

Definitions

ANTELOPE DOE/FAWN: any antelope with horns less than 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

ANTLERED: a deer or elk with 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.

BROW-TINED BULL: 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.

EITHER SEX: a male or female animal of any age.

FURBEARER or FUR-BEARING ANIMAL: marten or sable, otter, muskrat, fisher, mink, bobcat, lynx, wolverine, northern swift fox, and beaver.

GAME ANIMAL: deer, elk, moose, antelope, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, bear, and wild bison.

GENERAL DEER/ELK SEASON: typically, five weeks long from mid-October through late-November; see hunting districts for specific dates by species.

GUIDE: a person who is employed by or who has contracted independently with a licensed outfitter and who accompanies a participant during outdoor recreational activities that are directly related to activities for which the outfitter is licensed.

HUNT: to pursue, shoot, wound, take, harvest, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture, or the act of a person possessing a weapon, as defined in MCA 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting, wounding, taking, harvesting, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife protected by the laws of this state in any location that wildlife may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take or harvest by any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or capturing.

LAW: also known as Statutes or Montana Code Annotated (MCA.) Enacted by the Montana Legislature.

LICENSE: provides an opportunity to “harvest” the species for which the license is valid. See page 15 for more detail.

LPT: license or permit type; generally listed as three numbers, a dash, and two numbers (for example 410-20); the first three numbers is the hunting district or a number representing multiple hunting districts; the last two numbers limit the license or permit to: either sex, antlerless, antlered buck, brow-tined bull.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD: waterfowl, including wild ducks, wild geese, brant, and swans; cranes, including little brown and sandhill; rails, including coots; Wilson’s snipes or jacksnipes; and mourning doves.

NONGAME WILDLIFE: any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other animal not otherwise lawfully classified by statute or rule.

OUTFITTER: any person who for consideration provides any saddle or pack animal, facilities, camping equipment, vehicle, watercraft, or other conveyance, or personal service for any person to hunt, trap, capture, take, kill, or pursue any game, including fish, and who accompanies that person, either part or all of the way, on an expedition for any of these purposes or supervises a licensed guide or outfitter’s assistant in accompanying that person. This does not include a person providing services on real property that the person owns for the primary pursuit of bona fide agricultural interests.

PERMIT: must be used in conjunction with a license; a permit enhances a hunting opportunity with a license.

PERSON: an individual, association, partnership, and corporation.

PREDATORY ANIMAL: coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat.

PUBLIC HIGHWAY: the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part of the publicly maintained way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

RULE or REGULATION: Agency regulations, standards or statements of applicability that implement, interpret, or set law or policy. Agencies are given rulemaking authority through statute.

SHOULDER SEASON: a hunting opportunity conducted before or after the 5-week general deer/elk season; see individual hunting districts or shoulder season summary page 45 for details.

SITE OF THE KILL: the location where a game animal or game bird expires and the person responsible for the death takes physical possession of the carcass.

SPIKE BULL ELK: any elk having antlers that do not branch or, if branched, branch is less than 4 inches long measured from the main antler beam.

TRAP: to take or harvest or participate in the taking or harvesting of any wildlife protected by state law by setting or placing any mechanical device, snare, deadfall, pit, or device intended to take wildlife or to remove wildlife from any of these devices.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS: sharptailed grouse, blue grouse, spruce (Franklin) grouse, prairie chicken, sage hen or sage grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, ptarmigan, wild turkey, and chukar partridge.

WILD ANIMAL: an animal that is wild by nature as distinguished from common domestic animals, whether the animal was bred or reared in captivity, and includes birds and reptiles.

