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Hunting Edition



2022 Hunting Edition



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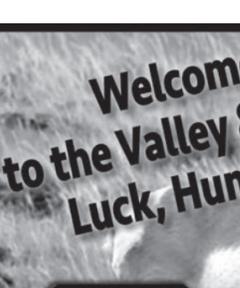
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A hunting we will go

A few reminders for successful and safe hunting

by Virginia Parker

Like children at Christmas hunters await opening day with high hopes and excitement. Whether they are a meat hunter or looking for that perfect trophy, the anticipation is the same. Hunting season for big and small game opened mid August. The stalking, first elk bugle and scoping the hillside, kicks the adrenaline rush into high gear.

The majority of hunters have a deep respect for Wyoming's wild animals and wilderness areas. Wyoming hunters are true conservationists, holding themselves to the highest level of ethics and safety, setting the example for future generations of hunters who will follow in their boot prints.

Inspire young hunters to join you. Hunter Education classes are offered frequently and are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1966. When hunting with a young hunter, be sure to bring plenty of snacks and water.

Warm, dry clothes can turn a cold, hungry youngster into a happy hunter. Confidence in their shot will combat nervousness, so practice, practice, practice. Introduce them to a Game Warden or a wildlife biologist.

Whether hunting for years or are as a brand new sportsman, be sure to read the 2022 hunting regulations carefully. From pronghorn out in the desert, deer or elk in the Medicine Bows or bighorn sheep on the side of a cliff, Wyoming Game and Fish has made some changes. The hunting regulations will give the hunter confidence and knowledge while working to fill the freezer.

Hunters are reminded and encouraged to get your deer or elk tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD). This information is very valuable and helps Game and Fish monitoring and management efforts.

Many Wyoming hunting license only allow the taking of a specific sex of an animal. Remember, proof of sex is a requirement when taking a big game animal. When presenting a carcass to a

Game and Fish official you must have either visible external sex organs, head or antlers.

Invasive plants such as cheatgrass should be reported to the county Weed and Pest district. If drought conditions continue, daily movement of big game may create a bigger challenge of locating animals.

It is important that everyone is vigilant in taking care of our diverse habitats. Maintain your ethics when coming in contact with other hunters. Use vehicles responsibly and be diligent with campfires and respect private property.

Keep an eye on the weather and your location. The topography of hunting areas can change quickly, just like the weather, creating a suddenly dangerous situation that could put lives in jeopardy and require Wyoming Search and Rescue to come out.

Big game and trophy game rifle hunters are required to wear at least one exterior garment of fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink solid or camouflage. This also applies to archery hunters hunting during the rifle season. This

can be a hat, shirt, jacket, coat, vest or sweater.

It almost goes without saying, but shooting from a vehicle or public road is illegal. This includes ATVs and snowmobiles. There is an exception that can be applied for through Game and Fish that makes a hunter exempt from this regulation. It is also illegal to shoot a firearm from across or along a public road or highway. According to Wyoming Game and Fish regulations, "the road surface, the area between the fences on a fenced public road or highway, and an area 30 feet perpendicular to edge of the road surface on an unfenced public road or highway shall be considered the public road or highway. Two track trails on public lands are not public roads."

Hunting season is a wonderful time to get outdoors before winter blows in and limits our mobility for several months. Enjoy the land and wonder that is Wyoming.

The Wyoming Game and Fish website at wgfd.wyo.gov and has all the information you need for a successful and enjoyable hunting season.

Sampling for prizes

Wyoming Game and Fish Department tries to combat deadly disease with testing initiatives

by Dee Dee Martz

Teal Cufaude, Wildlife Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Saratoga, was asked about

the upcoming hunting season and where the check stations would be put this season

Cufaude said she thought they would stay in the same place they usually were at the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District office in Saratoga.

Cufaude also wants to remind folks that she and her colleagues may not be at their traditional spots this year to collect and test for Chronic

wasting disease.

They will probably be asked to help in other areas with brucellosis surveillance efforts.

Brucellosis is a disease caused by a bacteria. Bison, elk and some domestic cattle are susceptible to brucellosis. The illness causes some animals to abort their calves. They may also transmit the disease to

other animals.

According to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, this year, hunters in different deer and elk hunt areas all across Wyoming are being asked to collect blood samples from the animals they have harvest this season.

