



# Hunting Resources Across Alaska

Alaska offers some of the world's best hunting opportunities. However, a lot of work goes in to a successful hunt. Planning and preparation are critical to a successful hunt. Do your homework to determine the best areas and times to hunt a particular species. Purchase reliable equipment and practice with it ahead of time. Be physically and mentally prepared for poor weather, rough terrain, isolation, and weather delays.

This is an introductory guide orienting you to hunting in Alaska. This guide does not supplement the official Alaska Hunting Regulations. In this guide you will find information on Alaska game animals, hunting equipment, accessing hunting lands, selecting a guide, and references for additional information.

## **Remember:**

*Every hunter has the responsibility to know the current year's regulations. Do not depend on anyone else but yourself to know the regulations. You are personally responsible for knowing and following all the regulations affecting your hunt. Hunting regulations are available online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov) and at local outfitters.*

## **Jump-start your plan**

The first step in preparing for a hunt in Alaska is to look at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's current hunting regulations. The regulation handbook contains information on general seasons, registration and drawing permit hunts, and bag limits, and game tags. In the handbook you will be able to find information for both resident and nonresident hunting. The handbook has everything you need to make your hunt a legal hunt.

**When planning a hunt, you should ask yourself the following questions and be certain you understand the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's definition of each.**

*Who is going to hunt? (Are you considered a resident, nonresident, or nonresident alien, a youth hunter, or disabled?)*

*Where do you plan to hunt? (Which unit, which subunit? Is your hunt in a restricted area?)*

*How are you going to hunt? (Are there weapons restrictions or access restrictions?)*

*What species do you want to hunt? (Is there an open season for that species in the area you wish to hunt?)*

*When do you plan to hunt? (Seasons)*

*What is the legal animal? (bull, cow, horn or antler restrictions?)*

**Please help preserve Alaska's hunting heritage by practicing safe, respectful and responsible hunting techniques.**

# Where are the animals?

## **Black bear**



Found throughout forested regions of Alaska. Greatest densities occur in parts of Southeast Alaska, but good populations can be found in many regions of the state.

## **Brown/Grizzly bear**



Brown/grizzly bears are distributed statewide. Brown bears occur along the coast. Grizzly bears are located inland. Highest population densities are on Kodiak Island, Admiralty Island and the Alaska Peninsula.

## **Caribou**



Distributed throughout Alaska except Southeast. Caribou are found in herds ranging from a few hundred to hundreds of thousands of animals. The largest herds in the state today are the Western Arctic (NW Alaska), Porcupine (NE Alaska) and Mulchatna herds (SW Alaska).

## **Dall sheep**



Found in major and some minor mountain ranges except in coastal regions. Highest densities are found in the Southcentral region.

## **Deer**



Sitka black-tailed deer were originally found only in Southeast Alaska. Transplants in the early 1900s added huntable populations in Prince William Sound and the Kodiak Archipelago. Highest densities are found at Kodiak and in northern Southeast Alaska.

## **Marine mammals**



While huntable populations of polar bears, walrus, and other marine mammals exist, federal law restricts hunting to Alaska Natives only.

## **Moose**



Widely distributed in Alaska. Greatest population densities occur in Southcentral Alaska, but good populations are found in the Interior, Western, and Arctic Alaska as well. Limited moose hunting opportunities are found in Southeast Alaska.

## **Mountain goat**



Found in the coastal mountains of Southeast Alaska and Southcentral Alaska. Greatest population densities occur in Southeast Alaska.

## **Muskox**



Alaska's present day muskox populations are found on the wind-swept western and arctic coasts of Alaska from Nunivak Island to the Canadian border.

## **Wolf**



Widely distributed in Alaska. Trapped and hunted under general hunting regulations. In some areas, also taken by permit via predator control programs.

## **Wolverine**



Wolverine are uncommonly seen and infrequently taken by hunters. They are distributed throughout much of the state.

# Field Equipment

## Navigation Equipment

Vast areas of Alaska can look the same, causing a hunter's sense of direction to be impaired. When visibility is impaired during poor weather, most humans lose their sense of direction. Even when visibility is good, hills, valleys, and forests may confuse a hunter whose attention is concentrated on finding or tracking a game animal. Hunting in Alaska requires navigational skills to find your way to and from camp. Therefore, it is important to learn basic map and compass skills before venturing into the Alaska wilderness.

