



Natural Resources and Northern Development

Fish and Wildlife Branch
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On April 18, 2022 Manitoba issued a media bulletin that communicated changes to moose hunting seasons in some areas for 2022, to help protect the moose population. Moose populations are facing unprecedented challenges in Manitoba, with growing concern that northern moose are facing increased hunting pressure.

On April 20, 2022, an email was sent to all licenced moose hunters who have an email address attached to their elicensing profile regarding the changes to moose seasons for this fall. We appreciate the feedback we've received. As a result, Manitoba will be undertaking a review of the existing Big Game Draw structure to explore options to provide greater flexibility and opportunity to hunters for fall of 2023. This review will include engagement with licensed hunters. Please share this information with others in your hunting group.

For 2022, the Big Game Draw will proceed as it has in previous years with moose and elk together in one draw process. Hunters will have to prioritize their season choice and can only be drawn for one big game licence. Online applications are accepted May 1-31.

Beginning in 2023 the Manitoba Big Game Draw will move towards an independent draw for moose and elk, each with separate priority pools. It has long been recognized that moose and elk are very different species which require independent and unique management. Moreover, the way that hunters plan and approach hunting these species is unique and important, and we need to balance the preferences of our hunters with sustainability.

The following outlines the proposed approach for 2023 depending on the results of your 2022 Big Game Draw Application:

- Unsuccessful draw applicants in 2022 will be allowed to carry forward their draw priority level for one species in 2023, while their draw priority will be set at priority eight (8) for the other species, upon application.
- Hunters who are successful in being drawn for one of the Big Game Draws (e.g. General Rifle Elk) will see their priority for that species (e.g. elk) set at priority ten (10) for 2023. For the remaining species (e.g. moose), their priority will be set a priority eight (8).

Note: The priority level as a result of the 2022 draw will be carried over to one species of the hunter's choice starting in 2023. This choice may impact draw application decisions for the 2022 Big Game Draw. Hunters are asked to incorporate this future approach into hunt planning for this season, to ensure they position themselves in their most desirable draw situation for 2022 and future years.

We understand that hunters most affected by the change of moving these GHAs to the draw will be those who hunted general moose and applied for the elk draw. As Manitoba develops the details associated with these changes there will be opportunities for hunter engagement and feedback.

Specific inquiries about the changes to existing moose seasons or potential draw changes can be directed to wildlife@gov.mb.ca

Hunters are encouraged to watch for more information in the upcoming 2022 Hunting Guide or visit www.gov.mb.ca/fish-wildlife/index.html