sex or legal ram bighorn sheep licenses).
    - An applicant who is successful in obtaining a limited ewe license (first or second choice) is not restricted to the seven-year waiting period.

7 Year Wait	
Year Successful	Year May Reapply
2005	2013
2006	2014
2007	2015
2008	2016
2009	2017
2010	2018
2011	2019

  - **Unlimited Licenses** - Unlimited bighorn sheep licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and may be available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing or, the hunter has the option of applying by the May 1 deadline through the drawing process.
    - Unlimited bighorn sheep licenses are available in districts 300, 303, 500, 501 and 502.
    - An unlimited bighorn sheep license purchased through the special drawing must be listed as your first and only district choice.
    - Unlimited bighorn sheep license districts with harvest quotas sometimes close a few days after the opening date.
    - Licenses are nonrefundable and a hunter may not change the selected hunting district, even if a district closes before the hunter has participated in a hunt.
    - An applicant who receives a unlimited legal ram license and harvests a legal ram is not eligible to receive or apply for another bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding seven years.
    - Unlimited bighorn sheep hunting districts are assigned a harvest quota. Unlimited bighorn sheep license hunting districts will close on a 48-hour notice. When the quota is reached or approached, the bighorn sheep season in that district will close. Any ram harvested by a hunter will be counted against the quota.
    - Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters during normal business hours.
    - The department makes an attempt, through news releases and back country contacts, to inform hunters of bighorn sheep hunting district closures. However, it is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of season status.

Archery Season

Archery Only season only for limited entry bighorn sheep hunting districts to run for 10 days prior to the start of any district's general bighorn sheep season opener. This does not include HD 301 or the unlimited entry districts. Bow and Arrow (archery) License required.

SuperTag Lottery for Bighorn Sheep

- 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 Internet.
- 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**.

Bighorn Sheep License Auction

- Legislation authorizes the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to provide for the auction of a bighorn sheep license each year. This license authorizes the hunter to take a "legal" or greater ram in any district of his/her choice. This license is not a part of the seasons proposed, and if this license holder is successful, the bighorn sheep will not be counted against the hunting district quota. The license holder may only hunt in areas open to hunting (i.e., if an unlimited area closes due to reaching the quota, the license holder may not hunt in that area).
- The auction is held annually during the winter by a conservation organization that is preselected by the FWP Commission.
- Hunting is authorized for the next hunting season, not the current year's hunting season.
- Money raised through the bighorn sheep license auction is used for management of bighorn sheep.

Judging A "Legal Ram" 3/4 Curl

- When a straight line extending from the front base of the horn through any portion of the eye opening intercepts any portion of the horn, the ram is legal. If the horn is not long enough to be intercepted by the line, the ram is not legal.
- Base of the horn shall be considered as the point where the horn meets the hairline of the head. See illustration below.
- Determination of a legal ram should be made from a broadside view of the head.
- Successful applicants for bighorn sheep should contact the department if they need the Montana Guide to Bighorn Sheep.

Bighorn Sheep Mandatory Reporting Requirements

- A hunter harvesting a bighorn sheep with a license valid for a "legal ram" must not alter the head and horns as to affect determination of legality.
- A hunter harvesting a bighorn ram must personally present the complete head and cape intact within 48-hours to any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, game warden, or designated employee in the administrative region where the bighorn ram was taken. See page 47 for FWP office phone numbers.

Bighorn Sheep HD Regulations

Residents are eligible to apply for any of the following licenses. Nonresidents are restricted to certain districts. Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed 10 percent of a region's quota. **Districts where nonresidents may apply are listed on the moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat nonresident application, but may change when final quotas are set in June.**

--- HD 100 Kootenai Falls ---

100-00: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 101 Ural-Tweed ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 102 Galton Range ---

102-00: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 121 North Clark Fork ---

Note: Boundary change.

121-00: 10 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

121-30: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 122 Clark Fork Cut-Off ---

Note: Boundary change.

122-00: 6 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

122-30: 8 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 123 Cabinet Mountains ---

123-00: 4 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

123-30: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 124 Paradise ---

124-00: 8 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

124-30: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 203 Grave Creek Range ---

203-00: 5 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

203-30: 15 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 210 John Long Range ---

210-00: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

210-30: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 212 Garrison ---

Note: Bighorn Sheep numbers have been reduced and are uncertain due to recent disease die-off event.

212-00: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 213 South Flint Range ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 216 West Rock Creek-Quigg Peak ---

216-00: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

216-30: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 250 West Fork Bitterroot ---

250-00: 2 licenses. Valid in portion of HD south of Nez Perce Rd and West Fork Rd.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

250-10: 1 license.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 261 Skalkaho ---

261-00: 5 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 270 East Fork Bitterroot ---

Note: Bighorn Sheep numbers reduced due to recent disease die-off event.

270-00: 2 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 283 Lower Blackfoot ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 300 Gallatin-Yellowstone ---

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

300-20: Unlim licenses.
- Sept 01 - Sept 10 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

**Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.*

--- HD 301 Spanish Peaks ---

301-00: 5 licenses.
- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 302 Hilgards ---

Note: Boundary change.This is a remote backcountry unit. Access may be difficult.

302-00: 2 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

302-30: 5 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 303 South Absaroka ---

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

303-20: Unlim licenses. Deckard Flats-Eagle Crk portion of HD 303 as posted, subject to closure to all hunting on 24-hour notice.

- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

**Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.*

--- HD 304 Hyalite ---

304-00: 1 license.

- Sept 01 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 305 South Yellowstone ---

305-10: 1 license.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Oct 31 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 315 Tendoy Mountains ---

315-00: 1 license.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 340 Highland ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 380 Radersburg ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 381 Sleeping Giant ---

CLOSED.

--- HD 421 Deep Creek ---

421-00: 2 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 422 Castle Reef ---

422-00: 4 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

422-30: 5 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 423 Gibson Lake North ---

423-00: 3 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

423-30: 1 license.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 424 Ford Creek ---

424-00: 4 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

424-30: 5 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 441 North Fork Birch Creek-Teton ---

441-00: 5 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 455 Beartooth Wildlife Management Area-Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area ---

455-00: 1 license.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 482 Fergus ---

482-00: 15 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

482-30: 10 licenses. Valid west of DY Trail.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

482-31: 5 licenses. Valid east of DY Trail.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 500 Boulder ---

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

500-20: Unlim licenses.

- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

**Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.*

--- HD 501 Beartooth Mountains ---

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

501-20: Unlim licenses.

- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 3.*

**Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.*

--- HD 502 Hellroaring ---

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

502-20: Unlim licenses.

- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

**Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.*

--- HD 503 Pryor Mountains ---

503-00: 3 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 620 Little Rockies ---

680-00: 25 licenses. Valid in HDs 620 and 680.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 622 Middle Missouri Breaks ---

622-00: 7 licenses.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

622-30: 1 license. Valid west of Timber Creek.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

--- HD 680 Chouteau-Blaine-Phillips ---

680-00: 25 licenses. Valid in HDs 620 and 680.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

680-30: 30 licenses. Only valid east of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

680-31: 30 licenses. Only valid west of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd. Public access may be difficult and limited.

- Sept 05 - Sept 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
- Sept 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.