Sample testing kits will be mailed to hunters this year by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department a few weeks before the opening day for hunting.

Hunters can take the kit with them while hunting. The sample should be taken soon after harvest. Hunters are urged to wear latex/nitrile gloves, keep the sample cool in a chilled cooler and not allow it to freeze or spoil.

The kits can be submitted to a biologist or game warden in the field, a check station, the Game and Fish office or drop the prepaid box with the sample in the mail along with the card that came with the kit, filled out.

Learn how to collect a sample through a short video on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's website.

Hunters who don't harvest an elk this year should not mail back an empty kit.

"Save the blood kit for your next year's hunt or return it, unused, to a Game and Fish office or official," said Jessica Jennings-Gaines, Game and Fish wildlife disease specialist.

As an incentive for hunters to collect samples, the department is partnering with several leading outdoor gear companies in a raffle for hunters who provide a useable blood sample from their harvested elk. Hunters with multiple licenses may receive a kit for each and can enter the raffle for each usable sample returned.

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE INFORMATION



Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. Special regulations were adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to decrease the spread of the disease. Details about CWD, where it exists in Wyoming and testing for the disease are provided on the Game and Fish website. For more information on CWD or to check your CWD sample results, please visit: wgfd.wyo.gov/cwd. Hunters wanting to collect lymph nodes from their harvested deer, elk, or moose for CWD testing can watch a video on how to do so at: Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Lymph node removal video.

Most animals infected with CWD show no clinical signs early on, but as the disease progresses (> 1 year), animals will begin to show weight loss, reluctance to move, excessive salivation, droopy ears, increased drinking and urinating, lethargy, and eventually death. Not all animals will show the typical signs of CWD. The majority of all animals infected with CWD appear completely normal when harvested. The only way to know whether your harvested animal has CWD is to have it tested.

For information on the Wyoming CWD Management Plan visit wgfd.wyo.gov/cwd.

wgfd.wyo.gov

2022 Hunting Edition

Hunting comes late but naturally

A woman who is scared of knives and guns becomes successful hunter

by Mike Armstrong

April Avery, is by admission, a city girl who in her early years never considered hunting as anything she would ever want to participate in.

"I was raised in Chicago by my grandparents," April said. "They raised me in a strict and sheltered life. I was a proper little girl."

April left home at age 16 to join a carnival.

"I ran a trailer that had black light posters and if you hit a target, you won a poster," April said. "I was very shy and naive and I met someone who ended up hurting me."

April ended up wrestling her boyfriend at the time, who ended up taking off her finger with a knife.

"If it had been a gun, I would be dead now," April said. "To this day, I can't be around knives. They terrify me. Guns were the same way. I couldn't be around them."

There was a positive event which came from her relationship with this hurtful man, he introduced April to her present husband, Dallas Avery.

"Dallas became my best friend during this whole time," April remembered. "I would escape to his place and he would keep me safe. Our friendship grew and we started dating."

April's father, who had not been in her life for many years found her and found out about her abusive past boyfriend. He wanted her to come live with him in Korea, where he was stationed.

"He invited me to come and live with him as long as I finished high school and went to college," April said. "Dallas was driving on the road by

lives with other people.

Dallas was running a 500 acre farm in Illinois, where he started raising a family.

April went to Tucson, Arizona, where she started another life. She worked for an ophthalmologist for more than twenty years and then a credit union.

"Again, I was a total city girl," April said. "I knew Dallas hunted when we talked over the years, but I didn't really pay attention to it. Hunting didn't interest me when we talked over the phone."

April also doesn't eat red meat, unless it is game.

She was a vegetarian back in her teenage years and steered clear of all meat.

As she got older, she would occasionally eat chicken or fish, but never red meat. She didn't like the taste.

"My grandparents would hide tendons and gristle in my mashed potatoes and I didn't like it," April said. "When I left home, I just didn't want to eat any meat. I was happy being vegetarian."

In 2002 April got in touch with Dallas after a five year absence. She found out he was divorced and she was also single.

They started their long distance Arizona to Illinois courtship.

"I was still a city girl," April said. "Then I came to live on the farm."

April came to 500 acre spread in 2005.

