



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION PACKET 2019



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

2019 HUNTING GENERAL INFORMATION

Includes License & Permit Information

**For Detailed Hunt Descriptions and Hunt Prices Refer to
Wilderness and Private Land Information Packets**

STEPS TO RECEIVE YOUR HUNTING LICENSE

In Montana, all non-resident elk and deer licenses are available through a draw system. Do not be discouraged, your chances of drawing a combination elk/deer license are quite good. Buying preference points will improve your chances of drawing general licenses. Buying bonus points will improve your chances of drawing special permitted areas. The preference point and bonus point systems are explained on the MFWP website, www.fwp.mt.gov. You may also want to apply as a party if there are two or more of you planning to hunt together.

We are happy to provide clarification or answer any questions you may have about licensing, preference points, bonus points and party applications. If you choose to hunt with us, we will help you through the application process.

Online Applications for the General Draw Licenses for Elk, Deer and Special Permit areas for elk and deer are usually **available by early February** on the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks website, www.fwp.mt.gov, (406-444-2950). **The application deadline is March 15th for both the General Draw for elk and deer and the Special Permit Draw for elk and deer.** Most hunters put in for the General Big Game Combo license, which allows the hunter to hunt both elk and deer. The drawing takes place mid-April. You cannot apply for a special elk or deer permit without first applying for a general draw license. You may **apply** for a special permit for elk and deer **at the same time** you apply for a general draw license. MFWP's website explains in detail about applying for elk and deer licenses. Do not hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions. Most of our elk/deer hunting can be done with a general license. However, we do have some excellent permitted areas for elk. **These deadlines apply for both residents and non-residents.**

Applications for bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat and antelope permits can be made online through Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov, (406-444-2950). **The application deadline for these permits is May 1st with the exception of antelope which is June 1st.** The drawing for bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat takes place the 3rd week in June. The drawing for antelope is in mid- July. **These deadlines apply for both residents and non-residents.**



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

For black bear or wolf, call for an application or apply online with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov to purchase a guaranteed permit. The deadline for purchasing a fall black bear license is August 31. The deadline for purchasing a spring black bear license is April 13.* (*This date is not confirmed by MFWP until early February of 2019.) Check the MFWP website for the most current information on rules and regulations, season dates and application deadlines on wolves. Currently, wolf permits can be bought over the counter and are \$50 for non-residents, \$19 for residents.

Please check with us before you apply for the draw to make sure this is the right license for the area you plan to hunt and for bonus and preference point updates. If you have questions about the online application process, we will be glad to assist you.

Deposit & Payment Policy

When you are sure of the hunt you want to pursue you can secure your spot with a \$1000 deposit which will be fully refunded if you do not draw. We take a limited number of hunters per hunt, so this is the best way to secure your spot and avoid the chaos at the time of the draw. The drawing takes place in mid-April. The remainder of the deposit (50% of the cost of the hunt) is due when the draw is posted. The balance of the hunt is due 30 days prior to your hunt and is non-refundable. Hunts not fully paid by this date will be considered cancelled. We recommend Trip Cancellation Insurance. Montana Outfitters & Guides Association suggests Global Rescue travel insurance. <http://www.montanaoutfitters.org/travelersinsurance/>
We accept Credit Cards (Visa/MasterCard only) and Checks
Make Checks Payable to: Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters, Inc

The species we hunt:

Elk, Deer, Antelope, Black Bear, Wolf, Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Turkey, Duck and Geese.

What we offer:

We offer archery and rifle hunting on public land and private land. The wilderness land we hunt is in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, located in the Gallatin National Forest in Southwestern Montana. We have two wilderness hunting tent camps, Hellroaring and Independence. Our private land hunting takes place on select ranches near Big Timber, Montana. We also have access to sections of public land adjacent to the ranches. Headquarters for Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters is in Big Timber, Montana and our Big Timber Ranch hunters are housed in the lodge at ABO Headquarters. Whether you are looking for the challenge of a wilderness hunt or the exclusive opportunity to hunt on private land, Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters is committed to giving you the best possible hunting experience.



ARCHERY HUNTS *Season dates subject to change due to MFWP release of 2019 Hunting Information in early February.

We offer wilderness and private land archery hunts. Archery only season begins the 1st Saturday in September and runs through mid October. Archery hunters must have a "bow and arrow license" for the archery only season. If you are an archer, we can show you some excellent archery country.

