

BIG GAME

GUIDE

INFORMATION FOR:

- Antelope
- Bighorn Sheep
- Deer
- Elk





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Cover photo: *Eric Fowler/
 Nebraskaland Magazine/NGPC*

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Big Game Guide is a summary of Nebraska's regulations, orders and statutes pertaining to hunting deer, antelope, elk and bighorn sheep. It is not intended to be a complete digest of regulations, orders and statutes. A complete listing may be found at:

Regulations and Orders:

OutdoorNebraska.gov

Statutes:

Law.justia.com/codes/nebraska/2022/chapter-37/

Neb. Rev. Statute 84-901.03:

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

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NGPC Permitting Offices

Location	Address	Phone
Schramm Education Center	21502 W. Hwy. 31, Gretna, NE 68028-7264	402-332-3901
Northwest district office	299 Husker Rd., Alliance, NE 69301-0725	308-763-2940
Bassett service center	524 Panzer St., Bassett, NE 68714-0508	402-684-2921
Chadron State Park	15951 Hwy. 385, Chadron, NE 69337-7353	308-432-6167
Fort Robinson State Park	3200 Hwy. 20, Crawford, NE 69339-0392	308-665-2900
Kearney service center	1617 First Ave., Kearney, NE 68847-6057	308-865-5310
Lake McConaughy SRA	1475 Hwy. 61 N, Ogallala, NE 69153-5929	308-284-8800
Niobrara State Park	89261 522 Ave., Niobrara, NE 68760-6087	402-857-3373
Northeast district office	2201 N. 13th St., Norfolk, NE 68701-2267	402-370-3374
Southwest district office	301 E. State Farm Rd., North Platte, NE 69101-0430	308-535-8025
Omaha metro office	8495 Frederick St., Omaha, NE 68124	402-595-2144
Ponca State Park	88090 Spur 26 E, Ponca, NE 68770-0688	402-755-2284
Headquarters/SE district	2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503-0370	402-471-0641
Wildcat Hills SRA	210615 Hwy. 71, Gering, NE 69341-0065	308-436-3777

New for 2023

DEER

Mule Deer Conservation Area – Archery season is included on all Mule Deer Conservation Area permits, making them valid during the archery, November firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

Antlerless mule deer restriction – Antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited statewide on all lands open to public hunting, except land in the Open Fields and Waters Program.

Nonresident permit quotas – Nonresidents will be limited to 10,000 either-sex or buck-only permits; landowner and youth permits are excluded. Nonresidents now will be limited to 15% of the total permit allocations for Calamus West, Plains, Sandhills and Upper Platte November Firearm and Frenchman MDCA permits.

Nonresident Statewide Archery – The permit quota is reduced to 3,000, and the permit no longer is valid for mule deer in the Mule Deer Conservation Area.

Nonresident Statewide Muzzleloader – The permit quota is reduced to 1,000.

Pine Ridge MDCA – This has been changed to a "draw" permit. Interested hunters should apply during the June application period. See page 6.

ANTELOPE

Nonresident Archery – This has been changed to a "draw" permit. Interested hunters should apply during the June application period. See page 6.

Harvest reporting – This will be done via Telecheck for all antelope seasons. See your permit for details.

ELK

Unit restructuring – This change helps distribute hunters and harvest appropriately across the state's expanding elk range. Unit names and boundaries all have changed. Hunters should examine the unit map and permit table carefully when planning their application. See pages 20-23 for more information.

Harvest reporting – This will be done via Telecheck for all elk seasons. See your permit and elk regulations for more details.

Centerfire rifle – Elk hunters may hunt with a centerfire rifle during the November firearm deer season.

LANDOWNER PERMITS

New Permit System – There are significant changes within the permit system that affect landowner permits. Lands and Immediate Family are associated with each Qualifying Landowner and listed only on the Qualifying Landowner's profile. Land also will be identified through Parcel Number instead of legal descriptions. See OutdoorNebraska.gov and search "landowner permits" for details.

Special Landowner Deer – The Special Landowner Deer permit will be available to be purchased online through the new permit system starting in 2023.

NIGHT-VISION SCOPES

It is unlawful to possess night-vision scopes while hunting game animals and game birds.

Planning Your Hunt

Big game in Nebraska primarily are managed through selective hunting harvest; species-specific permits allow a harvest that often is limited to the sex of the animal within a given location. Social and biological tolerances are the basis for permit allocations, and permits are issued through Game and Parks' public process. Take a look at the following questions and answers to help you understand Nebraska's big game permitting system and process.

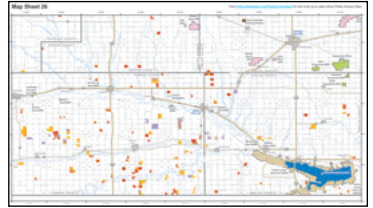


What species do you want to hunt?

Nebraska has five big game species: white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, elk and bighorn sheep. This guide addresses seasons for those them. Turkeys have their own guide. See Turkey Guide details at OutdoorNebraska.gov. Search for "hunting guides."

Where do you want to hunt?

Each of Nebraska's big game species has specific permits and management units with permit quotas and specific regulations. Each species section has maps detailing management units. Nebraska is 97% privately owned and landowner permission is required to hunt on private land. For details on public lands, see our Public Access Atlas at OutdoorNebraska.gov.



When do you want to hunt?

Each permit has specific season dates, so please take care to follow those dates. Some seasons, like archery, are long in duration and allow a lot of opportunity to be in the field, while others can last only a few days to a week.



With which method would you like to hunt?

Each permit has specific methods (firearm, archery, muzzleloader) that are allowed to be used for the take of an animal under that permit. Some permits allow only one method, some allow all. Each method (firearm, archery, muzzleloader) has specific minimums, and those details may be found in the table on page 35.

How are big game permits distributed?

Some permits are distributed in a drawing; some are available for purchase over the counter. Some permit quotas are unlimited, but many have limited quotas to the total available. Once those limited permits sell out, no more are available for the hunting season. There also are personal limits to the numbers of permits individual hunters may have per year:

- two deer permits that allow the harvest of a buck
- one elk permit
- one antelope permit

Additional details follow in each species section.



What are the other requirements?

Hunter education, blaze orange requirements, permit carrying, method-of-take restrictions and mandatory check-in of all harvested big game animals are covered in detail in this guide.

Read this guide

With these questions in mind, use this guide to choose a permit(s) to apply for and help you prepare for your hunt.

Permit Requirements

WHAT IS REQUIRED

- Big game hunters in Nebraska must have a species-specific permit for deer, antelope, elk or bighorn sheep. Permits must be signed to be valid. A Nebraska hunt (small game) permit is **not required** for big game. **All deer, elk and antelope permits must be printed and carried on your person while hunting.**
- Big game hunters are required to have a Nebraska Habitat Stamp, except for landowners who are hunting on their own ground, residents younger than age 16 and residents who hold veteran or 69 or older senior permits.
- A hunter must be at least 10 years of age to hunt with a deer permit and 12 years of age to hunt with antelope, elk or bighorn sheep permits.
- **RESTRICTIONS:** A big game permit is valid only for the species-specific season, method, unit or area for which it is issued, and to the individual for which it is issued and may not be exchanged for another permit. **Permits are not transferable or refundable, and party hunting is not allowed.**

2023 APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications begin on the first day of each period at **1 p.m. Central time**. Permits will be available through the close of the hunting season or until the quota sells out.

ELK

Landowner Elk

May 15-June 2 – Application period for Limited Landowner elk permits and preference points. See page 21 for details.

General Elk

June 12-23 – Application period for Bull and Antlerless elk permits and bonus points. See page 21 for details.

Leftover Elk

Aug. 9-Close of seasons – Remaining elk permits are available to eligible residents and landowners. See page 21 for details.

DEER and ANTELOPE

Draw Permits:

June 12-23 – Residents and nonresidents may purchase a preference point or apply for one deer permit in the following draw units: Platte MDCA, Pine Ridge MDCA and Frenchman MDCA. Residents and eligible landowners may purchase a preference point or apply for one October Firearm or Muzzleloader antelope permit. Nonresidents may apply for one Archery Antelope permit. Results of the draw will be available by the first Friday in July. Successful applicants will have until July 15 to complete the purchase of their awarded permits. Awarded but unpaid permits will result in the applicant losing preference points and forfeiting the permit. Forfeited permits may be made available to the next unsuccessful applicant, any remaining permits will go to the leftover sales dates in August.

Unlimited Quota Deer and Antelope:

July 10-Close of seasons – Residents, nonresidents and eligible landowners may buy any unlimited quota deer and antelope permits.

Resident Limited Quota Deer:

July 11-Close of seasons – Residents may buy any limited quota deer permits.

Resident Limited Quota Antelope:

July 12-Close of seasons – Residents may buy any limited quota antelope permits.

Nonresident Limited Quota Deer:

July 24-Close of seasons – Nonresidents may buy any limited quota deer permits.

Nonresident Limited Quota Antelope:

July 25-Close of seasons – Nonresidents may buy any limited quota antelope permits.

Leftover Deer:

Aug. 7-Close of seasons – Residents and nonresidents may buy any remaining draw deer permits.

Leftover Antelope:

Aug. 8-Close of seasons – Residents, nonresidents and eligible landowners may buy any remaining draw antelope permits.

You may apply via any of the following:

- Online: Visit goOutdoorsNE.com during the applicable periods.
- Via mail: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE, 68503.
- In person: Visit a Commission permitting office. (For landowner elk applications, see page 21)

You must provide:

- A 2023 Big Game Application (available in this guide, at permitting offices or online).
- Full name, birth date, address and physical description.
- Last four digits of Social Security number (Non-U.S. citizens are exempt. Call 402-471-5455.)
- Hunter or bow hunter education number, if required.
- Payment: Credit or debit cards (VISA, Discover and MasterCard only), cash, checks or money orders.
- Email address (used to notify successful applicants of permit drawings).

Residency:

The requirements to qualify as a Nebraska resident to buy a hunting permit:

- Reside in Nebraska continuously for at least 30 days before making application for a permit and intend to become a Nebraska resident.
- Residents in school in another state or stationed outside Nebraska as part of a military assignment who have maintained Nebraska as their state of legal residency.
- Active-duty military personnel and full-time students stationed or attending school in Nebraska for a period of at least 30 days.

NOTE: A new resident should be prepared to provide documentation of residency (driver's license, voter registration, etc.) to an officer when in possession of a permit.

Buddy Applications:

Nebraska allows hunters to apply as "buddies" to ensure that both or neither of their party will draw a permit in the same unit. "Buddy" applications are treated as one application in the drawing. The preference and bonus point level used will be determined by the lowest point total of the party (e.g. Applicant A has 3 points and Applicant B has 4 points, the application will be credited with 3 points). Buddy applications are limited to two applicants. Both applicants must have the same residency status. If applying by mail, both applications must be marked as "buddy" and submitted in the same envelope. If applying online, applicants must select the "group" application. Changes to your buddy status or your unit choice may be made before the end of the application period by logging into your account at goOutdoorsNE.com. See OutdoorNebraska.gov for additional information.