"Then the fun began," April said. "I was such a city girl, I used binoculars as you would opera glasses. I was like, why is everything so small? That is just one example of how much I didn't know."

"There were thousands of things she didn't know," Dallas said. "We sometimes played jokes on her saying some cow pies gave mad cow disease. She took it all



Photos by Mike Armstrong

April and Dallas Avery love to hunt together even though at one time April didn't eat red meat and was deathly afraid of guns.

pieces, I found myself liking the flavor and eating it for dinner."

In 2006, Dallas told her it was time for her to do the grocery shopping, since a landowner tax allows five deer to be taken, if living on the farm. With April hunting, it could mean an influx of meat for the year.

"It is the same as the predication tags they give here in Wyoming for ranchers for elk," Dallas said. "They are issued to help keep the population in control."

Dallas said the farm and area around it, has thousands of white tail deer. Hunters come to their farm every year to try their luck.

April was interested in trying to hunt as long as it was archery. She was still deathly afraid of knives and guns.

"The first year on the farm, I heard Dallas and his sons have all these stories about hunting and I wanted to be a part of it," April said. "I knew I liked archery, so this is how I got started. Really, I just wanted to be a part of what the family was doing."

The farm in Illinois had 38 treestands for hunting spread throughout its vast property.

"My first year I went hunting, with my bow, I shot a doe," April said. "It was a clean kill."

April admits it was good. The deer was a clean kill and easy to find because right after she shot it, she shut her eyes and said a little prayer for the animal.

"I have learned since, don't close your eyes after taking the shot, so you can see where it goes, but I was so new and not even sure I could kill something," April said. "It was just natural to just shut my eyes and go into an immediate 'Hunter's Prayer'. I carry the prayer with me every time I go out. But it was funny Dallas telling me to keep my eyes open after the shot as I look back now."

Dallas grew up shooting a bow all his life. He helped April practice every night before she went out. April appreciated his help, because it was her first time using a compound bow.

"I loved it. I love hunting with a bow," April said. "After I hurt my back a few years back, I was told I had to give up the compound bow and go to a crossbow. I was really disappointed."

Her next kill was a buck. All were being killed from a treestand.

"You chose where you wanted to be," April said. "You could decide because of the way the wind was blowing or because it was a good trail. I did so well with my first kills, they nicknamed me 'Deadshot'."

April hunted for meat, but she also looked for the buck that would be allowed to be put up on the wall of the farmhouse.

"We had criteria for a buck that made our wallspace," April said. "I tried so hard over the years to get a buck on the wallspace. I got some nice bucks, but they never were good enough for the wallspace."

That changed just before the couple moved to Hanna.

In 2016, April shot a buck that surpassed several of the bucks on wallspace.

There are 10 bucks which are worthy of the Avery wallspace.

April is proud to have gotten a buck up there.

One aspect of hunting, April does not help with is the carving up of the animal.

"I am still terrified of knives," April said. "Losing my finger scarred me for life in more than one way. I cannot help Dallas butcher our meat."

Dallas has been dismembering and cleaning game meat so long, he doesn't mind April is not able to help.

April got involved with hunting so she could be a part of what Dallas did during hunting season.

"If I didn't, I would be a hunting widow and not see him hardly at all during the season," April said. "I am glad I did learn, because we go out as partners. In Illinois, we went to different treestands, but we were always communicating and we hunted together."

When Dallas and April retired from running the farm, they looked for a place to settle down that had good hunting and clean air devoid of humidity. Dallas had some health issues which made them look towards the Rocky Mountain states.

They found it in Hanna. Both acknowledge the hunting is different, as are animals they hunt.

When they moved to Carbon County in 2017, they had to sit out the year according to the law.

They looked forward to when they could hunt in 2018. Unfortunately, April broke

some ribs and was told she should not hunt. She was having none of that. April willed herself to go out on a hunt.

She got an elk calf.

"The doctor was right. I wasn't really okay. I brought it down, but it wasn't a great kill," April said. "I was just so determined to hunt, no matter the pain. But hunting is about being ethical in your kill and doing it as clean as possible. If you are off, even a little, the kill feels bad and you don't want that. I hate when I feel it wasn't as good as it should have been."

April sees a few women hunters out in the field, whereas in Illinois it was rare.

