



## **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

**šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories  
Central Washington**

**2023 - 2024 Hunting Season**



## **PURPOSE OF THIS PAMPHLET**

This pamphlet contains the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories Traditional Hunting Regulations (effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) (CCT Code Title 4 Natural Resources and Environment, Chapter 4-1, and Resolution 2023-491). It is your responsibility to be in compliance with the regulations contained within this pamphlet. A violation of any provision of these regulations is a prohibited act under CCT Code Section 4-1-241 and is subject to civil and/or criminal sanctions under Chapter 4-1 (see Sections 4-1-320 to 4-1-334). We recommend that you read and understand these regulations prior to hunting. Any questions not answered in this booklet should be directed to the:

**CCT Fish & Wildlife  
P.O. Box 150  
Nespelem, WA 99155  
Phone: (509) 634-2110**

## **AUTHORIZATION**

Exercising its sovereign authority to regulate hunting for Colville Tribal Members including šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) Tribal Members, the Colville Business Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation promulgates such regulations as it deems proper and necessary to carry out the policy of the Colville Tribes with respect to hunting. These hunting regulations have been developed in the interest of preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the wildlife resources of Colville Tribal usual and accustomed areas and assist in maintaining public safety.

The following regulations are hereby enacted pertaining to seasons, open areas, bag and possession limits of animals harvested, equipment restrictions, public safety, harvest reporting, licensing, tags and special permits. These regulations are issued pursuant to Tribal Fish and Wildlife Code, adopted by Colville Business Council Resolutions 1997-491, and 2023-491.

### **\*\* ATTENTION HUNTERS! \*\***

***PLEASE ASSIST THE FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPT. IN MANAGING WILDLIFE***

*If you harvested an animal, if you did not hunt, or hunted and were unsuccessful: Please report your harvest no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.*

***To Report your Harvest Online, sign in at: <https://colville.nagfa.net/online/>***

***THANK YOU AND HUNT SAFE!***

## **HUNTER INFORMATION UNLAWFUL ACTS**

### **Title 4 Natural Resources and Environment Chapter 4-1 Fish, Wildlife and Recreation**

It shall be unlawful for any Tribal Member:

- To hunt without having a Tribal CCT Identification Card that lists a šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) affiliation in your possession.
- To hunt during the respective closed season.
- To kill or take deer or elk or other game in excess of the number fixed as the bag and/or possession limit.
- To fail reporting any harvest within 15 days of the kill, by not returning the bottom portion of their tag completely filled out to a CCT F&W office.
- To hunt while under the influence of intoxicating beverages or drugs.
- To hunt with an artificial light, except as permitted by regulation for selected species.
- To hunt or kill any eagles, hawks or owls.
- To destroy, tear down, shoot at, deface, or erase any printed matter or signs placed or posted to assist in the enforcement of tribal hunting regulations.
- To shoot any other person or domestic livestock while hunting.
- To throw, drop, or leave any discarded objects, garbage debris, or waste upon any of the properties subject to the jurisdiction of the Colville Tribes; except into a litter or garbage receptacle or container installed for that purpose on such property.
- To permit any edible portions of deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, bear, or game birds to go to waste, after taking possession of the same.
- To resist or obstruct any Conservation Officer or other duly authorized officer in the discharge of duty while enforcing Tribal regulations pertaining to hunting.
- To use an aircraft (including drones) to spot, locate or report the location of wildlife for the purpose of hunting or hunt big game on the same day you were airborne (except for regularly scheduled commercial flights).
- To import or transport onto the South Half of the Colville Reservation (July 1872 Reservation) to sell, trade, or release within the South Half of the Colville Reservation, or possess, any live wildlife except as authorized by the Director of Fish and Wildlife.
- To counsel, encourage, solicit, request, aid, procure, or abet another to commit any act prohibited by the Fish Wildlife Code or Fish and Wildlife Regulation.
- That is a convicted felon to hunt with any firearm or possess ammunition while hunting on the South Half or North Half Reservation, unless your firearm rights have been legally restored.
- To sell or barter any edible portion of any deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, game birds or waterfowl.
- To sell or barter any portion of a bear, except the hide, claws and skull.
- To use an off-road vehicle (ORV) in violation of any applicable laws or regulations.
- Trespass on private lands on or off Reservation.