PURCHASING POINTS

Applicants may purchase a preference or bonus point in lieu of participating in the drawings for antelope, deer or elk permits. Purchasing a point takes the place of participating in the draw. (See table on right.)

* Includes \$6 nonrefundable application fee

** Includes \$10 nonrefundable application fee

*** Includes \$7 nonrefundable application fee

Resident Deer Preference Point	\$22***
Nonresident Deer Preference Point	\$57***
Resident Antelope Preference Point	\$21*
Nonresident Antelope Preference Point	\$56*
Resident Elk Bonus Point	\$25**
Resident LO Elk Preference Point	\$25**
Nonresident LO Elk Preference Point	\$60**

LANDOWNER PERMITS

Limited landowner and special landowner deer permits are available to qualifying landowners and their immediate family. An individual may qualify as a landowner by 1) owning the minimum amount of agricultural land, 2) leasing the minimum amount of agricultural land or 3) being a partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a partnership, corporation or trust that owns the minimum amount of agricultural land. One third of limited elk and antelope permits are allocated to the limited landowner quota. All qualifying acres must be owned or leased for agricultural production. Hunting leases do not qualify. Landowners may only have one limited landowner permit per species per year and one special landowner deer permit per year.

The definition of immediate family is: spouse, child, stepchild, spouse of child or stepchild, grandchild, step grandchild, spouse of grandchild or step grandchild, sibling sharing ownership or spouse of sibling.

Minimum qualifications:

- Deer and Antelope: RESIDENTS who own or lease 80 acres and NONRESIDENTS who own 320 acres.
- Elk: RESIDENTS who own 320 acres or lease 640 acres and NONRESIDENTS who own 1,280 acres.

For limited landowner permits and special landowner deer permits, the maximum number of permits or applications allowed for one farm or ranch is the total number of acres divided by the minimum. For example, a 240-acre farm could have a maximum of three resident landowner permits issued.

No more than two special landowner deer permits will be issued to persons age 19 and older and six permits to persons younger than 19, per qualifying landowner.

Landowner permit details and the application process for each species are in their respective species section. See OutdoorNebraska.gov and search for landowner-permits for details.

MULTISPECIES LOTTERY PERMITS *

Super Tag – Permit valid in 2023 and 2024 for one elk of either sex, one antelope of either sex, one deer of either sex, and two turkeys (only toms and bearded hens may be taken in the spring). The permit is valid in open seasons with the appropriate weapons.

- Number of Permits Authorized – One permit is authorized for residents only, and one permit is authorized for residents/nonresidents. Persons may apply for the residents-only permit once per year. Persons may apply for the resident/nonresident permit multiple times per year. Winners require a Habitat Stamp.

Combo – Permit valid in 2023 and 2024 for one antelope of either sex, one deer of either sex, and two turkeys (only toms and bearded hens may be taken in the spring). The permit is valid in open seasons with the appropriate weapons.

- Number of Permits Authorized – One permit is authorized for residents only, and one permit is authorized for nonresidents only. Qualifying persons may apply multiple times per year. Winners require a Habitat Stamp.

Application Period – Jan. 2 - first Friday in July (July 7), 2023. Applications must be received by Game and Parks by 5 p.m. (11:59 p.m. if applying online) on July 7.

Drawing – The drawing will be held following the close of the application period. Winners will be notified.

** awarded permits do not count against permit limits for each species*

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or service, should contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-0641, the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-2024, TTY/TDD 800-642-6112; Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Requirements for Big Game Hunters

		Deer		Antelope		Elk		Bighorn Sheep	
R=Resident, N=Nonresident		R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N
Age 10-11	May Legally Take	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no
	Permit Type	D	D						
	Habitat Stamp *	no	yes						
	Hunter Education	no	no						
	Accompaniment ^{4 5}	yes	yes						
Age 12-15	May Legally Take	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Permit Type	D	D	A	A	E	LOE	S	S
	Habitat Stamp *	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes
	Hunter Education ^{1 2 3}	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Accompaniment ^{5 6}	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Age 16 and Up	May Legally Take	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Permit Type	D	D	A	A	E	LOE	S	S
	Habitat Stamp *	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
	Hunter Education ^{1 2 3}	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Accompaniment ⁶	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Permit Types: D – Deer; E – Elk; LOE – Landowner Elk; A – Antelope; S – Bighorn Sheep

* Not required with landowner permits

HUNTER EDUCATION

- Hunters ages 12 through 29 must carry proof of successful completion of firearm hunter education while hunting with a firearm or air gun.
- Hunters ages 12 through 29 must carry proof of successful completion of bow hunter education while hunting deer, antelope, elk, or bighorn sheep with bow and arrow or crossbow.
- Hunters ages 12 through 29 who have not completed firearm and/or bow hunter education may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Firearm hunters ages 11 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 or older.
- Any deer, elk, antelope, or bighorn sheep hunters ages 15 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 and older.
- Hunters holding an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 or older. The accompanying person, if age 19-29, must be certified in hunter education.

DEFINITIONS

Accompanied – In the presence of a licensed hunter age 19 or older. The accompanying hunter may not accompany more than two hunters at a time using the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate. The accompanying adult hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the novice hunter.

Licensed – Has a valid Nebraska hunting permit.

Apprentice Hunter Education Certificate – Persons who have not completed a firearm hunter and/or bow hunter education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks. This provides the novice hunter age 12 and older a chance to hunt and receive training before completing hunter education. The certificate may be obtained once in a lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once, in the following year only. The fee is \$5.

Deer

2023 FORECAST

2022 saw significant declines in whitetail and mule deer harvests. Statewide, mule deer buck harvest in 2022 was the lowest since 1981. There have been significant reductions in permit quotas and bag limits across much of the state. Read the permit details so you are aware of these changes ahead of your hunting season.

SEASON DATES

- **Archery:** Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023
- **Special Landowner:** Nov. 4 – 6, 2023
- **November Firearm:** Nov. 11 – 19, 2023
- **Muzzleloader:** Dec. 1 – 31, 2023
- **October River Antlerless Firearm:** Oct. 1 – 15, 2023
- **River Antlerless Late Firearm:** Jan. 1 – 31, 2024
(River Antlerless permit only)
- **Antlerless Only Season Choice:** Sept. 1, 2023 – Jan. 15, 2024
- **Late Antlerless Only Firearm:** Jan. 1 – 15, 2024
(Antlerless Only, Youth and Landowner permits, antlerless harvest only)

WHEN IS THE FIREARM SEASON?

Commission Order C03.05 states that the Deer Firearm season is "nine (9) consecutive days beginning the Saturday closest to November 13."

Scan the QR code to get more online deer hunting resources, including individual unit maps.



LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF DEER

- **Buck** – A deer having at least one antler 6 inches or more in length.
- **Antlerless** – A deer with no antlers or antlers less than 6 inches in length.

PERMIT MAXIMUMS

Individuals may only have **two permits that allow the harvest of a buck** per year. Beyond unit quotas, there is no individual limit to the number of antlerless permits.

"SEASON CHOICE" EXPLAINED

Many permits utilize a "season choice" format. These permits are valid for the entire season and the method of take is open to the legal method of the current open season, which includes Archery, November Firearm, Muzzleloader and may include Late Firearm Antlerless. Landowner, Youth, Statewide Whitetail Buck, Antlerless Only and River Antlerless permits all follow this format of allowing hunters their choice of weapon based on the open season. The Special Landowner Season is **not** considered an "open" season for permits of this format. Follow the season dates on the permit.

PERMIT DRAWING

- Frenchman MDCA, Pine Ridge MDCA and Platte MDCA permits are DRAW units and available during the application period.
- The deer drawing is a preference point-based system, and those applicants who were unsuccessful are given a preference point toward future drawings.
- In lieu of participating in the draw, hunters may purchase one deer preference point per year during the application period.
- Permits are awarded to applicants with the highest number of points first until the permit quota is filled.
- All points are lost once a permit is awarded during the drawing, whether first or second choice.
- Draw results from previous years can be found at OutdoorNebraska.gov.
- Any forfeited permits may be made available to the next unsuccessful applicant(s), then may go on sale Aug. 7, 2023.

NONRESIDENT EITHER-SEX/BUCK-ONLY PERMIT QUOTA

Nonresidents will be limited to 10,000 either-sex or buck-only permits; landowner and youth permits are excluded. No more than 3,000 Archery and 1,000 Muzzleloader permits will be sold to nonresidents.

STATEWIDE DEER					
Statewide permits are valid statewide for the bag limit and season dates listed. Restrictions are noted.					
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Season Dates	Special Unit Restrictions	Permit Fee (R/NR)
Statewide Archery	R - UNL	1 AD	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023	Yes, see page 18	\$37/\$285
	NR - 3,000	1 AD*			
Statewide Muzzleloader	R - UNL	1 AD*	Dec. 1 – 31, 2023	Yes, see page 18	\$37/\$285
	NR - 1,000				
Statewide Whitetail Buck	8,000	1 WT Buck	Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 Firearm: Nov. 11 – 19, 2023 Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023	No	\$88/\$707
Restricted Statewide Buck	1,000	1 Buck	Nov. 11 – 19, 2023	Not valid for MD in MDCA	\$128/\$698
Statewide Buck	R - 70	1 Buck	Nov. 11 – 19, 2023	No	\$173/\$938
	NR - 30				

* a mule deer may not be taken in the Mule Deer Conservation Area

Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.

YOUTH DEER			
Youth permits are valid statewide for the bag limit and season dates listed. Restrictions are noted.			
Permit Fee	Resident: \$8		Nonresident: \$8
Season Dates	Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 November Firearm: Nov. 11 – 19, 2023 Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023 Late Firearm Antlerless: Jan. 1 – 15, 2024 (antlerless only)		
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions
Resident Youth	UNL	1 AD	Yes, see page 18
NR Restricted Youth	UNL	1 AD	Yes, see page 18; Not valid in Frenchman, Pine Ridge or Platte units.
Youth Whitetail	UNL	1 WT	Yes, see page 18

RESTRICTIONS:

- **Age Requirements:** Youth age 10-15 may hunt with a youth deer permit. Youth may apply for a draw unit permit at age 9 provided they are age 10 by the start of the season. Youth age 16 may hunt on youth deer permits provided they are age 15 when they apply and provided they are age 15 on Sept. 1 (start of the season) of the calendar year. A Habitat Stamp is required at age 16.
- **Permit Limit:** Youth may have two permits, but only one may allow the harvest of a mule deer.
- **Habitat Stamp:** Required for nonresident youth.
- **NR Restricted Youth is not valid in Frenchman, Pine Ridge or Platte management units.**
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.

See table abbreviations on page 12.

NOVEMBER FIREARM

November Firearm season permits are issued on a management unit basis and are valid for the bag limit and season dates listed. Restrictions are noted.

