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GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION PACKET 2012



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2012 HUNTING GENERAL INFORMATION

Includes License & Permit Information

For Detailed Hunt Descriptions and Hunt Prices Refer to Wilderness and Private Land Information Packets

With the passage of a new State Initiative, I161, the Outfitter Sponsored Guaranteed License is no longer available. **All non-resident licenses are now available through a draw system.** You can go online to MFWP, www.fwp.mt.gov, to learn more about the new changes. Do not be discouraged, your chances of drawing a combination elk/deer license are quite good. You are also allowed to apply as a "party" for the draw if there are two or more of you wanting to hunt together.

Applications for the General Draw for elk and deer licenses can be made online through Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov, (406-444-2950). **The General Draw application deadline for elk and deer is March 15th.** The drawing takes place mid-April.

Applications for Special Draw Permits can be made online through Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov, (406-444-2950). **The Special Draw application deadline for bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat and bison permits is May 1st.** The drawing for bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat takes place the 3rd week in June. The drawing for bison takes place mid-September. **The Special Draw application deadline for elk and deer permits is June 1st.** The drawing for elk and deer special permits takes place the 3rd week in July. *In order to apply for a special draw permit for elk and deer you must first obtain a general draw license. ***All of the above information for Special Draw Permits applies for Montana Residents as well as Non Residents.**

EARLY SEASON WILDERNESS ELK & DEER HUNTS

Archery only season begins the 1st Saturday in September and runs through mid October. Archery hunters must have a "bow and arrow license" for the archery only season. Our wilderness archery hunts are 6 day hunts. (day in, 5 days hunting, out eve of 6th day). We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter and take only a couple of bow hunters a year. **The dates for the 2012 wilderness archery hunt are August 31-September 5.**



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We offer two early season rifle wilderness hunts from our backcountry camps, Hellroaring and Independence. Both early season hunts are primary target elk. **However, if you have a deer license or bear permit they are fair game with no extra charge. These hunts book very early.**

The **early season rifle elk/deer** wilderness hunt out of **Hellroaring** is a 7 day (1 day in, 5 days hunting, 1 day out) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 2 hunters, take 6 hunters on this hunt and offer only one early season hunt out of Hellroaring. The 2012 dates for the Hellroaring early season wilderness hunt are September 14-20.

The **early season rifle elk/deer** wilderness hunt out of **Independence** is a 6 day (day in, 5 days hunting, out eve of 6th day) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 2 hunters, take 4 hunters, and offer only one early season hunt out of Independence. The 2012 dates for the Independence early season wilderness hunt are September 22-27.

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS ELK & DEER HUNTS

During the **general season** we offer several elk and deer hunting options. **General season rifle elk and deer wilderness hunts** are run out of our backcountry camp at **Independence** and out of our hunting lodge in **Gardiner**.

The Independence hunt is a 6 day (day in, 5 days hunting, out eve of 6th day) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 2 hunters and take 4 hunters on a trip. These wilderness hunts take place the first two weeks of the general season.

**The 2012 dates for the general season Independence hunts are:
October 19-24 and October 27-November 1.**

The Greater Yellowstone Area hunt offers a limited number of hunters an opportunity to hunt the migration corridor near the Yellowstone Park boundary. This is the time of year when the elk typically migrate out of the park to winter range, offering hunters the opportunity to harvest trophy bulls. The Greater Yellowstone Area general season wilderness hunt is a 7 day (arrival day, 5 days hunting, departure day) hunt out of Gardiner. We hunt 1 guide to 2 hunters and take 4 hunters on a trip. This hunt provides the creature comforts of a hunting lodge but the option to stay overnight in our backcountry camp, Bassett Creek, depending on the weather and the elk.

**The 2012 dates for the Greater Yellowstone Area hunts are:
October 19-25 October 27-November 2 November 4-10,
November 12-18 November 20-26.**



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GENERAL SEASON PRIVATE LAND HUNTS

Lazy E-L Ranch – Roscoe, MT

12,000 acre ranch, borders wilderness, 5 miles of river frontage, abundant wildlife

Combination Elk/Deer Hunt

6 hunters - 5 days hunting

Hunt Dates: October 20-24 (Plan to arrive on the 19th and depart on the 25th)

Big Timber Ranch Hunts

- 20,000 acres of rolling hills with flowing creeks, trophy elk, good deer

20 minutes north of Big Timber, MT

Special Draw Area for Elk, General Draw Area for Deer

Permit Areas: Elk Archery–580-15 Elk Rifle – 580-22 Elk Cow – 580-80

*In order to apply for a special draw permit for elk and deer you must first obtain a general draw license.

