

MONTANA MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE SEASON

Fish and Wildlife Commission established a special muzzleloader heritage hunting season from Dec 10–Dec 18, 2022. Any unused license or permit valid for deer or elk on the last day of general deer and elk season (November 27, 2022) will be valid for that species during the muzzleloader heritage season (December 10–18, 2022) per the conditions of that license and permit and regulations pertaining to the hunting district(s) in which the license-permit is valid. With the following exceptions, all other general big game season regulations apply, including in weapons restricted areas. During this season, subject to the provisions of 87-6-401(1) and rules adopted by the commission, a person may take a deer or elk with a valid license or permit using plain lead projectiles and a muzzleloading rifle that is charged with loose black powder, loose pyrodex, or an equivalent loose black powder substitute, and ignited by a flintlock, wheel lock, matchlock, or percussion mechanism using a percussion or musket cap. The muzzleloading rifle must be a minimum of .45 caliber and may not have more than two barrels. **For more details, please refer to the online Deer, Elk and Antelope hunting regulations.**

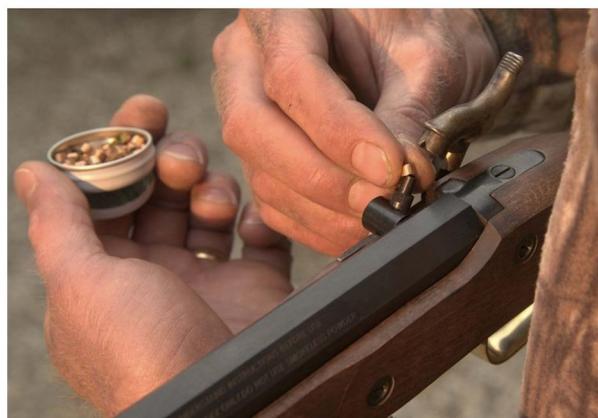
Muzzleloader Heritage Season Firearm

A traditional muzzleloader is loaded by pouring a pre-measured charge of loose (non-pelletized) black powder, pyrodex, or other black powder substitute down the bore. A plain lead projectile is placed over the powder charge by pushing it down the bore from the muzzle end and seating it on the powder charge.

Loose powder This is powder that has not been pre-formed into a pellet, stick or other pre-made shape or charge. Loose powder is poured into a measuring device that measures the correct charge of powder and is then poured down the bore.

Plain lead projectile This is a bullet, conical or round ball projectile that is made exclusively of lead. Bullets may not have any gas checks, sabots, or other manufactured range or power enhancing additions. Round balls may be patched with a cloth patch.

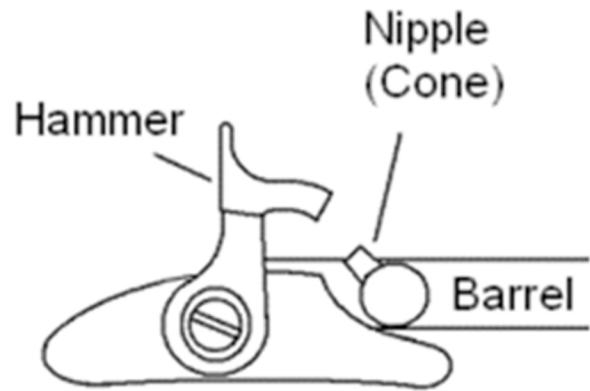
There is no restriction on the rifling twist for the traditional muzzleloader season.



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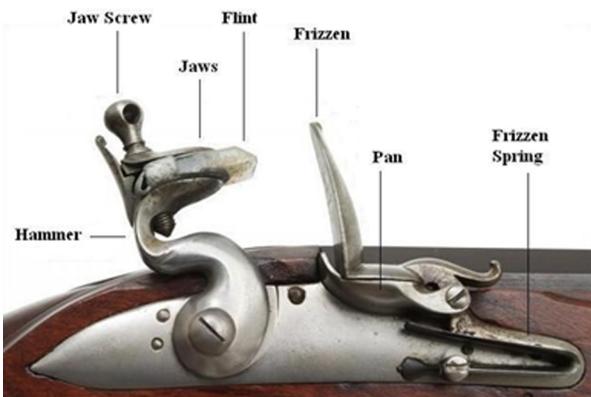
Ignition Systems

Percussion - system that uses an external hammer on the side of the muzzleloader that strikes a percussion cap held on a nipple. Percussion caps come in several sizes #10, #11, musket cap etc. Percussion caps must be used by placing the cap over a nipple and striking the cap/nipple with an external hammer. The cap must be struck with an external hammer mounted on the side of the firearm.



Systems that use a percussion cap mounted on the breech are not allowed. Inline muzzleloaders and systems using shotgun or other primers are not allowed.

Flintlock - system that uses an external hammer to hold a piece of flint, agate or other stone in the jaws. The hammer or cock when released strikes a frizzen and creates sparks. The sparks ignite a small amount of loose powder (priming powder) located in the pan which sits adjacent to a hole in the side of the barrel called the touch hole. The incandescent heat from the burning priming charge ignites the main charge in the barrel.



Matchlock and Wheelock - ignition systems pre-date the flintlock system and are very primitive forms of ignition. Originals and replicas are very rare. If you have questions about using these types of firearms please contact the FWP enforcement headquarters.

