

2018 Elk Hunting Regulations

2018 Season Dates

Firearm Bull	Sept. 21 - Oct. 31
Archery Bull	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31
Private Land Cow	Aug. 15 - Oct. 31, Dec. 1 - Jan. 15, 2019
Public Land Cow	Sept. 21 - Oct. 31, Dec. 1 - Jan. 15, 2019

Legal Weapons

- Rifles .25 caliber or larger that deliver at least 1,700 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
- Muzzleloading rifles .45 caliber or larger
- Long bows, compound bows, recurve bows and shoulder-fired, nonelectronic crossbows (with a draw weight of at least 125 pounds).
- Hand-thrown spears

Restrictions

- Ammunition with multiple projectiles is illegal.
- Semi-automatics capable of holding more than six cartridges is illegal.
- Full-metal jacket and incendiary bullets are illegal.
- Arrows and spears must have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch cutting radius.
- Arrows and spears containing poison or stupefying chemical or having an explosive tip are illegal.
- Use of electronic calls for elk is illegal.

Sights - It is unlawful to use any electrical device to amplify natural light or to project a light beam or image to a target, including night-vision or infrared scopes and laser sights. Red-dot and illuminated reticle sights and scopes are permitted. Magnifying and variable-power scopes are allowed.

Shooting Hours - It is legal to shoot 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Get Permission - Permission is required when hunting private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission or within 100 yards using other methods.

Unlawful Hunting Methods - It is unlawful to:

- chase, harass, run, kill or shoot at any elk from a moving motor vehicle or vessel.
- shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.
- carry a firearm on a snowmobile, except when it is unloaded and in a case.
- hunt from or with a snowmobile.
- use two-way radios, cell phones or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game animal or game bird to or from a conveyance of any type.
- use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle or vessel while having in possession or control any firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow.

Hunter Orange - Archers do not have to wear hunter orange while hunting elk, but firearm and muzzleloader hunters must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material when hunting elk.

Possession - There is no restriction on the length of time game birds or game animals may be possessed.

Permit - A permit or tag is valid only in the area for which it is issued and must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to borrow a permit or tag or to transfer or loan a permit or tag to another person.

Habitat Stamp - Valid statewide and required of all hunters in Nebraska, except residents younger than 16 years of age and residents who hold veteran or 69 or older senior permits. EXCEPTION: Farmers, ranchers and qualifying family members who hunt with a landowner permit on land they own or lease for agricultural purposes are exempt. One stamp is required for all hunting in a calendar year, but January deer hunters may use the previous year's stamp.

Sale of Parts - It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones, and antlers of any elk that is taken legally. The sale or purchase of elk meat is unlawful.

Minimum Age - To hunt elk, 12 years

Report Game Violations - Call Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers at 1-800-742-7627. You may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.

Checking - Elk must be delivered to a check station before leaving the state and within 48 hours of kill, but no later than 1 p.m. of the day following the close of any portion of the season. Each permit holder must accompany his or her elk to the check station. The permit/tag and check station seal must be retained while transporting the animal to a point of permanent storage or processing.

Quartering - Hunters may remove meat from an elk carcass in the field, but the head and all edible portions of meat must then be presented at a check station.

Tagging - Immediately after an elk is taken, the hunter must punch holes in the permit, showing sex and date of kill. The canceled permit must be kept with the elk at all times.

Baiting - It is illegal to establish a baited area from 10 days before the opening of any big game or turkey season and throughout those entire seasons for the purposes of taking big game or turkey. An area within 200 yards of bait is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all bait. The hunter and the animal must be outside a baited area.

Hunter Education - Hunter education is required for hunters ages 12 through 29 hunting with a firearm or air gun. Bow hunter education is required for those ages while hunting big game with a bow and arrow or crossbow. They must carry with them proof of certification.

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate - Available for two consecutive years for hunters who have not completed hunter education. The fee is \$5.

Accompaniment - All elk hunters age 12-15 and all hunters using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older when hunting. The accompanying person, if age 19-29, must be certified in firearm hunter education if hunting with a firearm or crossbow, or bow hunter education if hunting with bow and arrow. He or she must be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the experienced hunter at any time.