

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

ELK HUNTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Season Dates: All Units except Boyd Unit: September 24 - October 23. **Boyd Unit:** Aug. 15 - Nov. 11 & Nov. 21 - Dec. 31

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Bag Limit: One elk as specified on permit.

Legal Weapons: Rifles .26 cal. or larger which fire a 100-grain or larger bullet delivering at least 2,000 foot pounds of bullet energy at 100 yards; muzzleloading rifles .50 cal. or larger; or conventional longbows or compound bows with a pull of 50 pounds or more at or before 28 inch draw. It is unlawful to use any firearm capable of fully automatic fire, or semi-automatic firearm capable of holding more than 6 cartridges.

Weapon 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.

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

Habitat Stamp: All residents 16 years of age and older must have a 2005 Habitat Stamp to hunt elk. Only one Habitat Stamp is necessary for all of your hunting in 2005. Individuals with valid, fee-exempt permits are not required to purchase a Habitat Stamp to hunt big game, but must carry such permits with them while hunting. Those hunting their own land with a landowner permit do not need a habitat stamp.

Hunter Education: Any person 12 years of age or older, born on or after Jan. 1, 1977, must have successfully completed a state-certified Hunter Education course prior to hunting and have their valid Hunter Education card in their possession while hunting. **Firearm Hunter Education** is required when hunting any game with a firearm, including muzzleloaders, and **Bow Hunter Education** is required for hunting with a bow. Any person under 16 years of age who hunts elk must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

Get Permission: Most hunting in Nebraska is done on private land and you must obtain permission to hunt on private property. It is unlawful to hunt within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose.

Hunter Orange: Any person hunting elk during an authorized firearm season must wear on their head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material.

Hunting Methods: It is unlawful to chase, harass, shoot or shoot at any elk from a motor vehicle while vehicle is moving. It is unlawful to shoot from the right-of-way of a public road. It is unlawful to carry a firearm on a snowmobile except when unloaded and in a case and it is unlawful to hunt from or with a snowmobile.

Spotlighting: It is unlawful to use a spotlight or other artificial light from a vehicle while having in possession or control any firearm or bow and arrow.

Use of Radio: It is unlawful to use 2-way radios or any other electronic devices to transmit information about the location of any game to or from a conveyance of any type (including vehicles, aircraft, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.)

Tagging: Immediately after an elk is taken, the hunter must detach the carcass tag from their permit, punch or notch the date taken and sex of the animal and attach the tag to the elk. Detaching the carcass tag automatically cancels the permit. Possessing or transporting elk on an uncancelled permit is illegal.

Checking: Each elk must be delivered by the permit holder to an official check station within 48 hours of the kill. The carcass may be separated into halves or quarters, provided that evidence of sex is retained on each hind quarter/half. Head and hide must accompany the carcass to the check station. The permit/tag and check station seal must be retained while transporting elk to a point of permanent storage or processing.

Baiting: It is unlawful to take mountain sheep, elk, deer, or antelope within 200 yards of a site upon which feed, feed or mineral supplement or bait has been placed within the previous 60 days. This does not include placement of food or food/mineral supplement in the active operation of husbandry for domesticated livestock other than domesticated cervidae. It does not prevent the take of animals on or near planted food plots. It does not allow adjacent landowners to bait an area and prevent the take of animals on property owned by others.

Possession: Elk taken during the 2005 season may not be possessed after Aug. 1, 2008. If any portion is given away, it must be accompanied by a statement of such gift, signed by the permit holder and including the permit number.

Sale of Parts: It is lawful to sell the hide, hair, hooves, bones and antlers of any elk which is taken legally, provided the carcass tag is attached to hide. Sale or purchase of elk meat is unlawful.

Don't Be a Fire Starter

Hunters are urged to be careful where they drive and park and how they dispose of cigarettes while in the field this fall.

Numerous fires were blamed on careless hunters during an unseasonably dry fall and winter in 1999, damaging grassland and some property and giving all hunters a black eye. Catalytic converters on vehicles and discarded cigarettes were the main ignition sources.

Individuals can be held personally liable for any fire they start, both for property damages and costs incurred by fire departments called upon to extinguish the blaze. Personal losses can also be great – a hunter lost his pickup, rifle and deer to a fire after driving into a tinder-dry CRP field to retrieve a deer in 1999.

Please do your part to prevent fires. – *Nebraska Game and Parks*

When Conditions are Dry:

- Ensure discarded smoking materials are extinguished.
- Drive only on established roads and trails.
- Park in areas free of vegetation.
- Don't drive through fields or pastures to retrieve a downed elk. Drag it to a road to pick it up.
- Carry water, wet blankets and a shovel in case a fire does start.