

THE SARATOGA SUN HUNTING GUIDE

A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE *Saratoga Sun* • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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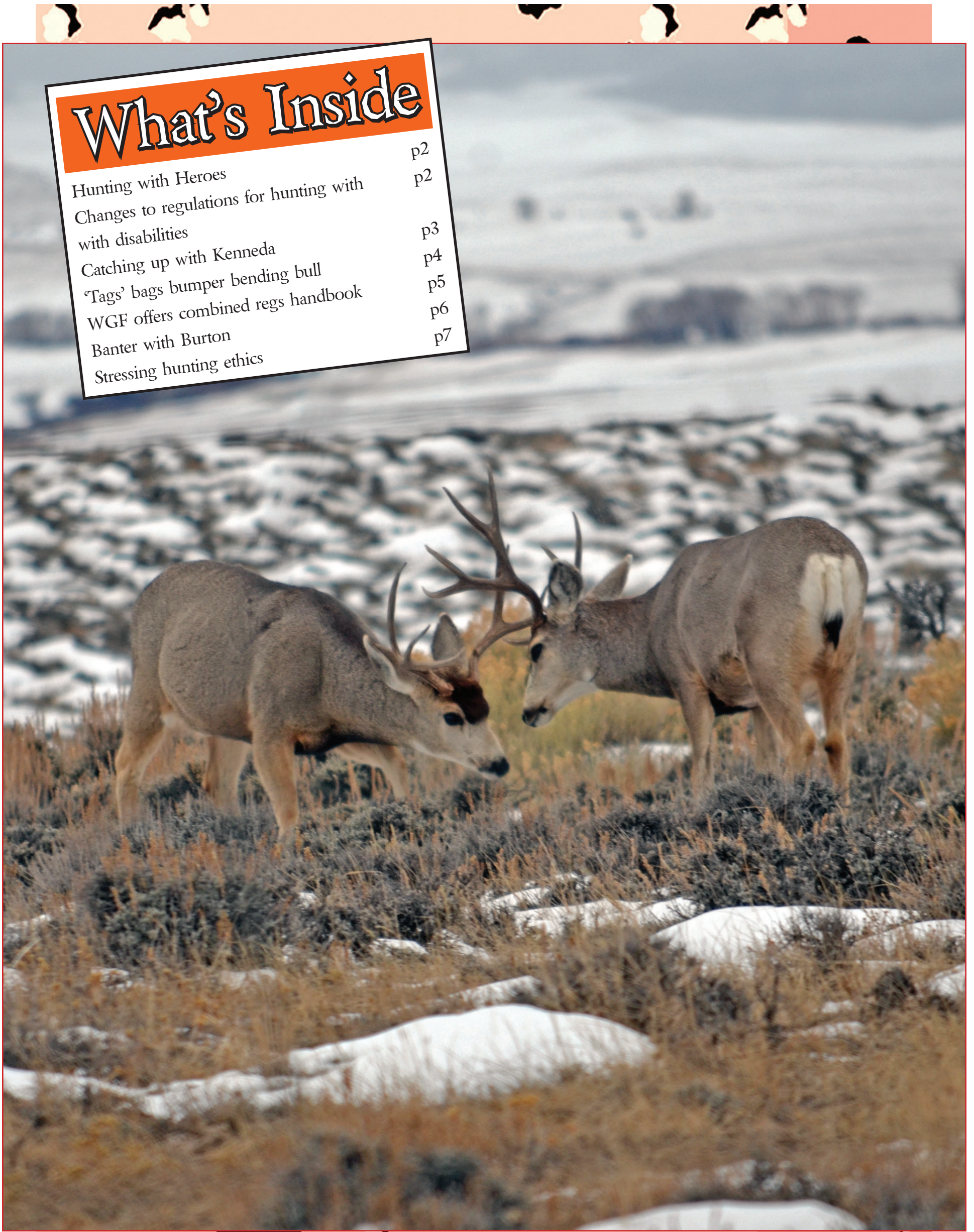
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Hunting with heroes

