

## The Fraser Valley Special Area Hunting Licence

A Fraser Valley Special Area Hunting Licence (FVSAH) is required to hunt anywhere within provincial Management Unit (MU) 2-4 and those parts of MU 2-8 within Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Mission and Coquitlam. A Provincial Hunting Licence is also required, as well as a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit if migratory birds are hunted.

FVSAH Licences are available from Front Counter BC, Service BC offices and selected sporting goods stores in the Fraser Valley. Evidence of current one million dollar public liability and property damage insurance must be provided to obtain this licence. A FVSAH licence is automatically invalid if the insurance coverage is not current or maintained.

A licenced hunter under the age of 18 does not have to obtain a special area hunting licence, but must possess a valid provincial hunting licence, as well as an "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" signed by his or her parent or guardian. Hunters under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a licenced hunter 18 years of age or older, and who holds a FVSAH licence and has insurance, but does not (necessarily) have to be the specific person who signed the "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" form.

A B.C. Wildlife Federation membership card with insurance notation, a letter from your insurance agent or company letterhead or the policy itself is proof of insurance. Tel: (604) 882-9988 or web site: [www.bcwfb.ca](http://www.bcwfb.ca) for more information. This brochure is a guide to municipal and local government firearms restrictions in the Fraser Valley Special Hunting Area. The maps also show some areas where the FVSAH licence is not required. Portions of the Fraser Valley Regional District, Metro Vancouver and some of the closures within their boundaries are shown for information only.

For details of open seasons on wildlife and other hunting and firearms regulations, refer to the *BC Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis*, available wherever hunting licences are sold or for more information go to [www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/).

All provincial parks except those listed as open in British Columbia Hunting Regulations are closed to the discharge of firearms and to hunting. For information on which provincial parks are open to hunting please visit [www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/).

This brochure is a guide only and the map scale may not show the exact detail of some boundaries. For further information about specific Discharge of Firearms bylaws, boundaries and exemptions as they relate to public safety, hunting, crop protection and wildlife conflicts please contact the local Clerk's Department.

Township of Langley ..... (604) 534-3211  
City of Surrey ..... (604) 591-4213  
City of Langley ..... (604) 514-2800  
City of Richmond ..... (604) 276-4000  
City of Delta ..... (604) 946-4141  
City of Maple Ridge ..... (604) 463-5221  
City of Coquitlam ..... (604) 927-3000  
City of Chilliwack ..... (604) 792-9311  
City of Mission ..... (604) 820-3700  
City of Abbotsford ..... (604) 853-2281  
City of Pitt Meadows ..... (604) 465-5454  
Metro Vancouver Parks Dept. (formerly GVPR Parks) ..... (604) 432-6350  
Fraser Valley Regional District Parks Dept. .... (604) 702-5000 or  
1-800-528-0061  
City of Port Coquitlam (not part of the FVSAH area) ..... (604) 927-5411  
Village of Harrison Hot Springs (not part of the FVSAH area) ..... (604) 796-2171 (228)  
District of Kent (not part of the FVSLH area)  
Call the Clerk's Dept. .... (604) 796-2235 (2248)  
Ministry of Forests ..... (604) 586-4400  
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), (CWS) ..... (604) 350-1950

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis)

Ministry of Forests



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## 2023 / 2024 Edition

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## What About Firearm Regulations?

Municipal governments are responsible to their communities for the safe and proper use of firearms and bows. Section 8 (5) of the Community Charter provides the authority for municipalities and cities to regulate or prohibit the discharge of firearms. All Fraser Valley cities and municipalities have bylaws of this type.

Discharge of Firearms bylaws in the Fraser Valley are in most cases, developed in cooperation with local discharge of firearms committees, BC Ministry of Forests, representatives of hunters' organizations, landowners, and local residents.

Some cities and municipalities include bows in their definition of "firearms". Also, some local governments include discharge of firearms using single projectiles in their bylaws. Please refer to specific bylaws at Clerk's Department.