### Topographic Maps

When hunting in any area of the state, it is important to know and understand the terrain that surrounds you. Every hunting party should carry a detailed topographical map of the area (a common scale map for hunting is 1:63,360, where one inch equals one mile. Topographic maps can be obtained from the US Geological Survey (USGS). Some Alaska sporting goods or outdoor stores stock high-demand maps. There are retail stores in larger Alaska communities that specialize in maps. In Fairbanks, hunters may obtain maps at the Geophysical Institute's Map Office. Some maps are available at the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers.

### Map Office, GeoData Center

Geophysical Institute, UAF  
903 Koyukuk Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
Telephone: (907) 474-6960

### US Geological Survey

Earth Science Information Center  
4210 University Drive, #208  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Telephone: (907) 786-7011 Fax: (907) 786-7050

### Compass

Every hunter should also carry a quality liquid-filled compass and know how to use it to lay out a base line and navigate to and from camp. A hunter skilled with map and compass use can safely navigate to and from camp, even in fog, rain, or snow.



## Firearms

When planning your hunt, be aware of possible rules and regulations regarding transportation of firearms. Firearm regulations vary depending on whether you are on state or federal land.

### Firearms in Alaska

In Alaska, hunters may generally possess and use firearms with few restrictions. State law prohibits the following:

- Fully Automatic firearms
- Rifles with a barrel less than 16"
- Shotguns with a barrel less than 18", and
- Rifles or shotguns less than 26" in total length.

Rifles, shotguns and handguns are legal for hunting in Alaska. Rimfire cartridges generally may be used only for small game. See the Alaska Hunting Regulations for details.

Handguns may be carried concealed, but the carrier must abide by all state carrying laws, both for Alaska and the state the handgun was purchased in. This statutory exemption recognizes the necessity for protecting firearms from rain or extreme cold.

Firearms being transported in a vehicle must either be in plain sight or, if concealed, out of reach of vehicle occupants. As a precautionary safety, firearms being transported to and from the field should be unloaded.

State law prohibits shooting on, from or across a road. As a matter of safety and courtesy, hunters should discharge firearms well away from roads.

There are firearm restrictions in certain federal units. For current information about firearms in these areas, contact the specific park unit.

## Hunter Safety

Safe and responsible hunters can find assistance in mastering hunting skills by calling the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Hunter Information and Training Program. More information can be found at [www.hunt.alaska.gov](http://www.hunt.alaska.gov).

# Accessing Hunting Areas

Land status maps can be obtained at the State of Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, the Bureau of Land Management, or at [www.mapper.landrecords.info](http://www.mapper.landrecords.info)

## Hunting on Public Lands

Alaska has large areas of public land that are open to hunting, managed by the state and federal governments. Most national parks are closed to hunting, although national preserve areas are open to hunting. Some Alaska national parks are open to hunting by qualified rural Alaska residents. Nearly all National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management lands are open to hunting.

### US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Telephone: (907) 786-3309 Fax: (907) 786-3495  
[www.alaska.fws.gov](http://www.alaska.fws.gov)

### US Forest Service

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region  
PO Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802-1628  
Telephone: (907) 586-8806 Fax: (907) 586-7840  
[www.fs.usda.gov/lr10](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lr10)

### Bureau of Land Management

BLM Alaska- External Affairs  
222 W. 7th Ave, #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513  
Telephone: (907) 271-5555 Fax: (907) 272-3430  
<http://www.ak.blm.gov>

### National Park Service

National Park Service  
Alaska Regional Office  
240 W. 5th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 644-3510  
[www.nps.gov/akso](http://www.nps.gov/akso)

## Hunting on Private Lands

Much of the land located next to Alaska's road system is privately owned. If you intend to hunt on private lands in Alaska, make sure you have permission from the land owner. Be aware that some native corporation-owned lands may have associated entrance or usage fees.

Below you will find a list of the Regional Native Corporations within the state of Alaska. Contact the individual corporate headquarters for access permission.

### INTERIOR:

Ahtna, Incorporated  
PO Box 649  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907) 822-3476  
[www.ahtna-inc.com](http://www.ahtna-inc.com)

Doyon, Limited  
1 Doyon Place, Suite 300  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-2000  
[www.doyon.com](http://www.doyon.com)

### FAR NORTH:

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation  
PO Box 129  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-8633  
[www.asrc.com](http://www.asrc.com)

### NORTHWEST:

Bering Straits Native Corporation  
PO Box 1008  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-5252  
[www.beringstraits.com](http://www.beringstraits.com)

NANA Regional Corporation  
PO Box 49  
Kotzebue, AK 99752  
(907) 442-3301  
[www.nana.com](http://www.nana.com)

