



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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NATIONAL ELK REFUGE EXTENDS SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING FOR THE SEASON

Supplemental feeding on the National Elk Refuge, which had been tentatively scheduled to conclude on Friday, March 27, has been extended to accommodate recent snow and colder temperatures. Elk had begun to show less interest in alfalfa pellets and were favoring natural forage exposed by receding snow. Refuge staff responded to the behavioral patterns by gradually reducing the amount of feed last week, allowing the animals time to adjust to a change in diet. However, several inches of new snow received over the weekend is expected to delay growth and green up of spring grasses on the refuge. Both colder temperatures and changes in elk behavior prompted refuge officials to return to higher rations and delay the end of the feeding season. No new tentative date has been established, but refuge staff will continue to evaluate conditions in consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

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www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge