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This Policy Replaces:

None

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Wildlife Management Staff
Wildlife Administration Staff
Conservation Officer Service
Service BC
FrontCounter BC
Vendors
Supervising hunter

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Ministry that:


1. A person is eligible to be issued an initiation hunting licence if the person:
 - (a) is 18 years of age or older,
 - (b) is a resident of British Columbia, and
 - (c) has never held a hunting licence issued under the *Wildlife Act*;
2. Eligible persons can only hold an initiation hunting licence for one licence year;
3. While hunting under an initiation hunting licence, the holder of the initiation hunting licence must be accompanied by and under the close personal supervision of a person who meets the prescribed qualifications set out in section 14.3 of the Hunting Licensing Regulation; and
4. A person hunting under an initiation hunting licence cannot apply for a species licence and must hunt within his or her supervising hunter's bag limit and species licence(s).

Definitions:

"Bag limit" – the maximum number of a species or type of wildlife that a person may harvest.

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

- (a) a person who
 - i) is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, whose only or primary residence is in British Columbia, and

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- 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 of making an application under the *Wildlife Act* or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the *Wildlife 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 the *Wildlife Act* or doing another thing relevant to the operation of the *Wildlife Act*.

“supervising hunter” – a person who accompanies and provides close personal supervision of another person under section 11 (5), 17.1 or 17.2 of the *Wildlife Act*.

Reasons for this Policy:

The initiation hunting program was established to stimulate hunter recruitment through opportunity for resident adults who have not completed hunter safety training to experience hunting in British Columbia under mentorship of a supervising hunter.

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection:
— 01.18 Initiation Hunting Licence

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

None

Other Cross-References:

Hunting Licensing Regulation (B.C. Reg. 78/2016)
Wildlife Act (RSBC 1996 c.488)