List of Acronyms

AISPP: Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass

ARM: Administrative Rule of Montana

CR: Commission Rule

CWD: Chronic Wasting Disease

DNRC: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

F&W Commission: Fish and Wildlife Commission

FAS: Fishing Access Site

FWP: Fish, Wildlife & Parks

HD: Hunting District

HWY: Highway

LPT: License or Permit Type

MCA: Montana Code Annotated

OTC: Over the Counter

PTHFV: Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle

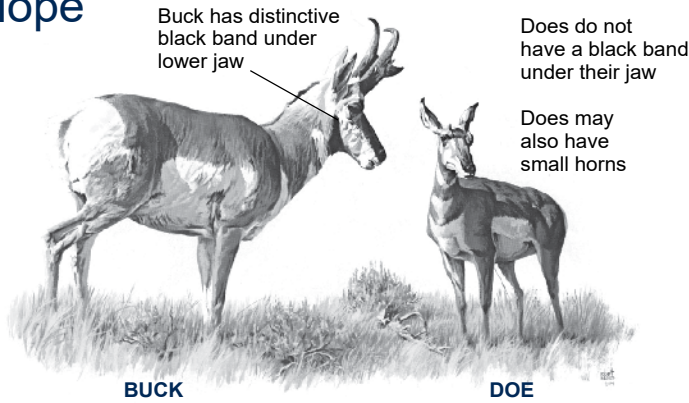
PTMAE: Permit to Modify Archery Equipment

WMA: Wildlife Management Area

WPA: Waterfowl Production Areas

WRA: Weapons Restriction Areas

Antelope



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

ELK DEFINITIONS

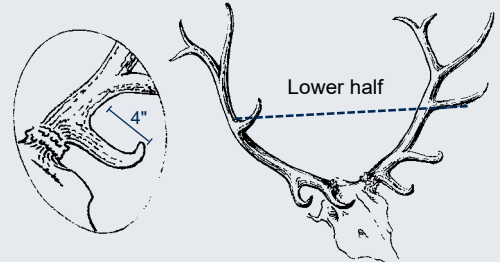
Montana has some elk hunting districts with special regulations governing the type of bull elk that is legal to harvest.

These diagrams and definitions are intended to assist the hunter in interpreting these regulations.

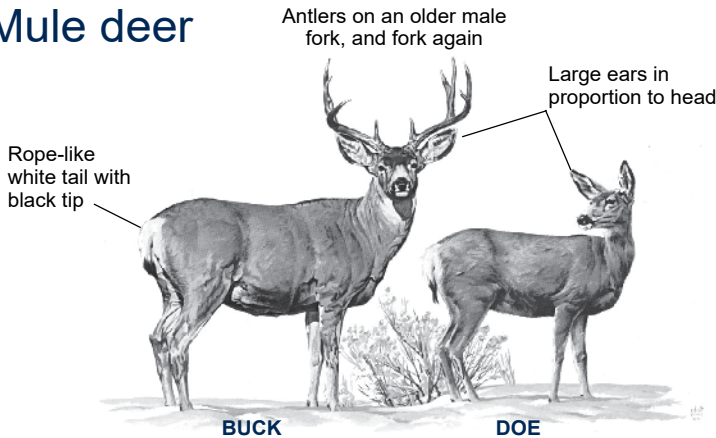
Antlered Bull: Any elk having an antler or antlers at least 4 inches long as measured from the top of the skull.

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

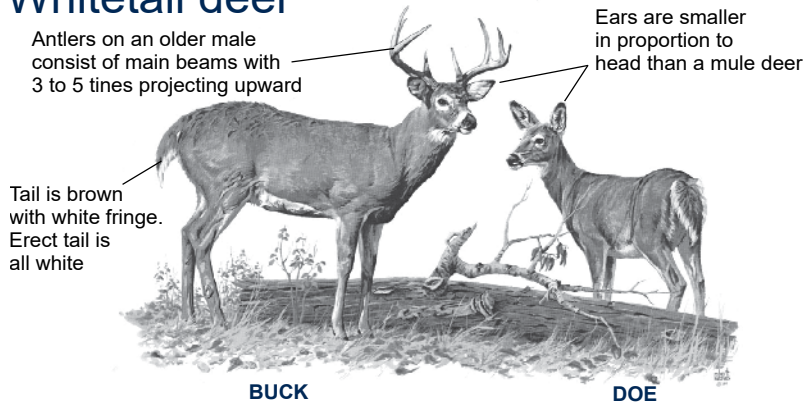
Antler Point Measurement: Legal antler point must be 4 inches or longer.



