

**Alberta Conservation Association  
2023/24 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** ABHuntLog

**Wildlife Program Manager:** Doug Manzer

**Project Leader:** Sue Peters

**Primary ACA Staff on Project:** Paul Jones and Sue Peters

**Partnerships**

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Government of Alberta

iHunter

Korth Group Ltd.

Métis Nation of Alberta

Safari Club International – Northern Alberta Chapter

University of Alberta (Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology)

**Key Findings**

- ABHuntLog is a voluntary feature in the iHunter Alberta app that collects observations of harvestable wildlife from hunters, Métis harvesters, outfitters, and recreationists, and summarizes them in a personal dashboard.
- From September 1 to December 31, 2023, 356 voluntary ABHuntLog participants recorded a total of 11,519 ungulate and carnivore observations in 141 Wildlife Management Units during hunting, scouting, and recreational trips in Alberta.
- The number of surveys increased in 2023 for all ungulate species including pronghorn (by 69%) and moose (by 37%), compared to 2022; we received the most surveys for white-tailed deer (1,004 surveys), upland game birds (731), waterfowl (644), and mule deer (626), followed by moose (394), elk (323), and coyotes (303).

- Hunters who completed ABHuntLog surveys for hunting and scouting trips can use their personal dashboard to assist them in completing their annual reporting requirements to the Government of Alberta.

## **Details**

ABHuntLog is an inexpensive and accessible feature in the iHunter Alberta app for collecting large-scale, long-term harvestable wildlife population data, developed through a partnership among Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), University of Alberta, Métis Nation of Alberta, and iHunter. Hunters, Métis harvesters, outfitters, and recreationists can voluntarily submit observations at a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) level during hunting, scouting, and recreational trips in Alberta. All submitted data are confidential; no names or locations are recorded.

From September 1 to December 31, 2023, 356 ABHuntLog participants recorded a total of 11,519 ungulate and carnivore observations in 141 WMUs. The number of surveys submitted increased in 2023 for all ungulate species including pronghorn (by 69%) and moose (by 37%), compared to 2022. The mean number of surveys per WMU was 9.5 (range: 1–80), with participants submitting an average of 3.8 (range: 1–53) surveys. Most trips (out of 1,336 trips in total) were for hunting (85%) rather than scouting or recreation. Participants could submit data for several species in each trip survey. We received the most surveys for white-tailed deer (1,004 surveys), upland game birds (731), waterfowl (644), and mule deer (626), followed by moose (394), elk (323), and coyotes (303). One potential bias in citizen science data collection (such as ABHuntLog) is only collecting positive data, which inflates observation rates; in 2023, over half of the surveys we received included at least one species that had zero observations despite being a species of interest for the hunter/recreationist.

As participation grows, ABHuntLog data will help biologists understand harvestable wildlife population trends in Alberta. ACA has published summaries (at a WMU level) of observation rates, and sex and age ratios for some of the 2021–2023 data on the ABHuntLog.ca website to help hunters visualize and understand how their ABHuntLog data can be utilized.

Alberta hunters have expressed an interest in providing meaningful data to assist in the management of game species, identify conservation needs, and provide better information to help with planning future hunts. Through the iHunter Alberta app, ABHuntLog enables anonymous, self-submission of observational data that will help achieve these outcomes, as well as provide a private dashboard summary of the individual's observational and harvest information that they can use for planning future hunts and completing their annual reporting requirements to the Government of Alberta.

## Photos



Photo 1. Alberta hunters have expressed an interest in providing meaningful data to assist in the management of game species, identify conservation needs, and provide better information to help with planning future hunts. Through the iHunter Alberta app, ABHuntLog enables anonymous, self-submission of observational data that will help achieve these outcomes. Photo: Andrew Jakes



Photo 2. ABHuntLog participants are encouraged to submit wildlife observations year-round. The ABHuntLog survey allows participants to identify as hunters, outfitters, outdoor recreationists, or Métis harvesters. Photo: Sue Peters, ACA



Figure 1. ABHuntLog logo.

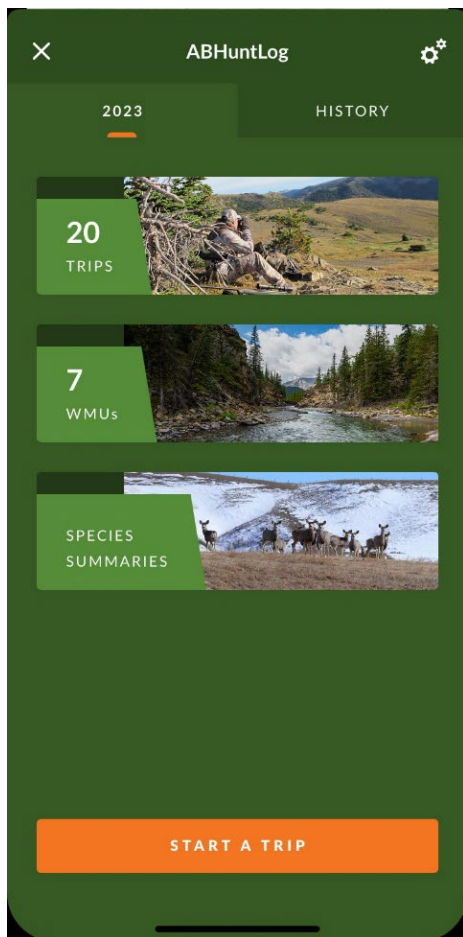


Figure 2. ABHuntLog dashboard homepage, showing running tallies of the number of trips logged, WMUs visited, and species observation/harvest summaries. Clicking on each ribbon opens a separate page that provides more details. Data for the current year are now in a separate tab from previous years, accessed at the top of the dashboard.