



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

PROCEDURE MANUAL

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Limited Entry Hunting			

This Procedure Replaces:

4-7-01.06.1 Limited Entry Hunting (1990)

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch
Wildlife Management Staff
Wildlife Administration Staff
Conservation Officers
Service BC
FrontCounter BC
Vendors
Resident Hunters

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection:
— 01.03 Harvest Allocation
— 01.06 Limited Entry Hunting
— 01.14 Resident Hunter

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

Procedure Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection:
— 01.03.1 Harvest Allocation
— 01.14.1 Resident Hunter

Other Cross-References:

- Limited Entry Hunting Regulation [B.C.Reg.134/93]
- Wildlife Act General Regulation [B.C.Reg.340/82]

Purpose:

This procedure outlines limited entry hunting (LEH) business processes and supports the implementation of the Limited Entry Hunting Policy (4-7-01.06). There are seven sections to this procedure:

1. Roles and responsibilities

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DATE: April 14/2016



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2. Eligibility criteria
3. Application time and process
4. Group hunt
5. Shared hunt
6. The draw
7. Limited entry hunting authorizations

Definitions:

"area" — means, when used in conjunction with a place name, a specific land area in the province which can consist of a number of management units (M.U.'s), a single M.U. or a portion of an M.U.

"allowable harvest" – means the optimum number of animals that can be removed each year by hunters from a herd, population or game.

"bag limit" – the maximum number of animal(s) an individual is authorized to harvest in a hunt.

"enhanced odds" – a reduction in the chance of an applicant receiving authorizations repeatedly. Enhanced odds apply to all species except Mule Deer.

"Fish and Wildlife ID" (FWID) – the FWID is a personalized identification number obtained when an individual registers in the Wildlife Information and Licensing Data (WILD) system. The FWID is linked to an electronic profile that consists of users' personal information, credentials, licences, permits, applications and limited entry hunting application status. Obtaining a FWID is a precondition for accessing hunting programs and services.

"group limit" – the maximum number of animals a group is authorized to harvest in a shared hunt.

"hunting credential" – a prerequisite a hunter must fulfil to access hunting opportunities in British Columbia.

"limited entry hunting area" – an area in which hunters are legally allowed to harvest an LEH animal. An LEH area can consist of any combination of a Management Unit, multiple Management Units, or a portion of a Management Unit.

"limited entry hunting authorizations" – as defined in the *Wildlife Act* (RSBC 1996 c.488), means an authorization issued under Section 16 of the *Wildlife Act*.

"management unit" or "M.U." as defined in the *Limited Entry Hunting Regulation*, means an area designated as a management unit by the Management Unit Regulation (B.C.Reg.64/96).

"resident" – as defined in the *Wildlife Act* (RSBC 1996 c.488), means

- (a) a person who

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- i) is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, whose only primary residence is in British Columbia, and
 - ii) has been physically present in British Columbia for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the 12 calendar months immediately preceding the date making an application under this Act or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the Act, or
- (b) a person who
- i) is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, but whose only or primary residence is in British Columbia, and
 - ii) has been physically present in British Columbia for the greater portion of each of the 12 calendar months immediately preceding the date of making an application under this Act or doing another thing relevant to the operation of this Act.

“residency exemptions” – as defined in the *Wildlife Act General Regulations* (B.C.Reg.340/82), means

- (a) a person who
- i) is a member of the armed services of Her Majesty raised by Canada and enrolled in continuing full time military service who has made his or her permanent residence in British Columbia for thirty consecutive days immediately before making an application under the Wildlife Act or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the Act,
 - ii) is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, who leaves British Columbia to attend a recognized educational institution, and who returns to British Columbia on completion of studies at the institution concerned, or
 - iii) is under 18 years of age, has resided with a parent or guardian in another province and returns to British Columbia to reside with another parent or guardian who is a resident

is, for the purpose of qualifying as a resident, exempt from the requirements set out in paragraph of the definition of "resident" in section 1 of the *Wildlife Act*.

Procedure:

1 Roles and responsibilities

- 1.1 Regional biologists recommend the number of limited entry hunting tentative authorizations to the manager of the Wildlife Management Section.
- 1.2 The manager of the Wildlife Management Section ensures that the number of limited entry hunting tentative authorizations is consistent with the Harvest Allocation Policy (4-7-01.03) and Procedure (4-7-01.03.1), and recommends the number of final authorizations to the Director for approval. The manager is also responsible for publishing on a yearly basis the

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Limited Entry Hunting Regulations Synopsis which must contain detailed information about limited entry hunts and the previous year's final number of authorizations for each available draw.

- 1.3 Wildlife Administration staff are responsible for all functions related to creating, conducting and reviewing the results of LEH draws, as well as generating authorizations.
- 1.4 Service BC, FrontCounter BC and vendors have the ability to submit LEH applications on behalf of hunters, including customizing hunting preferences such as entering hunt codes and type of application (single, group or shared) and taking payment.
- 1.5 Resident hunters are eligible to submit LEH applications. Resident hunters view LEH opportunities, customize, submit and pay for applications, and review draw results online via the WILD system.

