GENERAL INFORMATION

Most elk in Kansas are found on the 100,000-acre Fort Riley Military Reservation where a free-ranging herd of wild elk provides limited hunting opportunities, allocated by a lottery drawing. Permits issued through the drawing are divided between military personnel stationed on the fort and Kansas general residents, and those permits are valid in elk management units 2, 2A and 3. Both Either-sex Elk and Antlerless-only Elk permits are allocated. The state is divided into three elk hunting units. Unit 1 is an area of Morton County where no elk hunting is currently allowed. Unit 2 is an area around Fort Riley, including parts of Clay, Dickinson, Riley and Geary counties. Unit 2A is the Fort Riley reservation. Unit 3 is the remaining part of the state. Wild elk exist in Unit 3, but it is advisable to locate and obtain access to elk prior to applying for or purchasing a permit.

Once an applicant receives an Either-sex Elk permit in the drawing, they are not eligible to apply for an Either-sex Elk permit again. An applicant who receives an Antlerless-only Elk permit in the drawing is not eligible to apply for another Antlerless-only permit for a five-year period. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a bonus point to increase their odds of being selected in future lottery drawings.

APPLICATION PROCESS (RESIDENTS ONLY)

Applications must be made on GoOutdoorsKansas.com. Elk permits are available through online lottery draw only. Applicants who do not have internet access can apply by calling 1-877-426-3843. Each application includes a $12.50 nonrefundable application fee charged at the time of application. Following the draw, successful applicants will be charged the remaining permit fees due. Unsuccessful applicants will be issued a bonus point for the next year’s draw using the nonrefundable application fee and will not be charged the remaining permit fee. Applicants can view draw results online two to four weeks after the close of the application period at ksdpskusoutdoors.com at the same location application was made. Successful applicants should receive permits four to six weeks after application deadline.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Elk permits are available to Kansas residents, landowners, and tenants only. All individuals, regardless of land ownership or age, must have in possession a valid Kansas permit and carcass tag to hunt elk. In addition to the permit, a valid Kansas hunting license is required, unless exempt by Kansas law; a hunting license is not required while hunting one’s own land.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must have hunter education. Anyone under 27 years of age must have a valid Kansas or another state-approved hunter education certificate to qualify to be certified and may not hunt without adult supervision until age 12. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) requires that all 11-17 year old hunters attend hunter education classes and pass the hearing examination to obtain a hunter education certificate. Hunters under 11 years of age who wish to hunt must apply for and be approved to participate in a youth supervised hunt. This youth supervised hunt is a supervised hunt that adults can attend and be paired with a youth hunter for the purpose of helping to ensure that the youth hunter participates in a safe hunt. All individuals, regardless of land ownership or age, must have a Kansas or another state-approved Hunter Education certificate before applying for a permit to hunt.

POST-HARVEST INSTRUCTIONS

At the time of purchase, hunters will have the option of paper carcass tags or mobile E-tag.

PAPER TAGS: Sign PERMIT prior to hunting to validate it. After an animal is harvested, the CARCASS TAG must be signed, dated and attached to the animal in a visible manner before the carcass is moved from the harvest site.

Paper permits and tags purchased through the internet must be printed on a desktop printer at the time of purchase. To protect non-waterproof paper tag, cut it from the permit, place in a clear plastic bag and attach it to the animal with a zip tie or other secure manner.

The carcass tag must remain attached to the animal in a visible manner until it is consumed, given to another or otherwise disposed of.

Hunters using paper tags can complete a voluntary harvest report of big game animals if they wish to “bone-out” in the field. Go to: ksdpskusoutdoors.com/harvest-reporting and follow the online instructions on how to complete the harvest report for your animal.

MOBILE/E-TAGS: Hunters who choose E-Tags at time of purchase will keep permit and tags on their mobile device through the GoOutdoorsKS mobile app. App harvest, open the “GoOutdoorsKS” mobile app and follow the instructions on the app for the tag specific for the species/sex of harvest. An e-tag confirmation number will work the same as harvest reporting for a hunter wanting to bone out an animal and transport only meat from harvest site.

SURVEYS: Hunters may be asked to complete online HARVEST SURVEYS at the end of the season. Information received helps biologists make decisions to manage a healthy game populations. A random sample of hunters will be contacted, making it important to update your address information each year when purchasing your permit/tags.

Hunters surveyed will receive an email or a postcard with a link to direct them to an online survey. Questions about this survey or assistance in completing surveys may be obtained through the KDWFP Research and Survey Office, (620) 342-0608. State law (K.S.A. 32-937) requires hunters receiving a harvest report card to complete the survey.

