



Elk Hunting Digest — 2026

AARON HILDRETH



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Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
Columbia, MO 65201
573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield, MO 65803
417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-4554



To report poaching or game-law violations, call

Operation Game Thief

800-392-1111

Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest of game-law violators. You can remain anonymous.

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Note: According to Rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkV.

Season at a Glance

SEASON AT A GLANCE

Dates

- Archery Portion: Oct. 17–25, 2026
- Firearms Portion: Dec. 12–20, 2026

Location

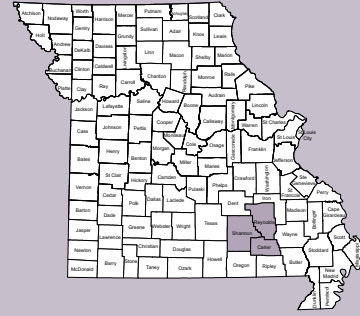
Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties excluding the refuge portion of Peck Ranch Conservation Area

Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Limits

One elk with at least one antler no less than 6 inches in length



Attention

Elk hunting permits are allocated through a random drawing. See Page 6.

Allowed

Archery Portion

- Longbows, compound bows, or recurve bows of any draw weight
- Crossbows
- Atlatls
- Hand-held string releasing devices, illuminated sights, scopes, and quickpoint sights

Firearms Portion

- Centerfire rifles or handguns using expanding-type bullets such as lead or copper
- Shotguns (including .410) with slugs only
- Air-powered guns, .40 caliber or larger, charged only from an external high-compression power source (external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor)
- Muzzleloading or cap-and-ball firearms, .40 caliber or larger and capable of firing only a single projectile at one discharge. In-lines and scopes are allowed.
- Multiple-barreled muzzleloading or cap-and-ball firearms and/or muzzleloading or cap-and-ball handguns, including revolvers, .40 caliber or larger, are allowed and may be carried in addition to a muzzleloading or cap-and-ball rifle.
- Air bows
- Longbows, compound bows, and recurve bows of any draw weight. Hand-held string-releasing devices, illuminated sights, scopes, and quickpoint sights are allowed.
- Crossbows
- Atlatls

Required Permit

Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit

For one elk with at least one antler no less than 6 inches in length. This permit can be used during the archery and firearms portions of elk season. Elk permits are available to Missouri residents only and are distributed by random drawing. For additional details, see Page 6.

Age 11 and older\$50

Prohibited

Archery Portion

- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Electronic calls and electronically activated calls
- Bait (see Page 8)
- Dogs (see Page 8)
- Artificial lights, night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Hunting from a boat with a motor attached
- Hunting elk while they are in a stream or other body of water
- Hunting within any area enclosed by a fence greater than 7 feet in height
- Hunting with the aid of a motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft (see Page 8)
- Archers hunting elk during the archery portion may not be in possession of a firearm. Some exceptions apply. See 3 CSR 10-7.705 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Firearms Portion

- Self-loading firearms with capacity of more than 11 cartridges in magazine and chamber combined
- Ammunition propelling more than one projectile at a single discharge (such as buckshot)
- Full hard metal case projectiles
- Fully automatic firearms
- Any sighting device that casts a beam of light on the game
- Electronic calls and electronically activated calls
- Artificial lights, night vision, infrared, and thermal imagery equipment
- Bait (see Page 8)
- Dogs (see Page 8)
- Hunting from a boat with a motor attached
- Hunting elk while they are in a stream or other body of water
- Hunting within any area enclosed by a fence greater than 7 feet in height
- Hunting with the aid of a motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft (see Page 8)
- Additional methods may be prohibited by local ordinances.



Permits

Anyone who hunts, takes, or attempts to take an elk must have an elk hunting permit. You must sign, carry, and show, upon request, your permit to any officer who enforces the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit

To pursue, take, possess, and transport one antlered elk during the elk hunting season.