By Mike Armstrong

Ryan Kenneda, Senior Elk Game Warden, said Elk Mountain Ranch will be hosting a Hunting with Heroes event Oct. 15-21 for four disabled veterans. “Fred Eschelman, who owns the property, has not allowed much hunting on the mountain itself, although he has allowed hunting on the hunter management area which is fantastic for elk,” Keneda said. This year’s Hunting with Heroes came about when two vets sent a thank you note to Eschelman for being able to hunt on Halleck Ridge, which is on the hunter management area. Eschelman liked that the vets had enjoyed themselves so much on his

land, he had Shelley Bradford, who worked for Elk Mountain Ranch, contact Kenneda about getting more vets on the property. Kenneda in turn contacted Hunting with Heroes and a hunting trip was set up. Four disabled veterans have been selected for this year’s hunt. Kenneda said Eschelman should be commended on his concern about disabled vets and giving them opportunity to hunt on Elk Mountain Ranch. Hunting with Heroes is a non-profit and charitable organization, formed in 2013, dedicated to giving disabled veterans who served the USA opportunities for hunting, fishing

and other unique outdoor experiences. Partnering with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and using their big game donated license program, Hunting with Heroes coordinates veterans with a license, supplies, guide services, rifles and other gear, game processing and room and board if needed. The donated license program allows anyone to donate a big game license to be reissued to a disabled veteran. Most people would agree with Kenneda’s commendation on Eschelman’s kindness to those vets who have sacrificed for the country and his willingness to work with Hunting with Heroes organization.

Changes to regulations for hunters with disabilities

Staff Report

Hunters should be aware of changes to Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 35, Hunting Permit Regulations for Persons with Disabilities. Hunters should be aware of the new Hunting Season Extension Permit. All Disabled Hunter Permit holders no longer automatically qualify for the hunting season extension. The applicant must meet one of the following to receive a separate hunting season extension permit:

- Has a central visual acuity disability, is quadriplegic, upper extremity disabled, paraplegic, permanently paralyzed over at least 50 percent of their body or otherwise physically disabled so as to be permanently confined to a wheelchair (or similar device) or,
- Can produce a decision letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or any branch of the armed forces of the United States, showing the person to have a 100 percent service connected disability; or
- Meets the requirements set forth in W.S. 23-1-705(j); (is 20 years of age or younger with a life threatening illness and is sponsored by a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission it is to provide hunting opportunities and experiences to persons with a life threatening or serious illness).

Hunters issued a hunting season extension permit may hunt antelope, deer or elk 5 days prior to the earliest opening date in the hunt area(s) and for the sex of antelope, deer or elk set forth by the limitations of their license as specified in Section 2 of the current regulation for that species. This only applies to rifle seasons, not archery. Other changes are summarized below:

Disabled Hunter Permit

The veteran’s disability percentage was adjusted from 65 percent to 70 percent and requires the decision letter to have been issued within five years from the date of application. Disabled Hunter Permits only allow a disabled hunter permit holder to be accompanied by a person with a Disabled Hunter Companion Permit who may take any

animal the disabled hunter has lawfully wounded.

Shoot from a Vehicle Permit

All requirements remain the same; this permit was added to Chapter 35. This permit allows any person with a qualifying physical disability to shoot from a stationary vehicle to take wildlife. This permit does not allow a holder of this permit to hunt, shoot or attempt to take any wildlife from, along or across any public road or highway.

Central Visual Acuity Disability Permit

All requirements remain the same; this permit was added to Chapter 35. This permit allows the holder to use a scope that projects a visible light onto a target to take any animal. Applications for any of these disabled hunter permits are available at all Game and Fish regional Offices or Cheyenne Headquarters Office. Applications are also available online. For questions regarding these changes, please call 307-777-4600.

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Catching up with Kenneda

An interview with the Elk Mountain area Senior Game Warden

By Mike Armstrong

Ryan Kenneda, Senior Game Warden, said one of the first differences hunters will see this year is the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's packet titled 2017 Antelope, Deer and Elk Hunting Regulations. The packet can be picked up at any licensed selling agent and is free.

