



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR NATIONAL ELK REFUGE ELK HUNTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Elk hunters interested in applying for a permit to hunt on the National Elk Refuge this season have until October 3, 2008 to complete the online application process. The online application system was implemented this season and began on August 12. This process replaces weekly drawings in Jackson where hunters had to be present to apply for a permit. **The online application web site is located at <http://gf.state.wy.us/plpwhmprogram/frmHunterManagementHome.aspx>**

A computerized random draw will take place on October 6 for all of the hunt periods. On October 7, hunters will be able to view whether or not they were successful in the random draw, and, if successful, print their permit. Any unissued permits will then be available on a first-come, first-served basis to all hunters with a valid elk license, including persons who were successful for another hunt period in the October 6 drawing. Hunters should use the same web site for viewing their success in the draw and/or obtaining additional permits if available.

Throughout the elk hunting season, which runs through December 5, alternate permits will be available for each week of the hunt season, excluding the hunt week of October 11 – 17. Alternate permits, available two weeks before the designated hunt period begins, will be issued according to the following schedule:

- October 7: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of October 18–24
- October 11: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of October 25–31
- October 18: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of November 1–7
- October 25: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of November 8–14
- November 1: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of November 15–21
- November 8: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of November 22–28
- November 15: alternate permits become available for the hunt week of November 29–December 5

A minimum of 70 alternate permits will be issued during each of the above hunt periods, with 35 permits valid for Monday – Friday (5 days), and 35 permits valid for Wednesday – Friday (3 days) of the designated week. All alternate permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters should use the same web site throughout the hunting season for obtaining alternate permits: **<http://gf.state.wy.us/plpwhmprogram/frmHunterManagementHome.aspx>**

Two elk hunt areas will be open on the refuge during the 2008 season: the general north unit hunt area, and a south unit limited range weapons area that was added in 2007. Hunters who are successful in drawing a permit for one unit should not also apply for a permit in the other unit during the same hunt period. Alternate permits will not be issued for the south unit hunt.

Complete information for the application process, permit availability, alternate permits, and regulations can be found at www.fws.gov/nationalelkrrefuge/NERHuntingRegs.htm