Age 11 and older \$50

Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit

To pursue, take, possess, and transport one antlerless elk during the elk hunting season. **Note:** Missouri's elk population has not yet reached the benchmarks necessary to permit antlerless elk hunting. As such, this permit will not be available for the 2026 elk hunting season.

Age 11 and older \$50

Permit Requirements

To purchase an elk hunting permit you must:

- Be a resident of Missouri.
- Be at least 11 years old.
- Have an approved hunter-education card or qualify for an exemption (see below).
- Be selected through the random drawing to participate in the elk hunting season (see box, to the right).

Hunter-Education Requirement

You must complete an approved hunter-education course before you can purchase an elk hunting permit unless:

- You were born before Jan. 1, 1967.
- You have a developmental disability. See Rule 3 CSR 10-5.205 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

If you can prove you completed a hunter-education course in another state, you are not required to take Missouri's course. You must be 11 years or older to enroll in Missouri's hunter-education course. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation.

Purchasing Permits

If you have been selected through the random drawing to participate in the elk hunting season, you may purchase your permit beginning July 1 using any of the methods below.

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Print your permit and have it in hand immediately or use the free MO Hunting app (see Page 7). Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Random Drawing for Elk Hunting Permits

Elk hunting permits are allocated through a random drawing. You must be a Missouri resident to apply. In 2026, five Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permits will be awarded, at least one of which will be allocated to an approved Missouri resident landowner who has qualifying property in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties (see Page 7). No Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permits will be awarded in 2026.

- The application period is May 1–31. Results are available by July 1.
- It costs \$10 to apply. This fee is nonrefundable.
- You may submit only one application per year. Only one hunter is allowed per application.
- You cannot transfer (give) your permit to another hunter. Please do not apply if you won't be able to hunt.
- If you are selected for a Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit, you will not be eligible to apply again for that permit type for 10 years.
- To apply, visit mdc.mo.gov/buypermits.

Replacing a Lost Permit

If you lose your permit, simply download the MO Hunting app to your Android or Apple mobile device, log in with your date of birth and Conservation Number, and a valid, electronic version of your permit will appear on the app. Any active, valid permit can be reprinted from home at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Replacement permits can also be purchased from any vendor for \$3.



MO Hunting App

The Conservation Department's free MO Hunting app offers a quick, easy, and convenient option for carrying your permits afield. The app, which is available for Android and Apple mobile devices, allows you to:

- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield.
- Electronically “notch” (void) your elk, deer, bear, and turkey permits directly from the app.
- Telecheck your elk, deer, bear, or turkey using an easy-to-fill form. Telecheck will upload a confirmation number to the app. **Note:** Wildlife labeling requirements still apply. See Page 13.

To log in to MO Hunting, you'll need your date of birth and Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on your Heritage Card, Conservation Permit Card, or on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-522-0107 during regular business hours or go to short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkH.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and Apple App stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at short.mdc.mo.gov/Zi2.

Important: Make sure you update MO Hunting before each hunting season. This will ensure you are using the most recent version of the app and that all of your permits are visible while hunting.

Social Security Number Requirement

Federal Statute 42 U.S.C. § 666 and Missouri Revised Statute 454.403 require buyers of Missouri hunting, fishing, and trapping permits to provide their Social Security number. This requirement also applies to landowner permits. Individuals who do not have a Social Security number will be required to affirm that information. Falsifying a Social Security number may result in revocation of privileges or criminal charges. Social Security numbers are securely stored and used in support of the Missouri Department of Social Service's child support enforcement.

Permits for Resident Landowners

At least one of the available elk hunting permits will be awarded to an approved Missouri resident landowner who has qualifying property in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties. Landowners will follow the same procedure to enter the random drawing as general applicants (see Page 6). If awarded an elk hunting permit, landowners are not restricted to hunting on their qualifying property and may hunt in Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties excluding the refuge portion of Peck Ranch Conservation Area.

