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# Wildlife Management and the Vision for Recreational Hunting in Alberta

Alberta Environment and Parks

Hunting is a way of life for many Albertans. It connects us to our cultural heritage, provides sustenance, brings family and friends together, and offers the benefits of physical activity and fresh air in Alberta's beautiful natural landscapes. Hunting also has deep spiritual and cultural significance to Indigenous Peoples whose connection to wildlife is a fundamental part of their identity, history and ways of living. In Alberta, Indigenous hunting rights are recognized in law and provincial government policy.



Alberta's abundant wildlife and breathtaking natural landscapes have contributed to our province's reputation as a destination for world-class recreational hunting experiences. Hunting and the various businesses it supports contributes over 3,000 jobs and \$600 million in annual revenues to Alberta's economy.

Hunting is an essential tool for wildlife management. This means hunters have an important role to play in maintaining sustainable wildlife populations and quality hunting opportunities for generations to come.

To keep our wildlife populations sustainable, Alberta will continue to follow the North American Model for Wildlife Management. This model has led to the broad success of

wildlife conservation and hunting practices throughout the United States and Canada. Its key principles include:

- Wildlife are a public trust
- Wildlife policy, management, and regulations should be based on science
- Wildlife should be regulated and allocated through enforceable laws
- Wildlife are an international resource

There are opportunities to improve Alberta's recreational hunting regulations and policies while observing the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Management. Alberta Environment and Parks is committed to working



collaboratively with all Albertans to improve the way we manage hunting. Your input will help us modernize our approach to wildlife management and maintain quality recreational hunting opportunities.

Alberta Environment and Parks is seeking input from Albertans on number of topics including:

- A review of the *Wildlife Act* and Regulation and associated processes to improve efficiency, reduce complexity, and provide better service. We have made many changes already based on input from Albertans, and we look forward to hearing more.
- Investigate ways to provide quality recreational hunting opportunities and experiences for Albertans and visitors while ensuring the sustainability of game species.
- Explore options for innovative tools to provide improved recreational hunting opportunities on public and private lands across the province.
- Facilitate better and more frequent dialogue with Albertans to ensure we understand their hunting perspectives and ideas for the sustainable use and enjoyment of wildlife.



We must be proactive when communicating our knowledge, values and perspectives with Albertans, and ensure we are being inclusive and transparent when setting rules and regulations to guide hunting. To achieve this, government will:

- Update information more frequently to ensure decisions are transparent and ensure stakeholders can see and understand management approaches to hunting.
- Modernize hunting and human–wildlife conflict policies and game species management plans as necessary.
- Explore innovative strategies to streamline and improve hunting regulations to remain Canada’s leader in wildlife management, with a long-term vision built with your input.

The Alberta government is committed to working with all Albertans, including recreational hunters, outfitters, Indigenous communities and organizations, landowners, and industries to support and enhance hunting in our province.

Please take the time to attend one of our upcoming engagement webinars to learn more and provide your input via our online survey.