



VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
4	7	13.05.1	1 of 3
SUBJECT			
Special Weapons Hunting			

This Procedure Replaces:

4-7-13.05.1 Special Weapons Hunting (June 4, 1993)

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Director
Regional Managers
Wildlife Management Staff
First Nations
Resident Hunters
Guide Outfitters

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection:

- 01.01 Allowable Harvest
- 01.02 Open Seasons
- 01.06 Limited Entry Hunting
- 01.07 Game Harvest Management
- 13.01 Goal of Wildlife Management
- 13.05.1 Special Weapons Hunting

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Procedure Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection:

- 01.01.1 Allowable Harvest
- 01.02.1 Open Seasons
- 01.06.1 Limited Entry Hunting
- 01.07.1 Big Game Harvest Management

Other Cross-References:

None.

Purpose:

This procedure outlines recommended actions required to implement province-wide direction when considering special weapons hunting opportunities. There are two sections to this procedure:

1. Muzzle-Loading Firearm-Only Seasons
2. Bow-Only Seasons

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				January 3, 2018	



VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
4	7	13.05.1	2 of 3
SUBJECT			
Special Weapons Hunting			

Definitions:

archery – the use of a crossbow or longbow.

bow – a longbow or crossbow.

crossbow – a bow fixed across a stock with a groove for the arrow or bolt and a mechanism for holding and releasing the string.

firearm – includes a rifle, shotgun, handgun or spring gun and any device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, compressed gas or spring, but does not include a bow;

long gun – a rifle or a shotgun.

longbow – a longbow, recurve bow or compound bow.

muzzle-loading firearm – a firearm which propels a projectile which is loaded with powder separately through the muzzle of the firearm.

special weapon – a longbow, crossbow or muzzle-loading firearm.

Procedure:

1 Muzzle-Loading Firearm-Only Seasons

- 1.1 As the killing effectiveness and safety considerations in the use of muzzle-loading firearms can closely approach that of other firearms (i.e. long guns), wildlife management staff should not recommend *specific* areas or time periods for hunting with muzzle-loading firearms.

2 Bow-Only Seasons

- 2.1 Under this procedure, wildlife management staff are not to differentiate between longbows and crossbows as archery weapons;
- 2.2 Wildlife management staff may recommend bow-only seasons as a management tool:
 - (a) to allow for a reduced harvest if regular general open seasons (GOS) and limited entry hunting seasons have also been considered and it is determined that a bow-only season will enhance overall hunting opportunity, while meeting conservation needs; or
 - (b) to establish or increase harvest in areas that are closed to the discharge of firearms for safety considerations.
- 2.3 Wildlife management staff may recommend bow-only seasons provided that:



VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
4	7	13.05.1	3 of 3
SUBJECT			
Special Weapons Hunting			

- (a) staff take into consideration the principles and criteria outlined in the Game Harvest Management Policy, the Big Game Harvest Management Procedure and relevant species-specific harvest management procedures;
 - (b) this procedure is subordinate to all allocation policies and procedures;
 - (c) demand for a bow-only season has been documented; and
 - (d) the bow-only season has been reviewed and supported by the appropriate regional wildlife advisory committee with input from the regional bow-hunting representative, where available.
- 2.4 Bow-only seasons may, where approved, precede or follow a general open season (GOS), or occur at times indicated in species-specific harvest management procedures. Bow-only seasons that precede a GOS should typically occur within the first nine days preceding that GOS.