Qualifying for Resident Landowner Status for the Elk Permit Drawing

A Missouri resident is a person who does not claim any resident privileges (for example, hunting, fishing, driver's license, or registered voter) in another state or country and whose legal residence or domicile has been in the state of Missouri for at least 30 days prior to obtaining a landowner permit.

In addition to being a Missouri resident, you also must meet one of the following criteria:

- You must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be a member of the landowner's immediate household and have the same legal residence as the landowner for at least the last 30 days.
- You must be a general partner of a resident or foreign limited liability partnership, limited partnership, or limited liability limited partnership, or a general partner of a general partnership formed by written agreement and the partnership must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be an officer of a resident or foreign corporation and the corporation must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be a managing member of a resident or foreign limited liability company and the company must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be an officer of a benevolent association organized pursuant to Chapter 352 of the *Revised Statutes of Missouri* and the association must own at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be a settlor of a revocable trust that holds at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.
- You must be a permissible distributee of an irrevocable trust that holds at least 20 acres in one contiguous tract in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties.

Submit Your Property Information

To qualify for the landowner allocation of elk hunting permits during the random drawing, you must submit information about your property by filling out a Landowner Permit Application at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Your Landowner Permit Application must be approved before you apply to the drawing for elk hunting permits.

General Information



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Hunter-Orange Requirement

During the firearms portion of elk season, hunters and their companions must wear a cap or hat and a shirt, vest, or coat of the color commonly known as hunter orange, which must be plainly visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments do not meet this requirement. Hunter orange is not required during the archery portion of elk season, except during Oct. 24–25, which overlaps with the youth portion of firearms deer season.

Assisting Other Hunters

- A permit is not required to accompany a hunter as long as the accompanying individual does not assist in any manner in the taking of elk.
- Adults who accompany youth hunters ages 11–15 do not need a permit. The adult must be 18 or older and be hunter-education certified or born before January 1, 1967.
- Adults who accompany hunters with disabilities do not need a permit. The adult must be 18 or older and be hunter-education certified or born before January 1, 1967. The hunter with disabilities must be hunter-education certified and carry a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician, ophthalmologist, or optometrist.
- At all other times, a filled or unfilled elk hunting permit is required to assist others in taking elk, which includes enticing elk with calls.

Dogs

You may not use dogs or bring them with you while hunting elk. However, leashed dogs under direct control of a handler may be used to track and recover wounded elk. Handlers and other people assisting with tracking do not need hunting permits, provided they are not the person who wounded the elk. They may not have in their possession a firearm, bow, or crossbow, except for concealable firearms as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo. Concealable firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife.

Drones

Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones, may not be used or possessed while hunting. A drone may, however, be used after an elk has been shot to locate and recover a wounded animal. For rules regarding the use of drones to recover wounded game, see 3 CSR 10-7.410 in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Bait

It is illegal to hunt elk with the aid of bait (grain or other feed placed or scattered so as to constitute an attraction or enticement to elk). Scents and minerals, including salt, are not regarded as bait; however, mineral blocks with food additives are prohibited. The use of mineral blocks and salt is not allowed on conservation areas and in any location in Shannon County.

An area is considered baited for 10 days following complete removal of bait. You are in violation of baiting if you take or attempt to take an elk with the aid of bait, when you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. It is illegal to place bait in a way that causes other hunters to be in violation of the baiting rule.

Wanton Waste

It is illegal to intentionally leave or abandon any portion of any wildlife that is commonly used as human food.

Retrieval of Game

If you kill or injure an elk, you must make a reasonable effort to retrieve and include the animal in your season limit. However, this does not authorize trespass.

Keep Carcasses Out of Streams and Lakes

It is illegal to place an elk carcass or any of its parts into any well, spring, brook, branch, creek, stream, pond, or lake.

Hunting Near Floodwaters or Fire

Wildlife, except waterfowl, may not be pursued or taken while trapped or surrounded by floodwaters or while fleeing from floodwaters or fire.