Permit Fee **Resident:** \$37
Nonresident: \$285

Season Dates **November Firearm:** Nov. 11 – 19, 2023

Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Sell-Out Date
Blue Northwest	2,400	1 AD	No	Nov. 2, 2022
Blue Southeast	3,700	1 AD	No	Nov. 7, 2022
Buffalo WT	1,800	1 WT	No	Nov. 12, 2022
Calamus East	1,200	1 AD ²	No	DNS
Calamus West *	1,600	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Nov. 11, 2022
Elkhorn	2,700	1 AD	No	Nov. 1, 2022
Frenchman WT	1,000	1 WT	Yes, see page 18	Oct. 26, 2022
Keya Paha	2,500	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	No	DNS
Loup East	3,000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	No	Nov. 12, 2022
Loup West	1,000	1 AD ²	No	Oct. 31, 2022
Loup West WT	800	1 WT	No	DNS
Missouri	3,200	1 AD	No	Nov. 11, 2022
Pine Ridge WT	1,000	1 WT	No	Nov. 7, 2022
Plains *	1,000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Nov. 12, 2022
Plains WT	300	1 WT, 2 AOWT	No	New in 2023
Platte WT	900	1 WT	No	Nov. 11, 2022
Republican WT	2,500	1 WT	No	Nov. 3, 2022
Sandhills *	1,500	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Sept. 10, 2022
Sandhills WT	500	1 WT, 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Nov. 16, 2022
Upper Platte *	1,000	1 AD ²	No	Oct. 19, 2022
Wahoo	3,800	1 AD	No	Nov. 6, 2022

RESTRICTIONS:

- See page 18 for special unit restrictions.
- See page 30 for special access permit areas and the Public Access Atlas for access details.
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.

* 15% nonresident permit allocation

TABLE ABBREVIATIONS:

R – Resident

NR – Nonresident

AD² – Any deer except antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

DNS – Did Not Sell Out

AD – Any deer/any mule deer or whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only

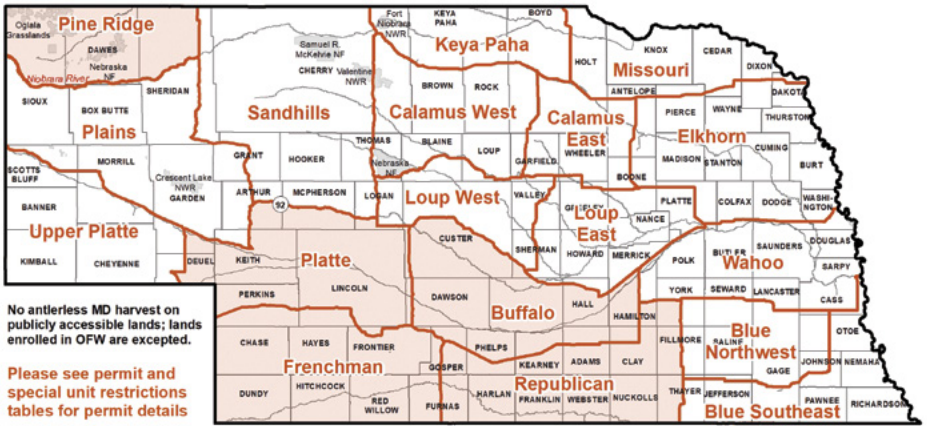
AOSC – Antlerless Only Season Choice

WT – Whitetail Deer

MD – Mule Deer

UNL – Unlimited

November Firearm and Antlerless Only Season Choice Units



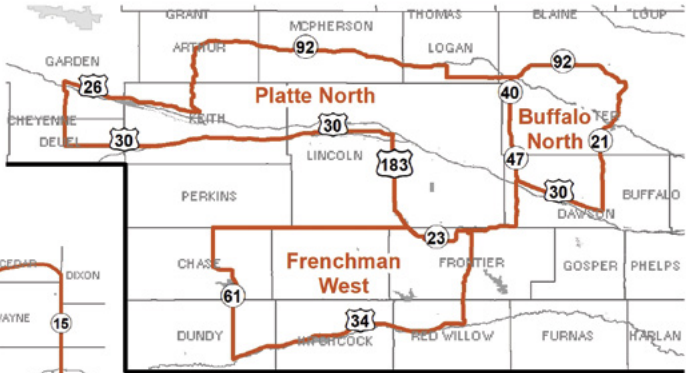
No antlerless MD harvest on publicly accessible lands; lands enrolled in OFW are excepted.

Please see permit and special unit restrictions tables for permit details

Deer Management Units MDCA Regulation Area

Additional Antlerless Only Season Choice Units

Please see permit and special unit restrictions tables for permit details



Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Red Willow Reservoir WMA/SRA, Enders Reservoir WMA/SRA and Swanson WMA/SRA are closed to the use of all Frenchman AOSC and Frenchman North/South/West AOSC permits.

ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON CHOICE

These permits are issued on a management unit basis and valid for the bag limit and season dates listed.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$37	Nonresident: \$82
Season Dates	Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023	November Firearm: Nov. 11 – 19, 2023 Late Firearm Antlerless: Jan. 1 – 15, 2024

Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Sell-Out Date
Blue NW AOSC	2,200	1 AOWT	No	Dec. 31, 2022
Blue SE AOSC	2,400	1 AOWT	No	Dec. 12, 2022
Buffalo AOSC	1,000	2 AOWT	No	DNS
Buffalo North AOSC	50	1 AO, 1 AOWT	No	Nov. 19, 2022
Calamus East AOSC	200	1 AOWT	No	DNS
Calamus West AOSC	200	3 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	DNS
Elkhorn AOSC	250	1 AOWT	No	Aug. 11, 2022
Elkhorn West AOSC	350	1 AOWT	No	DNS
Frenchman AOSC	75	1 AO, 1 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	July 13, 2022
Frenchman No. WT AOSC	500	2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Dec. 12, 2022
Frenchman So. WT AOSC	200	1 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Nov. 9, 2022
Frenchman West AOSC	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Sept. 8, 2022
Southwest Res. AOSC	100	1 AOWT	No	DNS
Keya Paha AOSC	500	3 AOWT	No	DNS
Loup East AOSC	1,500	3 AOWT	No	DNS
Loup West AOSC	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	No	Nov. 11, 2022
Loup West WT AOSC	300	2 AOWT	No	DNS
Missouri AOSC	1,000	1 AOWT	No	DNS
Pine Ridge AOSC	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Aug. 21, 2022
Pine Ridge WT AOSC	600	2 AOWT	No	DNS
Plains AOSC	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	Nov. 7, 2022
Plains WT AOSC	300	3 AOWT	No	DNS
Platte AOSC	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	No	Aug. 12, 2022
Platte WT AOSC	400	2 AOWT	No	Dec. 7, 2022
Platte North AOSC	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT	No	Oct. 27, 2022
Republican AOSC	1,200	2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	DNS
Harlan County Res. AOSC	100	2 AOWT	No	Aug. 1, 2022
Sandhills AOSC	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	DNS
Sandhills WT AOSC	300	3 AOWT	Yes, see page 18	DNS
Upper Platte AOSC	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	No	Sept. 2, 2022
Upper Platte WT AOSC	200	2 AOWT	No	DNS
Wahoo AOSC	1,900	1 AOWT	No	Nov. 16, 2022

RESTRICTIONS:

- AOSC permits are valid for the legal method of take during Archery, November Firearm, Muzzleloader and Late Firearm Antlerless seasons.
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.
- See page 18 for special unit restrictions. See page 30 for special access permit areas and the Public Access Atlas for access details. See table abbreviations on page 12.

MULE DEER CONSERVATION AREA

Mule deer populations have declined in some units due to habitat conversion to row crops and brainworm disease. Those issues and increased demand for mule deer permits required a change to permit structure in 2012. The Mule Deer Conservation Area comprises the Buffalo, Frenchman, Platte, Pine Ridge and Republican deer management units.

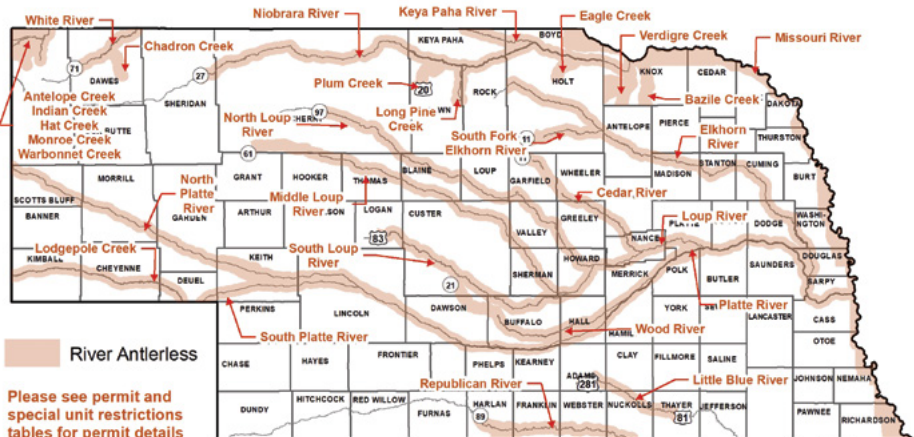
Permit Fee	Resident: \$44* Nonresident: \$292* *Includes \$7 nonrefundable application fee for draw permits			
Season Dates	Firearm: Nov. 11 – 19, 2023		Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023	
	Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023			
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Sell-Out Date
Buffalo MDCA	1,000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Yes, see below	Aug. 1, 2022
Frenchman MDCA	1,400	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Yes, see below	Draw
Pine Ridge MDCA	1,200	1 AD ²	Yes, see below	Draw
Platte MDCA	900	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Yes, see below	Draw
Republican MD Buck	50	1 MD Buck	Yes, see below	Nov. 3, 2022

RESTRICTIONS:

- No person may obtain more than one MDCA or one Republican MD permit.
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.
- Statewide muzzleloader and nonresident archery permits are not valid for mule deer in the MDCA.
- Statewide resident archery permits are valid for mule deer and are available all season.
- Due to high demand, Frenchman MDCA, Pine Ridge and Platte MDCA are allocated via drawing in June.
- The nonresident allocation is:
 - Frenchman MDCA – 15% to nonresidents
 - Platte MDCA – 15% to nonresidents
 - Pine Ridge MDCA – 15% to nonresidents
- Frenchman MDCA permits: bonus antlerless tags are not valid on Enders, Swanson, Red Willow and Medicine Creek WMA/SRA.

See table abbreviations on page 12.

