

KANSAS ELK MANAGEMENT

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. Permits issued through a lottery drawing are divided between military personnel stationed on the fort and Kansas general residents, and are valid in elk management units 2, 2A and 3. Any-Elk and Antlerless-only Elk permits are allocated. The state is divided into three elk management units. No elk hunting is currently allowed in Unit 1. Unit 2 includes parts of Clay, Dickinson, Riley and Geary counties. Unit 2A is the Fort Riley Reservation. Unit 3 is the remaining part of the state.

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

Wild elk exist in Unit 3, but it is advisable to locate and obtain access to elk prior to applying for a permit.

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 (620) 672-5911. 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 years’ 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 ksoutdoors.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 on Kansas land you own or operate for agricultural purposes.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must have hunter education. Anyone under 27 years old must carry a Kansas or other state approved hunter education card while hunting. In Kansas, you must be 11 years old to be certified and may not hunt without adult supervision until age 12.

Exemptions include youth 15 and younger who may hunt without hunter education if directly supervised by an adult 18 or older. Anyone 16 or older may purchase two deferrals of hunter education, called apprentice hunting licenses, for the same price as a regular hunting license. This license is valid one year from the date of purchase, and the holder must be under the direct supervision of a licensed adult 18 or older. Hunter education is not required while hunting one’s own land.

Duplicate certificates are provided at no cost at KDWP regional, district and state park offices or by calling (620) 672-0773.

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 during transport and kept with the meat until it is consumed, given to another or otherwise disposed of.

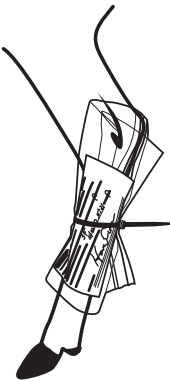
Hunters using paper tags can complete a voluntary harvest report of big game animals if they wish to “bone-out” in the field.

Go to: ksoutdoors.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. After harvest, open the “GoOutdoorsKS” mobile app and follow the instructions on the app for the e-tag appropriate 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 KDWP Research and Survey Office, (620) 342-0658. State law (K.S.A. 32-937) requires hunters receiving a harvest report card to complete the survey.

Equal opportunity to benefit from programs described herein is available to all persons without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, military or veteran status, disability status, marital or family status, genetic information or political affiliation. Concerns of discrimination should be sent to KDWP, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612. 06/25



SEASONS

UNITS 2 AND 3

Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2025
Archery: Sept. 15 - Dec. 31, 2025
Firearm: Aug. 1-31, 2025
Dec. 3-14, 2025
Jan. 1 - March 15, 2026

UNIT 2A (Fort Riley)

Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2025
Archery: Sept. 1-30, 2025
Firearm Any-Elk: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025
Antlerless-only First Segment: Oct. 1-31, 2025
Antlerless-only Second Segment: Nov. 1-30, 2025
Antlerless-only Third Segment: Dec. 1-31, 2025
Extended Firearm: Jan. 1-31, 2026

APPLICATION PERIOD (GoOutdoorsKansas.com)

ONLINE-ONLY APPLICATION PERIOD
UNIT 2A PERMITS:
May 13 - June 13, 2025

ONLINE and OVER THE COUNTER
UNIT 2 & 3 ONLY PERMITS ON SALE:
July 22, 2025

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 ANY-ELK PERMIT

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

ANTLERLESS-ONLY ELK PERMIT

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

REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY TO
OPERATION GAME THIEF
1-877-426-3843

2025 Kansas Elk Regulations Summary



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Pratt, KS 67124
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Fax: (620) 672-3013
www.ksoutdoors.com

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.

PERMIT CLASSES

RESIDENT

A resident is defined as a person who has maintained permanent abode in the state for 60 days prior to purchase. Domiciliary intent is required, evidence of which may include where a person votes, pays personal income taxes, or obtains a driver's license. Members of the armed services on active duty who were Kansas residents at the time of entering the service, and immediate family members living with them, are considered residents regardless of duty station. Members of the armed services on active duty and officially stationed in Kansas may purchase resident licenses and permits, except for lifetime licenses. Any holder of a Kansas lifetime hunting license who has moved from the state may apply for permits as a resident. Any person who is a registered full-time student in residence at a public or private secondary, post secondary, or vocational school located in Kansas may purchase resident licenses and permits, except lifetime licenses. While hunting, the student must carry evidence of being a full-time student residing in Kansas.

LANDOWNER/TENANT

A landowner is any resident who owns 80 acres or more of Kansas farm or ranch land. When applying for a landowner/tenant permit, land owned must be in the unit applying for.

A tenant is any resident or nonresident who is actively engaged in the agricultural operation of 80 acres or more of Kansas farm or ranch land for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or livestock and (A) has a substantial financial investment in the production of agricultural commodities or livestock on such farm or ranch land and the potential to realize substantial financial benefit from such production or, (B) is a bona fide manager having an overall responsibility to direct, supervise and conduct such agricultural operation and have the potential to realize substantial benefit from such production in the form of salary, shares of such production or some other economic incentive based upon such production. Evidence of tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the department and may include, but is not limited to, Natural Resource Conservation Service records, Farm Service Agency records, or written agricultural contract or lease documentation. Land must be in the unit applying.

Members of the immediate family who are domiciled with a resident landowner or tenant may apply for a resident big game permit as a landowner or as a tenant, but at least 80 acres must be owned by such landowner or operated by such tenant for each individual applying as a landowner or as a tenant.

NONRESIDENT

Anyone who doesn't qualify in the definitions above. Nonresidents are not eligible for Kansas elk permits.

YOUTH

All resident youth 15 and younger qualify for elk permits at a reduced price. Resident youth 15 and younger do not need a hunting license.

PERMIT DESCRIPTIONS

ANY-ELK

Bag limit: One (1) bull, spike, cow, or calf elk

Unlimited resident and landowner/tenant Any-Elk permits for Unit 3 are available online or over-the-counter. Unlimited Hunt-own-land Any-Elk permits for Units 2 and 3 are available online or over-the-counter.

A limited number of Any-Elk permits for Units 2 and 2A (Ft. Riley) are available through lottery draw by online application (includes Unit 3.) Unit 2A permits are valid during any elk season with equipment legal for that season including the Extended Firearm season.

ANTLERLESS-ONLY ELK

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

Unlimited resident and landowner/tenant Antlerless-only Elk permits for Unit 3 are available online or over the counter. An unlimited number of Hunt-own-land Antlerless-only Elk permits for Units 2 and 3 are available online or over-the-counter. These permits are valid during any elk season with equipment legal for that season.

A limited number of Antlerless-only Elk permits, valid in Units 2 and 2A (Ft. Riley), are available through lottery draw by online application (includes Unit 3.) Unit 2A Antlerless-only Elk permits are valid for the season segment printed on the permit including the Extended Firearm season.

OTHER PERMITS

FORT RILEY ACCESS PERMIT

All hunters, regardless of age, must be NRA-certified 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.isportsman.net for \$27.50. For more information about access permits, contact Fort Riley by phone at (785) 239-6211. Fort Riley military reservation or portions of it may be closed at any time, without 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 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) 672-5911.

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 edible, a duplicate permit will not be issued.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

ARCHERY

Longbows, recurve bows, compound bows, and crossbows. No bow, crossbow or arrow may have any electronic device attached that controls the flight of the arrow. Devices that may be attached to a bow or arrow shall include lighted pin, dot or holographic sights; illuminated nocks; rangefinders; film or video cameras; and radio-frequency location devices. Arrows used for hunting big game and turkeys must be equipped with broadhead points that cannot pass through a ring 3/4-inch in diameter when fully expanded. Non-broadhead arrows may be in possession while hunting but may not be used to take or attempt to take big game animals. Devices capable of dispensing lethal, debilitating or immobilizing chemicals may not be used to take big game animals. Handguns may be possessed during big game archery seasons but may not be used to take big game.

FIREARMS

Centerfire rifles and handguns that are not fully automatic, while using only tumble-upon-impact, hard-cast solid lead, soft point, hollow point, or other expanding bullets; shotguns using only slugs.

MUZZLELOADERS

Muzzleloading rifles or muskets that can be loaded only through the front of the firing chamber with separate components and that fire a bullet of .40 inches diameter or larger. Only tumble-upon-impact, hard-cast solid lead, conical lead, or sabot bullets may be used with muzzle-loading rifles, pistols and muskets. Handguns may be possessed during big game muzzleloader only seasons but may not be used to take big game unless they are muzzleloading handguns.

Range-finding devices and optical scopes or sights that project no visible light toward the target and do not electronically amplify visible or infrared light may be used with any equipment.