Giving Away Game

You may give your harvested elk to another person, but the elk counts toward your season limit. Elk that are given away must be labeled with the taker's full name, address, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number.

Possession, Storage, and Sale

Properly checked elk may be possessed by anyone if labeled with the taker's full name, address, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number. The Telecheck confirmation number must remain attached to the carcass until a meat processor begins working on the animal.

Elk left at commercial processing or cold storage plants must be claimed by May 1 following the season taken.

Legally obtained elk heads, antlers, hides, and feet may be sold by the taker as long as the taker provides a bill of sale that shows:

- The taker's full name and address,
- The species and number of parts, and
- The full name and address of the buyer.

For elk heads and/or antlers attached to skull plates, a dated bill of sale identifying the seller must be retained while the heads or antlers are in the buyer's possession.

Any person who finds a dead elk with antlers still attached to the skull plate may take the antlers but must report the find to a conservation agent within 24 hours to receive authorization to possess the antlers. No authorization is needed to possess, buy, or sell shed antlers not attached to the skull plate.

Commercially processed elk meat may be donated to not-for-profit charitable organizations under guidelines established by the director of the Conservation Department.

Elk Hunting on Conservation Areas

Elk may be hunted on department areas located within Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties in accordance with state-wide regulations, excluding the refuge portion of Peck Ranch Conservation Area, and as further restricted in Chapter 11 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Tree Stands on Conservation Areas

Portable tree stands may be placed only between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31 on conservation areas. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled with your full name and address, or Conservation Number. You may not use nails, screw-in steps, or any material that would damage the tree. Tree stands must be removed before Feb. 1.

Portable Blinds on Conservation Areas

Portable blinds are permitted on conservation areas, but they must be removed from the area daily and may not be left unattended between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. It is recommended that blinds be labeled with the contact information of the owner and hunter-orange be displayed on the exterior of the blind to aid other hunters in locating and avoiding the blind.

Sunrise/Sunset Times

Elk hunting is allowed from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The sunrise and sunset times listed below are for Van Buren and points on the same longitude north or south. For locations east, subtract one minute from the time listed for each 13.5 miles (airline) of distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles.

DAY	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
Archery Portion		
Oct. 17	7:14	6:25
Oct. 18	7:15	6:23
Oct. 19	7:16	6:22
Oct. 20	7:17	6:21
Oct. 21	7:17	6:19
Oct. 22	7:18	6:18
Oct. 23	7:19	6:17
Oct. 24	7:20	6:16
Oct. 25	7:21	6:14
Firearms Portion		
Dec. 12	7:08	4:48
Dec. 13	7:09	4:48
Dec. 14	7:09	4:48
Dec. 15	7:10	4:48
Dec. 16	7:11	4:49
Dec. 17	7:11	4:49
Dec. 18	7:12	4:50
Dec. 19	7:13	4:50
Dec. 20	7:13	4:50

Chronic Wasting Disease Information

GENERAL INFORMATION



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Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal illness that affects elk, deer, and other members of the deer family. CWD threatens Missouri's elk and deer herds, hunting traditions, and many businesses supported by hunting. Special regulations were put in place to minimize the negative effects of the disease over time.

Carcass Disposal

Parts of an elk carcass that are not kept or provided to a taxidermist, processor, or tanner must be left on the property where the elk was harvested or disposed of in trash that is dumped in a sanitary landfill. You must Telecheck your elk before transporting it (or its parts) out of the county where it was harvested.

