

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Elk Reduction Program



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question #1. How long is the application period?

The application period will run from July 19, 2010 through August 9, 2010.

Question #2. How many volunteers can participate?

Up to twenty volunteers will be needed for each of the twelve weeks beginning November 1, 2010. Overall, up to 240 volunteers are expected to participate in elk reduction activities this year. Adverse weather and other unsafe conditions could limit volunteer participation.

Question #3. How are volunteers selected?

For each week of the 12-week reduction effort, names are randomly selected (by computer) from those volunteers that have applied to participate that week. Once selected, an applicant could be considered for additional weeks only in the event there are insufficient numbers of previously unselected applicants available.

Question #4. How is this reduction program different from a hunt?

In a traditional “hunt” the emphasis is on the recreational experience. Moreover, hunters must possess state-issued hunting licenses, adhere to strict limits on the number of animals taken per individual, and must follow the rules of fair-chase. For many sportsmen, the overall experience is a far more important measure of success than the taking of game. In other words, not filling a tag can still mean a successful season. In contrast, the primary goal of this reduction effort is to quickly and efficiently reduce the elk population to the desired management level. Elk fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) collars will be utilized to identify elk concentrations each day in an effort to enhance team effectiveness (a tactic not consistent with fair chase). The number of elk removed is the means by which program success will be determined. Moreover, no fees are charged, no tags are issued, no hunting license is required, and no person will be pursuing elk independent of the team.



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Question #5. Will volunteers be supervised while in the field?

Yes, while in the park backcountry, each team of volunteers will be led by a park employee (team leader) to promote team safety, coordinate reduction activities, and ensure teams are efficient as possible. Volunteers will be expected to follow the instructions of the team leader, or they will be removed from the reduction effort.

Question #6. How long will the program last?

Elk population reduction will occur as needed, for the life of the current elk management plan (15+ years). As many as five years will be required to reach the desired management range of 100-400 animals. During this initial reduction phase, as many as 240-280 volunteers are expected to be needed per year. Once the desired management goal is achieved, volunteers could still be utilized in some years to maintain the elk population but at a greatly reduced number.

Question #7. I am not a North Dakota resident; am I eligible to participate?

Yes, as a unit of the National Park System, Theodore Roosevelt National Park does not limit job or volunteer opportunities based on the applicant's state of residence.

Question #8. What are the requirements to participate?

In order to be considered for this opportunity, applicants must be able to demonstrate a high-level of shooting proficiency using lead-free ammunition, agree to participate for an entire 5-day week, self-certify they are fit enough to perform this rigorous activity, be able to legally possess a firearm, and be willing to sign a volunteer agreement after arriving at the park. Volunteers can expect to be led by team leaders while in the field, and must further understand that their volunteer agreement could be terminated should they exhibit unsafe behaviors, disregard instructions by the team leader, or become physically unable to perform required duties.



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Question #9. Will volunteers be able to receive elk meat prior to leaving the park?

Yes, meat will be donated to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, which will transfer up to one elk to each volunteer at the end of a 5-day commitment. A portion of each week's harvest also will be donated to approved charities, and if success is poor during a given period, volunteers that week could receive less than an entire elk (despite the number of elk an individual may have harvested). The majority of meat donation will be administered by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and prior to leaving the park each volunteer requesting meat will be issued paperwork authorizing the transfer and possession of elk meat.

Question #10. Can we take bull elk?

No, only cow elk will be taken during reduction actions within the park. For those interested in taking only bulls, one option is to apply for a state-sponsored hunt outside the park administered by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Question #11. Can I apply with my friends as a team?

Yes, up to four people can apply as a team. Should an individual wish to apply as an individual for one or more weeks, and as part of a team another week, two applications must be submitted. Also, an individual **cannot apply** as an individual and part of a team for the same week.

Question #12. How was the timing for the reduction determined? Couldn't it start earlier in the year to avoid potentially bad weather in December and January?

The period selected was determined based on several factors. The park must consider the needs of park visitors, and also the timing of NDGF managed elk seasons outside the park. A mid-October start was a compromise between the needs of the visiting public and the needs of the reduction effort, and coincided with state sponsored elk seasons, thereby increasing efficiency of the effort.



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Question #13. What if I am having problems accessing the application online?

We are currently aware of issues accessing the online application when using a Macintosh or Mac computer. There may be other computer configurations which could potentially cause problems when accessing the application. If you are experiencing problems accessing the application from the park's homepage (www.nps.gov/thro), please send an email stating you cannot access the application to THRO_ElkTeam@nps.gov. Upon receipt of your email, a copy of the application will be emailed to you as soon as possible.

Question #14. How do I check on the status of my application?

Once your completed application is submitted to THRO_ElkTeam@nps.gov an automated email response will be generated by our computer system. The automatic response will be delivered to the email account where your application originated. If you have not yet received an automatic response in your email inbox please check your spam filter or junk-email box.

Question #15. What if I do not receive an automatic response?

If you do not receive an automated response stating your application has been received, and you have checked your junk-email or spam-email box, you will need to resubmit your completed application to THRO_ElkTeam@nps.gov. We recommend that you read the entire application instruction file before submitting your application to help reduce submission errors.

Question #16. How will I know if I have been selected, and when will the selection process will be completed?

The application process closes August 9th at midnight. The selection process will commence after all applications have been received and processed. We estimate this process will be completed by late August. Upon completion of the selection process applicants will be notified of their application status via email.