Local police, R.C.M.P. and local bylaw enforcement officers have the authority to enforce local firearm bylaws. When aware of infractions, provincial conservation officers will pass the necessary information on to the appropriate enforcement agency for prosecution. A person found guilty of an infraction of a municipal bylaw is liable to a fine of up to \$2,000 or six months imprisonment.

Most cities and municipalities have, over the years, made amendments to their bylaws. There are small but significant differences in various discharge of firearms bylaws. This brochure is a general guide to all bylaws but current discharge of firearms bylaws are themselves the final authority in these matters. If you plan to hunt in an area, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the relevant discharge of firearms bylaw.

Local discharge of firearms bylaws DO NOT regulate hunting of wildlife.

The *Wildlife Act* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* regulate hunting and the control of wildlife conflicts. The provisions of these Acts apply everywhere in the Province, including areas covered by local discharge of firearms bylaws.

All firearms regulations outside of cities and municipalities are made under the *Wildlife Act*. The penalties under the *Wildlife Act* are substantially greater than penalties under local Discharge of Firearms bylaws.

**To report fish, wildlife and environmental offences other than those involving salmon, call "Report ALL Poachers and Polluters" (RAPP) at 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP).**

## General Regulations

The maps in this brochure show firearms restrictions in the Fraser Valley area. Areas coloured dark red are closed to the discharge of firearms by local government bylaw.

These pink-coloured areas depict closures instituted by various regulatory agencies other than cities or municipalities, including federal, provincial, local and regional government.

Provincial regulation prohibits hunting and discharge of firearms "within 100 metres of a church, school building, schoolyard, playground, regional district park or dwelling house, farm or ranch building that is occupied by persons or domestic animals".

In addition, most local governments prohibit the discharge of firearms "within 150 metres of any workshop, place of business, public highway or the place where persons may be assembled or engaged in work of any kind".

## Regional District Regulations

All city, municipal, and regional district parks are closed to the discharge of firearms. Discharge of firearms is permitted in areas coloured white, shaded as "agricultural zones" or solid grey; however, landowner's permission must be obtained prior to hunting. Trespassing is an offence.

The marks and numbers around the borders of the maps indicate the points that the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) 100,000 metre grid intersects the map borders. This grid can be used to easily locate points on the map.

Regional District Parks and trails are closed year-round to possession and discharge of firearms and to hunting except where specifically exempted. Please contact the Metro Vancouver office at 604-432-6350 or Fraser Valley Regional District at 1-800-528-0061 for more information.

## Lead Shot Ban for Waterfowl Hunting

The use of Lead shot for waterfowl hunting has been prohibited in B.C. since 1995. The ban applies to all hunting for all ducks, geese, coots and snipe. It does not apply to upland gamebirds (grouse, ptarmigan, quail, partridge, pheasant, turkey), migratory upland gamebirds (pigeons, doves), or ravens (where seasons exist). It also applies to use of lead shot for ANY PURPOSE, including ALL **TARGET SHOOTING** on all dykes in Delta and Surrey that front Boundary Bay or Mud Bay and the seaward side of those dykes. The ban applies to shot containing greater than 1% lead by weight. Non-toxic alternatives such as steel or bismuth shot may be used.

Anyone found using lead shot illegally could lose their migratory bird hunting permit for at least one year and/or their provincial hunting licence and face a maximum provincial fine of \$25,000 or up to six months in jail. Federal penalties are higher.

Hunters are reminded that steel shot two sizes larger, fired through a shot-gun with a choke one stop more open than normally used for lead shot will produce similar energy and pattern.

Lead shot must not be used to protect crops from waterfowl; whether hunting methods are used or under the provisions of a federal Migratory Bird Damage Permit.

## Trespassing Regulations

Trespassing is an offence under the *Wildlife Act* and *Trespass Act* which, upon conviction, can result in fines as high as \$25,000 and suspension of the offender's hunting licences.

Under the *Wildlife Act*, a person who, without the consent of the owner, lessee or occupier of land, hunts over or traps in or on cultivated land, or hunts over Crown land which is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock commits an offence.

Under the *Trespass Act*, anyone found on enclosed land who does not have the consent of the owner commits an offence. It is an offence for such a person to refuse to give his name and address to the owner, or to a person authorized by the owner. Land is considered enclosed if there are clear visible signs prohibiting trespassing at each ordinary access point, the property is surrounded by a lawful fence, or the property is surrounded by a natural boundary such as a river bank or a 4.5 foot hedge.

It is recommended that hunters obtain, and have in their possession, written permission from landowners while hunting on private land.

Healthy relationships between hunters and landowners are a gateway to increased hunting opportunity and decreased conflicts between wildlife and the agricultural community. Do your part as an ethical hunter, with respect and courtesy, private land hunting can continue to the benefit of everyone involved.

For more complete details contact the Ministry of Forests ..... (604) 586-4400

## U.B.C. Malcom Knapp Research Forest

U.B.C. Research Forest is private property. Public access is permitted, although the following restrictions are in effect at all times:

No Dogs, No Camping, No Fires, No Hunting or Shooting and No Fishing.

## Fraser Valley Special Area Hunting Licence (FVSAH)

Historically approximately 2,000 FVSAH licences were sold (1,900 in 2003, 2,300 in 2010 and 3,225 in 2018).

## Surrender of Migratory Bird Hunting Permit

Waterfowl hunters are advised that a conviction for an offence under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* or its regulations results in automatic suspension of the offender's migratory game bird hunting permit. In addition, a person convicted of an offence may not apply for, or hold, a migratory game bird hunting permit within one year from the date of the conviction.

## Ethical Hunting

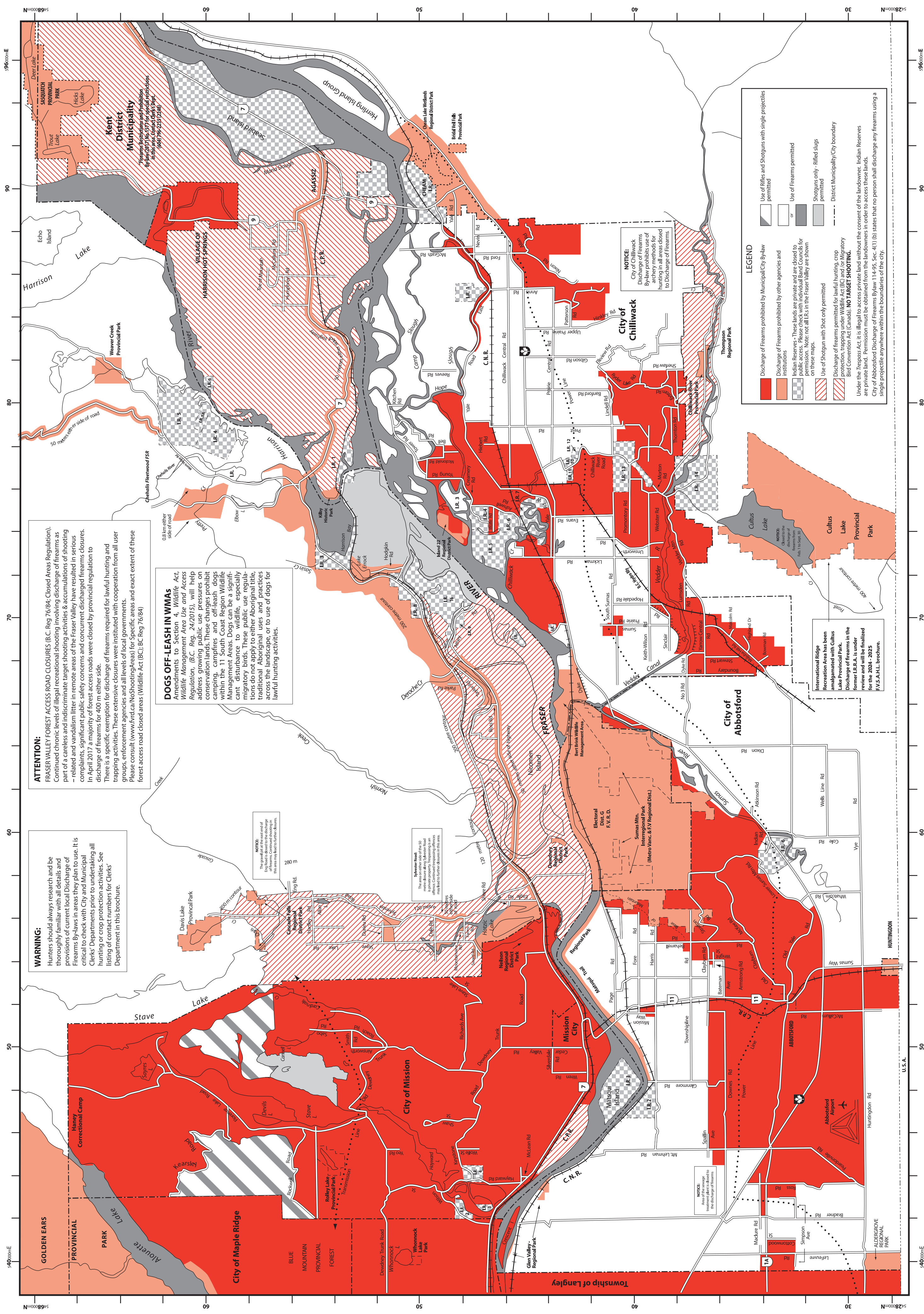
It is extremely important for hunters to realize that the wildlife they have the privilege of using is a public resource. With this privilege it is vital to maintain an excellent public image and that hunters hunt in an ethical, humane and acceptable manner. The majority of B.C. residents support hunting to one degree or another, but there is a prevalent misunderstanding among the general public as to the important role that hunters play in conservation and environmental stewardship. Fueling that misunderstanding are images and media reports of hunters who are at least perceived to be acting in a less than upstanding manner, or who disrespect wildlife and critical wildlife habitats.

