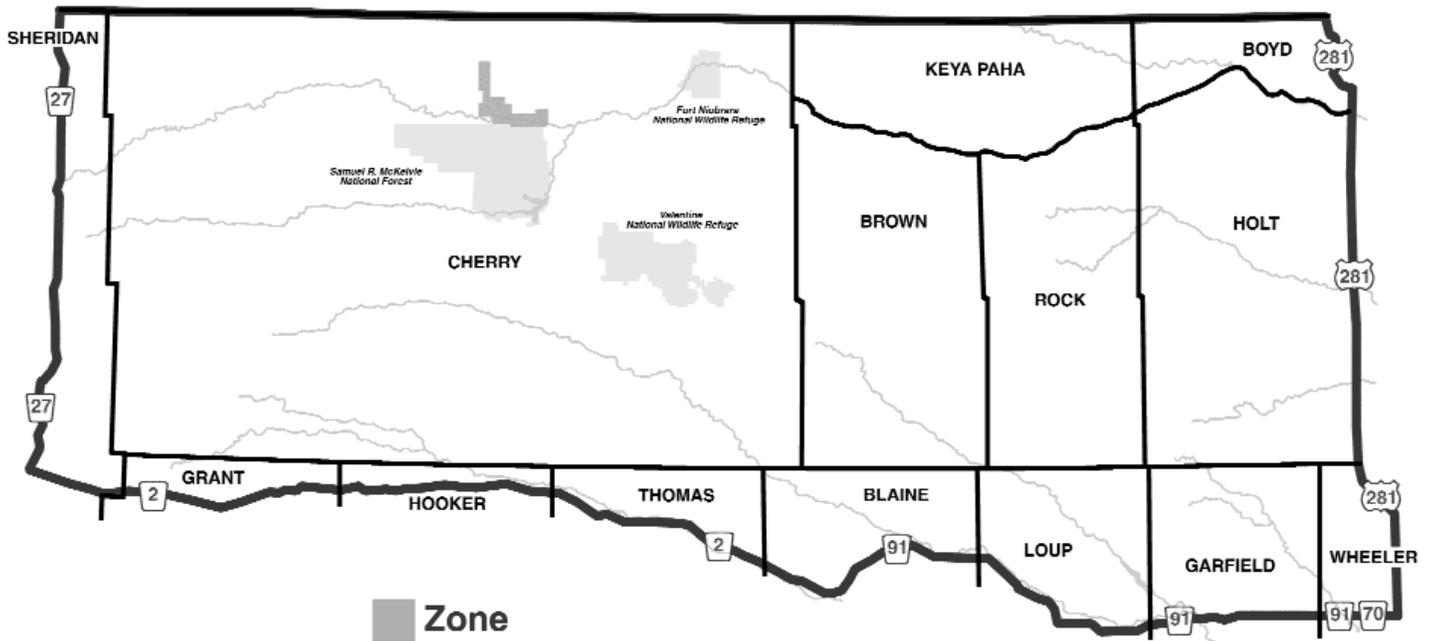


# Niobrara River Elk Unit



**Area Description:** Those parts of Sheridan, Cherry, Brown, Keya Paha, Rock, Holt, Boyd, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield and Wheeler counties south of the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, east of Nebraska Highway 27, west of U.S. Highway 281 and north of Nebraska highways 2 and 91. Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge is not open to elk hunting.

**Checking:** Elk taken in the Niobrara River Unit must be checked at either check station in Valentine or at Bassett within 48 hours of the time of kill, but no later than 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season. Each successful hunter must accompany his or her elk to the check station.

Please notify the check station by phone one hour or more before you plan to arrive. This will allow a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologist the opportunity to be there to examine the animal. Personnel will take biological information, including teeth for aging, blood samples, and brain samples from elk harvested in September and October. You also may contact the biologists directly and make arrangements to meet them at a check station.

## Check Stations

Fred's Baits  
319 W. U.S. Hwy. 20  
Valentine  
(402) 389-0298

NGPC  
U.S. Hwy. 20  
Bassett  
(402) 684-2921

Valentine Fish Hatchery  
N. of Neb. Hwy. 12, Green St.  
Valentine  
(402) 376-2244  
(402) 376-5908



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
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# Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

## 2008 ELK SEASON REGULATIONS

### **Season Dates**

Bull Permits  
Antlerless Permits

Sept. 27 - Oct. 26  
Sept. 27 - Oct. 26 and Dec 1 - 21

### **Shooting Hours**

It is legal to shoot 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes following sunset.

### **Bag Limit**

One elk as specified on permit.

### **Legal Methods**

- 1) 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
- 2) Muzzleloading rifles, .50 cal. or larger
- 3) Conventional longbows or compound bows with a pull of 50 pounds or more at or before 28 inch draw

Note: It is unlawful to use any firearm capable of fully automatic fire, or any semi-automatic firearm capable of holding more than six cartridges. Fully jacketed or incendiary bullets not allowed.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 uncanceled permit is illegal.

### **Sale of Parts**

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

### **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.

### **Possession**

Elk taken during the 2008 season may not be possessed after Aug. 1, 2011. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Habitat Stamp**

All residents 16 years of age and older must have a current Habitat Stamp to hunt elk. Only one Habitat Stamp is necessary for all of your hunting. 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**

Hunters ages 12 through 29 must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education while hunting with either a firearm or crossbow. Hunters ages 12 through 29 hunting deer, antelope, elk or mountain (bighorn) sheep with bow and arrow must carry proof of successful completion of Bow Hunter Education.

Hunters ages 12 through 29 who have not completed a Firearm Hunter and/or Bow Hunter Education course and want to give hunting a try may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from the Commission. This exemption is to provide the novice hunter an opportunity to try hunting and receive training from an experienced hunter prior to making the commitment of completion of the required hunter education training, so a hunter using this certificate must be accompanied at all times while hunting. This certificate may only be obtained once in each person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 of the year obtained and may be renewed only once. The fee is \$5.

In Nebraska, any deer, elk or antelope hunter ages 15 or younger; any firearm or crossbow hunter under age 12; or those hunters ages 12 through 29 using an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate; must be accompanied at all times while hunting. Accompanied is defined as: in the presence of a licensed "experienced" hunter age 19 or older. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the "experienced" hunter at any time and the "experienced" hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the child under age 12 and/or the "apprentice" hunter ages 12 through 29.

### **Use of Radio**

It is unlawful to use two-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.).

### **Baiting**

It is unlawful to take 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 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.

### **Hunter Orange**

Any person hunting elk with a firearm must display on their head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material.