



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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NATIONAL ELK REFUGE ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF HUNTING GUIDE SERVICES

National Elk Refuge Manager Steve Kallin announced that Double Diamond Outfitters from Afton, Wyoming and T Lazy T Outfitter, Inc. from Jackson, Wyoming have been selected to provide guiding services on the refuge during the 2008 and 2009 bison and elk hunting seasons. The National Elk Refuge solicited offers for this business opportunity in August and analyzed the proposals received based on specified criteria, including experience and a status of good standing with the Wyoming Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides.

Hunters will not be required to use the services of a guide and will still have full access to all areas on the refuge open to hunting. The service is a option for hunters who want to benefit from the experience and equipment a hunting guide can provide. Guides will not have exclusive hunting rights to any part of the refuge. Refuge Manager Steve Kallin explained, "We are continuing to look for ways to reach out to a broader group of hunters and help them be successful in their hunting opportunities and experiences." The National Elk Refuge has also implemented an online application hunt permit system this season which eliminates the previous weekly drawings in Jackson where hunters had to be present to apply for a permit.

The effectiveness of the hunting guide service 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.

For further information on elk or bison hunting on the National Elk Refuge, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge/NERHuntingRegs.htm>

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www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge