

Elk/agriculture conflict hunt 2020-21

This year elk/agriculture conflict hunt has been modified:

- more hunters will be permitted to participate in this opportunity;
- harvest criteria; and
- hunting area have been liberalized.

When and where

- In 2020–21, the elk/agriculture conflict hunt will occur in the entire buffer zone east of the core range, primarily in the Takhini Valley agricultural area.
- Early season permits issued August 14 to August 28, 2020.
- Late season permits will be issued October 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021.
- Four Permit Hunt Authorizations (PHA) for regular season harvest of bulls in the Takhini herd buffer area will also be issued and are effective between September 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.
- 17 permits will be issued to First Nation's whose traditional territories overlap the eastern buffer zone. These permits will be effective between October 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.

Permit conditions

Consistent with past years, there will be conditions attached to each permit. This includes the time period area eligible type of elk and hunting and reporting requirements.

Ongoing evaluation of harvest success numbers and sex of the elk harvested throughout the season will inform the permit allocations and the subsequent approach in the next harvest year.



About

The Government of Yukon has used the elk/agriculture conflict hunt as a management tool to address conflict in the Takhini Valley since 2014–15, when the management plan for elk was finalized.

Over the years, as we gain more experience and learn from its implementation, we have continued to adapt the conflict hunt.

During the next two years the new liberalized hunt aims to reduce elk numbers, in an effort to reduce conflicts with agricultural lands.

Additionally, by increasing the intensity of the hunt, the hoped is the aversive technique will condition elk to avoid properties and crops within the Takhini Valley agricultural zone.

Early season permit (August)

- Permitted hunters may harvest a juvenile male elk from groups that are located in and around agricultural properties within the designated zone.
- This opportunity will take place in the buffer zone east of the core range, between Whitehorse and the Takhini River, where agriculture/elk conflicts are known to occur.

Late season permit (October through March)

- Permits will be managed, by varying the permit condition and type of elk available, to meet a management objective of a post-hunt sex-ratio in the elk population (30 bulls per 100 cows).

Eligibility

Yukon residents who applied to hunt in the 2020–21 Elk Permit Hunt Authorization (PHA) lottery and have not harvested an elk through either a PHA or elk/agriculture conflict hunt, were eligible for this year's hunting opportunity. An eligibility list has been created from PHA applicants who did not receive a PHA in 2020–21 and had not harvested an elk in past lotteries or conflict hunts since 2015. The list of eligible hunters was randomized and ranked in a new draw order unrelated to the PHA.

Throughout the hunting periods permits will be issued to 5 people, every two weeks.

Hunters on your farm

Farmers should contact a conservation officer at 1-800-661-0525 to learn about how to provide permissions for hunters if elk are on their fields. Landholders granting permissions can assist hunters by providing information about elk locations, potential safety hazards, and other useful information.

Problem Elk

To address specific concerns in dealing with problem elk the Department of Environment has contracted a problem wildlife technician who will be available to farmers. This person will make visits to farms to assess the conflict, offer strategies for mitigation and, when necessary, the dispatching of nuisance elk.

Permits of Last Resort

In addition to the permit hunt, the Department of Environment is developing criteria for a "permit-of-last resort," for issuance to farmers when all other options have been exhausted. Criteria will be finalized in September.

For more information, contact:

Robert Perry – Department of Environment | 867-393-7147