It is important for all of us to remember not only the legal obligations of hunting, but also the unwritten rules of ethics and accountability that keep hunting a unique and reputable endeavour:

- Safety, first and foremost, for yourself, your companions, and the public is the most important aspect of hunting. Hunting accidents continue to occur, and we are all for that there is no room for recklessness or negligence at the expense of safety, respect and courtesy.
- Have respect for the sensitivities of others. Do not display harvested wildlife or firearms where they may offend other people. What may impress your friends and hunting companions may not necessarily have the same effect on your neighbours and other members of the public.
- Respect wildlife and the sanctity of the harvested animals' lives. Strive to make every shot as accurate and as efficient as possible.
- Dispose of inedible parts (feathers, bones, offal), in a lawful, respectful and ethical manner.
- Respect the environment by packing out everything you packed in! Nobody wants to arrive at a blind or campsite and find litter and empty shotgun shell hulls left by previous occupants. If you find other hunters' litter, pick it up; it is in your best long term welfare to keep areas clean. Litter, broken glass and metal left on agricultural fields is dangerous to livestock and can ruin crops and harvest machinery.
- Do not consume alcohol or drugs while hunting.
- Target shooting over sensitive habitats such as mudflats, marshes and other water bodies not only jeopardizes waterfowl through the risk of lead poisoning, but broken targets remain as scattered, unsightly litter in these sensitive areas.
- Your spent shot should never fall within any "No Shooting" or "No Hunting" closed areas, on trails and dykes where public pedestrian traffic may be expected or on buildings or livestock.
- Respect private property. Always ask permission, written permission if possible, from the landowner or lessee as part of planning your hunt. Thank them afterward for the opportunities given and the privilege of using their private lands.
- Unless explicitly stated, permission to access private or leased/rented lands given does NOT entitle you to access the property again.
- Respect gates, fences, equipment and other farming improvements as they are there for a reason – the farmer's economic livelihood. Leave everything the way you found it – unless specifically directed otherwise.

