

Hunter Information Package

[Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area](#)

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 408

If you have questions or concerns please contact a Conservation Officer or park staff at 403-591-6309. For emergencies please dial 911 and ask for Kananaskis Dispatch. To report poaching please call Report-A-Poacher at 1-800-642-3800

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Introduction

There are hunting opportunities on more than 85 percent of the land base in Alberta's parks system. Hunting is permitted in all Wildland Provincial Parks and some Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas.

Hunting is a supported activity in Alberta Parks because of its alignment with preserving natural heritage, including traditional land use, providing exceptional recreation opportunities, providing tools for wildlife management, and getting people outside and connecting with nature.

Alberta Parks are enjoyed by a wide range of recreational users year-round and in Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas, where hunting is allowed, Firearm Discharge Permits are required to address public safety and wildlife management issues as well as to protect sensitive areas and species.

Evan-Thomas is designated as a Provincial Recreation Area and is managed by the Parks Operations Division of Alberta Environment and Parks. It is located in



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western Alberta in Kananaskis Country and is a valuable conservation area providing a space for recreational activities.

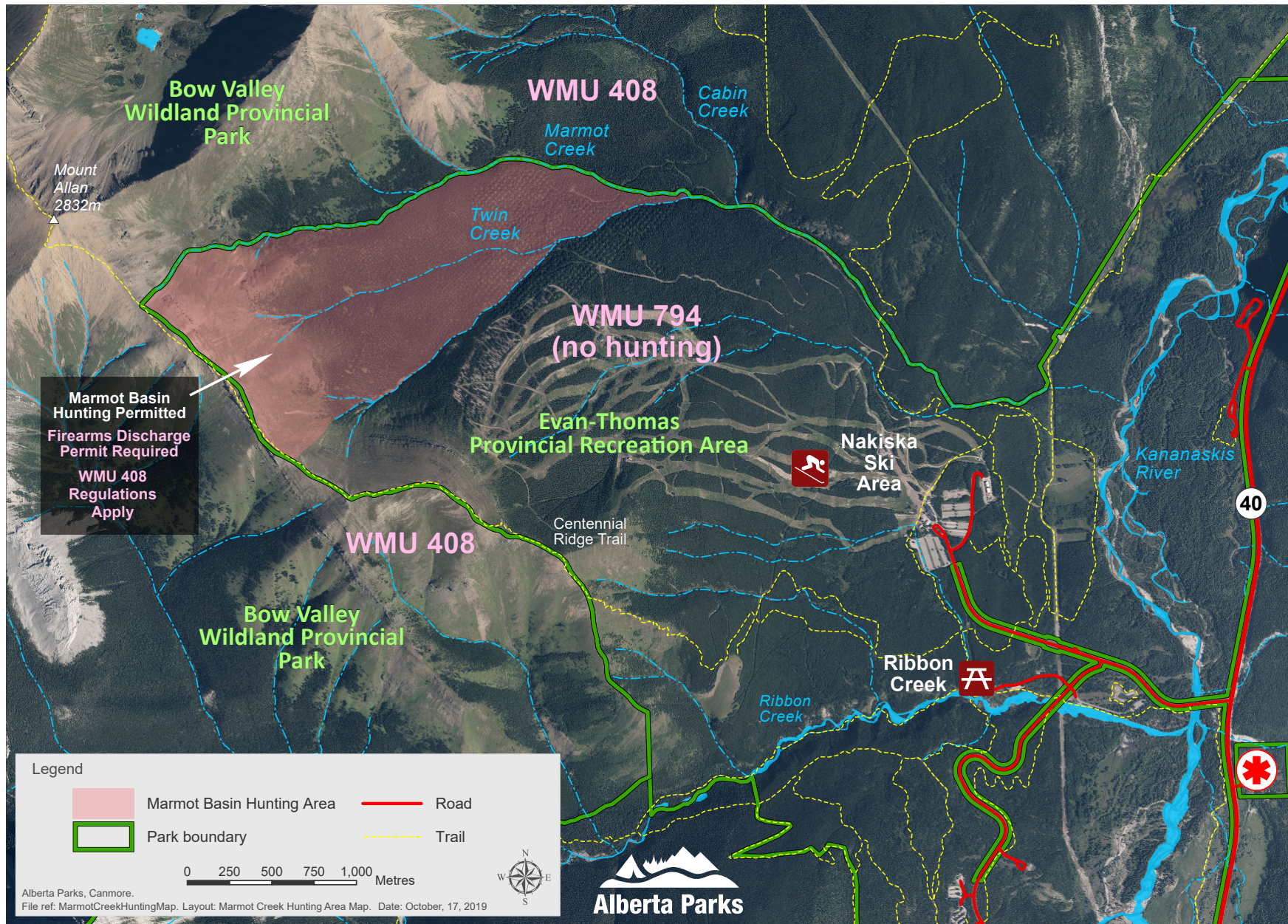
Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area is filled with wildlife representative of the Rocky Mountain Natural Region that it sits in including Bighorn Sheep and Grizzly and Black Bears.

The Nakiska Ski Area is located inside Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area and hunting is not allowed in this area. Hunting is permitted in the Marmot Basin area of the Provincial Recreation Area only (see attached map).

Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area sees high levels of human use year-round, including hikers, cyclists, equestrian users, school children, cross-country and downhill skiers, community groups, park employees, volunteers and hunters. Please be aware of their presence and take appropriate measures to ensure you are being safe and aware at all times.