River Antlerless Private Land Only Unit



RIVER ANTLERLESS PRIVATE LAND ONLY

The River Antlerless Deer Permit is issued for the unit defined below and is valid on **private land only** for the bag limit and season dates listed. Restrictions are noted.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$14	Nonresident: \$82		
Season Dates	Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 Firearm: Oct. 1 – 15, 2023; Nov. 11 – 19, 2023 Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023 Late River Antlerless: Jan. 1 – 31, 2024			
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Sell-Out Date
River Antlerless	12,000	2 AOWT	No	DNS

RESTRICTIONS:

- River Antlerless permits are valid for the legal method during Archery, October Firearm, November Firearm, Muzzleloader and Late River Antlerless seasons.
- Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.
- **Closed Area: All federal and state lands.**
- Open Area: That portion of Nebraska east of the boundary commencing with U.S. Hwy. 281 from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 281 to Nebraska Hwy. 12, thence east on Nebraska Hwy. 12 to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to U.S. Hwy. 75, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 75 to Nebraska Hwy. 133, thence south on Nebraska Hwy. 133 to U.S. Hwy. 6, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 6 to Interstate 480, thence south on Interstate 480 to U.S. Hwy. 75, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 75 to Nebraska Hwy. 67, thence east and south on Nebraska Hwy. 67 to U.S. Hwy. 136, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 136 to Nebraska Hwy. 67, thence south on Nebraska Hwy. 67 to U.S. Hwy. 73, thence east and south on U.S. Hwy. 73 to the Nebraska-Kansas state line.
 - 3 miles of the landward banks of the Missouri, Platte, North Platte, South Platte, Loup and Keya Paha rivers.
 - 3 miles of the landward banks of the following portions of Nebraska rivers:
 - From the mouth of Long Pine Creek to a point 5 miles south of U.S. Hwy. 20 where Long Pine Creek crosses the west side of Section 19, T29N R20W.
 - The Republican River from the Nebraska-Kansas line to Nebraska Hwy. 89.
 - From the mouth of Plum Creek in Brown County to U.S. Hwy. 20.
 - The South Loup River from the mouth to U.S. Hwy. 83.
 - The Niobrara River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy. 27.
 - The Elkhorn River from the mouth to the Rock County line.
 - The south fork of the Elkhorn River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy. 11.
 - The North Loup River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy. 97.
 - The Cedar River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy. 11.
 - The Middle Loup River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy. 61.
 - The White River between the intersection of the White River and Nebraska Hwy. 71 northeasterly to the intersection of the White River and the Nebraska-South Dakota state line. The Wood River from the mouth to Nebraska Hwy 21.
 - The Little Blue River from U.S. Hwy. 81 to U.S. Hwy. 281.
 - Eagle Creek in Holt County from the mouth to 483rd Ave.
 - Bazile Creek in Knox County from the mouth to the Antelope County line.
 - In Knox County, the Main Branch Verdigre Creek from the mouth to the Antelope County line, Middle Branch and North Branch Verdigre Creek to the Holt County line.
 - In Sioux County, Indian Creek to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, Antelope Creek to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, Monroe Creek to the Gilbert-Baker WMA boundary, Warbonnet Creek to the source, Chadron Creek to the Chadron Creek WMA boundary and Hat Creek to East Hat Creek Road.
 - Lodgepole Creek from the mouth to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line.

See table abbreviations on page 12.

LIMITED LANDOWNER

Limited Landowner deer permits are issued statewide and are valid for the agricultural land listed on the landowner's permit profile for the bag limit and season dates listed. See page 8 for definitions and minimum qualifications. Additional restrictions are noted.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$20 Nonresident: \$144		
Season Dates	Archery: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 November Firearm: Nov. 11 – 19, 2023 Muzzleloader: Dec. 1 – 31, 2023 Late Firearm Antlerless: Jan. 1 – 15, 2024 (antlerless only)		
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions
Limited Landowner Deer	Unlimited	1 AD, 1 AO	No
RESTRICTIONS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One permit allowed per person. • Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands. • Jan. 1 – 15, 2024, is antlerless only. • Landowner permits are valid for the legal method of take during Archery, November Firearm, Muzzleloader and Late Firearm Antlerless seasons. 			

See table abbreviations on page 12.

SPECIAL LANDOWNER

A qualifying landowner may purchase as many as eight Special Landowner Deer Permits to designate themselves or immediate family to hunt on his or her property on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday before the opening of the November firearm deer season. They are valid statewide for any legal weapons.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$8	Nonresident: \$8	
Season Dates	Nov. 4 – 6, 2023		
Permit Name	Quota	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions
Special Landowner Deer	Unlimited	1 AD	No
RESTRICTIONS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than two permits will be issued to persons age 19 or older and six permits to persons younger than 19, per qualifying landowner. • No person may apply for or obtain more than one Special Landowner Deer Permit per year. • The Special Landowner Deer Permit is only valid Nov. 4 – 6, 2023. For information on Limited Landowner Permits, see the table at the top of the page. • The definition of immediate family is: spouse, child, stepchild, spouse of child or stepchild, grandchild, step grandchild, spouse of grandchild or step grandchild, sibling sharing ownership or spouse of sibling. • This permit counts against the two antlered deer permit maximum. • This permit may be purchased at Game and Parks district offices, by mail to the Lincoln office or online. • Special Landowner Deer and Limited Landowner Deer permits may not be sold, loaned or transferred to another hunter. • Firearm hunters during the Special Landowner Deer Season must wear hunter orange; archery hunters are exempt. • See OutdoorNebraska.gov and search "landowner permits" for permit application and more details. 			

See table abbreviations on page 12.

SPECIAL UNIT RESTRICTIONS

Look at the unit in which you hunt to see if any restrictions apply to your permit, the land or the unit in which you hunt. Regulations apply to statewide permits within specific management units.

Management Unit	Special Unit Restrictions
All Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antlerless mule deer may not be taken on lands open to public hunting, except Open Fields and Waters lands.
Buffalo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muzzleloader, Nonresident Archery and Restricted Statewide Buck permits are not valid for mule deer.
Calamus West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bessey Ranger District of Nebraska National Forest and Valentine National Wildlife Refuge are closed to use of bonus antlerless tags, bonus antlerless Whitetail tags, and Season Choice antlerless permits.
Elkhorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special provisions may apply to hunting deer or other wildlife species within the boundaries of the Omaha and Winnebago reservations.
Frenchman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muzzleloader, Nonresident Archery and Restricted Statewide Buck permits are not valid for mule deer. Frenchman Antlerless Only Season Choice permits are not valid on Enders, Medicine Creek, Red Willow or Swanson SRA/WMA. On MDCA and whitetail firearm permits, bonus antlerless tags are not valid on Enders, Swanson, Red Willow and Medicine Creek WMA/SRA.
Pine Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muzzleloader, Nonresident Archery and Restricted Statewide Buck permits are not valid for mule deer.
Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No antlerless mule deer harvest is allowed on Crescent Lake NWR.
Platte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muzzleloader, Nonresident Archery and Restricted Statewide Buck permits are not valid for mule deer.
Republican	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muzzleloader, Nonresident Archery and Restricted Statewide Buck permits are not valid for mule deer. Republican AOSC permits are not valid on Harlan County U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands.
Sandhills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKelvie National Forest and Valentine NWR are closed to use of bonus antlerless tags, bonus antlerless Whitetail tags, and Season Choice antlerless permits.

See table abbreviations on page 12.



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Elk

2023 FORECAST

Elk populations have declined from recent highs, but numbers still are good across much of their range. They have expanded their range in recent years, as well. In response, management units have been restructured to help distribute permits and hunters appropriately. Units 1-7 align with areas of historic elk use and numbers; quality and permit success should remain similar to previous years. Units 8-14 include peripheral areas where elk use is less predictable; quality and success rates likely are to be lower. Unit 15, which has no permit quota, includes much of eastern Nebraska, where elk use is intermittent. Permits for Units 1-14 also are valid in Unit 15, to allow for hunter harvest of elk in eastern Nebraska.

SEASON DATES

- **Bull Archery:** Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2023
- **Firearm:** Sept. 21 – Oct. 31, 2023
- **Antlerless:** Aug. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024
- **Early Antlerless:** Aug. 1 – Oct. 31, 2023
- **Late Antlerless:** Nov. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024
- Public land closed to Antlerless Elk permits from Aug. 1 – Sept. 20, 2023

Scan the QR code to get more online elk hunting resources, including individual unit maps.



LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF AN ELK

- **Bull** – A male with antlers 6 inches or more in length.
- **Antlerless** – No antlers or antlers less than 6 inches in length.

PERMIT MAXIMUMS:

- Individuals may only have one elk permit per year and may only submit **one application per year**.
- General Cow: No more than one in five years.
- General Bull: No more than one in five years; bull harvest limit of once in a lifetime.
- Landowner Cow: One per year.
- Landowner Bull: No more than one in three years.

PERMIT DRAWING

- General Bull permits are drawn based on a bonus-point system. Unsuccessful applicants are given a point, which is applied to future drawings. Applicants have an additional chance in the drawing for each point that they accumulate. Bonus points **only are awarded for first-choice bull permits**.
- General Antlerless permits are drawn on a lottery system following the completion of the Bull permit drawing from the same application. Applicants have one chance in the antlerless drawing.
- Landowner Bull permits are drawn on a preference point-based system. Unsuccessful applicants are given a point that is applied to future drawings; nonresident landowners receive 0.9 points instead of 1. Applicants with the most points are given preference in the drawing.
- Landowner Antlerless permits are drawn on a lottery system following the completion of the Bull permit drawing from the same application. Applicants have one chance in the antlerless drawing.
- All points are lost when a bull permit is issued from the drawing.
- In lieu of participating in the draw, landowners may purchase one elk preference point per year during the application period, or general elk hunters may purchase one bonus point.
- Draw statistics from previous years can be found at OutdoorNebraska.gov.
- Any forfeited permits may be made available to the next unsuccessful applicant(s), then may go on sale Aug. 9, 2023.

ELK AND PRIVATE LAND

Most elk in Nebraska live on private land, and elk hunters should be prepared to gain access to private land to hunt elk. Landowner permission is always required to hunt on private land.

SPECIAL ACCESS PERMITS

See listings on page 30 to find public lands where access permits are required.

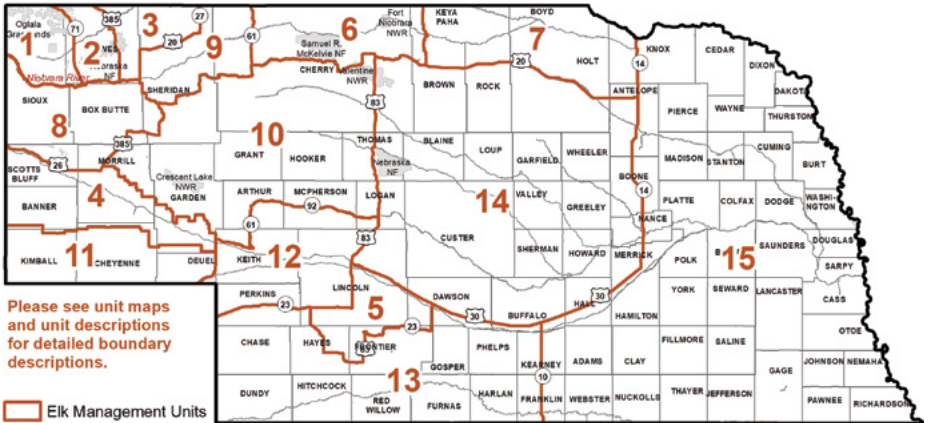
LANDOWNER ELK PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Obtain an application by requesting from the Commission by telephone, picking up from Commission district offices, or downloading from OutdoorNebraska.gov and search for landowner permits.
2. Determine if your land is in an elk zone and if you qualify.
3. Between May 15 and June 2, 2023, deliver completed application and payment for the permit price and application fee to the following Commission district office only, depending on unit. Applications received after 5 p.m. on June 2, 2023, will be rejected.
 - Northwest District - 299 Husker Road, P.O. Box 725, Alliance, NE 69301. Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
 - Bassett Service Center - 524 Panzer St., P.O. Box 508, Bassett, NE 68714. Units: 6, 7 and 14.
 - Southwest District - 301 E. State Farm Road, North Platte, NE 69101. Unit: 5, 12 and 13.
4. District staff will validate your application and enter in drawing, if eligible.
5. Failure to provide complete and accurate information may lead to disqualification.

