



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge/
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VIRTUAL ELK ANTLER AUCTION A SUCCESS

The Annual Elk Antler Auction looked a little different this year. Traditionally held in May during Elkfest, the 53rd Annual Boy Scout Antler Auction was hosted entirely online last week, September 9-19.

This year, 8,117 pounds of antlers were sold at the virtual auction, roughly 2,203 pounds less than in 2019. Bidders paid an average of \$18.19 per pound of antler this year, up from last year's average of \$16.77 per pound.

There were a total of 101 registered bidders, with 45 actively participating in the ten-day virtual auction, which yielded a total of \$151,468, down from last year's take of \$186,227. During the past decade, the auction has brought in an average of \$153,668.

Key to the success of the auction is the long-standing partnership between the National Elk Refuge staff and Headwaters District Scouts (formerly Jackson District). Each year, Scouts and Scout leaders donate approximately 2,000 hours to prepare and execute the sale, comparable to one Refuge staff member working a 40-hour week for a full year. For their extraordinary effort, the Jackson District Scouts retain 25% of the sale's proceeds, which is used to supplement fees for day camps, leader and Scout training, and other activities. The remaining 75% of the take is returned to the National Elk Refuge, which manages approximately 25,000 acres as winter range for the Jackson Elk Herd. The funds are used for habitat enhancement projects, including paying for farming equipment, weed management, and seasonal employees that operate the Refuge's irrigation program.

Congratulations to the Scouts and Scout leaders for making this year's virtual auction a success!

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