

2021 Muzzleloader Season - DRAFT

Any license and permit that was valid for deer or elk through the general big game season will be valid for that species during the traditional muzzleloader season that runs December 11 – 19, 2021 per the conditions of that license and permit and regulations pertaining to the hunting district(s) in which the license-permit is valid. With the following exceptions, all other general big game season regulations apply, including in weapons restricted areas.

Conditions:

Where existing approved seasons are in place that overlap the traditional muzzleloader season, such as elk shoulder seasons, late white-tailed deer seasons and lion seasons, the regulations associated with those approved seasons remain in place. Therefore, there can be overlap between the existing approved season and muzzleloader season (e.g., cow elk only in a shoulder season hunting district using rifles, but bull elk could be taken with traditional muzzleloader in that same hunting district with valid license and permit).

Department staff may initiate game damage and management hunts following established policies and using modern firearms, during the traditional muzzleloader season.

Many Wildlife Management Areas close on December 1 to protect wintering wildlife. Traditional muzzleloader hunting on those WMAs will not be allowed.

Motorized access on many federal lands is closed as of December 1. Hunters must comply with land management agency travel plans.

Muzzleloader hunters must use plain lead projectiles and a muzzleloading rifle that is charged with loose black powder, loose pyrodex, or an equivalent loose black powder substitute, and ignited by a flintlock, wheel lock, matchlock, or percussion mechanism using a percussion or musket cap.

The muzzleloading rifle must be a minimum of .45 caliber and may not have more than two barrels.

May not use a muzzleloading rifle that requires insertion of a cap or primer into the open breech of the barrel, is capable of being loaded from the breech, or is mounted with an optical magnification device.

Use of pre-prepared paper or metallic cartridges, sabots, gas checks, or other similar power and range-enhancing manufactured loads that enclose the projectile from the rifling or bore of the firearm is also prohibited.