FREE-EARNED LANDOWNER ELK PERMIT

A person who owns or leases at least 80 acres of farm- or ranchland for agricultural purposes qualifies for an either-sex elk permit – known as a free-earned landowner elk permit – following the verification of 10 general antlerless elk harvests; immediate family members are eligible for the permit. The free-earned permit does not affect eligibility for general or landowner permits. Contact a district office for details.

Elk Management Units



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ANTLERLESS ELK

Elk permits are issued on a management unit basis and are valid for the area and season dates listed. Permits listed are valid for the bag limit of one antlerless elk. Additional restrictions are noted. See maps for unit descriptions.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$189*	
	Resident Landowner: \$48*	Nonresident Landowner: \$542*
*Includes \$10 nonrefundable application fee		
Season Dates	Antlerless: Aug. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024	Public land closed to Antlerless Elk permits from Aug. 1 – Sept. 20, 2023
	Early Antlerless: Aug. 1 – Oct. 31, 2023	
	Late Antlerless: Nov. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024	

Permit Name	Permit Quota				Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Draw Odds			
	Gen	Early	Late	LO		Gen	Early	Late	LO
Unit 1	-	25	35	45	No	-	1:5.6	1:4.7	1:1.5
Unit 2	-	15	25	30	No	-	1:2.9	1:4.4	1:0.6
Unit 3	-	40	40	60	No	-	1:3.2	1:4.3	1:2.1
Unit 4	-	70	30	75	Yes, see below	-	1:2.6	1:3.2	1:0.8
Unit 5	-	30	30	45	No	-	1:10	1:10.7	1:1.9
Unit 6	-	40	20	45	Yes, see below	-	1:2.5	1:3.7	1:1.1
Unit 7	36	-	-	27		1:3.7	-	-	1:0.9
Unit 8	20	-	-	15			NEW		
Unit 9	10	-	-	7			NEW		
Unit 10	35	-	-	26			NEW		
Unit 11	10	-	-	7			NEW		
Unit 12	16	-	-	12			NEW		
Unit 13	6	-	-	4			NEW		
Unit 14	16	-	-	12			NEW		

RESTRICTIONS:

- Access permit required to hunt Fort Robinson SP and Fort Niobrara NWR.



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BULL ELK

Elk permits are issued on a management unit basis and are valid for the area and season dates listed. Permits listed are valid for the bag limit of one elk of either sex. Additional restrictions are noted. See maps for unit descriptions.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$189*
	Resident Landowner: \$48*
	Nonresident Landowner: \$542*
	*Includes \$10 nonrefundable application fee
Season Dates	Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2023 Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31, 2023

Permit Name	Quota		Special Unit Restrictions	2022 General		2022 Minimum Points - LO
	Gen	Landowner		Applicants	0 Point Odds*	
Unit 1	16	12	No	934	1:242	3
Unit 2	10	7	No	338	1:133	1
Unit 3	20	15	No	613	1:125	4
Unit 4	25	18	Yes, see below	842	1:112	1
Unit 5	25	15	No	1,613	1:325	3
Unit 6	14	10	Yes, see below	372	1:77	1
Unit 7	16	12	No	286	1:54	1
Unit 8	6	4				
Unit 9	6	4				
Unit 10	4	3				
Unit 11	3	2				
Unit 12	4	3				
Unit 13	3	2				
Unit 14	5	3				

RESTRICTIONS:

- Access permit required to hunt Fort Robinson SP and Fort Niobrara NWR.

* Bonus points are not included in draw calculations. Your individual odds are:

- Divide the 0 Point Odds for your unit by your bonus point total plus one.
- Example, for a hunter with 8 points applying for Unit 1: $(242) / (8 + 1) = 1:27$

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Antelope

2023 FORECAST

Antelope populations have declined the past two years and there have been reductions in permit quotas for 2023. Antelope populations have declined across many parts of Nebraska due to drought and increased harvest in recent years. Research in western Nebraska showed hemorrhagic disease and drought in 2021 affected antelope survival and distribution. For 2023, permits were decreased in several units to account for decreased populations and harvest success in 2022. **Nonresident opportunity is restricted to statewide archery permits, landowner permits and late doe/fawn, if available.**

SEASON DATES:

- **Archery:** Aug. 20 – Dec. 31, 2023
- **Muzzleloader:** Sept. 16 – Oct. 1, 2023
- **Firearm:** Oct. 14 – 29, 2023
- **Late Doe/Fawn:** Nov. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Scan the QR code to get more online antelope hunting resources, including information on application dates.



PERMIT MAXIMUM

Each person is allowed one antelope permit per year.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF ANTELOPE

- **Buck** – Antelope with horns longer than its ears.
- **Doe/Fawn** – Antelope with no horns or with horns shorter than its ears.

PERMIT DRAWING:

- Persons age 12 and older are eligible to apply for antelope permits.
- All either sex rifle and muzzleloader antelope permits are DRAW permits and available during the application period to residents, resident landowners and nonresident landowners.
- Archery Antelope is a DRAW permit for nonresidents.
- In lieu of participating in the draw, hunters may purchase one antelope preference point per year during the application period.
- Any forfeited permits may be made available to the next unsuccessful applicant(s), then may go on sale Aug. 8, 2023.
- The antelope drawing is a preference point-based system and those applicants that were unsuccessful are given a preference point toward future drawings, with the exception the nonresident landowners receive 0.9 preference points instead of 1.
- Permits are awarded to applicants with the highest number of points first until permit quota is filled.
- All points are lost once a permit is awarded during the drawing, whether first or second choice.
- Draw results from previous years can be found at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov).

SPECIAL ACCESS PERMITS

See listings on page 30 to find public lands where access permits are required.

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ANTELOPE

Firearm permits are issued on a management unit basis and are valid for the area, bag limit and season dates listed. Additional restrictions are noted. See maps for unit descriptions.

Permit Fee	Resident: \$43* Resident Youth (archery only): \$8* Nonresident Landowner: \$108* *Includes \$6 nonrefundable application fee, for draw permits	Resident Landowner: \$26* Nonresident: \$207* Nonresident Youth (archery only): \$8*
Season Dates	Archery: Aug. 20 – Dec. 31, 2023 Firearm: Oct. 14 – 29, 2023	Muzzleloader: Sept. 16 – Oct. 1, 2023 Late Doe/Fawn: Nov. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Permit Name	Quota ¹		Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Minimum Points Needed	
	Draw	Buy		General	LO
	October Firearm	Late Doe/Fawn			
Banner North	70 (1 Either Sex)	30 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
Banner South	90 (1 Either Sex)	80 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
Box Butte East	20 (1 Either Sex)	30 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
Box Butte West	60 (1 Either Sex)	75 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	4	0
Cherry	70 (1 Either Sex)	30 (1 Doe/Fawn)	Yes, see below	2	0
Cheyenne	40 (1 Either Sex)	60 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
Dismal	40 (1 Either Sex)	10 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
Eastern Sandhills	20 (1 Either Sex)	–	Yes, see below	2	0
Garden	50 (1 Either Sex)	70 (1 Doe/Fawn)	No	3	0
North Sioux	100 (1 Either Sex)	80 (1 Doe/Fawn)	Yes, see below	4	0

Permit Name	Quota ¹	Bag Limit	Special Unit Restrictions	2022 Minimum Points Needed	
				General	LO
Statewide Archery	Resident – Unlimited	1 Either Sex	Yes, see below	R- BUY	R- BUY
	Nonresident – 250			NR - DRAW	NR - BUY
Youth Archery	Unlimited	1 Either Sex	Yes, see below	BUY	-
North Sioux Muzzleloader	25	1 Either Sex	Yes, see below	5	0
Prairie Muzzleloader	115	1 Either Sex	Yes, see below	2	0

RESTRICTIONS:

- Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is closed to firearm and muzzleloader antelope hunting. It is open to archery hunting for bucks only.
- Fort Robinson SP and WMA are closed to firearm antelope hunting but open to archery and muzzleloader.

¹ Does not include Limited Landowner quota, which is an additional 75% of the general quota. All Landowner firearm permits have a bonus Doe/Fawn tag. Landowner October Firearm permits are valid for the archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons following Season Choice rules with the legal weapon of the current open season, however bucks may not be taken during the late firearm season.

Multi Species Lottery

Resident / Nonresident

- Super Tag Lottery Single Entry\$25 / NA
- Super Tag Lottery Multiple Entry\$10 / \$10
- Combo Lottery Multiple Entry\$10 / \$10

Turkey Permits

Resident / Nonresident

- Spring Turkey\$30 / \$128
- Fall Turkey\$30 / \$128
- Youth Spring Turkey\$8 / \$8
- Youth Fall Turkey\$8 / \$8

Landowner Resident Permits

- L0 Antelope Doe Fawn\$26
- L0 Antelope Archery\$26
- Limited L0 Deer\$20
- Special Landowner Deer\$8
- L0 Turkey\$16.50

Landowner Nonresident Permits

- L0 Antelope Doe Fawn\$108
- L0 Antelope Archery\$108
- Limited L0 Deer\$144
- Special Landowner Deer\$8
- L0 Turkey\$65.50

Landowner Permits

Relationship to Qualifying Landowner (circle one): Qualifying Landowner Spouse Child/step-child Spouse of child/step-child
Grandchild/step-grandchild Spouse of grandchild/step-grandchild Sibling sharing ownership Spouse of Sibling sharing ownership

Qualifying Landowner information (required if different than applicant):

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____ NGPC ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Date of Birth _____ Last 4 of SSN _____ Sex _____

Hair Color _____ Eye Color _____ Ht _____ Wt _____ Resident Nonresident

NEBRASKA BIG GAME APPLICATION

33-384/Rev. 5-15-23 tmr

Instructions: Check all applicable boxes and provide information as requested. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Photocopied application forms are acceptable. See Big Game Guide for details. **Application must be received at NGPC by 5 p.m. on final day of application period.**

Applicant Information (Please Print)

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____ NGPC ID# _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____ Date of Birth _____ Last 4 of SSN _____ Sex _____
Hair Color _____ Eye Color _____ Ht _____ Wt _____ Resident Nonresident
Email Address (required for draw permits) _____
Firearm Hunter Ed Number – State Certified _____ Bowhunter Hunter Ed Number – State Certified _____

Yes No

I certify I am a resident of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska and Parks Commission.

I certify my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is not currently revoked in any jurisdiction (county, state, city, federal or Canadian province), and I am NOT delinquent on any child support payments.