"I like this packet," Kenneda said. "It has tips and suggestions throughout."

Kenneda said the packet helps hunters know where the boundaries are located.

"Boundaries are important," Kenneda said. "There are some clearly defined places but once you get up into the mountains, it is more difficult."

Kenneda said the biggest problem he has with hunters being in violation of regulations is when it comes to them paying attention to boundaries of an area allowed to hunt. He believes the 2017 packet will help hunters with this problem.

"At the end of each section is the boundary description and this is what I think people really need to pay attention to if they don't have a GPS unit with the most current SD chip installed from Xmaps," Kenneda said. "So what I recommend is going and grabbing a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) map of the area they are going to hunt."

Kenneda said hunters armed with the 2017 packet and the BLM map can highlight the area they want to search for their animal and be in compliance. He said most people that hunt in the wrong area, don't do it intentionally, so by utilizing

both packet and map, their accuracy of the area to hunt is improved immensely.

Kenneda said common violations are listed in the packet.

The packet makes clear big game, trophy, and muzzle-loader hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange clothing. This also applies to archery hunters during rifle season. The clothing can be a hat, shirt, jacket, coat, vest or sweater. Bird hunters on Game and Fish Wildlife Management Areas also must wear fluorescent orange.

A violation that can get expensive is shooting game from a car or the road.

"Shooting from a vehicle is a \$435 fine and shooting from the road is a \$270 fine, so you are looking at \$800 already if you do both of these," Kenneda said.

Hunters sometimes are not aware of rules and Kenneda understands this. For instance, many Wyoming hunting licenses require the taking of a specific gender of an animal. Some season dates require specific genders. So evidence of the gender must be visible with the carcass, the head or antlers.

"Every circumstance may vary and I have some officer discretion to write a warning versus a citation, it just depends what is going on," Kenneda said. "Typically, a lot of my violations that come to me are from hunters and landowners because if they see something wrong, they call me."

Kenneda says trespassing is a common violation, not only due to not knowing an area, but not understanding what is allowed. If a hunter

sees an animal to harvest from the road which is in an designated area to hunt, but has private property between the road and public land, a common violation occurs.

"Shooting from the road is illegal and so is going onto the private land to get to the hunting area without the owner's permission," Kenneda said. "This is a violation even if it is unintentional."

State statutes require any permission given by a landowner be written on the back of the license.

Kenneda gives advice on the best areas to hunt in his district of Elk Mountain.

"For antelope area 50, the south area of 48, the southwest area of 47 and area 46," said Kenneda. "For deer it is the south end of area 70, area 74, 75, 79 and 161. Elk is area 11, half of area 12, the southern part of 16, all of 125 and the elk part of area 114."

Another common violation is filling out a carcass coupon incorrectly after harvesting an animal.

"There are three parts to your license," Kenneda said. "You have the main part of the license, which has all your information, the directions and what you must sign to validate your license."

This main part of the license after the harvest goes to the landowner if it is done on private property so they will receive \$16 for the kill.

"It isn't much, but adds up," said Kenneda. "Then immediately after killing the animal, I need to cut out the entire month and day of the kill."

Kenneda recommends putting the paper on a hoof



Photo by Mike Armstrong

Elk Mountain area Senior Game Warden Ryan Kenneda in the field.

before cutting to make sure the knife doesn't hurt the hunter. He has seen hunters jab themselves in the leg by not taking this precaution.

Then he recommends signing the third part before starting to cut on the carcass so as not to get blood on any part of the license.

The animal is now legally ready to be hauled out. A mistake at this point by hunters is not tagging the animal as body parts are carted away.

Kenneda suggests when hauling out the animal, the license is in three parts, so have one part on the carcass that is left behind, one part on the carcass you take out

first and one part on your person.

Kenneda also wants hunter's contributions after the season.

"I love to hear the input after the hunt which really helps us for next year," Kenneda said.

Kenneda said it is the public's surveys that help determine what will change for the year to come.

The one thing he always wants to see is people enjoy the experience hunting offers.