Prohibition of Feed and Minerals

Grain, salt products, minerals, and other consumable products used to attract elk and deer are prohibited year-round in counties that are within 10 miles of where CWD has been detected. For a map of these counties, visit mdc.mo.gov/CWD. The following exceptions are allowed:

- Feed placed within 100 feet of any residence or occupied building
- Feed placed in a manner that excludes access by elk and deer
- Feed and minerals used solely for normal agricultural, forest management, or wildlife food-plot production practices
- Feed placed as part of a feral swine or CWD management effort authorized by the Conservation Department

Voluntary CWD Sampling

Opportunities for free CWD testing are available throughout the entire elk and deer season regardless of the county of harvest. MDC encourages hunters that harvest elk and deer in counties where CWD has been detected to have their elk and deer tested for CWD. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/CWD or call your local MDC office.

CWD Test Results

To Get Your CWD Test Results

1. Go to mdc.mo.gov/cwdtestresults.
2. Enter your Telecheck ID or Conservation ID number.

Donating to Share the Harvest

Elk and deer harvested from counties that are within 10 miles of where CWD has been detected may be donated to Share the Harvest only if they are tested for CWD and are taken to a processor participating in the Share the Harvest Program. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/share.

Wildlife Code of Missouri

3 CSR 10-7.700 Elk Hunting Seasons: General Provisions

- (1) Elk may be pursued, taken, killed, possessed, or transported only as permitted in this Code.
- (2) Persons hunting or pursuing elk must possess a prescribed elk hunting permit.
- (3) Elk may be pursued or taken only from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.
- (4) Elk Hunting Methods.
 - (A) Archery: longbows, recurve bows, compound bows, crossbows, and atlatl.
 - (B) Muzzleloader: muzzleloading firearms as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805, .40 caliber or larger.
 - (C) Any legal method: archery and muzzleloader methods; atlatl; shotguns; handguns or rifles firing expanding-type centerfire ammunition; and air-powered guns, .40 caliber or larger, charged only from an external high compression power source (external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor).
 - (D) Prohibited, in use or possession —
 1. Methods restricted by local ordinance;
 2. Self-loading firearms with capacity of more than eleven (11) cartridges in magazine and chamber combined with the exception of concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while elk hunting;
 3. Ammunition propelling more than one (1) projectile at a single discharge, such as buckshot;
 4. Full hard metal case projectiles;
 5. Fully automatic firearms; and
 6. Electronic calls or electronically activated calls.

- (5) Elk may not be hunted, pursued, taken, or killed —
 - (A) While in a stream or other body of water;
 - (B) From a boat with a motor attached;
 - (C) With the aid of a motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft, except unmanned motor-driven air conveyances may be used to recover wounded elk as specifically authorized by 3 CSR 10-7.410;
 - (D) With the aid of dogs, in use or possession, except for the recovery of wounded elk as specifically authorized by 3 CSR 10-7.410;
 - (E) With the aid of artificial light or night vision equipment;
 - (F) Within any area enclosed by a fence greater than seven feet (7') in height that could contain or restrict the free range of elk. Exceptions are provided in other rules or by written authorization of the director; and
 - (G) With the aid of bait (grain or other feed placed or scattered so as to constitute an attraction or enticement to elk). Scents and minerals, including salt, are not regarded as bait; however, mineral blocks with food additives are prohibited. An area is considered baited for ten (10) days following complete removal of bait. A person shall be in violation of this provision if they take or attempt to take elk by the aid of bait, where the person knows or reasonably should know the area is or has been baited. It is illegal to place bait in a way that causes others to be in violation of the baiting rule.
- (6) During the firearm portion of the elk hunting season, all persons hunting elk and their companions must wear a cap or hat and a shirt, vest, or coat of the color commonly known as hunter orange, which must be plainly visible