**General Regulations:**

<b>šnp'əšq'awšəx'w HUNTING SEASONS</b>					
<b>Species</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>SEASON DATES</b>	<b>TAGS</b>	<b>HARVEST LIMIT*</b>	<b>POSSESSION LIMIT</b>
White-tail Deer	Buck Only	July 1 – September 30	Required	1 White-tail Deer per year	2 Total Deer may be in possession at one time
	Either Sex	October 1 – December 31			
Mule Deer	Buck Only	July 1 – September 30	Required	1 Mule Deer per year	2 Total Deer may be in possession at one time
	Either Sex	October 1 – December 31			
Elk	Bull Only	July 1 – August 31	Required	1 Elk per year	1 Total Elk may be in possession at one time
	Either Sex	September 1 – December 31			
Black Bear	Either Sex	July 1 – December 31	Required	1 Black Bear per year	1 Total Bear may be in possession at one time
Forest Grouse (Ruffed, Blue, or Spruce)	Either Sex	July 1 – December 31	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	4 mixed Forest Grouse per day	8 Total Grouse may be in possession at one time.
Cougar	Either Sex	Year-Round	Required	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Bobcat	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Turkey	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Skunk	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Raccoon	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit

Coyote	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Cottontail or Snowshoe Hare	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Ground Hog	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Porcupine	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Quail, Pheasant, Chukar, Huns	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit
Pigeons or Eurasian Collared Dove	Either Sex	Year-Round	Not Required (Tribal ID Only)	No Daily or Season Limit	No Limit

***\*\*All species for which no Open Seasons are listed in this pamphlet are considered CLOSED to hunting within the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories.\*\****

***\*Exceptions to the Harvest Limit include the following:***

**Ceremonial Use:** Enrolled Colville Tribal Members with šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) listed on their Tribal Identification are allowed, by permit (only) to take deer or elk outside the general big game seasons for traditional, and/or cultural purposes (only). In order for an individual or family to obtain a harvest tag they must receive authorization or be designated to harvest an animal from the Fish and Wildlife Program Director.

***Note: Failure to report any traditional harvest within 15 days of the kill will be considered an unlawful act. All tags must be completely filled out and returned to the Nespelem, Omak, or Inchelium Fish and Wildlife offices.***

***Who may Hunt:***

Any šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Tribal Member who was born before July 1, 2005 and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation may hunt.

***Hunter Identification:***

In order to exercise šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Tribal Members' right to hunt, hunters must be an enrolled member of the Colville Tribes and their Tribal Identification Card must list "Wenatchi." If you are a šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Member and your Tribal I.D. card does not list "Wenatchi," please contact the Colville Tribal enrollment office.

***Hunting License:***

A Colville Tribal Identification Card shall serve as a legal permit to hunt. This card must be in possession while hunting and must be presented as identification upon request of a Natural Resource Enforcement Officer, another duly authorized Tribal officer or Department employee, or a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officer. Failure to do so shall constitute a violation of this regulation. In addition, tags for individual animals may be required.

***NOTE:*** *Enrolled tribal members are not subject to state license requirements while hunting within the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories, but must have a Tribal Identification Card in possession while hunting or transporting animals and present it upon request. A CCT Identification Card must be presented before Tags required can be issued.*

***Tag Requirements:***

Tags are required for selected species within the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories. When tags are required, they must be obtained prior to hunting and must be in the hunter's possession at all times while hunting the species and/or area for which the tag was issued. Successful hunters must sign and write the harvest date on the tag, and attach the tag securely to the harvested animal before transporting it. Tags will only be issued from the Nespelem Fish and Wildlife Office.

***Legal Hunting Area:***

Hunting shall be legal for eligible šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Tribal Members within the Usual and Accustomed areas and/or aboriginal territories of the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) and which are generally delineated in Appendix A.