"Be safe when you go hunting, be ethical and have fun," said Kenneda wishing all the hunters a great season to come.

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Shaun “Tags” McBride and his near seven-by-seven bull.

The front part of the elk alone proves to be a bumper bender.

‘Tags’ bags bumper bending bull

By Keith McLendon

Shaun McBride found out he had drawn a special draw area elk tag in July. Because the long-time archery hunter has drawn two of the rare limited quota tags in the last four years he laughingly related that some of his friends have begun to call him “Tags.”

McBride took the first 17 days of September off to scout the special draw area this year since that is not his normal hunting ground.

McBride began hunting on September 1, but did not make his kill until September 14. McBride said he, “took the weekends off to let the ‘weekend warriors’ have the mountain,” and to, “take a vacation from my vacation”

McBride said, “The hunt itself was a fun hunt. I went into a canyon I had seen elk in previously from scouting,” he continued, “I could not call this bull in. He would not leave his cows. During the observation, there were

three of four bulls above him and there were two or three bulls below him. But he was the bull with cows, he was the bigger of the bulls. I could not get him to come. He had cows, he don’t need me. I was trying to cow call him, but he didn’t want to fight either.”

So after watching the herd’s pattern for a while and noticing they were moving down the canyon, McBride backed out and moved lower down the canyon to a pinch point where he thought he would get a good shot. Though McBride says he keeps his camo really clean and uses a lot of scent eliminator, he had tried to pick a spot where he would not be scented by the herd.

McBride stayed up on the south side of the canyon and watched. “I was within 85 yards of the bull for 45 minutes and he was breeding cows. He was going back and forth, he was chasing,” McBride said. “I was just hoping a cow was going to come by me. I was just going to sit there like a stump.”

Unfortunately no cows came by and McBride watched as the herd went just past him. “Soon as he walked kinda by me at about 80 yards, he

The hunter said he likes to shoot his bow at under 30 yards, so it was a “perfect” range for him to put his arrow squarely in the heart/lung area.

McBride said the bull sported seven points per side on his rack when he had seen him three days earlier but had broke a portion of one point off in the intervening period.

Because the 54-year old has been having knee problems, McBride was carrying fewer implements with him in his pack. To dress the animal, he knew he would need a saw which he did not have with him. So McBride left his bow and pack with the elk and traveled the mile and a half to two miles back to his jeep where he called his son who had just gotten back to camp himself.

McBride’s son brought their Razor all terrain vehicle up to where McBride was at and they proceeded onward to gut the elk. They then cut the beast into three pieces which they brought up to the Jeep in the Razor.

“We messed up a little bit,” McBride admitted, “We should have left the elk in the Razor.”

McBride said they tried to put two of the animal’s quarters in the back seat of his four seater Jeep and went to

put the head, chest and horns onto a hitch mounted rack.

As a result McBride said, “It bent my bumper. I didn’t hurt the receiver hitch at all, but it pulled my bumper down so far he was damn near touching the ground. and we just idled back to camp.” McBride continued, “We just barely got to back to camp. So I actually had to call my wife to bring my truck up so we could load the elk into the truck. We’re talking it takes about two and a half hours to get over there. It’s a long way over there.”

McBride estimates the bull weighed 750 to 850 pounds and said that though many people would say bulls weigh more than that, he says he went to Montana a month ago and talked to a guy who hunts White Mountain Indian Reservation. At the reservation McBride says they load their world-class elk “as big as they make ‘em” whole, guts and all, and they have never have had a bull over 800 pounds.

So though “Tags” McBride got a trophy bull, he also got a bent bumper he describes as, “that’s not a stock jeep bumper, it’s one for off-roading you can put a jack under so you don’t tear things up.”

Unfortunately he and his elk did.

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Moose continue to face challenges, but as in the past, the 315 licenses issued this year are in proportion to the population.

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Photo courtesy of Wyoming Game and Fish
The new combined antelope deer and elk regulation handbook, center, is available for free at any Wyoming hunting license purchasing location.

