

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

K.A.R. 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit and permits.

DESCRIPTION: This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2015-2016 muzzleloader, archery, and firearm seasons for elk. The units allow for statewide use for limited-quota permits, except in a portion of Morton County. Limited-quota elk and unlimited hunt-on-your-own-land (HOYOL) hunters would be allowed to hunt during any open season with the equipment that was allowed during that season. Unlimited general either-sex and antlerless-only permits would allow the use of the permits in all units but would exclude two units. Unlimited HOYOL either-sex and antlerless-only permits would be allowed statewide, except a portion of Morton County, Unit 1. The proposed regulation would allow elk hunting from September 1, 2015 through March 15, 2016 statewide (outside Fort Riley, except Unit 1). Fifteen limited-quota antlerless permits would also be valid during a September muzzleloader and archery equipment season on Fort Riley, Subunit 2a. However, only five limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits at a time would be made available for use during each of three seasons on subunit 2a (Fort Riley) (October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015; November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015; and December 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015). Ten limited-quota either-sex elk permits would be valid from September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 on subunit 2a and from September 1, 2015 through March 15, 2016 in the remainder of the state, except Unit 1. Fort Riley military personnel would continue to control access to the military grounds for the purpose of elk hunting, and are expected to provide hunting access only during a portion of the available days during the open seasons. The seasons are intended to provide increased opportunity for those hunters drawing elk permits, and increased flexibility to address elk that may disperse off the Fort as well as those animals beginning to appear within other locations in the State. This represents no change from the total limited-quota permits for 2014.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that 25 limited-quota elk permits will be issued. Based on 2014 numbers, it is estimated that at least another 35 HOYOL permits will be issued and as well as 10 unlimited general permits. In addition, it is estimated that 1000 of people will apply for the drawing permits or bonus points and those individuals pay a \$5 nonrefundable application fee. The application fee generates \$5000. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$10,875. Administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department. Approximately 350 days of hunting activity may occur, thus providing \$77,000 economic benefit to businesses providing goods and services. To the extent the expanded unit, seasons, and permit numbers help prevent dispersal of elk onto private land, and therefore help prevent occurrence of damage from dispersed elk, there may be some positive economic impact to the general public. No other economic impact on the general public, small businesses, or on other state agencies is anticipated.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: None