***Hunting Private Lands / Trespass on Private Lands:***

It shall be unlawful to hunt any private land. In addition, it will be unlawful to hunt on any Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife owned land.

***Hunting Hours:***

The legal hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset daily.

***Shooting from Public Highway:***

It shall be unlawful for a Tribal Member to negligently shoot a firearm or a bow and arrow from, across, or along the maintained portion of any public highway while hunting in the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories.

### ***Loaded Gun in Vehicle:***

It shall be unlawful for a Tribal Member, while in a motorized vehicle to have a shell in the chamber of a rifle or shotgun while hunting in the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories.

### ***Safety Zones:***

Safety Zones are areas designated as no hunting zones for the purpose of public safety.

No hunting is allowed within ¼ mile of Safety Zones. Safety Zones include, but are not limited to: residential areas, businesses, parks, campgrounds, home sites, and town/city limits. The CCT Fish and Wildlife Director may, at his/her discretion, post selected areas as “Safety Zones,” for protection of public safety.

### ***Hunter Orange Recommendation:***

**FOR YOUR SAFETY:** While hunting in the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territories, it is highly recommended that anyone engaged in hunting activity in any area where there is a current open, deer or elk modern firearm season for non-tribal members should wear hunter orange while hunting. A minimum of 400 square inches of florescent hunter orange exterior clothing is recommended. Florescent hunter orange exterior clothing should be worn above the waist and be visible from all sides.

### ***Road Closures:***

Roads may be closed for purposes of resource protection or to provide safe and secure habitat areas required to promote and conserve healthy big game populations. It is unlawful to operate a motorized vehicle on any road or trail where motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Road closures may be by a sign, gate, or other physical barrier. It shall also be unlawful to tear down, deface, damage or otherwise destroy any signs, gates, or other devices used to close roads and trails. This regulation does not restrict administrative use of motorized vehicles by authorized personnel on a closed road.

### ***Legal Hunting Methods:***

#### **Rifle Regulations**

**For Hunting Big Game Species (Elk, Moose, Deer, and Bear):** Rifle caliber is restricted to a minimum of a .24 caliber center fire cartridge and shall not include any center fire pistol cartridges such as the .45 Long Colt or .44 Magnum Pistol cartridges. Rim fire rifles are prohibited. Shotguns must be 10 or 12 gauge using slugs.



## Archery Regulations

*Note: Archery hunters must have passed the 2023 Archery Proficiency Test to be eligible to archery hunt during any Tribal season.*

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt elk with a crossbow.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt big game with a bow that develops less than 40 pounds of pull and/or has a greater than 80% reduction (let off) in holding weight at full draw.
- C. It shall be unlawful to hunt elk with any arrow, including a broad head, weighing less than a minimum of 6 grains of arrow weight per pound of maximum bow draw weight, or having a sharp broad head blade or blades less than seven-eighths inches wide when open.
- D. It is unlawful to use any device secured to or supported by the bow for the purpose of maintaining the bow at full draw or in a firing position.
- E. It is unlawful to have any electrical equipment or device(s) attached to the bow or arrow while hunting, excluding lighted nocks (ex. Lumenok, Firenock, NockTurnal, etc.) that assist in recovering the animal.

## **GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

**Artificial Light:** Any light produced by other than natural sources, including but not limited to, jacklights, spotlights, flashlights, or vehicular headlights. Hunting big game (with the exception of black bears while hound hunting) with the aid of an artificial light, spotlight, or night vision equipment is prohibited. Registered Hound Hunters and Trappers may use hand held, battery operated lights to aid in legally harvesting game while hound hunting or trapping.

**Adult:** Any šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Tribal member 18 years of age or older.

**Bag Limit:** Maximum number of wildlife which may be taken or possessed by any person, specified by regulations of the Business Council for any twenty-four (24) hour period, including size, sex or species.

**Big Game:** Refers to any of the following species: white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, pronghorn, and/or black bear.

