

**Alberta Conservation Association
2024/25 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 Wildlife Federation

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Government of Alberta

iHunter

Métis Nation of Alberta

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, 2024, 262 ABHuntLog participants voluntarily logged over 5,600 hours and over 39,000 kilometres of survey effort. Participants submitted 1,165 surveys, recording a total of 9,082 ungulate and carnivore observations in 124 Wildlife Management Units during hunting, scouting, and recreational trips in Alberta.
- We received the most surveys for white-tailed deer (817 surveys), waterfowl (654), upland game birds (610), and mule deer (459), followed by elk (329) and moose (317).

- 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 accessible feature in the free 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, 2024, 262 ABHuntLog participants logged over 5,600 hours and over 39,000 kilometres of survey effort, recording a total of 9,082 ungulate and carnivore observations in 124 WMUs. Most surveys took place in WMUs in the Foothills (36%) and the Parkland (25%) natural regions. The mean number of surveys per WMU was 8.3 (range: 1–67), with participants submitting an average of 4.4 (range: 1–45) surveys. Most trips (out of 1,165 trips in total) were for hunting (86%) 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 (817 surveys), waterfowl (654), upland game birds (610), and mule deer (459), followed by elk (329) and moose (317). One potential bias in citizen science data collection (such as ABHuntLog) is only collecting positive data, which inflates observation rates; in 2024, almost two-thirds 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 2021–2024 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 free 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



Photo 3. ABHuntLog logo. Photo: ACA

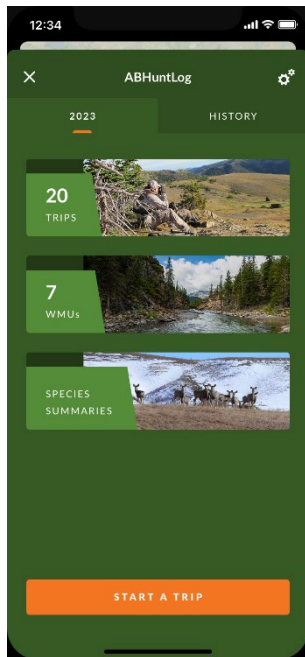


Photo 4. ABHuntLog dashboard homepage showing running tallies of the number of trips logged, WMUs visited, and species observation/harvest summaries. Clicking on each ribbon opens a separate page that provides more details. Data for the current year are in a separate tab from previous years, accessed at the top of the dashboard. Photo: ACA