- With the idea of fostering continued good relationships with landowners and potentially as an opportunity to become a regular user of a farmer's land, consider offering volunteer help during the off-season to further build and develop a trusting relationship with the landowner.
- Be constantly aware that you are a mentor for youth and novice hunters that may be observing your behaviour – even at a distance.
- Respect your fellow hunters. Work with one another to promote good relationships, safety, landowner liaison, knowledge and fair distribution of hunting opportunities and harvest.
- It is recommended that hunters obtain, and have in their possession, written permission from landowners while hunting on private land.
- Lead by example, you are an ambassador for public and media image of hunters and hunting. Hunters are always under close scrutiny. Respectful, courteous behaviour is contagious – it will be noticed.
- Ethical and experienced hunters are a critical component of effective and sustainable wildlife management. Farmers and government wildlife agencies rely on the continuing volunteer services and expertise that knowledgeable, certified and insured ethical hunters provide. Your continuing opportunities for sustainable use and enjoyment of wildlife resources depend on all hunters' ethical behaviour.
- Continued littering, vandalism, disrespectful and unethical behaviour is a big reason for local governments to close favourite hunting areas by prohibiting the discharge of firearms. Foolish, careless, or just plain stupid behaviour by only one or two individuals is often enough reason.

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## Hunting by Permission, Richmond

All of the upland area of Richmond is closed to the discharge of firearms, except properties which are part of the Hunting by Permission Program. The program has the involvement and support of the Ministry of Forests, private landowners, and the City of Richmond. Hunters must have a valid Hunting by Permission pass obtained from the Richmond Rod and Gun Club to hunt on private land in Richmond. The number of hunters that can be accommodated is very limited. Passes are limited. Passes are distributed on a first-come/served basis at the Richmond Rod and Gun Club's monthly general meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month starting in September.

### RICHMOND ROD AND GUN CLUB

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 26551  
Blundell Centre Post Office  
Richmond, BC V7C 5M9

Street Address  
7891 Cambie Road  
Richmond, BC  
(Cambie at River Road)

The Club charges a nominal administration fee for these passes

Without the efforts of the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, public hunting on the private agricultural lands of Richmond could be eliminated entirely. This program has the support of hunters who want to see a stabilization or increase of hunting opportunities in the Lower Mainland.

Club issuance of a pass is no guarantee that the landowner will grant permission to hunt. Hunters who do not behave in an appropriate manner, or who break the law, will have their passes cancelled. They will not be issued another pass for one to two years from the time they surrender their pass to a member of the Club executive. Insurance for hunting in Richmond must be at \$5,000,000.

BC Ministry of Forests reminds all users that mutual respect of every individual's right to use and appreciate the common wildlife resource must be acknowledged and protected. This is a primary goal of the Wildlife Program.

Please contact Richmond's Clerk's Office (604) 276-4000 for details about exact boundary locations.

Discharge of Firearms bylaws are enforced ONLY by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and local police departments (R.C.M.P.) and NOT by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoCCS) or by officers of Environment and Climate Change Canada, (CWS).

### Special Notes: Agriculturally Zoned Lands

For those cities and municipalities that do not permit general discharge of firearms for hunting, i.e. there are no white coloured areas shown on the map for their jurisdiction (e.g. Surrey, Langley), agriculturally zoned lands have been depicted as shaded "agriculturally zoned" (see legend). The maps show the fundamental difference between areas closed by discharge of firearms bylaws for public safety (coloured red) and areas open to discharge of firearms for protection of crops, livestock and agricultural lands (see legend). Agriculturally zoned lands have been separated on these maps to provide an accurate reference for areas where crop and agricultural lands protection activities (e.g. hunting) can be expected. This provision will also increase confidence for the public, landowners, farmers, wildlife managers, and law enforcement agencies about both discharge of firearms and hunting boundaries.

Agriculturally zoned lands are not shown for any white coloured (open) areas that are open year-round for general discharge of firearms and hunting.

