

Antlerless Elk Landowner Tag Program

Timeline/Process and Regulatory Establishment

- NDOW identifies private lands where unwanted elk use has or may occur in relation to standing crops or meadows; where private land may restrict access for standard “draw tag” elk tagholders to hunt; and where a limited tag quota has a high likelihood of solving private land elk issues that NDOW and private landowners mutually acknowledge.
 - For those landowners that have a past history of reoccurring unwanted elk use, a NDOW biologist will identify specific conditions, timing, location, elk numbers, potential hunt boundaries, and tag numbers through direct coordination with the landowner. An Investigation Report will be filed and the landowner will be considered “qualified” for antlerless elk landowner tags.
 - If NDOW estimates a strong potential for future unwanted elk use on a particular private land parcel, the local biologist with direct input from the landowner will fill out an Investigation Report and the landowner will be considered “qualified” for antlerless elk landowner tags.
 - There may be situations where unwanted elk use may not be foreseen but occurs unexpectedly. As quickly as possible, the local biologist, with direct input from the landowner, will fill out an Investigation Report that initiates an antlerless elk landowner tag hunt.
- All investigation reports for unwanted elk use situations will be reviewed and signed off by the Game Division’s regional supervisor.
- Investigation reports will then be forwarded to the License Office so they may draft the antlerless elk landowner tag application The Investigation Report is essentially a checklist of items that License Office will ultimately need to initiate/generate the hunt and tags including:
 - Geographic Location - includes unit or units where private and public land is located and physical boundaries of the hunt area including a map.
 - Season Dates –
 - General Season Dates – January 1 – December 31 for the purposes of identifying the big game hunt questionnaire deadline. If a season ends prior to December 31, the deadline will be January 31. If the season ends after December 31, the big game hunt questionnaire deadline will be the following year’s January 31.
 - Specific Season Dates will be set by the local biologist and landowner and if necessary, multiple back to back seasons may be set. Each separate season for a given geographic area will have a unique hunter choice number for issuing tags and tracking hunt questionnaires valid for each specific season.
 - Quota specific to each season and geographic area. A limit of 25 tags exists per landowner per year.
 - 1 tag per applicant per year (includes the landowner)
 - Landowner contact information in case clarification or other questions are needed before tags are issued.
 - Landowner signature on the investigation report or email from landowner acknowledging the report and hunt details
- In the case of potential, future unwanted elk situations:
 - Once elk are actually present, most likely observed by the landowner, NDOW biologist and landowner will finalize specifics for the antlerless elk landowner tag hunt.
 - The NDOW biologist will forward a revised investigation report to the License Office.

- License office builds the specific antlerless elk landowner hunt and hunter choice numbers into the Hunt Application System
- Landowner will send to NDOW a list of hunters and pertinent information to confirm their eligibility (i.e., no past revocations, or other limitation) and from which office(s) hunters may obtain a tag. Not every known hunter's name is required initially, but by doing so, it will expedite the purchase of the tags at a regional office.
- License Office will contact administrative staff at regional office(s) alerting them the specific antlerless elk landowner hunt and applications are in the "system", ready to be processed.
- Antlerless elk landowner tag applicants, as identified by the landowner, may travel directly to the previously identified regional office(s), walk in, fill out the hunt application, and once funds are collected, the tag will be issued.
- Regional administrative staff must deposit the funds according to the Fiscal revenue General Ledger (i.e., predator, elk damage, application and tag fee must go into separate GL accounts).

Eligibility Issues in Relation to Other Elk Tags

On page 21 of the 2013 Big Game Application brochure is the annual big game application Commission Regulation that sets the big game application eligibility requirements including how many tags a person may obtain during a single hunting season. The following sentence is the suggested new language to accommodate the antlerless elk landowner hunt and emergency depredation hunts that may occur during the late winter months to allow a person to obtain these tags and also to apply for draw elk tags.

A person may not obtain more than one elk tag during a hunting season except for Heritage tags, elk incentive hunt tags, emergency depredation hunt tags, and antlerless elk landowner hunt tags.

Waiting Period for Obtaining Certain Elk Tags

NAC 502.361 established the waiting periods for "bull", "spike" and antlerless tags. It states that a person is eligible in any year for an antlerless elk tag – no waiting period. So no additional language needed.

Establishment of the Antlerless Elk Landowner Hunt will initially be through Commission Regulation

We will identify and define the antlerless elk landowner hunt and tags initially in Commission Regulation as we do Emergency Depredation Hunts each and every year. It is recommended that the regulation and revised application eligibility be drafted for adoption at the December 2013 Wildlife Commission meeting.