**Body-gripping trap:** means a trap that grips an animal's body or body part. Body-gripping traps include, but are not limited to, unpadded foot-hold traps, padded foot-hold traps, Conibear traps, neck snares, and non-strangling foot snares. Cage and box traps, suitcase-type live beaver traps, and common rat and mouse traps are not considered body-gripping traps.

**Ceremonial hunting:** means taking of game for use in traditional tribal ceremonies and/or for religious purposes. Only enrolled members of the Colville Tribes with šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) listed on their Tribal Identification Card shall exercise ceremonial hunting rights.

**CCT Identification Card:** Identification card (blue card) issued to enrolled members of the Colville Confederated Tribes. In order to hunt under the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Regulations, a valid CCT identification Card listing šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) is required.

**Closed Areas:** Those portions of the šnpəšqʷawšəxʷ (Wenatchi) Aboriginal Territory not open for tribal hunting, trapping, or snaring.

**Closed Season:** A portion of or all of a year when hunting, trapping, and snaring is **NOT**



allowed for a given species. All of the times during the calendar year, except during a corresponding “open season” for a specific species, are considered closed by this regulation.

**Conibear or Conibear-type trap:** means any trap of various manufacturers having design and operational characteristics essentially designed and set to grip and hold an animal's body across its main axis.

**Daily bag limit:** means the maximum number of wildlife which may be taken or possessed by any person, specified and fixed by this Chapter or any regulations of the Business Council for any twenty-four (24) hour period, including size, sex or species.

**Deer:** Mule deer and/or white-tailed deer.

**Department:** Colville Tribal Fish and Wildlife Department.

**Depredation:** means any act by a wild animal that causes the destruction of or damage to property.

**Disabled Hunter:** A šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) Tribal member with a disability means a person with a permanent disability who is: not able to walk about or over natural terrain such that without a prosthesis or assistive device such as, but not limited to a wheelchair, crutches, cane, or unable to hold or shoot a firearm or other legal hunting device, or visually impaired. Visually impaired means central visual acuity that does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than 20 degrees. (This definition includes but is not limited to persons with upper or lower extremity impairments who have lost the permanent use of one or both upper or lower extremities or who have a significant limitation in the use of upper or lower extremities, or who have a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility or the use of upper extremities. A physician letter is required to get the placard which is available at the Fish & Wildlife Department Office.

**Drowning Set:** – A drowning set is a trap, including colony traps, killer-type traps, and foothold traps, that is set completely underwater and rigged in such a way as to reasonably ensure the drowning of any species of trapped furbearer that would reasonably be expected to visit the set location and be held in the type of trap used at the set.

**Elder:** Any enrolled Colville Member with šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) listed on their Tribal Identification Card who is 55 years of age or older.

**Firearm:** Any weapon from which a shot (projectile) is discharged by the action of an explosive (i.e. gunpowder).

**Fur-bearing animals:** means those animals whose skins are used commercially as fur and are designated as fur bearing animals by the Council.

**Game animal:** means wild animals that are normally hunted for food or sport and are designated as game animals by the Council.

**General Tag:** Any tag that does not require a special hunt application and drawing to obtain the tag.

**Harassment of wildlife:** means to engage in any act which demonstrates a disregard for the well-being of wildlife or which creates the likelihood of injury, or disrupts normal behavior patterns of wildlife including feeding, watering, resting, and breeding. Such acts include, but are not limited to, chasing, pursuing, herding, or attempting to take wildlife.

**Harvest:** To capture or kill and take into possession.

**Hunt or Hunting:** means shooting, shooting at, chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, brushing, pursuing, trapping, stalking or lying in wait for any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken, or wounded. Such term does not include stalking, attracting, searching for or lying in wait for any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the

purpose of watching wildlife or taking pictures or making sound recordings thereof.

**In-water type trap:** means beneath the water surface so that the trap is completely submerged.

**Loaded weapon:** means a firearm that has a bullet in the chamber.

**Member or Tribal Member:** Any person who is enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Confederated Tribes, or Colville Tribes) with šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) listed on their CCT Tribal Identification Card.