Archery Only Season Dates for Elk/Deer: September 7 - October 14
Archery Only Season Dates for Antelope: TBA

ABO's archery wilderness hunts are run out of our **backcountry tent camp, Independence, located up the Boulder Drainage, south of Big Timber, MT.** These are 7-day hunts (day in, 5 days hunting, day out). **(For more information about dates, prices and offerings for our wilderness archery hunts, refer to the Wilderness Hunting Information Packet.)**

ABO's private land archery hunts are on **select ranches near Big Timber, MT** and the **Lazy EL Ranch in Roscoe, MT.** These ranch hunts are 7-day hunts (arrival day, 5 days hunting, departure day). Two of the ranches we hunt require a special permit but all the rest only require a general license. Accommodations in both locations are in comfortable lodges. **(For more information about dates, prices, offerings, and special permit areas refer to the Private Land Hunting Information Packet.)**

Requirements for purchasing a Montana hunting license and a bow and arrow license:

Hunter Education Requirements for Archery & Rifle Hunters - If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a [Montana hunter safety and education course](#) or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season. **When you apply online for your license, you will need to have your certificate number, the date you received it and the state in which you received it as proof that you have completed a hunter safety course.**

Bow Hunter Education requirements: To purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow license, a hunter must: provide a certificate of completing the [National Bowhunter Education Foundation course](#), or provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province. If you can no longer produce this license, for a \$5 fee you may sign an affidavit stating that you previously held such a license. The affidavit is available at all [FWP License Providers](#). The affidavit entitles you to purchase a current year's Montana Bow and Arrow license.



RIFLE HUNTS *Season dates subject to change due to MFWP release of 2019 Hunting Information in early February

We offer wilderness and private land rifle hunts. There are two seasons for big game rifle hunting in Montana. There is an early season for wilderness rifle hunting that begins every year on September 15th and a general season for public and private land rifle hunting that begins in late October. The general season dates vary from year to year and are determined by MFWP in early February of the season year.

EARLY SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE ELK & DEER HUNT

We offer early season rifle wilderness hunting from our backcountry camp, Hellroaring. This is a 7-day (1 day in, 5 days hunting, 1 day out) hunt, primary target elk. However, if you have a deer, bear or wolf permit they are fair game with no extra charge. This hunt books very early!

(Refer to the Wilderness Hunting Packet for more information.)

GENERAL SEASON RIFLE HUNTING *Season dates subject to change due to MFWP release of 2019 Hunting Information in early February.

During the **general season**, we offer several elk and deer hunting options on both public and private land. Our access to both wilderness hunting and local ranches enhances our hunters' chances of harvesting an elk or deer. Most of the ranches we hunt only require a general license. However, if you are interested in a special permitted area for elk, we do have access to a limited number of ranches that are special permit areas for elk.

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS ELK & DEER RIFLE HUNTS

The general season rifle elk and deer wilderness hunts are run out of our backcountry camp at Independence or from a lodge in the wilderness hunting area.

2019 Season dates are: October 26- December 1.

The Independence hunt is a 7-day (day in, 5 days hunting, day out) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 2 hunters and take 4-6 hunters on a trip. Wilderness hunts from the backcountry camp typically take place the first week of the general season but can extend into other weeks of the general season, weather permitting. We have the use of a lodge in the wilderness area as alternative option.

(Refer to the Wilderness Hunting Packet for hunt dates, pricing and additional information.)



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

GENERAL SEASON PRIVATE LAND RIFLE HUNTS

Fair chase hunting on private ranches with ABO offers our hunters a unique variety of species in distinctive settings. The opportunity to hunt elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, antelope, black bear, duck, geese and turkey is provided to a limited number of hunters. You can choose to hunt on the picturesque **Lazy E-L Ranch** (www.lazyel.com) just outside Roscoe, Montana or a variety of select **Big Timber Ranches** which include a trophy opportunity elk and deer ranch. Each of these elite locations offers rolling hills, creeks, river frontage and an abundance of game.

2019 Season Dates are: October 26 – December 1

(Refer to the Private Land Hunting Packet for hunt ranch options, dates, pricing and additional information.)