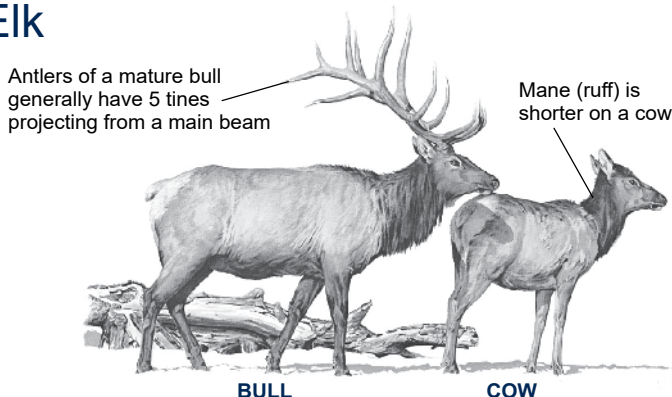
Mule deer



Whitetail deer



Elk

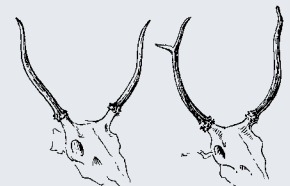


Brow-tined:

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 that do not branch or, if branched, branch is less than 4 inches long measured from the main antler beam.



Either-sex: A male or female animal of any age.

Important Dates

2019 Application/Purchase Deadlines

Game Animals

Antelope (postmarked by).....	June 1
Bighorn Sheep (postmarked by).....	May 1
Bison (postmarked by).....	May 1
Black Bear (purchase by*)	
spring.....	Apr 14*
fall	Aug 31*
Deer & Elk	
permits (postmarked by).....	Mar 15
B licenses (postmarked by).....	June 1
Moose (postmarked by)	May 1
Mountain Goat (postmarked by).....	May 1
Mountain Lion (purchase by*)	
general license	Aug 31*
special limited entry	Aug 9*
Super Tags	
Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison,	
Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat	
and Mountain Lion	July 1

Upland Game, Migratory and Webless Migratory Birds

Crane.....	July 26
Swan.....	July 26
Turkey	
spring.....	March 8

**see species-specific regulations for license purchase restrictions.*

Drawing Results

License	Drawing Results	Refunds Mailed
Nonresident Combination	Mid-April	End of April
Deer & Elk Permits	Mid-April	End of April
SuperTags for: Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat, Mountain Lion	After July 8	NA
Antelope, Deer B, Elk B, Licenses	Mid-July	End of August
Check for drawing results at fwp.mt.gov/myfwpApps/myfwp_input.action		

2019 Season Dates

These dates represent the “general” season dates. Check the individual hunting district regulations for the most accurate season dates and regulations.

Game Animals

Antelope	
900 series	Aug 15–Nov 10
archery	Sept 7–Oct 11
general	Oct 12–Nov 10
Bighorn Sheep	
archery	Sept 7–Sept 14
general	Sept 15–Dec 1
Bison	Nov 15–Feb 15, 2020
Black bear	
spring.....	Apr 15–Various (May 31–June 15)
archery	Sept 7–Sept 14
fall	Sept 15–Dec 1
Caribou.....	No Season
Deer & Elk	
archery	Sept 7–Oct 20
youth, two-day hunt;	
deer only.....	Oct 17–Oct 18
general	Oct 26–Dec 1
shoulder seasons.....	check the regulations
backcountry - HDs 150, 151, 280, 316*	
archery.....	Sept 7–Sept 14
general.....	Sept 15–Dec 1
<i>*HD 316 does not have an Archery Only Season</i>	