### SOUTHWEST:

Aleut Corporation  
4000 Old Seward Highway,  
Suite 300  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 561-4300  
[www.aleutcorp.com](http://www.aleutcorp.com)

Bristol Bay Native Corporation  
800 Cordova Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 278-3602  
[www.bbnc.net](http://www.bbnc.net)

Calista Corporation  
301 Calista Court, Suite A  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
(907) 279-5516  
[www.calistacorp.com](http://www.calistacorp.com)

### SOUTHCENTRAL:

Chugach Alaska Corporation  
560 E. 34th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 563-8866  
[www.chugach-ak.com](http://www.chugach-ak.com)

CIRI  
PO Box 93330  
Anchorage, AK 99509  
(907) 274-8638  
[www.ciri.com](http://www.ciri.com)

Koniag, Incorporated  
4300 B Street, Suite 407  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 561-2668  
[www.koniag.com](http://www.koniag.com)

### SOUTHEAST:

Sealaska Corporation  
1 Sealaska Plaza, Suite 400  
Juneau, AK 99801-1276  
(907) 586-1512  
[www.sealaska.com](http://www.sealaska.com)



## Selecting a Guide

Please note that all guides are required to have a guiding license through the State of Alaska and should have a good working knowledge of land ownership in the area where you will be hunting.

When hunting brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep, or mountain goats, hunters who are not Alaska residents must be accompanied by a licensed Alaskan guide or they must hunt with close relatives within the second degree of kindred who are Alaska residents. Check the Alaska Hunting regulations for specific information.

To find a list of guides, call the Division of Occupational Licensing at (907) 465-2543 or the Alaska Professional Hunters Association at (907) 522-3221.



## Additional Types of Hunting in Alaska

Separate Alaska Trapping Regulations and Alaska Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations handbooks are available through any licensing outlet, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices, and online at [www.hunt.alaska.gov](http://www.hunt.alaska.gov).

### Trapping

Trapping is most common when pursuing fur bearing animals such as fox, lynx, snowshoe hare, beaver, etc. Typically, trapping animals occurs in the winter, when the animal's fur coat is full and thick.

A trapping license is generally needed when you are setting traps. Read the regulations for more information.

### Waterfowl

Along with the mandatory hunting license, all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must have a current federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. An Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is also required unless you meet specified qualifications (see Alaska Waterfowl Hunting Regulations).

## Additional Resources

*Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard*  
Report Fish and Wildlife  
Violations to: 1-800-478-3377

*Alaska Department of Fish & Game*  
Division of Wildlife Conservation Regional Offices

Southeast Alaska  
ADF&G; Wildlife Conservation  
PO Box 110020  
Douglas, AK 99811-0020  
Phone: (907) 465-4265

Southcentral Alaska  
ADF&G; Wildlife Conservation  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
Phone: (907) 267-2257

Interior Alaska  
ADF&G; Wildlife Conservation  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599  
Phone: (907) 459-7513

Western and Arctic Alaska  
ADF&G; Wildlife Conservation  
Pouch 1148  
Nome, AK 99762  
Phone: (907) 443-2271

*Bureau of Land Management*  
District Offices

Anchorage: (907) 267-1246  
Nome: (907) 443-2177  
Glennallen: (907) 822-3217  
Fairbanks: (907) 474-2200  
Barrow: (907) 852-2757  
Kotzebue: (907) 442-3430

*Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau*  
Visitor Information Services  
101 Dunkel Street, Suite #111  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 456-5774

*Alaska Department of Natural Resources*  
Fairbanks Public Information Center  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 451-2705

*US Forest Service*  
Regional Offices

Chugach National Forest  
3301 C Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 743-9500

Tongass National Forest  
Federal Building  
648 Mission Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-3101

*US Fish & Wildlife Service*  
District Offices

Fairbanks Office  
101 12th Avenue, Room 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 456-0499

Anchorage Office  
605 West 4th Avenue, Room G-61  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 271-2888

*Alaska Public Lands Information Centers*

Anchorage APLIC  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 105  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 644-3661

Fairbanks APLIC  
101 Dunkel Street, Suite 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-3730

Ketchikan APLIC  
Southeast Alaska Discovery Center  
50 Main Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 228-6220

Tok APLIC  
PO Box 359  
Tok, AK 99780  
(907) 883-5667

*US Geological Survey*

Fairbanks Map Office  
930 Koyukuk Drive, Room 204  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 474-6960

Earth Science Information Center  
4210 University Drive, #208  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 786-701

*Alaska Outdoors Forum*  
<http://forums.outdoorsdirectory.com>