- from all sides. Camouflage orange garments do not meet this requirement.
- (7) Hunters who kill or injure an elk must make a reasonable effort to retrieve and tag it, but this does not authorize trespass.
- (8) Hunters who take an elk shall void their permit immediately by notching the month and date of harvest and shall keep the elk separate or distinctly identifiable from elk taken or possessed by another. When the elk is not personally attended and prior to reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, the voided permit or proper label shall be attached to the elk. Elk may be possessed and transported only by the taker until reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All elk taken shall be accurately reported by the taker or in the taker's immediate presence through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System by 10 p.m. on the day taken. The Telecheck confirmation number shall be recorded immediately on the elk hunting permit. The elk shall remain intact, as a field-dressed carcass, or be quartered with evidence of sex retained until the elk is reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System. All elk shall be reported through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System prior to processing (except field dressing or quartering as specified in this section), prior to transportation outside the county of harvest, or prior to being removed from the state. After reporting through the Telecheck Harvest Reporting System, elk may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone when labeled with the permit or any label that includes the full name and address of the taker, date taken, and Telecheck confirmation number.
- (9) Elk (or parts thereof) reported in accordance with established procedures, when labeled with the full name and address of the taker, the date taken, and the Telecheck confirmation

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number of the elk, may be possessed, transported, and stored by anyone. Commercially processed elk meat may be donated to not-for-profit charitable organizations under guidelines established by the director.

3 CSR 10-7.705 Elk: Hunting Season

(1) The elk hunting season is comprised of two (2) portions within Carter, Shannon, and Reynolds counties.

(A) Archery portion: October 17 through 25, 2026; use archery methods only to take elk in open counties; firearms may not be possessed except any person may carry concealable firearms, as defined in Chapter 571, RSMo, on or about his/her person while hunting. Firearms possessed under this exception may not be used to take wildlife while archery hunting.

(B) Firearms portion: December 12 through 20, 2026; use any legal elk hunting method to take elk in open counties.

(2) Other wildlife may be hunted during the firearms portion of the elk hunting season except as further restricted in this section:

(A) During the firearms portion of the elk hunting season in open counties, other wildlife may be hunted only with pistol, revolver, or rifle firing a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire cartridge, or a shotgun and shot not larger than No. 4; except that waterfowl hunters, trappers, or landowners on their land may use other methods as specified in 3 CSR 10-7.410(1)(G); and except that deer hunters may use other methods as specified in 3 CSR 10-7.431(5) during the antlerless portions of the firearms deer season; and

(B) During the firearms portion of the elk hunting season in open counties, persons holding an unfilled elk hunting permit and a Resident Small Game Hunting Permit may

take furbearers during daylight hours using any legal elk hunting method.

3 CSR 10-7.710 Elk: Application and Draw Process

(1) Missouri residents, as defined in 3 CSR 10-5.220, may apply for elk hunting permits.

(A) Quotas for elk hunting permits are established annually by the Conservation Commission. For the 2026 season, five (5) Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permits and zero (0) Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permits will be awarded. At least ten (10) percent of the Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit quota and ten (10) percent of the Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit quota will be awarded annually to approved resident landowners, as defined in 3 CSR 10-20.805, whose qualifying property is in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties. If the number of qualifying landowner applicants is less than the percentage of the permits allocated for landowners, that portion of the quota not issued to a qualifying landowner will be reallocated to other applicants.

(B) To be eligible for the Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit(s) or the Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit(s) awarded to approved resident landowners, an application must have been submitted to and have been approved by the department as described in 3 CSR 10-7.412 prior to applying for a Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit or a Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit.

(C) Permit Draw.

1. The application period will be from May 1–31 annually and results will be available by July 1 annually.

2. Application fee for Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit: ten dollars (\$10).

3. Application fee for Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit: ten dollars (\$10).

4. Only one (1) application per elk hunting permit type is allowed per year.

5. Only one (1) person is allowed per application.

6. Only one (1) elk hunting permit may be awarded to a person per year. Antlered elk hunting permits will be awarded before antlerless elk hunting permits.

7. Persons drawn for a Resident Antlered Elk Hunting Permit will not be eligible to apply for that permit again for ten (10) years. Persons drawn for a Resident Antlerless Elk Hunting Permit will not be eligible to apply for that permit again for five (5) years.