Moose	Sept 15–Dec 1
Mountain Goat.....	Sept 15–Dec 1
Mountain Lion	
archery	Sept 7–Oct 20
fall	Oct 26–Dec 1
winter.....	Dec 1–Apr 14, 2020
late winter.....	Feb 1–Apr 14, 2020

Wolf Season

archery	Sept 7–Sept 14
general	Sept 15–Mar 15, 2020
trapping	Dec 15–Feb 29, 2020

Upland Game Birds

Mountain Grouse.....	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2020
Partridge.....	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2020
Pheasant.....	Oct 12–Jan 1, 2020
Ptarmigan.....	No Season
Sage Grouse.....	Sept 1 - Sept 30
Sharp-tailed Grouse.....	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2020
Turkey	
spring.....	Apr 13–May 19
fall	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2020

License & Permt Availability Chart

2019 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES	
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention pass (AISPP)	\$2.00	\$15.00		Required in addition to a fishing license to fish in Montana. Supports the aquatic invasive species prevention and inspection program. Learn more at CleanDrainDryMT.com .	
Base Hunting License	\$10.00	\$15.00		Required prerequisite for hunting or applying for a permit or license.	
Conservation	\$8.00	\$10.00		Required prerequisite.	
Antelope – 900 Archery – Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Must be first and only choice.	
– Disabled – Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Special disabled antelope application fee required. For information call 406-444-2950.	
– Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Must have a current Conservation License and a Base Hunting License to apply.	
Big Game Combination – General Drawing		\$1065.00	March 15*	The Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses.	
Big Game Nonresident Youth (12-17) Sponsored – Big Game Combination		\$545.00		The Youth Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses. For information call 406-444-2950. The Youth Elk Combination has everything but deer and the Youth Deer Combination has everything but elk.	
– Elk Combination		\$465.00			
– Deer Combination		\$332.00			
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50			Antlerless deer
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00			Antlerless elk
Bighorn Sheep – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.	
Bison – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.	
Black Bear	\$19.00	\$350.00	Spring - April 14 Fall - August 31	Can purchase after deadline dates, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use license.	
Bow and Arrow License	\$10.00	\$10.00		Required during the Archery Only Season for any species or to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district.	
College Student Combination – Big Game Combination		\$545.00		Certification required for nonresident students attending a Montana college full-time. For information call 406-444-2950. License available at any FWP office after September 10 . College Student Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses. For information call 406-444-2950. The College Student Elk Combination has everything but deer and the College Student Deer Combination has everything but elk.	
– Elk Combination		\$465.00			
– Deer Combination		\$332.00			
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50			Antlerless deer
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00			Antlerless elk
Combat Disabled/Active Duty Veteran – Antelope	\$7.00	\$100.00		50 licenses - issued through Helena Licensing only. For information call 406-444-2950.	
– Deer, General	\$8.00	\$125.00			
– Deer B	\$5.00	\$37.50			
Coming Home to Hunt – Big Game Combination		\$550.00	March 15*	The Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses. For information call 406-444-2950. The Elk Combination has everything but the deer license and the Deer Combination has everything but elk.	
– Elk Combination		\$470.00			
– Deer Combination		\$337.00			
Deer – General (18-61 yrs)	\$16.00				
– General (Disabled, Senior (62+) & Youth (12-17))	\$8.00				
Deer B – Drawing	\$15.00	\$80.00	June 1*		
– Over-the-Counter and Single-Region Antlerless	\$10.00	\$75.00		Over-the-counter. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 12.	
Deer Combination – General Drawing		\$639.00	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting, AISPP & season fishing licenses.	
– Landowner Sponsored Drawing		\$639.00	March 15*		
Deer Permit – Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	March 15*	Application fee only. Permit must be used with general deer license. Residents must have current year general deer license to apply. Nonresidents must also apply for a deer license when applying for a deer permit.	
Elk – General (18-61 yrs)	\$20.00				
– General (Disabled, Senior (62+) & Youth (12-17))	\$10.00				

Key: * = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date.