"We were still close enough to the city I guess, but it was uncommon to see a female hunter there," April said. "In Wyoming, you have girls that are raised on ranches and they do what their brothers do to take care of a place. Hunting is a way of getting food on the table and women take it very seriously. In Wyoming, a person has to be self-sufficient when there is so much open land and you have to travel 40 or 50 miles to a grocery store. Why wouldn't you want to do what you can to fill the freezer with meat for the year? I would say, for every dozen or so hunters I see, there are probably two of which are female."

Hunting in Wyoming has been very different from their times in Illinois. Gone are the treestands where they could wait for the deer to walk under them.

"We call the ledges and rocks where we wait, 'Wyoming treestands,'" April said. "As we have gotten older we have to be conscious about how far we go out, so we are able to pack the meat after the kill."

The best place they have hunted in Carbon County since coming to Wyoming has been by Simpson Ridge, which was area 114 just outside the ghost town of Carbon. April said the area has been combined into area 11.

"It was the best hunting we've had here," April said. "It was outstanding. We got a huge cow."

Unusually, the favorite big game to eat is antelope for April and Dallas.

"You have to get it before it runs or have its adrenaline kick in," Dallas said. "We both

really like it best."

This year, April is a little worried she won't be able to hunt. She had eye surgery and the healing should be done right at the beginning of October.

"I am a determined hunter, and I want to be out there," April said. "But if my eye isn't ready to be able to hunt an animal, then I won't go. It isn't fair to the animal."

April said hunting has gotten her past many fears.

She may not be able to use a knife, but she uses a gun to hunt now. Back in 2005, she couldn't touch one. Her kills come from using a gun now, because a bow is too difficult on her back.

April still cries when she kills a doe but not bucks and does a hunter prayer for all.

"It is spiritual to take an animal for food," April said. "I have felt this since my first kill."

April said female hunters should not listen to men who say, women shouldn't be out hunting.

"You can't let the men hunters intimidate you," April said. "I have been told before, I couldn't come to an elk camp, because it was for men."

April said she understands hunting time with friends can be a male ritual.

"When some men go hunting, it is a time for them to be away from their wives and family, maybe get a little drunk with their friends in the evening, no questions asked," April said. "But we are a team. I don't want to go without him and he doesn't want to go without me."

"When we started in Illinois we were always a team even if we were some distance away in the treestands," Dallas said. "The farm for hunting is a far different world from here. We could go out hunting together, but we could still be hunting privately."

April said being a woman hunting in Wyoming isn't intimidating as long as you are smart and prepared. She said get in condition by hiking trails. Practice target shooting any time you can. Most importantly, don't go out alone.

"Here you have to have a buddy when you go out," April said. "I don't care how good you think you are. That is for either a man or woman."



The buck April shot to finally make it on the wall of the Avery household.

then and continued my city girl way of life."

Although April was scared of knives and guns, she likes archery.

"I took two semesters of archery in high school and loved it," April said. "But I didn't know it would become important in my life later."

April and Dallas friends because both went on to lead

with grace."

In 2005, moving to the farm was a life changer, it was there she took her first bite of venison.

"I ate chicken and fish on occasion, but I liked vegetables," April said. "One day, Dallas had me try just a bite of venison. He is an excellent cook and it tasted good.

The next night I tried two

2022 Hunting Edition

Safety first for hunting season

No matter the species or method of harvest, it's wise to know and follow a few safety tips to make sure that dream hunt doesn't turn into a tragedy.

Hunting season has started in some areas and is rapidly approaching in other locations throughout Wyoming. No matter the species or method of harvest, it's wise to know and follow a few safety tips to make sure that dream hunt doesn't turn into a tragedy.

Katie Simpson, Wyoming Game and Fish Department hunter education coordinator,

and numerous hunter education instructors in the state use the acronym T.A.B.K. as a reminder of four key safety elements:

- Treat every firearm as if it's loaded.
- Always point your muzzle in a safe direction.
- Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

"Our most common occurrence of hunting-related accidents in Wyoming usually involves a vehicle, either loading firearms in or out of the vehicle or riding on the vehicle and accidentally bumping the trigger. The second most common

involves obstacle crossing," Simpson said.

