

**102 CODE OF TRIBAL REGULATIONS**  
**BIG GAME HARVEST REGULATIONS**  
**UNDER THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CODE**  
**WITHIN THE ROCKY BOYS INDIAN RESERVATION**

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of these regulations is to govern big game harvest within the exterior boundaries of the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation.
2. **General Big Game Provision.** It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, take harvest, or pursue any big game animal by any method other than prescribed in this regulation.
3. **Open and Closed Season.**
  - a. A closed season is hereby established for the hunting of big game except for open seasons specified in Section 11 or proclamations established pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Code.
  - b. Except as otherwise expressly provided by this regulation, no person shall hunt big game on the Reservation during a closed season.
4. **Number of Big Game Permits Available.** The number of big game harvest permits available for harvest in each big game unit pursuant to this code for each twelve (12) month period commencing January 1 and ending December 31 shall be limited to the number established by the Department. No person shall hunt on Reservation Lands or big game units of the Reservation in which no harvest permits are made available.
5. **Big Game Permits/Tags.**
  - a. No person shall hunt big game on any lands of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation pursuant to this chapter without possessing a valid big game license or permit issued by the Department.
  - b. No person shall hunt big game without possessing a valid carcass tag, except as provided in Section 15 (Group Hunting).
  - c. The Department shall not issue more than one tag at a time to a person except as authorized in sections 8 and 9, where exceptions for Special Permits are allowed.
  - d. No Big Game permits shall be considered valid for any Big Game Unit or Reservation Lands:
    1. Which is shown to be closed.
    2. For which the permit is marked as invalid.
    3. On which any big game permit unit or reservation harvest number has been slit, punched through or otherwise crossed out in any fashion.
  - e. No person shall move or field dress any big game animal before affixing it a valid carcass tag.
  - f. No person shall move or field dress any big game animal without making a cut or punch through the date of the kill.
  - g. No permit may be issued after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date of the application period.
  - h. No person shall hunt and harvest big game in a unit or on Reservation lands that is different than the unit or lands states on the valid permit.
  - i. No person shall harvest and/or tag big game of any species or sex without the appropriate license and carcass tags.
  - j. No person shall hunt or harvest big game without their valid license(s) and tag(s) in possession.

- k. No person designated to harvest big game for a Senior Citizen or Disabled Person shall fail to deliver the validly tagged carcass to such Senior Citizen or Disabled Person.
6. **Accompaniment of Big Game.** It shall be unlawful for any big game permittee to transport any big game without being present with the carcass until such time as the carcass is processed. Nor shall anyone knowingly accept for and transport another's big game without the valid holder present or written permission from the person providing the game or parts thereof. This section shall not apply to any authorized enforcement persons who in the course of their duties transport any such seized big game, or Senior/Disabled Citizens under Section 8.
7. **Accompanied by Non-Licensee.** It shall be unlawful for any big game permittee to be accompanied in the field by a non-licensee carrying a firearm or bow and arrow. A non-licensee is a person not having a valid Tribal Big Game License.
8. **Senior Citizen and Disabled Permits.** No person other than the designated hunter or Senior or Disabled Citizen may hunt, harvest, transport or possess any big game with a Tribally issued Senior or Disabled Citizens Big Game Permit. No designated hunter may possess more than one Senior or Disabled Citizen Big Game Permit per season. Senior or Disabled Citizen Big Game Permits will be considered provided:
- The applicant meets the age and/or disability requirement established by the Department.
  - Complete and submit the appropriate Big Game Application.
  - If disabled, provide appropriate documents proving such person is disabled.
  - Designate one person who will possess the license, hunt and harvest, transport and deliver the carcass to the Senior Citizen or Disabled Person.
9. **Special Provisions for Disabled Persons.** It shall be unlawful for anyone to hunt with a disabled person who is in the act of hunting under a waiver of certain restrictions of this regulation. Waiver of restrictions listed below will be permitted after proof of disability is confirmed:
- Shoot from a roadway.
  - Shoot from a vehicle that is not moving.
  - Park off an established trail not further than 100 feet.
10. **Special Big Game Permits.** No person shall possess, hunt or harvest any big game for special purposes without possessing a valid permit issued by the Department. To obtain a Special Big Game Permit, one must make application to the Department containing the following information.
- Purpose of permit request;
  - Period of requested harvest;
  - Designated hunter's name, address, Social Security or Tribal Enrollment Number, Hunter Safety Number (If applicable), phone number, height, weight, color of eyes, color of hair, date of birth;
  - Name of person requesting permit, address, phone number, Social Security or Tribal Enrollment Number; and
  - Description of vehicle to be used for transporting big game.
11. **Big Game Season.**
- No person shall hunt big game from the close of the specific season to the opening of the next specific season of the following year.
  - Each year a regular firearm and bow season shall be established by the Tribe's governing body, or its designee, with the following limitations;

1. The regular seasons for hunting big game animals with the use of firearms or bow shall not open prior to the first day after Labor Day of September or close later than Sunday in December of each year.