I am applying for a landowner permit. If yes, fill out page two of application. I certify I am eligible to apply for a limited or special landowner permit. All farm and ranch land listed is qualifying property owned and/or leased by me or a member of my immediate household. I, as the qualified applicant, request a limited or special landowner permit be issued to me.

Signature _____ Date _____

Draw Permits *

If applying as Buddies (group member) both applicants must have the same residency status.

Apply as Buddy/Group Member — Buddy/Group Leader Name _____ DOB _____ NGPC ID# _____

Deer S7 Nonrefundable applicant fee 1 st Choice _____ 2 nd Choice _____	Antelope S6 Nonrefundable applicant fee 1 st Choice _____ 2 nd Choice _____	Elk S10 Nonrefundable applicant fee 1 st Choice _____ 2 nd Choice _____
---	---	---

NOTE: If this is a draw application for a deer, antelope or elk permit, do not request a habitat stamp.

Purchase Point instead of entering draw

Deer

Resident Preference Point\$22

Nonresident Preference Point\$57

Antelope

Resident Preference Point\$21

Nonresident Preference Point\$56

Elk

Resident Bonus Point\$25

Resident LO Preference Point\$25

Nonresident LO Preference Point\$60

Over the Counter Big Game Permits (Enter Unit/Permit name if applicable)

Resident

Antelope

Archery.....\$37

Late Doe /Fawn - Unit.....\$37

Youth Archery.....\$8

Deer

November Firearm - Unit.....\$37

Season Choice - Unit.....\$37

Statewide Archery.....\$37

Statewide Muzzleloader.....\$37

River Antlerless - private land only.....\$14

Statewide Whitetail Buck.....\$98

Restricted Statewide Buck.....\$128

Statewide Buck (either species).....\$173

Youth.....\$8

Youth Whitetail.....\$8

Nonresident

Antelope

Late Doe /Fawn - Unit.....\$201

Youth Archery.....\$8

Deer

November Firearm - Unit.....\$285

Season Choice - Unit.....\$82

Statewide Archery.....\$285

Statewide Muzzleloader.....\$285

River Antlerless - private land only.....\$82

Statewide Whitetail Buck.....\$707

Restricted Statewide Buck.....\$698

Statewide Buck (either species).....\$938

NR Restricted Youth.....\$8

Youth Whitetail.....\$8

Include the following with my Big Game Permit:

Donation to Hunters Helping the Hungry \$ _____

Habitat Stamp \$25

If paying by credit card please provide the following information:

Card Holder's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Expiration Date _____ 3-digit code _____

Credit Card number - VISA, MasterCard or Discover _____

3-digit card verification No. on back of card

If paying by check, make check payable to:
 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Mail to: PO Box 30370
 Lincoln NE 68503

Total Amount Enclosed: _____
 (Include front and back amounts)

Continued on the backside

Farm and Ranch Land – Legal Description (if more room is need, please attach an additional sheet)

Check one box for each parcel listed

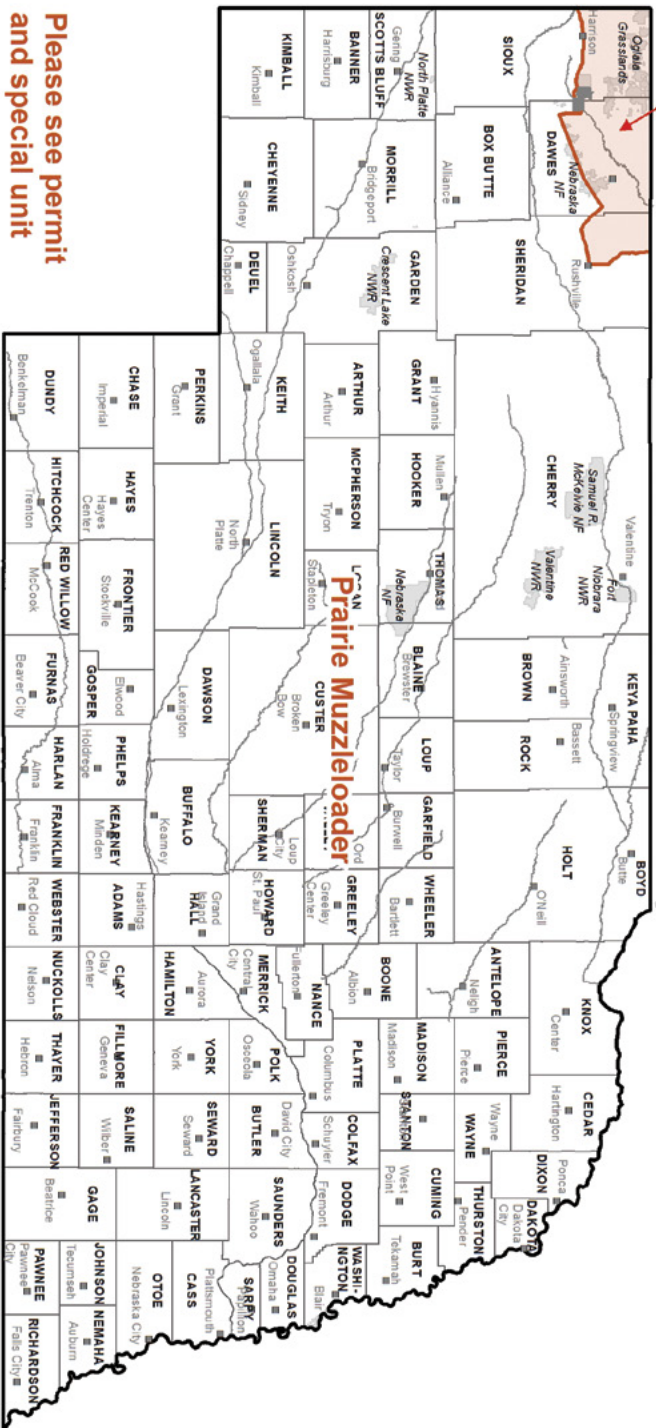
Owner Name	County	Parcel ID	Total Acres	Acres Leased	Own	Lease	Corporation, Partnership, Trust
John Doe	Cather	00125431	80	40		X	

***Draw permit information:**

- Nonrefundable application fee is due at time of entry. Application to be received by 5:00 p.m. on final day of application period. Draw results will be available on or before July 1st. **(Excluding lottery draws)**
- Successful applicants will be notified via email or may check at GoOutdoorsNE.com and have until the 3rd Friday in July to pay full permit price online or at a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission district office or service center. **Permit is to be printed at time of payment.**
- Nonpayment of awarded permit will result in forfeiture of permit and any bonus or preference points used during the draw. Forfeited permit may be made available to the next unsuccessful applicant(s).

Antelope Muzzleloader Units

North Sioux Muzzleloader



Please see permit and special unit restrictions tables for permit details

North Sioux Muzzleloader

Prairie Muzzleloader

Bighorn Sheep

2023 FORECAST

Bighorn sheep herds inhabit the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills of western Nebraska, with a current population of approximately 275. Past transplants have established bighorns in some of their historic range. Research monitors herd health, movement, distribution and future transplant locations. Lamb survival in the southern Panhandle remains good, with populations stable to increasing. Lamb survival in the Pine Ridge remains poor, and a significant loss of adults in the Barrel Butte herd resulted in a population reduction. Staff are monitoring populations and herd health.

SEASON DATES

Nov. 28 – Dec. 22, 2023

BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING AREA

All of Banner, Box Butte, Dawes, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux counties. The exact hunting location within Banner, Box Butte, Dawes, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux counties will be determined by the Commission, depending on ram availability.

Scan the QR code to get more online bighorn sheep hunting resources, including lottery application information.



PERMITS

- One auction and one lottery permit are authorized for 2023.
- Only residents may apply for the lottery permit.
- The lottery application fee is a nonrefundable \$29.
- The application period is April 17 – Aug. 4, 2023.
- Mailed applications must be received at the Lincoln office of Game and Parks by 5 p.m. CT on Aug. 4, 2023.
- Online applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. CT on Aug. 4, 2023.

LOTTERY AND AUCTION

Proceeds from lottery entries and auctions have raised more than \$1 million for the Bighorn Sheep Program. These proceeds are a critical revenue source for the program.

LOTTERY APPLICATIONS

Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
1998	3,443	2007	None	2016	2,597
1999	1,996	2008	1,357	2017	2,754
2000	1,806	2009	1,547	2018	1,762
2001	886	2010	None	2019	2,723
2002	1,838	2011	1,762	2020	3,172
2003	1,595	2012	None	2021	3,664
2004	1,585	2013	None	2022	3,904
2005	1,445	2014	1,153	-	-
2006	None	2015	2,307	-	-

AUCTION RESULTS

Highest auction bid, with sponsoring organization:

1998 - \$87,500, Safari Club International
2000 - \$85,000, Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep
2002 - \$55,000, Safari Club International
2005 - \$83,000, Grand Slam Club Ovis
2009 - \$80,000, Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep
2011 - \$117,500, Grand Slam Club Ovis
2015 - \$130,000, Wild Sheep Foundation
2017 - \$115,000, Wild Sheep Foundation
2018 - \$135,000, Grand Slam Club Ovis
2019 - \$115,000, Wild Sheep Foundation
2021 - \$210,000, Wild Sheep Foundation
2022 - \$330,000, Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep

Where to Hunt

PRIVATE LANDS

It is the responsibility of every hunter to get permission to hunt, trail game or retrieve downed game on private land, whether the boundary is posted or not, including railroad right-of-ways. Hunting without permission may result in a fine of up to \$500, three months in jail and the loss of hunting privileges for up to three years.

PUBLIC LANDS

The Public Access Atlas lists more than 300 publicly owned areas. Refer to the atlas for area-specific regulations. Unless otherwise posted, big game hunting is allowed on all wildlife management areas. Hunting is allowed on most state recreation areas beginning the Tuesday following Labor Day, with hunting prohibited within 100 yards of any public use facility or activity area.

Some areas have specific restrictions:

- Nebraska state parks, wayside areas, hatcheries, reserves, and state refuges are closed to hunting unless otherwise posted.
- Use of ATVs and UTVs is not allowed on public lands unless specifically permitted by the managing agency.
- Most national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and national forests and grasslands managed by the U.S. Forest Service are open to hunting, unless otherwise posted.

OPEN FIELDS AND WATERS PROGRAM

The Open Fields and Waters Program has opened more than 380,000 acres of private land to public walk-in hunting access across Nebraska. This voluntary program offers financial incentives to landowners willing to allow public walk-in access for hunting, trapping and/or fishing.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides hunting opportunities on many of their refuges. See [fws.gov/program/national-wildlife-refuge-system](https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wildlife-refuge-system) to see regulations for each specific refuge.

TRAVEL ON U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND

Visit fs.usda.gov/nebraska for information about traveling on U.S. Forest Service land in Nebraska. This includes the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts of Nebraska National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, and Oglala National Grasslands.

HUNTING ON NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LAND

Visit nps.gov/mnrr/planyourvisit/hunting.htm for information about big game hunting on National Park Service land in Nebraska.

