



DISABLED HUNTER

The Facts about Mobility-Impaired Hunters.

Special permits and licenses for mobility-impaired hunters are available to assist an individual in hunting. Most mobility-impaired hunters are individuals who hunted prior to becoming disabled, but as a result of illness or accident, they are physically unable to hunt under the general rules and regulations. Specific rules pertaining to mobility-impaired hunters is regulated under Sections 41, 60, and 61.1 of the Wildlife Regulation, which defines the criteria for an Off-Highway Vehicle Permit, Cross-bow License or Weapons Discharge Permit. Eligible participants must comply with all applicable rules and regulations. Please refer to the current *Alberta Guide To Hunting Regulations* booklet for more information.

The table below indicates the issuance of Cross-Bow Licenses and Off-Highway Vehicle Permits issued in 2000 and 2001 throughout Alberta.

CROSS-BOW LICENSES		OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PERMITS		WEAPONS DISCHARGE	
2003	236 permits	2003	428	2003	23
2002	251 permits	2002	442	2002	22
2001	291 permits	2001	464		
2000	271 permits	2000	470		

How do I apply for a Mobility-Impaired license or permit?

General information and applications pertaining to special licenses and permits can be obtained through your local Fish and Wildlife Office. You must complete the appropriate application form(s), indicating the nature of your disability. The applicant will need to submit a physician's letter with the application to confirm physical capabilities, in accordance with the specific license criteria (see below). Once the completed application (including appropriate documentation) has been submitted to a Fish and Wildlife office, a Fish and Wildlife Officer will review the application to determine whether a license or permit may be granted. If the application is approved, the appropriate permit or license will be issued for a period of time depending on the nature of the disability.

If the application is denied, a letter is provided to the applicant advising that his or her condition does not fall within the parameters of the eligibility criteria. The applicant may appeal a negative decision to the *Handicapped Hunter Review Committee*, who is responsible for hearing these appeals. The Committee is formed by individuals from the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Alberta Fish & Game Association, the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (Occupational Therapy Division) and an official for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

The Committee usually holds 2 to 4 hearings annually, depending on the volume of applications received. Applicants are invited to attend their hearing and are responsible to ensure that all relevant documentation is available at the hearing. All applicants will be notified by letter as to the outcome of the appeal. If the appeal is successful, applicants may pick up their license or permit at a Fish and Wildlife Office by submitting their notice of appeal.

FACT SHEET #12

Eligibility and License Entitlements:

***Off-Highway Vehicle Permit ELIGIBILITY:** Individuals are eligible for this permit if they are paraplegic, quadriplegic, or hemiplegic. This eligibility also applies in the case of a lower limb amputee, or anyone who suffers from any other physical condition or handicap that is permanent in nature AND that prevents the individual from hunting by ambulation beyond 100 yards in normal hunting terrain.

Off-Highway Vehicle Permit ENTITLEMENTS: This permit allows the person who has the permit (and one person accompanying the permit holder for the purpose of assisting that person to hunt), to be exempted from the restrictions of transporting weapons in the off-highway vehicle during the morning hours in specified WMUs. The permit holder is also exempt from the restrictions of discharging a firearm.

within 50 yards of the off-highway vehicle. The permit holder, however, is not permitted to discharge the weapon from the off-highway vehicle, or any other vehicle.

Note specific to Antelope Hunting: When hunting antelope, you cannot normally discharge a firearm from within 50 yards of any vehicle. This permit allows the holder to discharge within 50 yards, but not from the vehicle.

Cross-bow License ELIGIBILITY: The eligibility criteria are the same as the Off-Highway Vehicle Permit except that the permanent condition, affliction or handicap involves an upper limb paralysis or amputation that prevents the individual from utilizing conventional archery hunting equipment. Applications based on age related factors, poor physical conditioning or stature may not be approved. Similarly, conditions, afflictions, or handicaps that are correctable or not permanent in nature are not intended for approval.

Federal requirements regarding the acquisition of cross-bows, the licensing of firearms owners and the registration of firearms has undergone recent changes. You can obtain information on what may be required to own or acquire a firearm or cross-bow by contacting the Canadian Firearms Centre.

Cross-bow License ENTITLEMENTS: A person holding this license is allowed to hunt with a cross-bow in all situations where cross-bows are normally allowed (as long as he or she has the appropriate licenses), including during archery-only seasons. Refer to the current *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* for the requirements to use a cross-bow.

Weapons Discharge Permits ELIGIBILITY: A person is eligible if he or she is a paraplegic or quadriplegic or suffers from any other affliction or handicap that is permanent in nature and renders the person incapable of walking and requires a wheelchair or similar wheeled implement for daily ambulation. (This permit came into effect in 2002).

Weapons Discharge Permit ENTITLEMENTS: This permit entitles the holder to have a loaded firearm on or in, or discharge a weapon from, a parked off-highway vehicle under circumstances where the discharge of that weapon is otherwise lawful. The holder of this permit receives additional privileges as granted under an Off-Highway Vehicle Permit. (This permit came into effect in 2002).

***An "Off-Highway Vehicle" is any vehicle not designed to be registered for highway use.**

KEY CONTACTS

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division	Dial 310-0000 and ask for the nearest Fish and Wildlife office
Canadian Firearms Centre Federal Firearms Legislation	1-800-731-4000 Website: www.cfc.gc.ca

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