It is not illegal to drive with a loaded firearm in Wyoming, but it isn't always safe. Simpson said if hunters choose to drive with a loaded firearm, it's advised they don't have a round in the chamber.

Dan Smith, Game and Fish Smith deputy chief of wildlife, said hunters should have a good working knowledge of their firearms.

"Loading and unloading a rifle or shotgun is a time I see people get a little careless," he said. "I've checked people in the field who didn't know how to unload their shotgun without pulling the trigger. Just knowing how your firearm works takes away a

lot of the risk of accidents."

There are some times when big game archers and rifle hunters may be in the field at the same time. People hunting big or trophy game animals during an open regular season are required by law to wear fluorescent orange or pink in the field, regardless of the weapon they are hunting with. Archers are not required to wear those colors while hunting during a special archery season or archery-only season.

As for being sure of your target and what's beyond it, Simpson used an example near Cheyenne several years ago about its importance. A hunter was after pronghorn and took a shot at one atop a

ridgeline. The bullet missed, but traveled about a mile past its target and hit a car driving along Interstate 80. No one was hurt, but the bullet broke a window.

Simpson also said hunters should not use rifle scopes as binoculars.

"The person on the receiving end might be lifting up binoculars and seeing someone pointing a rifle at them," she said.

Other tips from Simpson include:

- Always tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return.
- Bring more equipment than you think you'll need, including more layers of clothing, food

and water.

- Be aware of hypothermia and its symptoms. Simpson said exposure to hypothermia usually occurs to unprepared hunters when the ambient temperature is 40 to 60 degrees.
- If you get lost, stay put — whether on foot or vehicle. This is especially true if you've told someone where you're at.

(Sara DiRienzo, Public Information Officer - (sara.dirienzo@wyo.gov))

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Corner crossers: Ranch owner broke federal access law

by **Angus M. Thuermer Jr., WyoFile.com**

The owner of the Elk Mountain Ranch broke federal law by blocking four hunters' access to public land and by harassing and intimidating them, the hunters' attorney alleges in new court papers.

The filing in a civil case in U.S. District Court by attorney Ryan Semerad marks the first time the four Missouri hunters have explicitly charged the ranch owner with violating U.S. statute. In court action to date, including at a criminal trial in Rawlins where the four men were found not guilty of criminal trespass, attorneys only suggested that the ranch owner violated the Unlawful Inclosures Act of 1885.

"We have relied on this [UIA] argument to make other arguments throughout this [civil] case and the criminal case," Semerad wrote in an email, "but this is the first time we have made this argument/defense directly."

A court ruling on the matter could have implications for a decades-old BLM interpretation that prohibits corner-crossing.

Corner crossing involves stepping from one piece of public land to another at the four-corner intersection with two pieces of private land. The four hunters crossed at such corners, without setting foot on the Elk Mountain Ranch, where public U.S. Bureau of Land Management property and private lands lie in a checkerboard pattern in Carbon County.

It is uncertain whether the

allegation might trigger a federal investigation or other action against the official ranch owner Iron Bar Holdings, LLC, the company's wealthy North Carolina owner Fred Eshelman, ranch property manager Steve Grende or any other party.

Aside from the routine practice of not commenting on pending or ongoing investigations, U.S. Attorney Nick Vassallo's office couldn't immediately explain the investigative process and what or whose allegations it probes. Eshelman's attorney, along with the BLM, also did not respond to inquiries.

In a July 29 filing, attorney Semerad defended his clients against Eshelman's civil claim.

"Plaintiff [Iron Bar Holdings] is now violating and has, at all times relevant to its claims in the Complaint, violated existing federal law ... by unlawfully enclosing public lands and/or by using force, threats, intimidation, and other unlawful means to prevent or obstruct Defendants, as members of the public, from peaceably entering upon, freely passing over or through, or freely traveling over or through the public lands," the document reads.

With the UIA, Congress protected legal access to federal property, especially in the West, by restricting landowners' actions and structures. How and whether the UIA applies in the civil case could have a bearing on public access to some

8.3 million acres in the West, 2.4 million acres in Wyoming alone.

That's the amount of acreage considered by the digital mapping company onX to be "corner-locked" by any definition that corner crossing is illegal.