Marmot Creek Hunting Area Map



Access Information

Access into the Provincial Recreation Area is by a variety of ways including ski, horse or foot power. Pedal bicycles are permitted on designed bike trails only. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) cannot be used inside the Provincial Recreation Area. Please be aware there may be adverse conditions that may make conditions poor (e.g. muddy or snowed in). On highway vehicles (like Jeeps and 4x4s) are NOT permitted. All multi use trails within the identified portion of Marmot Basin are open to hunting.



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Successful Hunter Information



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Emergency Preparedness

Be prepared for weather changes including precipitation, unpredictable weather, and fluctuating temperature.

Be equipped with survival gear – matches, flashlight or headlamp, warm clothes, compass, extra batteries, flagging tape, food, water.

It is advised to carry a GPS, spare batteries, a map and compass, or flagging tape so you can mark your kill site (so you can find it again) and find your path back to your vehicle. Make sure all flagging is removed on your way out.

Be prepared to spend the night outdoors. Unpredictable precipitation and weather and extreme elevation make accessibility subject to change. Weather can make travel hazardous and you might find yourself unable to travel.

Carry a headlamp with spare batteries and extra clothes.

Marmot Basin and the surrounding area includes avalanche terrain. Hunters should be aware of the hazards, have the appropriate equipment and knowledge and check the avalanche bulletin. Visit www.avalanche.ca for more information.

Tell a friend or family member where you are going, how to contact you, what time you expect to return, and make sure they know who to contact if you are late and they are unable to contact you. Not all areas have cellular phone service; consider carrying an emergency communication device such as a satellite messenger or a personal locator beacon.

Hunters should use caution and be aware bears and other carnivores frequent the area. While field-dressing the carcass, make noise so nearby bears know you are in the area. Should it be necessary to leave your animal overnight, be sure to leave human scent around the carcass and drag the offal (organs) away from the carcass



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(recommend 200 m) as these predators/scavengers will typically consume those parts first. Carry bear spray in an accessible location and know how to use it.

Hunters are at a higher risk of surprise encounters with bears (they don't make noise, travel in camo, approach carcasses and smell of blood/meat). As such, hunters need to be extra observant and prepared for a bear encounter. Bear spray is the best defense to deter a bear in a close encounter.

How to properly use bear spray:

<https://youtu.be/VDgBY2PbnO4>



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Wildlife Management Assistance



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Please report any ear tags to Conservation Officers upon discovery. Ear tags will state “DO NOT EAT” followed by a phone number. The “do not eat” tag is placed on animals that have been tranquilized; hunters must tag their animal and can still expect to salvage their harvest, but depending on when the animal was tranquilized, the hunter will find out whether the meat is safe to consume (or whether a replacement tag may be issued).

Please refer to [Chronic Wasting Disease – Information for Hunters](#)* for information.

*<https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-information-for-hunters.aspx>

For more information on [Indigenous hunting and fishing in Alberta](#)** please refer to the webpage.

**<https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-hunting-and-fishing-in-alberta.aspx>

Contact the office at 403–591–6309 for further questions or concerns.

Important Park Specific Information for Hunters



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1. Hunters travelling through Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area to access the open-season, northwest corner at Marmot Basin, must travel with their firearm unloaded and encased or completely dismantled. Under Park legislation, bows are considered a firearm.
2. As a reminder, hunters must also abide by federal legislation regarding firearm transport and storage in a vehicle (particularly for times when a firearm is left unattended). The park does require that firearms not in use must be encased.
3. Random camping and fires are not permitted within Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area. Random camping and fires are permitted in the adjacent Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park. Mount Kidd RV Park is a front-country campground within the recreation area and is open year-round.

4. Before heading out, check in with a visitor centre or albertaparks.ca for updates on warnings and closures.
5. The permit holder shall not discharge a firearm within 183 metres (200 yards) of park facilities. Details are listed in the terms and conditions and located on the map.
6. If you wish to access a pasture that is marked as 'open' please leave the gate as you found it. If a gate is open, please leave it open; if it is closed, please close it behind you.
7. Hunters must salvage their animal in accordance with the provincial Wildlife Regulations and will not receive assistance from park or Nakiska ski hill employees.
8. Do not cut any fences to provide easy access to your harvested animal; this includes any fences belonging to surrounding landowners.

9. Tree stands are permitted only if they are portable, man-made, self-contained (do not build it using natural materials from the park), and do no permanent damage (do not remove/knock down dead or live branches) to the tree(s) and surrounding vegetation. Tree stands must be taken down at the end of each hunt (every day) to ensure fairness and equal access to hunting locations throughout the season.



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Extra Word of Caution

Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area has a variety of uses including hunting, which is only permitted in the Marmot Basin, where WMU 408 Regulations apply. Please contact Alberta Fish and Wildlife for more information. The rest of the Provincial Recreation Area is closed to hunting and also includes trails and the Nakiska Ski Area. Hunters are asked to be aware they could come across skiers throughout the area and to apply safety measures accordingly.

Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area has extreme elevations and hunters should always be aware of extreme temperatures or snowfall and potential for avalanches. Please always be aware of your location and be prepared for emergencies.

In case of an emergency, call 911. To report concerns to a Conservation Officer, call 403-591-6309. The nearest hospital is located in Canmore. The non-emergency line for the hospital is 403-678-5536.



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