**12. Permissible Methods.** No person shall hunt big game animals except by use of any firearms or bow and arrow, the use of which is prohibited by this regulation.

**13. Firearms Restrictions.** No person shall hunt big game animals:

- a. With a .22 caliber rim-fire rifle, 5 mm rim-fire rifle, or a .17 caliber center-fire rifle to include any equivalent caliber or smaller.
- b. With a 410 gauge shotgun.
- c. With any handgun except a handgun which is leaded with .357, .41, .44 magnum caliber handgun chambered or commercially manufactured cartridges which produce a minimum muzzle energy of 1000 foot pounds and which has a minimum barrel length of six (6) inches measured from the muzzle of the firing pin with the action closed.
- d. With any shell, cartridge or ammunition known as a tracer shell, or with incendiary shells or cartridges.
- e. With a shot shell containing shot of any size less than a slug.
- f. With a gun having the capacity to hold more than eight (8) shells in the clip or magazine.
- g. With a gun capable of being fired as an automatic.
- h. With a gun having a silencer or sound suppressor device.
- i. A rifle with a barrel less than a 16 inch barrel.
- j. A shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches.
- k. Any altered projectiles.

**14. Bow Restrictions.** No person shall hunt big game:

- a. With a bow having a pull strength less than 30 pounds; or using an arrow that does not have a broad head;
- b. With a crossbow.

**15. Group Deer Hunting.** As used in this section:

- a. "Contact" means visual or voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aide.
- b. "Group Big Game Hunting Party" means two (2) or more persons lawfully hunting big game in a group under this ordinance.
- c. Any person of a group big game hunting party may kill big game for another person of the group if the following conditions exist.
  1. At the time and place of the kill, the person who kills the big game must be in verbal contact with the person whom the big game was killed.
  2. The person for whom the big game is killed possesses a current unused big game license and carcass tag valid for the unit or Reservation lands in which the big game is killed.
  3. A person who kills the big game must ensure that a person of his/her group big game hunting party without delay must attach and validate a carcass tag prior to field dressing and moving the animal. No animal killed under this provision shall leave the animal unattended until after it is properly tagged.

- 16. Hunting Hours.** Except where otherwise expressly authorized, no person shall pursue, shoot, kill or attempt to take any big game animal between ½ hour after sunset of one day and ½ hour before sunrise of the next day.
- 17. Transportation.** No person shall transport any untagged big game animal in or on any motor vehicle. All big game animals must be properly tagged before transporting.
- 18. Hunting on Certain Lands Prohibited.** No person hunting under a Tribal Big Game Permit shall hunt on any designated Tribal Wildlife Refuge unless permitted by law with appropriate license or required permit.
- 19. Sale of Big Game and Big Game Parts.**
- a. No person shall sell, purchase, barter or trade any big game animal or meat from any big game animal.
  - b. No person shall sell, barter, or trade any blood antler or antler in velvet from any big game animal.
  - c. Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit the sale of hides, bones, heads, or dried antlers from a legally harvested big game animal or the trading of such parts for use in traditional or religious ceremonies. Dried antlers that have been naturally shed or dropped by big game animals may be sold, purchased or traded.
  - d. Nothing shall prohibit the sale of big game managed by the Department for management and financial purposes to further develop their respective programs.
- 20. Removal and Retention of Tags.**
- a. No person who kills big game pursuant to this ordinance shall remove a carcass or registration tag from that big game animal until such time as the carcass is butchered or processed for consumption.
  - b. No person who kills the big game animals pursuant to this regulation shall dispose of the carcass tag until all the meat is consumed. All packaged meat must have the hunters name, year or kill and license number clearly printed on each package.
  - c. Any person who received meat from another as a gift is exempt from the carcass tag provisions but must clearly print the date received on each package and initial each package.
- 21. Hunt Reporting.** All permit holders must submit to the Department the hunter survey form provided within thirty (30) days after each hunt. Failure to do so may subject the permittee to a loss of all Tribal hunting privileges the following year.
- 22. Wildlife Check Stations.** All sportsman must stop at designated wildlife check stations and present all wildlife in possession, any necessary permits, and provide all information requests for wildlife management and enforcement purposes.
- 23. Requirements for Native Cultural Religious Practices.** In the event big game meat is required for native cultural or religious practices, the Sub Committee will investigate the need of the native cultural or religious organization, and if the need is determined to be justified the Sub Committee may issue a subsistence hunting permit to a big game animal. Wildlife Conservation Officers will kill the big game for such event.
- 24. Penalties.** An individual violating any provisions of this Section may be assessed damages amounting to a minimum of \$50.00 and a maximum of \$500.00. In addition, the Tribal Court may enter an injunction prohibiting the exercise of that person's Reservation hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for a period of time.

Approved on July 15, 2019