During their 2021 hunt, the four hunters found two T-posts chained together at one checkerboard corner. They used a stile — a fence ladder — to climb over the obstacle. They claimed they were harassed, intimidated and threatened by Grende while hunting on public BLM land they accessed by corner crossing near the ranch.

Iron Bar's civil suit claims the hunters damaged Eshelman's ranch, a property that extends across more than 20,000 acres on and around wildlife-rich Elk Mountain. The ranch's checkerboard layout "corner-locks" hundreds of acres of public land.

Separately, the Carbon County attorney in 2021 charged the four hunters with criminal trespass, arguing in the trial that they violated the ranch's airspace. A Rawlins jury in April found them not guilty of the misdemeanor charges but none of the six jurors explained their reasoning to reporters at the end of the circuit court trial.

Eshelman's attorney Gregory Weisz filed Iron Bar's separate civil suit in state court. But a federal judge moved that claim to his venue at the hunters' request, agreeing that the issue involved federal statutes.

A section of the 1885 UIA titled "Obstruction of settlement on or transit over public lands" prohibits landowners from blocking "... any person from peaceably entering upon or establishing a settlement or residence on any tract of public land..." No person "shall prevent or obstruct free passage or transit over or through the public lands," the UIA states.

But another clause appears to protect landowners, stating that the law "shall not be held to affect the right or title of persons, who have gone upon, improved, or occupied said lands under the land laws of the United States, claiming title thereto, in good faith."

The federal law has teeth, if prosecutors choose to use them. Any "owner, part owner, or agent, or who shall aid, abet, counsel, advise, or assist in any violation" of the act who is found guilty can be fined up to \$1,000, imprisoned for a year, or both.

From the BLM's perspective, the UIA does not protect corner crossing as a means to access public land.

"There is no specific state or federal laws regarding corner crossings," the agency states in a pamphlet that appears to have been updated in 2013. "Corner crossings in the checkerboard land pattern area or elsewhere are not considered legal public access."

Courts could decide whether the BLM policy and the UIA are in conflict.

That pamphlet reflects a

1997 opinion by an Interior Department solicitor. In writing that, Lowell L. Madsen, assistant regional solicitor for the Rocky Mountain region, flatly stated that corner crossing was illegal because it cannot be done without violating private airspace.

"Under common law the one who owns the surface of the ground has the exclusive right to everything which is above it," his opinion states. In Wyoming law, "[t]he ownership of the space above the lands and waters of this state is declared to be vested in the several owners of the surface beneath subject to the right of flight..." Madsen wrote.

The solicitor even addressed the possibility that a stile could preclude trespass if all four of its feet were on public land at a checkerboard corner.

"[T]he stile would invade the airspace of the owner of the cornering private lands [and] constitute a trespass," his opinion reads.

That passage was prescient. The hunters — Phillip Yeomans, Bradley Cape, John Slowensky and Zachary Smith — used a portable stile to climb over an obstruction erected at the four-corner intersection in question.

In the hunters' criminal trial in Rawlins, Semerad challenged the airspace argument, emphasizing that the Wyoming law states airspace ownership is vested "in the several owners" of the property below, including

the public — owners of the federal BLM parcels.

The federal civil trial — as-yet unscheduled — may address the two metal T-posts driven into Elk Mountain property at the four-corner intersection. Photographs show the posts connected across the corner by a wire and chain. The two posts were connected to nothing else — no property-line fences — a photograph shows.

After the hunters left the area in 2021, the chain was removed, Elk Mountain Ranch property manager Grende testified at the Rawlins trial.

"It was removed because it had no purpose," he said in court.