PUBLIC ACCESS ATLAS

There are more than a million acres of publicly accessible lands throughout Nebraska. The Public Access Atlas identifies and consolidates these public access resources for the benefit of Nebraska's hunters, trappers and anglers. The printed atlas is available wherever hunting and fishing permits are sold. Scan the QR code to view the atlas. It also may be viewed at OutdoorNebraska.gov. Search "Public Access Atlas."



MOUNTAIN LIONS ON CAMERA

Game and Parks would like anyone who captures a photo of a mountain lion to contact the nearest agency district office or Sam Wilson, furbearer and carnivore program manager, at 402-471-5174 or sam.wilson@nebraska.gov.

Special Access Permit Areas

DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Access permit is required to hunt in designated areas.

Contact: Peter Rea at 712-388-4803 or peter_rea@fws.gov or visit fws.gov/refuge/desoto.

Antlerless Seasons: Dec. 15 – 18, 2023 (muzzleloader only). Hunters need access permit and statewide muzzleloader (December hunt) or Wahoo AOSC (December or January hunt) permit and may only harvest antlerless deer. A scout day for the weekend hunts will be allowed on the Saturday prior to the hunt weekend during which hunters can hang stands.

Archery Season: Oct. 1, 2023 – Jan. 10, 2024. Special regulations apply. Contact the refuge at 712-388-4803.

BOYER CHUTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Access permit is required to hunt in designated areas.

Contact: Peter Rea at 712-388-4803 or peter_rea@fws.gov or visit fws.gov/refuge/boyer-chute.

Antlerless Season: Dec. 9 – 17, 2023 antlerless hunt only (muzzleloader only). Hunters need access permit and statewide muzzleloader or Wahoo AOSC and may only harvest antlerless deer.

Archery Season: Sept. 1, 2023 – Jan. 15, 2024. Antlerless only in January. Special regulations apply. Contact the refuge at 712-388-4803.

FORT NIOBRARA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

An access permit may be required for certain seasons.

Seasons: Open to archery, youth, muzzleloader, AOSC Keya Paha and elk permit holders. Contact the refuge office for season dates, weapons and bag limit restrictions.

How to Apply: Contact the refuge office at 402-376-3789 or visit fws.gov/refuge/fort-niobrara for more details.

GIFFORD POINT WMA

Access permit is required. Limited to 200 permits.

Seasons: Open to Archery, Youth, Muzzleloader and Wahoo AOSC permit holders, Sept. 1, 2023 – Jan. 15, 2024. Regulations relating to season dates and weapon types apply, EXCEPT muzzleloaders are allowed only during the December muzzleloader and late firearm seasons. Muzzleloaders are not allowed during the November firearm season. Centerfire weapons are prohibited.

How to Apply: Contact the Nebraska Game and Parks office in Lincoln at 402-471-5431 or Omaha office at 402-595-2144 or download an application from OutdoorNebraska.gov. Search "hunting seasons." Application period: Aug. 1 – 15, 2023.

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK

Access permit is required.

Seasons: Open to all open seasons except firearm antelope. Regulations relating to season dates, bag limits and weapon types apply. Antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited.

How to Apply: Contact the Nebraska Game and Parks office at Fort Robinson SP at 308-665-2900 or stop in at the park office before you hunt.

ANTLERLESS ONLY DEER STATE PARK HUNTS

Access permit is required to hunt in designated areas.

Archery Seasons: Antlerless harvest only. Open to Archery, Youth, Wahoo AOSC permit holders with archery equipment. Park season dates: Platte River SP, Eugene T. Mahoney SP and Schramm Park State Recreation Area, Nov. 27-30, 2023; Dec. 4 – 7, 2023; Dec. 11 – 14, 2023; Dec. 18 – 21, 2023; Jan. 1 – 4, 2024 (Schramm only), archery tag not valid; Jan. 8 – 11, 2024 (Schramm only).

Muzzleloader Seasons: Antlerless harvest only. Open to Youth and Wahoo AOSC permit holders with muzzleloader equipment. Park season dates: Platte River SP and Mahoney SP, Jan. 1 – 4, 2024; Jan. 8 – 11, 2024.

How to Apply: Contact Eugene T. Mahoney SP, 402-944-2523 ext.7122, Schramm Education Center, 402-332-3901, Platte River SP, 402-234-2217, or Game and Parks' Southeast District office at 402-471-5431. Application period: Oct. 1 – 31, 2023.

OTHER STATE PARK HUNTS

Many state parks and state historical parks are open to big game hunting opportunities. Please contact the park office for details.

Super Tag Lottery



Multiple Entry Super Tag

Includes tags for elk, deer,
antelope and turkey

\$10 per entry

Nonresidents eligible

Resident Super Tag

Includes tags for elk, deer,
antelope and turkey

\$25 single entry

Nebraska residents only

Apply now through **July 7, 2023**



Learn more and find all lottery options at
OutdoorNebraska.gov/SuperTag

NEBRASKA
- GAME & PARKS -

General Information

PERMIT CANCELLATION

- Following the harvest of any big game animal, hunters must immediately punch or notch the permit or tag to indicate sex and date of kill. The canceled permit or tag must be attached to the animal or remain with the hunter if the carcass remains in the hunter's possession until completion of the check in process.

CHECKING DEER, ANTELOPE AND ELK

- Registering your harvest of deer, antelope and elk is mandatory in Nebraska and must be completed before the carcass leaves the state.
- It is unlawful to separate a deer, antelope or elk carcass into sections smaller than quarters before completing the harvest check in process. Quartering is defined as four legs, with femur or scapula naturally attached, and loins.
- Deer harvested during the November firearm season must be delivered to a check in location no later than 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season. A list of check stations may be found on the deer regulation sheets and at OutdoorNebraska.gov.
- Each permit holder must accompany the deer to the check station and check in their deer.
- Deer harvested outside the November firearm season and all antelope and elk must be checked via Telecheck within 48 hours of kill and before 1 p.m. on the day following the close of the season.
- Permit and check station seal number or check station verification number must be retained when transporting all or a portion of the carcass to a point of permanent storage or processing.
- Hunters must record the seal number on their permit.

TELECHECK

- Telecheck allows hunters to check deer, antelope or elk by phone or online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. See OutdoorNebraska.gov and search "Telecheck" for more information.
- There are several ways to access and complete your harvest report:
 - From your permit profile at goOutdoorsNE.com. Once logged in, select "Game Check Reporting" in the left-hand column and submit the required information.
 - From the login page on goOutdoorsne.com, select "Report Your Harvest – Big Game Check-In" in the list of white boxes below the login options.
 - Call 844-279-4564 to complete over the phone.
- All deer harvested outside the November firearm season and all antelope and elk must be checked via Telecheck.
- When completing Telecheck, the following information will be required from your permit or animal: species, permit code, permit number, date of kill, county of kill, management unit (see maps), weapon used, sex of animal, and age of animal (adult or fawn).
- You may be asked questions about biological information, such as inside spread (between main beams) in inches for deer, horn length (measure from the base around the outside curve to the horn tip) for antelope, and elk main beam length (measure from the base of the antler to the tip of the main beam).
- Write the seal number on the permit after completing Telecheck.

RECOVERING DEER

Tracking dogs may be used to recover deer. Landowner permission is required to track or recover deer on private land.

SHOOTING HOURS

It is legal to hunt big game 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes following sunset.

HUNTER ORANGE

Any people hunting antelope, elk, mountain (bighorn) sheep, or deer under the authority of a firearm permit during an authorized firearm season must display on his or her head, chest and back at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material. Hunter orange requirements also apply while hunting under the authority of a muzzleloader permit during muzzleloader seasons. Archery deer hunters must do the same while archery hunting during the November firearm deer season and during the late antlerless seasons. Firearm hunters during the Special Landowner Deer Season must wear hunter orange; archery hunters are exempt.

HUNTING NEAR DWELLINGS

200-Yard Rule: It is unlawful to hunt any form of wild mammal or wild bird with a rifle within a 200-yard radius of an inhabited dwelling or livestock feedlot, unless permission to do so has been granted by the owner or tenant of that dwelling or feedlot.

100-Yard Rule: It is unlawful to hunt any form of wild mammal or wild bird with archery equipment, handgun or shotgun within a 100-yard radius of an inhabited dwelling or livestock feedlot, unless permission to do so has been granted by the owner or tenant of that dwelling or feedlot.

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

The following are penalties for illegally killing big game in Nebraska.

- Bighorn Sheep — \$25,000
- Elk — Bull, 12 points or more, \$10,000; other elk — \$3,000
- White-tailed Deer — 8 points or more with 16-inch spread — \$10,000; other antlered bucks — \$2,000; antlerless — \$500
- Mule Deer — 8 points or more with 22-inch spread — \$10,000; other mule deer — \$2,000
- Antelope — Buck with 14-inch horn length — \$5,000; other antelope — \$1,500
- Mountain Lion — \$5,000
- Bear or Moose — \$1,500

UNLAWFUL ACTS

- **Shooting from the Road** – It is illegal to shoot from a bridge or public road, including the travelled surface and right of way.
- **Hunting Over Bait** – It is illegal to hunt any big game animals or turkeys within 200 yards of a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all bait. The hunter and the animal must be outside of the baited area during the harvest or attempted harvest. A baited area is any location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals (including salt), or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing food materials, or by-products of such materials that may attract big game or turkey. The use of scents alone, normal environmental conditions, standard farming and ranching practices, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities do not constitute a baited area. It is unlawful to create a baited area on lands owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
- **Carrying Firearms While Archery Hunting** – It is illegal to possess a firearm while hunting under the authority of an archery permit, EXCEPT it is legal to carry a handgun with a barrel no longer than 5 inches while hunting under the authority of an archery or muzzleloader permit. Any take or attempted take of wildlife with the aid of the handgun, other than the immediate protection of human life, is prohibited.
- **Guiding for Fee** – It is illegal to provide guide service for a fee on state wildlife management areas.
- **Weapon Sights** – Red-dot and illuminated reticle sights and laser rangefinder scopes are permitted. It is unlawful to possess night-vision scopes while hunting game animals and game birds.
- **Drones** – It is illegal to use drones to spot or locate game animals or birds during a hunting season.

NEBRASKA DRONE LAW

For all game birds and big game animals: It shall be unlawful for any person one day before or throughout any open season to spot, locate, or place under surveillance any game animal or game bird with the aid of any aircraft (to include drones) and convey information about such animal's or bird's location to any person or group of persons by radio or other electronic device (which includes photography taken from unmanned aircraft). The use of aircraft (which includes drones) any time to hunt, drive, molest, chase, or harass game birds or game animals is illegal.

TURKEY HUNTING

Turkey hunting is legal during the November firearm deer season. People hunting with a fall turkey permit are required to wear hunter orange when hunting during the November firearm deer season. Legal weapons include shotgun and archery only; rifles are not allowed. Electronic calls are illegal.

FIREARM RESTRICTION


During the November firearm deer season, only hunters with a valid unfilled firearm deer permit may hunt wildlife other than deer with centerfire rifles or centerfire handguns, provided they are hunting in the management unit for which their deer permit is valid.