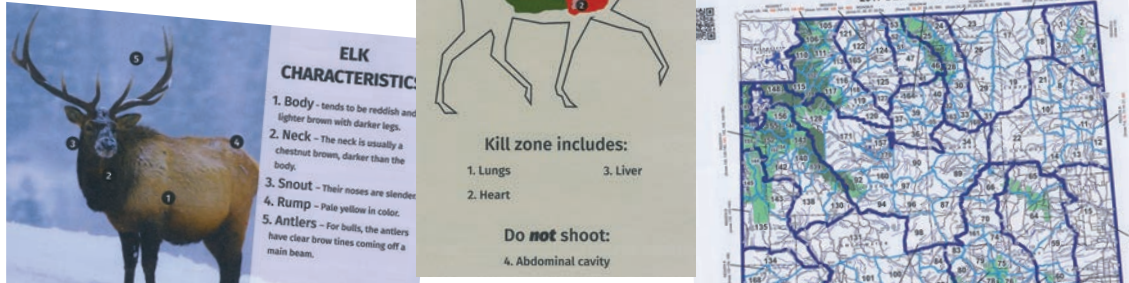
WGF offers combined hunting regs handbook

Free booklet features informational maps and graphics

By Keith McLendon
This year the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGF) is offering a free 64 page booklet which combines hunting regulations for antelope, elk and deer. Previously, WGF distributed pamphlets for each individual species, which combined, came to a total of 200,000 regulation pamphlets sent. The move combines these and allows the agency to more easily serve the 40,000 people who hunt multiple species

yearly in Wyoming. The handbook covers license types, general hunting questions, gender evidence, how to fill out licenses, hunting boundary areas and more. The booklet is full of graphics showing the edible portions of game, shot placement, animal characteristics, hunt

areas by species and highlights hunting tips and common hunting violations. Hunt areas are also listed along with season dates and limitations. The WGF would like your input on this change and encourages you to give feedback by emailing sara.dirienzo@wyo.gov, logging on to the agency's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WyoGFD/> or calling WGF's phone bank at 307-777-4600.



Some of the graphics featured in the combined handbook.

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Banter with Burton

Game warden talks regulation changes and common violations

By Fred Broschart

Biff Burton, has a lot to say about regulations when it comes to hunting and fishing, but more than anything wants to stress it's important sports people check on regulations to make sure there have been no changes.

The regulations, he said, are designed to be reviewed every year by Wyoming Game and Fish and possibly change to adapt to changing situations on the ground.

"It's really not safe to assume that regulations haven't changed," Burton said. "The whole point of these regulations is that they are designed to be adjusted and changed."

Hunting violations generally fall into three categories in Wyoming: low misdemeanors, high misdemeanors and, the most serious, felonies. Low misdemeanors can carry a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail. High misdemeanors can carry fines of up to \$10,000 and one year in jail. Other penalties, such as the confiscation of game meat and loss of the privilege to hunt may also be assessed.

This year, one significant change in regulations deals with the caliber of bullet


hunters can use to hunt some game animals. For instance, it is now legal to hunt pronghorn antelope with some .22 caliber centerfire cartridges. The cartridge must be centerfire, and have a casing length of at least 2", Burton said. That means the popular .223 or 5.56 mm NATO cartridge used in the AR-15 cannot be used, but other centerfire .22 caliber rounds may.

Developments in ballistics mean that in some cases, bullets of a smaller diameter are actually packing more punch than some of larger caliber, Burton said, and the changes are meant to reflect that.

Another significant change that is notable this year regards the hunting of elk. Due to what Burton called a "productive couple of years," the Elk herd in the area has grown allowing for a larger harvest. This year, there are no point restrictions on Elk as there have been in the past, Burton said.


"This year, they can kill any elk on a general license," Burton said, adding that the areas around the Valley are general license areas. Two years ago, hunters were not allowed to kill yearling elk, known as "spikes" because

of their non-branched antlers. This year, due to the population, that is different, highlighting the changing nature of regulations.



Public roads are not always what people think either ... even private roads on private land can be considered "public" if they are open to, and frequently used by members of the public.

