



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Elk Refuge

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## **NATIONAL ELK REFUGE CONSIDERS USE OF HUNTING GUIDES**

Refuge Manager Steve Kallin announced today that the National Elk Refuge is considering a pilot program to allow two hunting guide businesses to provide guiding services during the 2008 and 2009 bison and elk hunting seasons. Guided hunting services will provide hunters with optional assistance which may help increase harvest and reduce bison and elk populations. Previously, only retrieval services to help collect harvested animals have been available to hunters on the refuge.

Hunters will still have full access to all areas on the refuge open to hunting and will not be required to use the services of a guide. Guides will not have exclusive hunting rights to any part of the refuge and will be required to follow the same access and retrieval requirements all hunters must follow. Currently, the National Elk Refuge allows fishing guides to provide their service to anglers fishing on Flat Creek.

“Our hope is that some hunters will be more successful and have a more enjoyable hunt because of the experience and equipment that a hunting guide can provide,” Kallin explained. The effectiveness of this new program will be evaluated after two hunting seasons to determine if it will be continued in the future. This process is part of a compatibility review which ensures the activity aligns with congressional mandates and Service policy.

The National Elk Refuge will be accepting comments on this proposal through August 20, 2008 as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System compatibility process. You may request additional information and submit questions or comments to Public Comment, National Elk Refuge, PO Box 510, Jackson, WY 83001, via the Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge>, or by calling 307.733.9212.

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