

Improving Albertans' quality of life

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Opportunities abound for Alberta hunters in 2007 guide***Alberta continues program to manage chronic wasting disease***

Edmonton... Hunting licences for the fall 2007 season go on sale August 1 across the province. To help hunters plan their trips, the 2007 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations is now available, free of charge, from licence issuers and Sustainable Resource Development district offices.

Hunting is a tradition in Alberta that plays a critical role in wildlife management and conservation. Sustainable Resource Development urges all hunters to continue the tradition of hunting safely and responsibly in Alberta by getting permission for access where required and becoming familiar with the regulations in the 2007 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations.

More than 381,000 big game and bird game licences were issued in 2006-07 in Alberta to 100,000 hunters. This year, the Alberta government will continue to offer hunting for a variety of game in many areas of the province, including increased opportunities for deer, allowing hunters to choose the kind of hunting experience they wish to have in Alberta.

Management of chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to be a top priority for the department. Submission of deer heads for testing is mandatory in some specific Wildlife Management Units along the Alberta and Saskatchewan border. Hunters should refer to the 2007 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations for these specific areas.

Of the 3,000 deer heads submitted for CWD testing during last fall's hunting season, four mule deer tested positive. These cases led to a spring cull that resulted in 12 additional positive cases, including a positive white-tailed deer. This brings the total of positive cases of chronic wasting disease in wild deer to 29 since the first documented case in September 2005.

Protecting wildlife and habitat is part of the Alberta government's commitment to improve Albertans' quality of life. Big game hunting in Alberta contributes more than \$100 million annually to Alberta's economy.