

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2007 PRONGHORN AND ELK HUNTING SEASONS

November 16, 2006

HUNT GUIDELINES

COMMISSION ORDER 3: PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

1. All pronghorn antelope permits will be for "buck only."
2. Pronghorn antelope hunts may be stratified. Fourteen-day archery seasons will begin on Friday of week 34. If an archery season must be stratified, the second 14-day season will begin on Friday of week 36. If firearm seasons are stratified, there will be a six-day muzzleloader season beginning on Friday of week 36 and a six-day general season beginning on Friday of week 37. If the firearm season is not stratified, a ten-day season will begin on Friday of week 36. To the extent possible, harvest will be allocated to meet first-choice applicant demand among season types.

The Department's Pronghorn Antelope Management Goal is to maintain pronghorn antelope populations at levels that provide diverse recreational opportunities. Management criteria are:

- A. Permits should be decreased when fawn:doe ratios are below 30:100 and buck:doe ratios are below 25:100. Permits should be increased when fawn:doe ratios exceed 40:100 and buck:doe ratios exceed 30:100. Buck:doe ratios should receive greater emphasis than fawn:doe ratios when determining permit levels.

| Permits should | Decrease | Stay the Same | Increase |
|----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Fawns:100 Does | Below 30 | 30 to 40 | Above 40 |
| Bucks:100 Does | Below 25 | 25 to 30 | Above 30 |

COMMISSION ORDER 4: ELK

1. Harvest among general, muzzleloader, and archery seasons will be allocated according to demand (five-year averages), excluding limited opportunity hunts.
2. For archery, early bull or antlerless elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 37 and run for fourteen days. Archery bull elk season in Units 22 and 23 will begin on Friday of week 45 and run for 14 days.
3. Early muzzleloader elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 40 and run for seven days. Late muzzleloader elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 46 and run for seven days. Muzzleloader elk season dates may be established as needed in December to address population management objectives.
4. Early general and muzzleloader bull seasons will begin on Friday of week 39 and run for seven days. Late general bull seasons will begin on Friday of week 47 and run for seven days.
5. General antlerless elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 42 and run for seven days. If a juniors-only elk season is recommended, it will begin on Friday of week 42 and run for seven days, and the general antlerless elk season will begin on Friday of week 43 and run for seven days. Late general antlerless elk seasons may be established as needed in December to address population management objectives.
6. "Antlerless elk" hunts will be recommended in units or herds where the elk population goals are to reduce or stabilize population size.
7. Supplemental hunts may be recommended in accordance with A.R.S. 17-239 and R12-4-115.
8. Habitat based management objectives will be included in the determination of elk population objectives, using forage use monitoring results per Department protocol, for individual elk herd units where this data is available.

9. At least five percent of the total elk permits will be allocated to juniors-only seasons as antlerless permits.

The Department's Elk Management Goal is to maintain elk populations at levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the habitat, and minimizing substantiated depredation complaints. Management criteria are:

- A. Antlerless elk will be harvested in accordance with Regional Elk Operational Plans.
- B. Bull permits should be decreased if pre-hunt calf:cow ratios are below 35:100 and/or pre-hunt bull:cow ratios are below 20:100. Bull permits should be increased if calf:cow ratios exceed 40:100 and/or bull:cow ratios exceed 30:100. Hunting opportunities should be maximized.
- C. Bull:cow ratios will not exceed 40:100 in Units 1, 9, 10, and 23 in accordance with Regional Elk Operational Plans.

| Bull Permits should | Decrease | Stay the Same | Increase |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Calves:100 Cows | Below 35 | 35 to 40 | Above 40 |
| Bulls:100 Cows | Below 20 | 20 to 30 | Above 30 |
| Hunt Success | Below 30 | 30 to 35 | Above 35 |

- D. At least six general early bull elk hunts will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6. At least six muzzleloader bull elk seasons will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6.
- E. Population management hunts may be established to meet management objectives with goals, recommendations, or guidelines that were not met during regular seasons.