Biff Burton
Wyoming Game & Fish



Some common violations Burton notes include failing to properly attach the "car-

cass tag" to a killed animal. "There are two parts to the license, the part you keep on you and the tag that is put on the killed animal," Burton said. Often, hunters forget to attach the carcass tag, something that must be done at the kill site before the carcass is transported. "You should carry a pen, pencil, crayon, something to fill it out," Burton said with a bit of a laugh.

Another common violation is firing too close to a public road, Burton said. It's illegal to hunt from a vehicle, and it's also illegal to fire a weapon from within 30 feet of a public road, Burton said. Public roads are not always what people think either, Burton said, adding that even private roads on private land can be considered "public" if they are open to, and frequently used by members of the public.

Another common violation is hunters not preserving proof of sex for the animal they have harvested, Burton said. It is a hunter's responsibility under the law to be able to prove the sex of the animal they have harvested, so it is important to keep either the head or sex organs

of the animal in case a kill is inspected by game wardens.

Some regulations have not changed, and thanks to new technology and better understanding by hunters, violations of those have become rarer. One example Burton points to is trespassing. In the past, trespassing happened a lot more frequently, since it was sometimes difficult for hunters to know the difference between public land and private land. Thanks to modern technology like handheld GPS receivers and even smartphone apps, hunters are more keenly aware of where exactly in the world they are, and if they are supposed to be there.

Many, but not all such apps are listed on WFG's website.

It is up to hunters to know and follow regulations, Burton said, but the WGF hopes to make it easy for hunters to learn about all the changes that occur. Of course the agency publishes booklets and pamphlets, and regulations are also online at the agency's website.

Hunters can always just ask a game warden, who are always happy to help explain regulations and even give advice to hunters, Burton said.

Firearm Cartridges allowed by Game per Wyoming Game and Fish regulations

Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat, Black Bear or Grizzly Bear*

Any CENTERFIRE cartridge at least .24 caliber and at least 2" in overall length or other cartridge .35 caliber or better and at least 1.5" in overall length using an expanding point bullet.

Muzzle-loading rifle or handgun at least .40 caliber (expanding point bullet) using a charge of at least 50 grains



Black Powder

.223 Rem

.22-250 Rem

.220 Swift

.243 Win

.30-30 Win

.300 Savage

"00" or larger buckshot or a slug.



Shotgun Shell

.25-06 Rem

.270 Win

.308 Win

.30-06 Springfield

7mm RemMag

.300 WinMag

.300 Weatherby

.338 WinMag

.375 H&H

Some recommended cartridges

or Larger

*Grizzly Bear hunting is not currently legal in Wyoming

Antelope, Mountain Lion, Deer or Gray Wolf

Any CENTERFIRE cartridge at least .22 caliber (excluding .22 Hornet) and having a bullet weight of at least 60 grains and firing a cartridge at least 2" in overall length, or any cartridge at least .35 caliber and at least 1.5" in overall length and using an expanding point bullet.

Muzzle-loading rifle or handgun at least .40 caliber (expanding point bullet) using a charge of at least 50 grains



Black Powder

.223 Rem

.22-250 Rem

"00" or larger buckshot or a slug.



Shotgun Shell

or Larger

Game Birds

excluding Wild Turkey, Blue Grouse & Ruffed Grouse

Any center-fire or muzzle-loading shotgun not larger than a ten (10) gauge plugged to admit no more than one (1) shell in the chamber and two (2) shells in the magazine or any archery equipment.

Wild Turkey

For the Wild Turkey, a hunter shall use any shotgun, center-fire firearm, .17 HMR or larger rimfire firearm with an overall cartridge length greater than 1", any muzzle-loading firearm, or any archery equipment.

Blue Grouse & Ruffed Grouse

Blue grouse, ruffed grouse and small game may be taken in any manner except as prohibited by Wyoming Statute.

Questions

The Wyoming Game and Fish maintains a phone bank to answer any hunting related questions you may have and can transfer or refer you to the correct official or agency. Please call 307-777-4600 for more information.