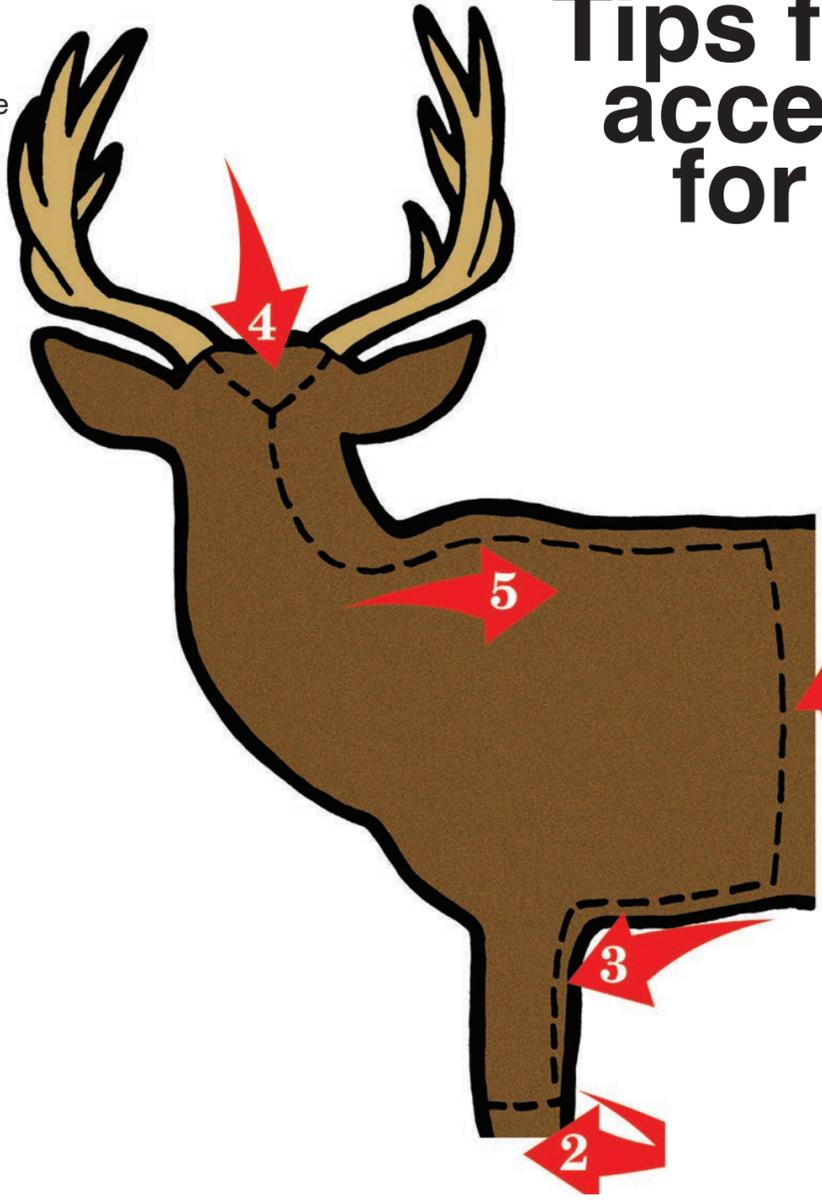
Courts have defined what constitutes an illegal enclosure, according to Madsen who quoted one ruling.

"[W]hen, under the guise of enclosing his own land, [a landowner] builds a fence which is useless for that purpose, and can only have been intended to enclose the land of the government, he is plainly within the (unlawful enclosures) statute, and is guilty of an unwarrantable appropriation of that which belongs to the public at large," he wrote.

WyoFile is an independent nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy.

2022 Hunting Edition

- Starting from the sternum make an incision completely around the animal at or near the middle rib.
Cut order varies but most begin with this cut.
- Make a ring around the animal's front legs above the knee.
- Make a cut to each leg from the first cut along the darker fur line.
TIP: Do not cut through the middle of the armpit.
- Start at the "Y" that starts between the ears and each antler. Make a cut that goes from the base of each antler back to the "Y" creating a Y-shaped cut.
Skin around each antler's pedicle also.
- This cut starts at the "Y" cut you just made and follows the dark line that goes along the back of the neck and top of the spine.
Keep going until you meet your first cut.



Tips for cutting an acceptable cape for taxidermy

- Do not drag the animal. It will bald the hide. Use a sharp knife.
- Try to follow the line of the fur when you are cutting.
- Do not cut the throat to bleed out an animal you are planning to have caped. Unless you are an expert, leave the head attached to the cape.
- Cutting around the eyes, nose and mouth are best left to your taxidermist. After peeling the hide up to the head, from the carcass, remove the head and leave it attached.
- Never put a cape in a black plastic garbage bag unless you plan to let it cool first then freeze quickly. Black collects heat and will bake a cape. White game bags are preferred. Cool the cape down in a shady spot before trying to pack it out. Meat contains heat. Heat is what destroys capes. Leave the meat on the animal, not the hide.

