



ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement:

Your Alberta bowhunting and archery organization.

The Alberta Provincial Archery Association and the Edmonton Bowhunters joined forces in 1956 to form the Alberta Bowhunters and Archers Association with a primary goal of legalizing bowhunting in Alberta – a goal which was accomplished in 1957 with the harvest of a cow elk with an 85 pound Howard Hill Longbow and 3/8 inch birch dowell tipped arrow with a Howard Hill Broadhead. Since then, the Association has worked with the Alberta Government and other user groups to enhance the bowhunting experience and consider the uniqueness of the bowhunter. The first “Bow and Arrow Only” zone was established and is now known throughout the world as the Canmore Corridor in WMU 410. In 1969, the Wildlife Act was amended to allow bowhunters to wear camouflage clothing and longer bowhunting seasons; in 1970, the use of aluminium arrows was approved; in 1974, the bowhunting license was introduced; in 1975, two more “Bow and Arrow Only” zones were created; in 1976, “Archery Only” seasons were created and the archery antelope draw was developed; and, in 1991, the Alberta Bowhunters Association and the Alberta Target Archers Association were created to focus on the interests of these two distinct groups of members.

Recent successes include lobbying for Sunday hunting in much of the province, revamping of the cougar management plan (2011) – (including a general boot license tag), successful lobby to keep crossbows out of the general archery season (2011), successful lobby to retain Parkland County as archery only (2009), standardized start dates for archery (Aug 25 and Sept 1) (2011), earlier start and later end dates to black bear seasons in southern portions of province (2011). Allow non-trophy or trophy antelope to be taken in archery only season in all antelope zones (2011). Regulation changes to give archers opportunity prior to rifle season for elk in WMU 164, 166, and 208. Additionally, hunt WMU 164 Monday–Saturday (2011). Allow hunting of red squirrel on private land (2011).

The ABA will be heavily involved in the updating and reworking of the Mule Deer Management Plan and Bighorn Sheep Management Plan over the next two years (2011-2013) thru the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group in meetings involving other stakeholders and SRD. This will be key in moving forward with population goals and hunter/bowhunter harvest rates

The Alberta Bowhunters Association sponsors a Game Awards Program to provide Alberta bowhunters with a record system to identify successful bowhunters in Alberta. The goals of the Game Awards Program are to maintain an organized system of bowhunting game award records for Alberta bowhunters, train Alberta bowhunters to respect and recognize trophy class animals and to produce an annual publication to help promote the ABA and its programs to Alberta bowhunters. The program recognizes successful bowhunters who have harvested record book animals in Alberta with awards provided at the Small Game, Big Game, Master Bowhunter and Grand Master

Bowhunter levels, annual awards for each huntable species as well as for Traditional, Ladies and Youth categories.

Membership in the Alberta Bowhunters Association links the bowhunter to others with common interests, provides a voice in addressing bowhunting concerns, offers an opportunity to be recognized for record harvests, and provides its members with social activities such as archery tournaments and sporting events. Members with access to bowhunter education programs, also receive a quarterly newsletter, third party liability insurance, annual banquets and conventions, and involvement with other groups in conservation and pro-hunting issues. The cost of membership ranges from a \$35.00 non-affiliate membership to a \$500.00 Lifetime Membership. For more information about joining the ABA contact Mike Walliser at (403) 309-7721. You may also contact the Alberta Bowhunters Association through its President, Mr. Brent Watson, at (780) 539-9811 or:



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