Other Species Hunts: Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Black Bear and Wolf

Our **Bighorn sheep hunts** are in an **unlimited sheep area** north of Yellowstone National Park. An unlimited sheep permit area guarantees you a license. Bighorn sheep permits can be purchased online from Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, 406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov. **The deadline for purchasing a bighorn sheep permit is May 1.** You must specify a sheep area when applying for your sheep permit. If you are booking a Bighorn sheep hunt with Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters, please contact us (406-579-3866) for information on our sheep area before you apply for your permit. The area and the expertise of our guides make it the best opportunity in the lower 48 to kill a ram.

Our bighorn sheep hunt out of Independence is a 10 day (day in, 8 days hunting, day out) hunt. **This is a progressive backpacking hunt.** We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter and only book 1 or 2 sheep hunters a year for this area. These hunts often book 2 years out. Hunt dates are scheduled with the Outfitter at the time of booking.

2019 Bighorn Sheep Season Dates: September 15–December 1

Mountain goat permits are by special drawing. Go online to Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (406-444-2950, www.fwp.mt.gov) to apply for this special permit draw.

Make sure you apply for Area 323-20 or Area 329-20. These two areas have the highest probability in the state for drawing a goat permit. **The application deadline for a mountain goat permit is May 1.** Drawings are the third week in June. The permit fee is refundable if you do not draw a goat permit. Our goat hunts are a 7 day (day in, 5 days hunting, day out) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter. Please contact us (406-579-3866) before you apply for a mountain goat permit and we will confirm our permitted areas for you. Once you draw a mountain goat permit we will be glad to schedule your hunt. **2019 Mountain Goat Season Dates: Sept 15-Dec 1**



Black Bear licenses are available for purchase through Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov . The deadline for purchasing a fall black bear license is August 31. **The fall black bear season is Sept 15-Dec 1.** The deadline for purchasing a spring black bear license is April 13. **Spring black bear season begins April 15.**

Moose permits are by special drawing. The application deadline for a moose permit is May 1. Our permitted moose **area is 516.** However, there are a very limited number of moose permits available for this area so it is not easy to draw a moose permit. Our moose hunts are a 7 day (1 day in, 5 days hunting, 1 day out) hunt. We hunt 1 guide to 1 hunter. **2019 Moose Season Dates: September 15-December 1.**

Wolf permits are available for purchase through Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov . The 2019 wolf season is September 15-TBA *Season dates subject to change due to MFWP release of 2019 Hunting Information in early February.

Fair chase hunting in the Montana wilderness is a challenging and memorable experience. We have experienced guides who know the area and very good horse and mule stock for packing and riding in the mountains. **From September to mid-October** ABO operates two **backcountry camps, Hellroaring and Independence.** Hellroaring is located in Bull Moose Meadow, 8 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. Independence is located 55 miles south of Big Timber at the head of the Boulder River. Our backcountry camps are some of the best in Montana including comfortable accommodations and a great cook. **During the general season, which begins in late October,** we day hunt in the backcountry from a tent camp at Independence or from a lodge bordering the wilderness hunting areas.

Fair chase hunting on private ranches with ABO offers our hunters a unique variety of species in distinctive settings. The opportunity to hunt elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, antelope, black bear, duck, geese and turkey is provided to a limited number of hunters. You can choose to hunt on the picturesque **Lazy E-L Ranch** (www.lazyel.com) just outside Roscoe, Montana or a variety of select **Big Timber Ranches** which include a trophy opportunity elk and deer ranch. Each of these elite locations offers rolling hills, creeks, river frontage and an abundance of game.

Whether you are looking for the challenge of a wilderness hunt or the exclusive opportunity to hunt on private land, Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters is committed to giving you the best possible hunting experience.



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

2018 OFFICIAL APPLICATION DEADLINES NON RESIDENT LICENSE AND PERMIT PRICES

Dates & Prices for 2018 are released by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks in early February.
Check MFWP website www.fwp.mt.gov in February 2018 for date and price confirmation.

<u>ANIMAL</u>	<u>PRICE (Non Resident)</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
BIG GAME ELK/DEER COMBO * General Draw	\$ 1010.00	MARCH 15
ELK COMBINATION * General Draw	\$ 858.00	MARCH 15
DEER COMBINATION * General Draw	\$ 602.00	MARCH 15
ANTELOPE * Special Draw	\$ 205.00	JUNE 1
MOOSE * Special Draw	\$1250.00	MAY 1
BLACK BEAR Guaranteed permit	\$ 350.00	Spring APRIL 14 Fall AUGUST 31
WOLF Guaranteed permit	\$ 50.00	AUGUST 31
MOUNTAIN GOAT * Special Draw	\$1250.00	MAY 1
BIGHORN SHEEP Guaranteed permit	\$1250.00	MAY 1

Youth Combination License \$ 510.00 (OTC @ MFWP only)
Youths 12-17 years of age – hunt with a sponsor (natural or adoptive parent, grandparent of, adult brother or sister) who possesses a general elk or deer license.