Landowners, farming lessees and their agents may discharge firearms, providing lawful and safe methods are used as a part of, "normally accepted agricultural and horticultural business practices" (as defined in the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*). It is the discretion of landowners and farmers that crop protection and solutions to wildlife conflicts are required.

Farmers who require crop protection services during waterfowl hunting seasons between September and March may use hunting methods to control crop depredation. These methods include hunting by the public as a service to farmers. Migratory Bird Damage Permits (MBDPs) issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) are available during periods when hunting methods cannot be used by farmers and their agents to protect crops, livestock and agricultural lands (almost exclusively spring and summer), or if specific conditions or situations exist during hunting seasons. MBDPs are meant only for short duration, site specific problems where few birds are harvested by selected shooters only in areas of demonstrated existing crop damage and agricultural loss.

Waterfowl population numbers, distribution, diversity of species and behaviour in the Fraser Lowlands are totally different during fall/winter migration and wintering seasons than for spring and summer resident populations. There are about 750,000 waterfowl that either winter here or use critical Fraser Lowland habitats (including agricultural lands) as a migratory stop over. These numbers are increasing for species such as Snow Geese which have recently reached a wintering population of about 100,000 (usually the population is about 45,000). The fall and winter waterfowl populations of grazing ducks (Wigeon), migrant and wintering Canada Geese and Cackling Geese and wintering Snow Geese magnify the year-round crop damage and other wildlife conflicts caused by 20,000+ resident Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and other wildlife species in the Lower Mainland.

There is a correlation between viability/sustainability of "normal farming practices" that are vital to soil-based agriculture in the Fraser Lowlands and the use of hunting methods to control waterfowl numbers, behaviour and distribution on these soil-based agricultural farm lands. Waterfowl hunting methods and harvest are a critical element of the economic viability of farming. Hunting remains the single most effective and cost efficient waterfowl management tool available to both federal and provincial wildlife management agencies.

Municipal discharge of firearms bylaws are enforced ONLY by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and local police departments; NOT by BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy or by Environment and Climate Change Canada, (CWS).

### Pitt Addington Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Shooting (shotguns with shot only) is permitted for WATERFOWL ONLY on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays during the regular hunting season only in those parts of Pitt Wildlife Management Area shown coloured in white. Dykes bordering the No Hunting or No Shooting Areas are also closed to hunting or shooting. The regulations for the Pitt Wildlife Management Area extend to the low-water mark.

### City of Delta – Target Shooting

Discharge of Firearms By-law 2155, Section 11.1 **Dykes and Littering** states the following: This section applies to any dyke and foreshore adjacent to a dyke in the City, except a private dyke, and adjacent foreshore on Westham Island.

(a) No person shall discharge a firearm while on a dyke or between a foreshore dyke and the highwater mark of the adjacent foreshore for any purpose including but not limited to target shooting, shooting practice, or hunting unless, in the case of hunting, it is during the period of the year when the hunting of wildlife or waterfowl is authorized as described in Section 9. (b) Any person using a dyke or foreshore shall collect and retain any expended shells, casings and litter of any kind associated with the person using the area described in this section; or any area of the Municipality where the discharge of a firearm is authorized.

### NOTICE: Wrangel Island Snow Goose

An international Flyway management strategy for the population of Snow Geese wintering on the Fraser and Skegit deltas states that if the 3-year average adult segment of the population is greater than 70K, regulations will be adjusted to increase harvest rate. If that average is less than 30K adults, hunting will be closed. The effects of harvest will be monitored through mid-winter abundance and productivity counts and annually reviewed based on the cumulative 3-year average size of the mid-winter population in the Fraser-Skegit area.

### DOGS OFF-LEASH IN WMAs (See text boxes)

Amendments to Section 4, *Wildlife Act, Wildlife Management Area Use and Access Regulation*, (B.C. Reg. 24/2015), will help address growing public use pressures on conservation lands. These changes prohibit camping, campfires and off-leash dogs within the 11 South Coast Region Wildlife Management Areas. Dogs can be a significant disturbance to wildlife, especially migratory birds. These public use regulations do not apply to either Aboriginal title, traditional Aboriginal uses and practices across the landscape, or to use of dogs for lawful hunting activities.