BIG GAME RECORDS

To learn more about Nebraska's Big Game Trophy program, visit: OutdoorNebraska.gov.

CUSTODY TAG

Any person transferring game, fish or parts thereof to another person must provide a custody tag. See example below.

<h1>NEBRASKA</h1> <p>— GAME  PARKS —</p> <h2>BIG GAME</h2> <h3>CUSTODY/TRANSFER TAG</h3> <p>Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Law Enforcement Division</p>
Date: _____
Owner Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Permit # or Seal #: _____ (if big game)
Estimated Pounds: _____
Species Donated: _____
of animals donated: _____
Signature of Donor: _____
Recipient Name: _____
Date of Transfers: _____
This tag must remain with the game or fish being transferred to another person until it is consumed.

NOTICE		
Game or fish taken in Nebraska must not be held in cold storage or home freezer longer than specified in season regulations. All game or fish take within or outside the state and placed in cold storage must be tagged. Game or fish taken in other states and brought into Nebraska may legally be put in cold storage, if properly tagged and identified.		
SPECIES	AMOUNT	DATE TAKEN

For more information, visit OutdoorNebraska.org.

Weapons Legal for Big Game Hunting

Permit Type	Weapon Type
Deer and Antelope Firearm	Rifle - at least 22 caliber delivering at least 900 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards; .357 magnum or .45 Colt
	Handgun - delivering at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
	Shotgun - 20 gauge or larger firing a single slug
	Crossbow - 125-pound minimum draw weight, non-electronic and shoulder-fired
	Spear - must be thrown by hand
	Longbow, recurve bow, compound bow
	Muzzleloading handgun - delivering at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
	Muzzleloading rifle - 44 caliber or larger
	Muzzleloading musket - 62 caliber or larger that fires a single slug
Deer and Antelope Archery	Crossbow - 125-pound minimum draw weight, non-electronic and shoulder-fired
	Spear - must be thrown by hand
	Longbow, recurve bow, compound bow
Deer and Antelope Muzzleloader	Muzzleloading handgun - delivering at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
	Muzzleloading rifle - 44 caliber or larger
	Muzzleloading musket - 62 caliber or larger that fires a single slug
Elk and Bighorn Sheep	Rifle - at least 25 caliber delivering at least 1,700 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
	Crossbow - 125-pound minimum draw weight, non-electronic and shoulder-fired
	Spear - must be thrown by hand
	Longbow, recurve bow, compound bow
	Muzzleloading rifle - 45 caliber or larger
Notes for All Big Game Permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-automatics may hold no more than six cartridges; fully automatic, full-metal jacket and incendiary bullets are prohibited. • Slingbows and airbows are not legal for turkey or big game. • Arrows and spears must have sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius from the center of the arrow shaft. Arrows and spears containing poison or stupefying chemical or having an explosive tip are prohibited. • Magnifying and variable-power scopes are allowed for hunting big game. Scopes capable of using electricity to amplify natural light and those that project a visible light beam to a target are prohibited. • Breech-loading (powder or bullet) muzzleloaders are not legal during the muzzleloader season. • For more information, contact Game and Parks' Law Enforcement or Wildlife divisions at 402-471-0641. 	

**Find Hunter Education Classes Online
at HuntSafeNebraska.org**

Big Game Diseases

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal, transmissible prion disease of deer and elk. It is not known to spread to humans. Species specific prion diseases are present in sheep (Scrapie), cattle (BSE/Mad Cow), mink (TME) and humans (Creutzfeldt-Jakob). CWD has been documented in wild deer populations of 29 states and has been detected in 54 Nebraska counties (See map below). Since 1997, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has tested more than 57,000 deer, with 1,238 positives. Since 2015, Game and Parks primarily has focused sampling on bucks 2 years or older, since they are the population segment most likely to have chronic wasting disease.

The 2022 testing results were:

Unit	Species	Percent Positive
Frenchman	WT	26%
Pine Ridge	WT	27%
Plains	WT	31%
Upper Platte	WT	16%

How does CWD spread? — CWD is believed to be spread in deer herds by direct contact with infected animals or contaminated substances: saliva, urine, feces, blood, brain, spinal cord, or soil. There is no known method to eliminate chronic wasting disease from wild herds.

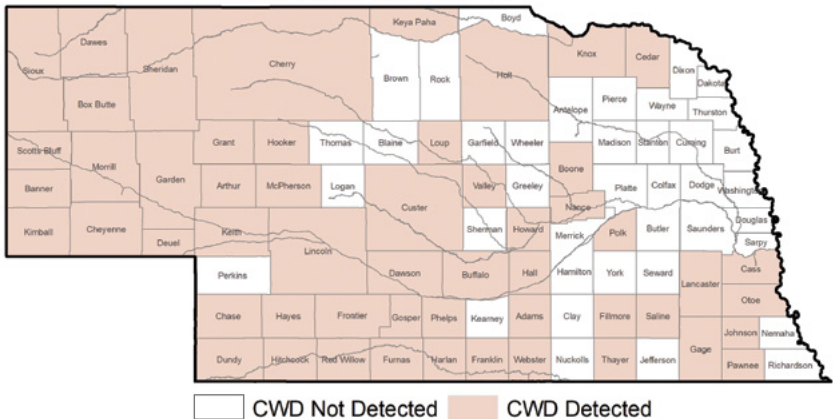
How can we reduce the spread and reduce human contact with chronic wasting disease prions? — Follow these steps:

- Educate yourself and others about it.
- Do not artificially congregate deer by using supplemental feeds or methods that concentrate deer. These sites can become hot spots contaminated with feces, urine and prions from infected deer. Infected sites are impossible to clean up, but fencing or burial can reduce access.
- Dispose of deer remains (bones and tissue) at a landfill. Place remains in a heavy plastic bag before disposal to prevent contamination of soil. DO NOT transport the carcass back to the field.

How can I get my deer tested? — Hunters who wish to have a deer tested can contact an accredited lab in Nebraska or surrounding states for details by visiting aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahln/downloads/cwd_lab_list.pdf.

For more information — Visit OutdoorNebraska.gov or cwd-info.org.

Nebraska Chronic Wasting Disease Positive Counties, 1999-2022



MENINGEAL BRAIN WORM

Meningeal brain worm is a disease that primarily affects mule deer and, to a lesser extent, elk with fatal results. It is a parasitic nematode that uses white-tailed deer as a host, but does not cause death. MBW has been a contributing factor in the decline and westward recession of mule deer in parts of Nebraska. Mule deer with MBW typically are observed standing out in the open and moderately unaware of their surroundings.

EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE SUMMARY

In 2021, EHD was more prevalent than in recent years affecting most of the state. The greatest losses were in the northeastern part of the state. In 2022, the prevalence of EHD had decreased and very few reports were made throughout the state. For more on EHD in Nebraska, visit OutdoorNebraska.gov.

OBSERVATION OF SICK ANIMALS

Please contact the nearest office of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (see page 3) if you discover sick or symptomatic animals.

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Duane Arp	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	
Travis Shepler	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	
Jeff Clauson	402-471-5531
Assistant Administrator	

(Listing includes counties covered)

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Jerod Hahn	308-520-5539
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Brandon Wallace	308-280-4488
Keith	
Jaden Porter	308-289-2274
Keith, Garden	
Tyler Stueck	308-289-6260
Keith	
Travis Schultz	308-279-1292
Morrill, Cheyenne	

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Hunter Pearson	308-360-1817
Sheridan, Dawes, Grant	
Josh Widhelm	308-279-9133
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Box Butte, Sheridan, Grant	
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Tyler Adelman	402-314-4783
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Mitch Johnson	402-613-8612
Knox, Antelope, Pierce	
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Matt Costello	402-317-4014
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Washington, Burt	
Mark McDonald	402-805-2353
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Nicholas Fix	402-508-0261
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Daryl Teter	308-440-1863
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Nance, Wheeler, Boone	
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Eric Javins	402-902-2017
Adams, Clay, Webster	

Pat George	308-920-2762
Harlan, Franklin, Phelps	
Ethan Teter	308-440-3847
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Brandon O'Neal	308-530-3157
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Matt Andrews	308-746-2418
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Taylor Dixon	308-217-2108
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Douglas	
Brian Arp	531-530-9011
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Mike Luben	402-443-6392
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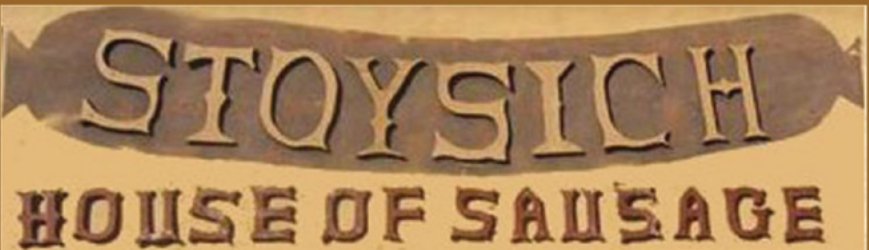
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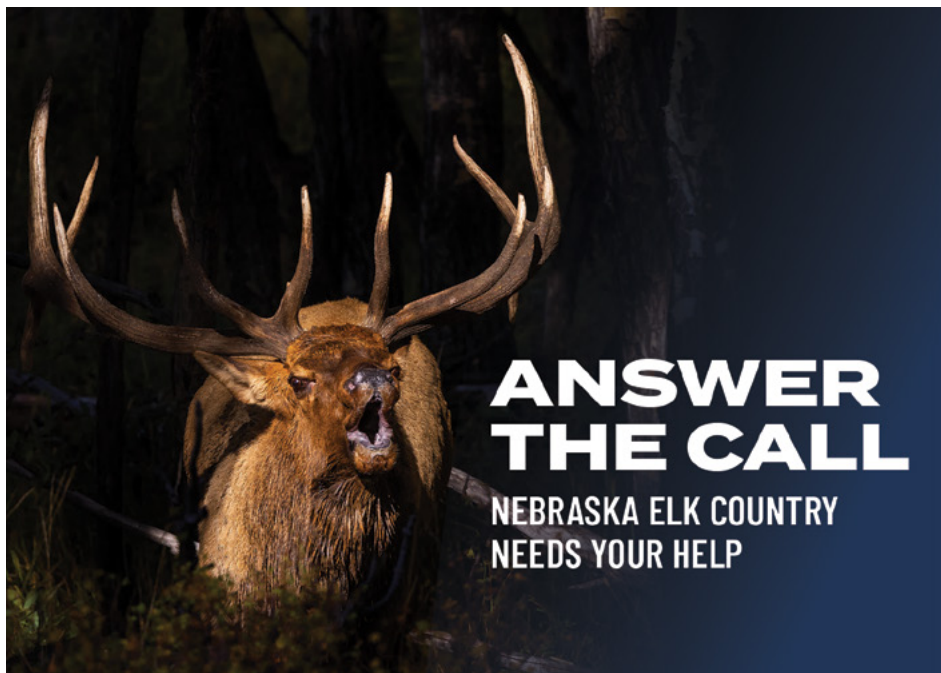
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