SEASONS

UNITS 2 AND 3

Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2024
Archery: Sept. 16 - Dec. 31, 2024
Firearm: Aug. 1-31, 2024
Dec. 1-15, 2024

FIREARM AN-ELK: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024

UNIT 2A (Fort Riley)

Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2024
Archery: Sept. 1-30, 2024

FIREARM AN-ELK: Oct. 1- Dec. 31, 2024

APPLICATION PERIOD (GoOutdoorsKansas.com)

ONLINE-ONLY APPLICATION PERIOD UNIT 2A PERMITS: May 14 - June 14, 2024

ONLINE and OVER THE COUNTER UNIT 2 & 3 ONLY PERMITS ON SALE: July 22, 2024

SHOOTING HOURS

1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

Note: Sherman, Wallace, Greeley, and Hamilton counties are on Mountain Daylight Time.

Legal shooting hours will vary accordingly.

BAG LIMIT

One elk as permitted.

FEES

ELK EITHER SEX (Any Elk) PERMIT

General Resident ................................................................. $302.50
Resident Landowner/Tenant .......................................... $152.50
Nonresident Youth (15 and younger) ............................... $127.50
Nonresident ................................................................. $302.50

ELK ANTERLESS-ONLY

General Resident ................................................................. $152.50
Resident Landowner/Tenant .......................................... $77.50
Nonresident Youth (15 and younger) ............................... $52.50
Nonresident Tenant ................................................................. $152.50

REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY TO OPERATION GAME THIEF

1-877-426-3843

This publication is a summary of elk hunting regulations. The complete laws and regulations on which this summary is based are available online at: ksoutdoors.com/regulations.
YOUTH

Nonresident Landowner or operated by such tenant for each individual applying as a tenant.

Landowner or operated by such tenant for each individual applying as a tenant for agricultural contract or lease documentation. Land must be in the unit applying.

Nonresident Landowner

Permit Descriptions

ELK EITHER SEX (Any Elk)

Unlimited resident and landlord/tenant Either-sex Elk permits authorized for Unit 2 are available online and over-the-counter. Unlimited Hunt-own-land Either-sex Elk permits authorized for Units 2 and 3 are available online and over-the-counter. A limited number of Either-sex Elk permits authorized for Units 2A (Př. Riley), 2 and 3 are available through lottery draw by online application. Either-sex Elk permits are valid during any elk season with equipment legal for that season.

ELK ANTLERLESS ONLY

Bag limit: One (1) Elk without a visible antler protruding from skull

Unlimited resident and landlord/tenant Antlerless-only Elk permits authorized for Unit 3 are available online and over-the-counter. An unlimited number of Hunt-own-land Antlerless-only Elk permits authorized for Units 2 and 3 are available online and over-the-counter. They are valid during any season with equipment authorized for that season. A limited number of Antlerless-only Elk permits, valid in Units 2A (Př. Riley), 2 and 3, are available through lottery draw by online application. Unit 2A Antlerless-only Elk permits are valid for the season segment printed on the permit; one-third of the permits are valid in the first segment, one-third are valid in the second segment, and one-third are valid in the third segment. All limited-quota Antlerless-only Elk permits authorized for Unit 2A are valid during the archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Other Permits

Fort Riley Access Permit

All hunters, regardless of age, must be NRAcertified or have verification of completing an approved hunter education course prior to purchasing a Fort Riley Access permit for the purpose of hunting on Fort Riley. Fort Riley Access permits may be purchased online at www.fortriley workplacesportsman.net for $27.50. For more information about access permits, contact Fort Riley by phone at (785) 238-6211. Fort Riley military reservation or portions of it may be closed at any time, with prior notice, due to military activities. The military mission has precedence over any announced hunting seasons.

Disability Assistance Permit

A Kansas hunting license is required (unless exempt by Kansas law) to herd or drive big game for a permit holder. Any person with a permanent physical or visual disability that prevents the person's ability to herd or drive big game for a permit holder. Any person with a permanent physical or visual disability that prevents the person’s ability to hunt safely, as certified by a physician, may be eligible to obtain a permit to designate someone else to take a legal limit of game for the permit holder. For more information or application, call (620) 672-0911.

Duplicate Permits

In the event of loss or theft, a duplicate big game permit may be obtained from any department office or license agent, for the fee of $2.50. If you harvest any big game that is not cullable, a duplicate permit will not be issued.

Elk Management Units

No permits valid in Unit 1.