4 hunters, 4 days hunting

Hunt Dates: To be determined with hunter at time of booking.

Season Dates: October 20th – November 25th

- Five miles of Yellowstone riverfront with brush and cottonwood trees, lots of water and channels, holds deer, abundant turkey and waterfowl

5 minutes from Big Timber

Phenomenal Fishing

Combination Hunts Available: Deer, Turkey, Duck & Geese

Archery or Rifle

Seasonal Custom Hunts

Licenses Required:

Deer – Apply in general draw online, www.fwp.mt.gov, for license.

Turkey, Ducks and Geese - Purchase licenses online through MFWP www.fwp.mt.gov

Season Dates:

Deer Season: Oct 20-Nov 25 Application Deadline for General Draw March 15

Turkey Season: Spring *April 9-May 15 Application Deadline March 10
Fall *Sept 1-Jan 1 Application Deadline July 28

Duck & Geese Season: *Oct 2-Jan 14

***2012 Dates to be determined by MFWP in Spring 2012**



Other Species Hunts:

Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Black Bear and Bison

Our **Bighorn sheep hunts** are in **unlimited sheep areas** north of Yellowstone National Park. These unlimited sheep permit areas guarantee you a license. Bighorn sheep permits can be purchased online from Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov. The deadline for purchasing a bighorn sheep permit is May 1. You must specify a sheep area when applying for your sheep permit. If you are booking a Bighorn sheep hunt with Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters, please contact us (406-579-3866) for information on our sheep areas before you apply for your permit. The area and the expertise of my guides make it the best opportunity in the lower 48 to kill a ram.

Our bighorn sheep hunt out of Independence is a 10 day (day in, 8 days hunting, day out) hunt. **This is a progressive backpacking hunt.** We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter and only book 2 sheep hunters a year for this area. These hunts often book 2 years out. **The 2012 dates for the Bighorn sheep hunt out of Independence are: September 14-23.**

Our bighorn sheep hunt out of Gardiner is an 8 day hunt. This sheep hunt is day hunting. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter and book only 2 sheep hunters a year for this area. These hunts are scheduled at the time of booking. **The season dates for the 2012 Bighorn sheep hunt out of Gardiner are: September 15 through October 31.**

Mountain goat permits are by special drawing. Go online to Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov) to apply for this special permit draw.

Make sure you apply for Area 323 or Area 329. These two areas have the highest probability in the state for drawing a goat permit. The application deadline for goat permits is May 1. Drawings are the third week in June. The permit fee is refundable if you do not draw a goat permit. Our goat hunts are a 6 day (day in, 5 days hunting, out eve of 6th day) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter. Please contact us (406-579-3866) when you draw a mountain goat permit and we will be glad to schedule your hunt.

The dates for the 2012 goat season are: September 15-November 25.

Moose permits are by special drawing. The application deadline for a moose permit is May 1. Our permitted moose **area is 516.** However, there are a very limited number of moose permits available for this area so it is not easy to draw a moose permit. Our moose hunts are a 7 day (1 day in, 5 days hunting, 1 day out) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter. **The dates for the 2012 moose season are: September 15-November 25.**



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Fall black bear licenses are available for purchase through Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov. The deadline for purchasing a fall black bear license is August 31. Currently, we do not offer spring black bear hunting.

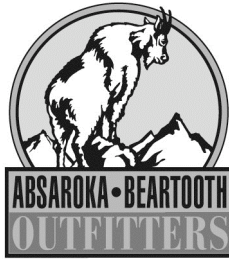
Bison permits are by special drawing. The application deadline for a bison permit is May 1. Our bison hunts are 4 day hunts. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter. There are 3 hunting time periods for bison, Nov.15 – Dec. 31, Jan. 1 – 22, and Jan. 23 – Feb. 15. The drawn permit specifies the time period you are allowed to hunt. If you draw a bison permit, please call us (406-579-3866) for a guided hunt.

Fair chase hunting in the Montana wilderness is a challenging and memorable experience. We have experienced guides who know the area and very good horse and mule stock for packing and riding in the mountains. ABO operates two **early season camps, Hellroaring and Independence.** Hellroaring is located in Bull Moose Meadow, 8 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. Independence is located 55 miles south of Big Timber at the head of the Boulder River. **Independence is also one of our general season camps along with Bassett Creek.** Bassett Creek is located north of the Yellowstone National Park boundary near Gardiner. Our backcountry camps are some of the best in Montana including comfortable accommodations and a great cook.

Special note: We base out of a hunting lodge above Yellowstone National Park during the Greater Yellowstone Area/ Bassett Creek hunts. This allows us the flexibility to choose our accommodations based on weather and elk movement.