2 Eligibility criteria

2.1 Any resident hunter who

- (a) holds a Fish and Wildlife ID with active B.C. resident and hunting credentials in accordance with the Resident Hunter Policy (4-7-01.14) and Procedure (4-7-01.14.1),
- (b) does not have his or hers hunting licence suspended, and
- (c) does not have his hers right to apply for or obtain a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization suspended due to failure to pay a fine-imposed as a result of the resident hunter's conviction for an offence under the *Wildlife Act* or the *Firearm Act*

is eligible to submit an LEH application and receive an LEH authorization.

3 Application time and process

- 3.1 The limited entry hunting application period is posted on the Fish and Wildlife Branch website.
- 3.2 Resident hunters are eligible to apply for any or all species covered under limited entry hunting.
- 3.3 Resident hunters are eligible to submit one application per species per calendar year. Exceptions apply to the Grizzly Bear, Skeena Mountain Sheep, and Special Mountain Sheep draws.
- 3.4 An applicant can submit an application for Grizzly Bear and/or Skeena Mountain Sheep in the fall LEH draw providing that he/she did not receive an LEH authorization for that species in the spring draw.

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- 3.5 Hunters who are successful in the Grizzly Bear and/or Skeena Mountain Sheep spring draw become ineligible to apply for the same species in a different draw within the same year.
- 3.6 There is no limit in the number of applications a hunter can submit for the Special Mountain Sheep draw.
- 3.7 Applicants must make a first choice, and may make a second choice for a species.
- 3.8 Applicants may also indicate their interest in a substitute hunt, if such is available.
- 3.9 Applicants who are not successful in their first and second choices will be considered in the draw for a substitute hunt in the same area as the second choice if the application shows that the hunter would like to be considered for a substitute hunt, and if there are enough authorizations available after all first and second choices have been considered.
- 3.10 Application fees are established in the *Limited Entry Hunting Regulation*.

4 Group hunt

- 4.1 Hunters wishing to hunt as a group may apply for a group hunt where available. The Limited Entry Hunting regulations synopsis communicates which hunts are available for group applications.
- 4.2 The group is entered in the draw as one application.
- 4.3 The maximum number of hunters allowed per group is four.
- 4.4 If there is only one applicant in the group, the application is regarded as an individual application.
- 4.5 Hunters wishing to join a group hunt must indicate the group application number in the WILD system before submitting the application.
- 4.6 If the group is selected, each member receives an authorization to hunt if there are enough authorizations available.
- 4.7 The group will not receive authorizations if there are not enough authorizations remaining to be awarded to every member of the group.
- 4.8 Each successful applicant may harvest an animal matching the description in the authorization.
- 4.9 A hunter may only harvest one animal, and must cease hunting once the individual bag limit has been reached.

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5 Shared hunt

- 5.1 Hunters wishing to hunt as a group may apply for a shared hunt where available. The Limited Entry Hunting regulations synopsis communicates which hunts are available as shared hunt.
- 5.2 Each member of a shared hunt application is entered in the draw individually. If one member is selected, all members of the group are authorized to hunt.
- 5.3 The maximum number of hunters allowed per group is four.
- 5.4 If there is only one applicant in the group, the application is regarded as an individual application.
- 5.5 A group of two hunters that is successful in the draw shares one authorization to hunt and is allowed to harvest one animal. Each group member receives a copy of the shared limited entry hunting authorization.
- 5.6 A group of three or four hunters that is successful in the draw shares one authorization to hunt, and the group is allowed to harvest up to two animals. Each group member receives a copy of the shared limited entry hunting authorization.
- 5.7 An authorization that allows the harvest of two animals is considered to be two authorizations for the purpose of determining the number of authorizations in the draw.
- 5.8 If only one authorization remains in the draw and a group of three or four is selected as the next winner, that group will be allowed to harvest one animal.
- 5.9 When a hunter kills an animal, the group members must immediately update their copy of the shared limited entry hunting authorization by entering:
 - (a) the date and time of the kill, and
 - (b) the name and FWID number of the person who killed the animal.
- 5.10 A hunter may only harvest one animal, and shall cease hunting once the individual bag limit has been reached.
- 5.11 The entire group must cease hunting when the group limit is reached.

6 The draw

- 6.1 For each species, all applications are allocated a random number through the use of a computer program. The random numbers are then sorted sequentially into the draw order.
- 6.2 The draw itself is performed by a computer.
- 6.3 Successful applicants are subject to enhanced odds.

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- 6.4 Enhanced odds apply to all LEH game species, except Mule Deer, as well as all types of applications including individual, group, shared, first choice, second choice and substitute hunt.
- 6.5 Special Mountain Sheep draw winners are not subject to enhanced odds.
- 6.6 The result of the draw is available in the WILD system at least one month prior to the opening date of the first limited entry hunt.

7 Limited entry hunting authorizations

- 7.1 Limited entry hunting authorizations are issued free of charge.
- 7.2 Successful applicants receive the LEH authorization by mail.
- 7.3 Successful applicants must possess and carry while hunting a valid B.C. hunting licence, limited entry hunting authorization(s) and a B.C. species licence for the species being hunted.
- 7.4 First Nations registered under the *Indian Act* (Canada) residing in B.C. are not required to carry a B.C. hunting licence or species licence while hunting pursuant to a limited entry hunting authorization.
- 7.5 All regulations of the *Wildlife Act* apply to limited entry hunting, these regulations are summarized in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis. Hunters are expected to be aware of, understand, and comply with the regulations pertaining to their limited entry hunting authorization.

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