The license/permit is not guaranteed but the license/permit price is refundable if not drawn. However, there is a \$10 non-refundable drawing fee and a \$15 base hunting license fee included in the above prices for non-resident licenses and permits.



WWW.ABOADVENTURES.COM

THE MOGA HUNTER/ANGLER DEFENSE FUND

In 2012 Montana Outfitters and Guides Association established the Hunter/Angler Defense Fund to ensure that non-resident sportsmen would be able to continue to have the opportunity to hunt and fish in Montana. As a member of MOGA I believe our establishing the Hunter/Angler Defense Fund (MHADF) is the best way to support our industry in the fight for your right to hunt and fish in Montana. When you book a hunt with Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters, \$50 of the cost of your hunt goes to the MOGA Hunter/Angler Defense Fund. Thank you for your participation!

Hunter/Angler Access Defense Fund

Outfitters Defending Nationwide Right to Hunt and Fish in Montana

“In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The excellent people who protest against all hunting and consider sportsmen as enemies of wildlife are ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is by all odds, the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extinction.” - Theodore Roosevelt

The MOGA Hunter/Angler Defense Fund (MHADF) was established to ensure that non-resident sportsmen will continue to have the opportunity to hunt and fish in Montana.

Trophy hunting and sport fishing, particularly by non-residents, is under increasing pressure in Montana from radical groups both within the state and animal rights activists outside of the state. Although these groups differ in their composition and tactics they both seek the same outcome; reduced hunting and fishing opportunity. The in-state contingent, who purport to be “sportsmen” seek to fracture the hunting and angling community along lines of residence and then significantly restrict non-resident hunting and fishing opportunity. The anti-hunting group just seeks to reduce hunting opportunity and will take what gains they can. In both cases, success is measured by a net loss in opportunity in Montana. Unfortunately, they are both making gains.

The anti-hunting pressure from the “anti-everything” organizations is strong and well organized. They have unlimited resources and are using new strategies and building alliances to lobby their agendas. Their relentless efforts to prevent delisting of wolves and grizzly bears and thwart effective and professional management for these species are but one example.



Fringe groups, led by the Montana Wildlife Federation, believe that outfitting services equate to the commercialization of wildlife and profess it to be the same as the outlawed practice of market hunting of years ago. They claim that fees paid for Outfitter services, leasing of land for quality hunting and fishing access, and the purchase of outfitters services for fishing constitute a breach of the Public Trust and that jeopardizes the public's opportunity to enjoy the natural bounty of Montana.

They see reducing the guided non-resident opportunity as a means to enhance their personal opportunity at the expense of others. They ignore the huge contribution to Montana's wildlife and fisheries management system that non-residents make and the vital economic contribution they sustain. Their tactics of misinformation and fear mongering fracture and weaken the overall hunting community; jeopardizing funding for effective management of natural resources in Montana.

Unfortunately, much of the public are misinformed or under informed. As hunters and anglers, we must be vigilant and diligent about relaying the benefits of hunting and fishing to the 70% of people who sit "in the middle". MOGA will continue to take the lead in supporting sound, scientifically based resource management, and our members will continue to serve as active stewards of Montana's natural and cultural heritage.

MOGA is the only organization within Montana that is dedicated to preserving sporting opportunities for nonresidents, including the opportunities for guided hunts, floats, and fishing trips.

If we want hunting to be around for future generations we must have our story told; that hunters and anglers, regardless of where they live, are the true conservationists because hunters pay for conservation and have willingly done so for years. It is a certainty that our opportunity to hunt and fish will be lost if we are fragmented by where we are from, the equipment we use, the species we pursue or the reasons we hunt.

About the MOGA Hunter/Angler Defense Fund

MOGA members charge their sportsmen clients a \$50.00 fee. This contribution is collected by the outfitter, held in-trust for MOGA, and remitted at year end.