8. Permits are nontransferable.

3 CSR 10-7.715 Elk: Regulations for Department Areas

Elk may be hunted on department areas located within Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties in accordance with statewide regulations, except as further restricted in Chapter 11.

After the Harvest

After harvesting an elk, you must notch your permit and Telecheck your elk. Here's how.

Notch Your Permit

Immediately after harvesting an elk, you must notch your permit.

- To notch a paper permit, tear a small notch in the month and day of harvest on the permit.
- To notch a permit using the MO Hunting app, simply select the permit you wish to use from the list in the app, and follow the short, easy prompts on the screen.

The elk must remain within the county of harvest and intact, field-dressed, or quartered with evidence of sex retained until it has been Telechecked. **Note:** Notching is not the same as Telechecking. You must still Telecheck your elk before transporting it out of the county where it was harvested or by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest, whichever comes first.

As long as you stay with your elk, you don't need to attach a tag to it. But if you leave the elk unattended, you must attach a tag.

- If you have a paper permit, you can simply attach your notched permit to the elk. We recommend sealing the permit in a zip-top bag and attaching the bag with string, wire, or tape.
- If you're using the MO Hunting app, you must attach a label with your full name, address, permit number, and date of harvest to the elk.

Telecheck Your Elk

You must report your elk to Telecheck before transporting it out of the county where it was harvested or by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest, whichever comes first.

Telecheck Using the MO Hunting App

Step 1: Select your notched permit from the list.

Step 2: Tap "Telecheck."

Step 3: Follow the prompts on the screen. Telecheck will upload a confirmation number to your mobile device.

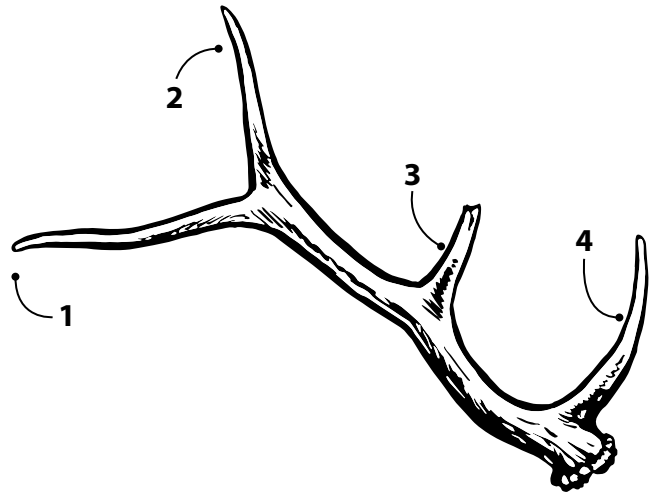
Telecheck Using a Phone or the Internet

Step 1: Collect the following information, which you will be asked for when you use Telecheck:

- Your Telecheck ID Number (found on your permit)
- Elk type: bull (male) or cow (female)
- Count the total number of points 1 inch or longer (see figure on this page)
- County where the elk was harvested
- Whether the elk was harvested on public or private land

Step 2: Grab a pen, then call the number listed on your elk hunting permit or visit mdc.mo.gov and follow the instructions. You can call between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Step 3: After you have provided the required information, you will receive an eight-digit confirmation number that verifies you have legally checked your elk. Write this number on your permit.



How to Count Antler Points

Each of the following counts as a point:

1. The end of the main beam
2. An antler point, if it is at least 1 inch long
3. Any broken tine that is at least 1 inch long
4. The brow tine, if it is at least 1 inch long

Points to Remember

- Notching voids a permit. Do not notch your permit until you have harvested an elk.
- You must report your elk to Telecheck before transporting it out of the county where it was harvested or by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest, whichever comes first.
- Elk may be possessed and transported only by the taker until they are reported through Telecheck.
- Your elk must remain intact, as a field-dressed carcass, or be quartered with evidence of sex retained, until reported through Telecheck.
- Your elk may not be processed until it is reported through Telecheck.