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



- .223 Rem
- .22-250 Rem
- .220 Swift
- .243 Win
- .30-30 Win
- .300 Savage

"00" or larger buckshot or a slug.



- .25-06 Rem
- .270 Win
- .308 Win
- .30-06 Springfield
- 7mm Rem Mag
- .300 Win Mag
- .300 Weatherby
- .338 Win Mag
- .375 H&H

Some recommended cartridges



*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



- .223 Rem
- .22-250 Rem

"00" or larger buckshot or a slug.



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.

2022 Hunting Edition

Hunting licenses and conservation stamps can be purchased at the following locations:

STAGE STOP GENERAL STORE
307-383-6955
200 PENLAND STREET BAGGS, WY

602 N HIGLEY BLVD RAWLINS, WY

38 MILES NORTH OF SINCLAIR SINCLAIR, WY

ROCKY'S QUIK STOP
307-383-2085
1455 N PENLAND STREET BAGGS, WY

BI-RITE SPORTING GOODS
307-324-3401
313 W CEDAR RAWLINS, WY

FROM WYOMING GAME AND FISH WEBSITE:
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Licensing/LICENSE-SELLING-AGENTS.pdf>

THE FRIENDLY STORE AND MOTEL
307-742-6033
2758 HIGHWAY 130 CENTENNIAL, WY

OLDE TRADING POST
307-327-5720
210 HWY 70 RIVERSIDE, WY

BOW RIVER CROSSING
307-348-7036
104 EAST SPRUCE ELK MOUNTAIN, WY

KOYOTY SPORTS
307-326-5551
102 E BRIDGE AVENUE SARATOGA, WY

NUGGET BAR
307-325-6872
2200 1ST STREET, ELMO ADDITION HANNA, WY

COUNTRY STORE
307-326-5638
303 S 1ST SARATOGA, WY

JB'S STOP N SHOP
307-379-2547
604 LINCOLN HIGHWAY, MEDICINE BOW, WY

SHIVELY HARDWARE CO
307-326-8383
119 EAST BRIDGE STREET SARATOGA, WY

WAL MART #4471
307-417-3001
2390 E CEDAR RAWLINS, WY

HACK'S TACKLE & OUTFITTERS
307-326-9823
407 N FIRST SARATOGA, WY

CITY MARKET #412
307-328-1421

OLD BALDY CLUB
307-326-3925
1 EAST PIC PIKE ROAD SARATOGA, WY

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) can be transmitted from CWD-infected animal carcasses harvested by hunters that have not been properly disposed of. The majority of CWD-infected animals that are harvested appear completely normal and healthy. To minimize the possibility of transmission, Wyoming's regulations require deer, elk, and moose hunters transport only the following items within Wyoming:



wgfd.wyo.gov

2022

TRANSPORTING AND DISPOSING DEER AND ELK

TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSMISSION, WYOMING'S REGULATIONS REQUIRE DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE HUNTERS TRANSPORT ONLY THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITHIN WYOMING:

1 DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE TAKEN IN WYOMING MAY BE TRANSPORTED WITHIN WYOMING TO A CAMP, PRIVATE RESIDENCE FOR PROCESSING, A TAXIDERMIST, A PROCESSOR, OR A CWD SAMPLE COLLECTION SITE IN WYOMING, PROVIDED THE HEAD AND ALL PORTIONS OF THE SPINAL COLUMN REMAIN AT THE SITE OF THE KILL OR SUCH PARTS ARE DISPOSED OF IN ANY APPROVED LANDFILL OR APPROVED INCINERATOR IN WYOMING.



EDIBLE PORTIONS WITH NO PART OF THE SPINAL COLUMN OR HEAD



CLEANED HIDE WITHOUT THE HEAD ATTACHED



SKULL, SKULL PLATE, OR ANTLERS THAT HAVE BEEN CLEANED OF ALL MEAT AND BRAIN TISSUE; TEETH



FINISHED TAXIDERMY MOUNTS

! HUNTERS ARE REMINDED THEY MUST ABIDE BY THE EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES, AND HORN OR ANTLER DEVELOPMENT RETENTION REQUIREMENTS AS PER REGULATIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CARCASS DISPOSAL VISIT WGFD.WYO.GOV/CWD

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