Fair chase hunting on private ranches with ABO offers our hunters a unique variety of species in distinctive settings. The opportunity to hunt elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, black bear, ducks, geese and turkey is provided to a limited number of hunters. You can choose to hunt on the picturesque **Lazy E-L Ranch** (www.lazyel.com) just outside Roscoe, Montana, the rolling hills of the **JG Ranch** just north of Big Timber, Montana, or the cottonwood river banks of the **Boa Vida Ranch** in Big Timber. Each of these elite locations offers an abundance of game.

Whether you are looking for the challenge of a wilderness hunt or the exclusive opportunity to hunt on private land, Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters is committed to giving you the best possible hunting experience.



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2011 OFFICIAL APPLICATION DEADLINES NON RESIDENT LICENSE AND PERMIT PRICES

Dates & Prices for 2012 are released by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks in early February.
Dates and prices change very slightly each year.

www.fwp.mt.gov

<u>ANIMAL</u>	<u>PRICE (Non Resident)</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
BIG GAME ELK/DEER COMBO General Draw	\$ 912.00 (2011 Price)	MARCH 15
ELK COMBINATION General Draw	\$ 812.00 (2011 Price)	MARCH 15
DEER COMBINATION General Draw	\$ 812.00 (2011 Price)	MARCH 15
MOOSE * Special drawing	\$ 755.00	MAY 1
BLACK BEAR (fall season)* Guaranteed permit	\$ 350.00	AUGUST 31
WOLF (currently unavailable) Limited permit	\$ 350.00	AUGUST 31
MOUNTAIN GOAT * Special drawing	\$ 755.00	MAY 1
BIGHORN SHEEP Guaranteed permit	\$ 755.00	MAY 1
BISON * Special drawing	\$ 750.00	MAY 1
Youth Big Game License Youths 12-17 years of age - 300 Licenses Available- First come, first served (Adult immediate-family member must possess a deer/elk license.)	\$ 458.50	Application available online March 1

*The license/permit is not guaranteed but the license/permit price is refundable if not drawn. However, there is a \$5 non-refundable drawing fee.



STEPS TO RECEIVE YOUR LICENSE

For All Hunters

With the passage of a new state Initiative, I161, the Outfitter Sponsored Guaranteed License is no longer available. All non-resident licenses are now available through a draw system. You can go online to MFWP, www.fwp.mt.gov, to learn more about the new changes. Do not be discouraged, your chances of drawing a combination elk/deer license are quite good.

Non Resident General Draw Licenses for Elk and Deer

For elk/deer, call for an application or apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov. **You can use a General Elk/Deer License to hunt in most of our permitted areas. However, a few of our areas require a Special Draw Permit so please check with us first before you apply. If you are sure of the hunt you want to pursue you can secure your spot with a \$ 500 deposit which will be fully refunded if you do not draw.** We take two to six hunters per hunt so this is the best way to secure your spot and avoid the chaos at the time of the draw. Most hunters put in for the Big Game Combo license which allows you to hunt both elk and deer. However, check with us first to make sure this is the right license for the area you plan to hunt. You can also apply as a party if there are two or more of you wanting to hunt together. If you have questions about the online application process we will be glad to assist you.

MARCH 15TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR THE GENERAL DRAW.

The general drawing takes place mid-April.

Non Resident Special Draw Permits for Elk and Deer

For elk/deer, if the area you wish to hunt requires a special permit, you must first obtain a general draw license in order to apply for a special draw permit. Apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov or call for an application. If you are applying for one of our special permitted areas please check with us before you apply to verify the area.

JUNE 1ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR SPECIAL PERMITS.

The drawing for special permits takes place the 3rd week of July.

Non-Resident & Resident Special Draw Permits for Other Species

For mountain goat, moose and bison, apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov or call for an application. The deadline for applying for these species is May 1. Our special permit areas for mountain goat are 323 and 329. Special permit area for moose is 516. If you draw a special permit (permit drawings for these species are the last week of June), please contact us with the dates you want to hunt. Once the dates are confirmed, you book your hunt by sending us a 50% deposit.



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For black bear or wolf (wolf is currently unavailable), call for an application or apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov to purchase a guaranteed permit.

For Bighorn sheep, call for an application or apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov . **You must apply for a specific area. Be sure to check with Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters (406-579-3866) before applying to verify our bighorn sheep areas.**

Resident General Licenses and Special Draw Permits for Elk and Deer

For elk/deer, apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov, visit a FWP Regional Office or stop by a FWP License Provider to purchase a General License for Elk and Deer or to apply for a Special Draw Permit.