**Dogs must be on leash in designated wildlife management areas**

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person enters a wildlife management area described in Schedule 4 with a dog that is not
  - under the direct control of a person, and
  - restrained by a leash not longer than 2 metres.
- (2) This section does not apply to a person who enters the wildlife management area in order to engage in lawful hunting.

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/regulations-synopsis

### PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN

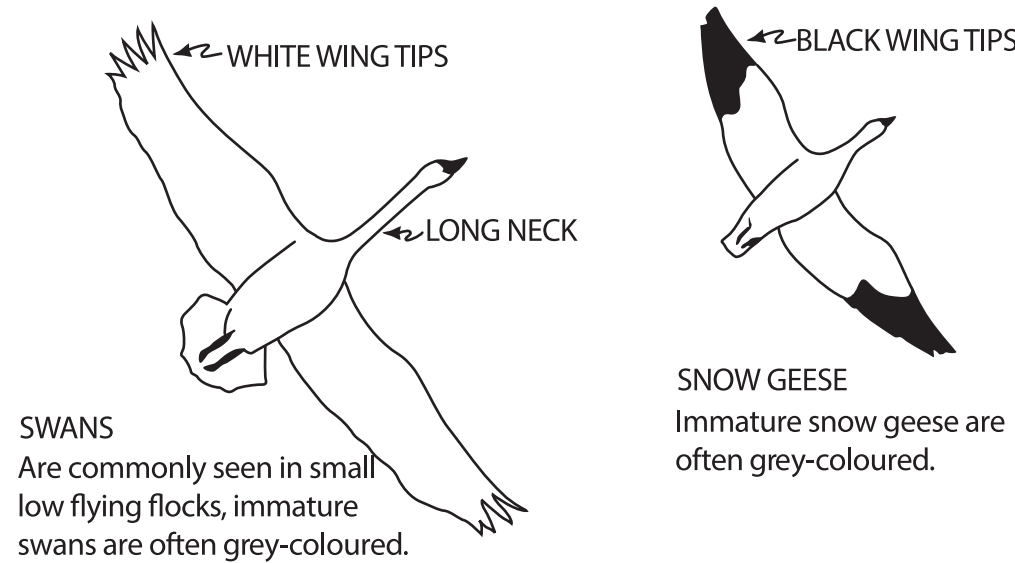
Hunters and shooter, please pick up spent cartridges and remove them for proper disposal. Litter is damaging to the environment, to crops and agricultural lands, and to wildlife.

## LEGEND

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | Discharge of Firearms prohibited by Municipal/City By-law  |  | No discharge of Firearms toward shore   |
|  | Discharge of Firearms prohibited by other agencies and institutions  |  | Use of Firearms permitted *             |
|  | Hunting by permission only (Richmond)  |  | District Municipality/City boundary     |
|  | Indian Reserves - These lands are private and are closed to public access. Please check with individual Band Councils for permission. Note not all I.R.s in the Fraser Valley are shown on these maps.   |  | Use of Shotgun with Shot only permitted |
|  | Agriculturally zoned lands. Discharge of firearms permitted year-round to protect crops, livestock and farm lands. During hunting season, lawful hunting methods may be used; however, during spring and summer specific permits are required. See section: SPECIAL NOTE FOR AGRICULTURALLY ZONED LANDS. |  |   |

\* No person shall use **lead shot** for any purpose, **INCLUDING TARGET SHOOTING**, when discharging a firearm on any dyke or the water side (seaward or river side) of any dyke in the Municipality of Delta, including Westham Island, or any foreshore dyke facing Mud Bay, Boundary Bay or Roberts Bank.

## BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET:



SWANS  
Are commonly seen in small low flying flocks, immature swans are often grey-coloured.

SNOW GEESE  
Immature snow geese are often grey-coloured.

Under the *Trespass Act*, it is illegal to access private land without the consent of the landowner. Indian Reserves are private land. Permission must be obtained from the landowners in order to access these lands.

