



*Left: A white-tailed deer antler was shed in a stream. Right: A large herd of elk winter together in Wyoming.*

## The basics of shed hunting

Did you know that members of the deer family (moose, elk and deer in Wyoming) lose their antlers each year? It is similar to you losing a tooth and growing in an adult tooth, but they grow back new antlers each and every spring. Shed antler “hunting” is a great winter and spring outdoor family activity. If you do go out looking for some shed antlers or have other adventures outdoors in the wintertime, it is important to try and give wildlife such as deer and elk lots of space. They may be nearby trying

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their hardest to survive the winter, and many animals like to keep their distance from people. If humans come hiking through their winter homes, they will have to spend a lot of energy running away into deeper snow. This could make it very hard for them to make it through the winter. To protect wintering big game, it is best to wait

until spring to go shed antler hunting or until wintering herds leave the area. In some places it is required that you wait until then, and the lands are closed to humans to help wildlife. Be sure and contact a game warden or Game and Fish regional office for more information if you plan to go out on an adventure looking for some antlers.