



FACT SHEET # 6

THE DRAW SYSTEM

Why do we have it?

Hunters in Alberta experience a diversity in quality hunting opportunities unequalled anywhere else in North America. Looking at big game hunting alone, we have ten species that can be hunted from the treeless prairies through the parkland and mountains to the boreal forest.

To effectively manage this diversity, the Fish and Wildlife Division issues a limited number of special licences for certain species in areas where the species cannot withstand the hunting pressure of an open general season. The benefit to hunters of these limited entry hunts include: improved hunter success, less landowner conflicts, and reduced hunter density. These special licences are distributed through a draw system.

The Alberta Hunting Draw system is convenient, economical and efficient. The system is a modified-random process that rewards persistence through a priority system. Each year that you apply and are unsuccessful for a particular licence, your priority level for that licence increases. As the demand for special licences increases, it is important for hunters to understand how the Draw system works.

1. The draws for special licences are held in June of each year for licences valid in the fall hunting season. In 2009, over 263,000 draw applications were made, using either Internet, 1-900 Telephone-Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system or at the licence issuer Point of Sale (POS). 31% were made online, 45% were from vendors and 24% over the phone.
2. Information about the draws is available each year in the booklet, **Alberta Hunting Draws**. This booklet is mailed to previous draw applicants (within the past two years) or can be picked up at any licence issuer or Fish and Wildlife office, starting the first week of June. It is also available online at www.mywildalberta.com.
3. You must be eligible to hunt and possess a Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) in order to participate in the Draw application system. (See Fact Sheets #2 and #5 for more information with respect to obtaining a WIN card.)
4. Depending on the season code and WMU, there are over 700 potential choices. Approximately 30% of those people making their first application are successful.
5. It is important for all hunters to understand how the draw works. **Read the Alberta Hunting Draw booklet**, published annually in June, which is full of valuable information including:
 - Tips on making a successful application
 - Draw Priority System
 - Draw Strategy
 - Commonly Asked Questions
 - Draw Rules

Hunters should keep their Draw booklets for reference purposes. Draw results are mailed out to all applicants in mid-July and are available over the telephone or from the web site www.albertarelm.com.

6. **TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**
Select the best method for an error free application, using the following options to apply:
 - a) A new **website is available to WIN card holders** — www.albertarelm.com. Login to make your draw applications and print a copy of those applications. You can also view your licences for the last 5 years, special draw priorities, and confirm that your address and phone number are correct. **OR**
 - b) **Purchase from Licence Issuers:** The Point of Sale (POS) method offers the feature of a paper copy for your records. **OR**
 - c) **Telephone:** Using the telephone is a convenient way to apply. It is fast and provides an instant verification of each choice made. However, there is a higher probability of errors when using the phone, in fact 5 times the error rate, as compared to purchasing from a licensing issuer.

With either application method, before you apply, it is important to complete the Draw Application Worksheet, which is found at the back of the *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

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Prepare your draw strategy:

There are different strategies for success. Your goal may be to:

- Focus on a specific species with a specific season code or it may be a general objective to hunt every year in a variety of areas.
- Apply alone with your priority level **or** apply with a group. If you apply as a group (up to 4 applicants), keep in mind that the groups' priority is that of the individual in the group with the lowest priority level.

To learn more about the historical trends and your opportunities for being drawn, visit the My Wild Alberta web-site at www.mywildalberta.com and view a copy of the Hunting Draws Summary report or visit your local Alberta Fish and Wildlife office and ask to look at a copy of the report. The report shows the number of applications, the percentage of applicants drawn and the priority levels of the successful applicants.

If you do not want to be drawn but you want to increase your draw priority, use 999 as your first and only draw choice. By using 999 you are indicating that you do not want to be drawn that year. This option continues to grow in popularity.

Apply early — Avoid the last minute rush:

Statistics show applications made in the last 3 days of the Draw have a higher error rate. If you apply early, there is more opportunity to correct errors and less likelihood to forget to apply.

PURCHASE AND USE YOUR SPECIAL LICENCE:

Close to 14% of the people that are successful in the draw do not actually purchase their special licence. If you are successful in the Draw and do not purchase and use your special licence, you have taken up a spot that someone else could have used. Also, you lose your priority for that licence.

Additional Opportunities: **Undersubscribed special licences** are those licences that were not issued in the draws because of a lack of applicants. These licences are available only through the 1-900 Telephone IVR system or the internet, in early September. Approximately 3500 licences are purchased through this system, which is less than half of the total undersubscribed special licences available. More information about this process is detailed in the *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Phone: 310.0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Web-site: www.mywildalberta.com
RELM Call Centre (License Issuers & WIN Card Information)	Phone: 1.888.944.5494 Web-site: www.albertarelm.com
Draw Information line (Provided to answer questions and to guide people through the draw application process.)	Phone: 1.877.289.0999



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