**Natural Resource Enforcement Officer(s):** Person(s) charged with the responsibility of enforcing all ordinances and regulations adopted by the Colville Business Council governing hunting, trapping, snaring, and fishing on the North Half or South Half of the Reservation and Usual and Accustomed Areas including the šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>awšəx<sup>w</sup> (Wenatchi) Traditional Territories, and shall include: Police officers; Parks & Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Program law enforcement personnel; Regulatory enforcement officer; and, any other qualified individual authorized by the Business Council to act as a Natural Resources Enforcement Officer.

**Night vision equipment:** Night Vision Equipment includes electronic light amplification devices, thermal imaging devices, and other comparable equipment used to enhance night vision.

**Non-Game Species:** All species in which hunting seasons are closed by regulation to all harvest and hunting is not legal.

**No Open Season:** Closed to hunting, trapping, and snaring indefinitely.

**North Half:** means all lands of the Colville Reservation as set apart in the Executive Order of July 2, 1872, that were ceded to the United States pursuant to the Agreement of May 9, 1891, in which the Tribes holds reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather, and which consists generally of the lands between the current northern boundary of the Reservation and the Canadian border and between the Okanogan and Columbia rivers.

**Off-reservation:** means all lands, territories, waters and streams located outside the Colville Reservation as defined in section 1-1-362 of Tribal Code, including but not limited to the North Half.

**On reservation:** means within the exterior boundaries of the Colville Reservation as defined in section 1-1-362 of Tribal Code.

**Open and Unclaimed Lands:** means all lands located outside the Colville Indian Reservation and other Reservations where the Colville Tribes reserved by Treaty or other agreement the right to hunt or fish.

**Open Season:** All times, areas, and manner for legally hunting or possessing game animals or game birds. All hunting season dates listed in this pamphlet are inclusive.

**Party Hunting:** When a group of Tribal Member hunters collectively pools their tags and allows any Tribal Member hunter in the group to harvest game for another Member in the group. All hunters must be present in the field, and harvested animals cannot exceed the number of valid tags. No party hunting is allowed to fill a special tag.

**Possession Limit:** means the maximum number of a given wildlife species that may be possessed at any one time.

**Predator:** Carnivorous wildlife species including: cougar, gray wolves, coyote, badger, bobcat, lynx, grizzly bear, fisher, marten, and/or mink. If a season is open for a specific predator species, wastage laws for edible portions of meat do not apply, post-harvest.

**Public Highway:** means every road, regardless of surface, maintained by federal, state, county or other public funds.

**Regulation:** means any rule, regulation, resolution or ordinance promulgated by the Colville

Business Council.

**Safety Zones:** Areas designated as no hunting zones for the purpose of public safety. No hunting or shooting is to occur within ¼ mile of designated “Safety Zones” unless otherwise stipulated. Safety Zones include, but are not limited to: residential areas, businesses, parks, campgrounds, and home sites.

**Special Hunt Tag:** Any tag that requires a Tribal Member to submit an application for a specified hunt and has the possibility of being drawn.

**Spotlighting:** The act of illegally using an artificial light to aid in hunting or harvesting game animals.

**Tag:** A valid permit to hunt which is required to be in possession while hunting designated species (listed on the tag), and is designed to be attached to the carcass of those species when they are harvested. The bottom portion of the tag shall be filled out and submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Department, whether or not the hunter is successful.

**Trespass:** means to enter upon the real property of another that is posted to prohibit trespassing, is fenced or contains obvious outward signs of habitability without permission of the owner or the owner's agent.

**Waste:** means the abandonment or deterioration of those portions of fish or game normally utilized for human consumption.

**Wildlife:** means all fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, designated aquatic invertebrates and insects located on the Colville Reservation or migrating to the Colville Reservation, or available on the North Half, or off the Reservation at usual and accustomed grounds and stations, on open and unclaimed lands, or in aboriginal lands, excluding domestic animals.