2019 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
Elk B License – Drawing	\$25.00	\$275.00	June 1*	Antlerless only.
– Over-The-Counter	\$20.00	\$270.00		Over-the-counter. Antlerless only. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 12.
Elk Combination – Drawing		\$905.00	March 15*	Includes Conservation, elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses.
Elk Permit – Drawing	\$9.00	\$9.00	March 15*	Residents must have current year General Elk License to apply. Nonresidents must also apply for an Elk License when applying for an Elk Permit. A permit must be used with a General Elk License.
Hound Training License	\$5.00			
Nonresident Montana Native				For Montana native born with current Montana resident relative; other qualifications apply. For information call 406-444-2950. The NR Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses. The NR Elk Combination has everything except Deer and the NR Deer Combo has everything except Elk.
– NR Big Game Combination License		\$545.00		
– NR Elk Combination License		\$465.00		
– NR Deer Combination License		\$332.00		
– Season Fishing License		\$43.00		Plus \$15 AISPP fee.
– Bird License		\$55.00		Conservation License and a Base Hunting License also required.
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50		Antlerless deer
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00		Antlerless elk
Migratory Bird – (12 - 15)	\$3.25	\$25.00		Federal Stamp is not required.
– (16 - 17)	\$3.25	\$25.00		Federal Stamp also required.
– (18+)	\$6.50	\$50.00		Federal Stamp also required.
Moose – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.
Mountain Goat	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.
Mountain Lion – General License	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 31	Can purchase license after deadline date, but then there is a 5-day wait period to use the license.
– Special License – Limited Entry Drawing	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 9**	Application fee is only \$5.00. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.
Off-Highway Temporary Use Decal		\$27.00		
Sandhill Crane – Drawing Deadline	\$5.00	\$5.00	July 26**	Cost is the application fee only.
Sportsman – Military Recognition	\$12.00			Must go through certification process only at FWP offices. Includes Conservation, Season Fishing, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Deer & Elk Licenses. \$10.00 fee for the Base Hunting License and \$2.00 AISPP fee are also required.
– with Bear	\$85.00			Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, Bear, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey) & Season Fishing Licenses. \$10.00 fee for the Base Hunting License and \$2.00 AISPP fee are also required.
– without Bear	\$70.00			Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey) & Season Fishing Licenses. \$10.00 fee for the Base Hunting License and \$2.00 AISPP fee are also required.
– without Bear – Senior (62+) & Youth (12- 17)	\$35.00			Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey) & Season Fishing Licenses. \$10.00 fee for the Base Hunting License and \$2.00 AISPP fee are also required.
State Lands Recreational License – General (18-59)	\$10.00	\$10.00		Required for recreational use on state school trust lands. The State Lands Recreation License is included in the Montana Conservation License specifically for the purpose of hunting, fishing, and/or trapping (HFT). All other recreational use on state school trust lands requires this State Lands Recreation License.
– Youth (12-17)	\$5.00	\$5.00		
– Senior (60+)	\$5.00	\$5.00		
– Family	\$20.00	\$20.00		
Swan Drawing Deadline	\$5.00	\$5.00	July 26**	Cost is application fee only.
Turkey License – Over the Counter	\$6.50	\$115.00		If nonresident has already purchased an Upland Bird License, then turkey licenses are \$57.50 each.
– Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	Spring - March 8**	There is a \$5 resident or nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.
Upland Bird – General (18-61)	\$7.50	\$110.00		
– Youth (12-17)	\$3.75	\$55.00		
– Senior (62+) or disabled	\$3.75	\$110.00		
– 3 Day		\$50.00		Valid for three calendar days (which are indicted on the license). Not valid for sage grouse at any time or for ring-necked pheasants during the opening week of the season.
– 3 Day Preserve		\$20.00		Valid only on state-licensed shooting preserves.
Wolf	\$19.00	\$50.00	August 31	Can purchase after the deadline, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use the license. Limit 5 licenses per hunter.

Key: * = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date.