



# 2023 ELK HUNTING SEASONS

Elk hunting is managed in 28 elk zones. Idaho has a two-tag system to offer elk hunters the most general season choices. Hunters may select one zone and choose either an “A tag” or a “B tag” for that zone. Some zones offer only an A tag. In general, A tags provide more opportunity for muzzleloader and archery hunters, and B tags provide more opportunity for centerfire rifle hunters.

**Bag Limit:** No person may take more than one elk per legal tag in his or her possession.

### Can I purchase more than one elk tag?

Beginning in early August, residents and nonresidents may buy one unsold nonresident general season deer and/or elk tag at the nonresident price to be used as a second tag **except** second deer tags cannot be used in Units 10, 10A, 12, 16A, 17, 19 and 20. Second elk tags are not available for the Elk City Zone. Extra controlled hunts and depredation hunts also offer the opportunity for hunters to purchase an additional controlled hunt tag, see pages 108 – 112.

**Antlered elk:** Only elk with at least one antler longer than 6 inches may be taken in any season which is open for antlered elk only. In antlered seasons, including spike-only, antlers must accompany the carcass while in transit.

**Antlerless elk:** Only elk without antlers or with antlers shorter than 6 inches may be taken in any season which is open for antlerless elk only.

**Spike elk:** Only elk with no branching on either antler and at least one antler longer than 6 inches may be taken in any season which is open for spike elk only. A branch is an antler projection at least 1 inch long and longer than the width of the projection.

**Brow-tined elk:** Only elk having at least one antler with a visible point on the lower half of the main beam which is 4 inches or greater in length may be taken in any season open for brow-tined elk only.

### Archery & Muzzleloader Permits

Any person hunting in an “archery only” season, including controlled hunts, must have their license with archery permit validation. Any person hunting in a “muzzleloader only” season, including controlled hunts, must have their license with muzzleloader permit validation.

**Youth Only Hunt:** Some elk hunts are for youth only. See pages 110 and 114 for more information.

### Youth Resident General Elk Tag

Youth resident elk hunters who purchase a general season elk zone tag while they are between ages 10 and 17, inclusive, may participate in any A or B tag elk season within the specified zone until they are 18 years of age, regardless of whether they purchased an A tag or B tag. All other season, weapon restrictions, and commission rules apply. Nonresident youth elk hunters and controlled hunts are excluded.

### Nonresident Hunters

Nonresident hunters in general season deer and uncapped elk zone hunts are limited, see page 119.

### Option to Use Nonresident Deer/Elk Tags

An unfilled nonresident deer/elk tag may be used in the same hunt unit/zone/area to harvest a black bear, mountain lion, or gray wolf instead of a deer/elk, as long as the season for black bear, mountain lion, or gray wolf is also open at the same time and location as the deer/elk hunt, see page 111.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** CWD testing is required for deer, elk, and moose harvested in a designated CWD management zone (Units 14 and 15 as of February 2023) within 10 days of harvest. See page 96 for more information and visit [idfg.idaho.gov/cwd](http://idfg.idaho.gov/cwd) for the most up-to-date information.

### Mandatory Hunter Report

For each deer, elk or pronghorn tag purchased, hunters must submit a report 10 days after harvest, or if the hunter did not hunt or harvest, 10 days after the closing date of their season, see page 9.

**Caution Archers and Muzzleloaders:** “Any weapon” hunts will be open during the archery or muzzleloader season in all or parts of the following zones: Panhandle, Palouse, Weiser River, McCall, Lemhi, Beaverhead, Brownlee, Pioneer, Boise River, Smoky-Bennett and South Hills. **Please use appropriate caution.**

ELK

## Spike and Brow-tined Elk Hunts



### Spike Elk

**Legal in spike elk hunts:** One antler must be at least 6 inches or longer (not legal in brow-tined elk hunts).



### Branch Antlered Bull (or larger)

**Not legal in spike elk hunts or brow-tined elk hunts:** Not legal for spike-only hunts if branch point is longer than 1 inch.



Point must be 1 inch or longer.

brow-tine



**Legal in brow-tined elk hunts**

Middle Fork Zone (Units 20A, 26, 27)			
	September	October	November
A Tag		Any weapon — Units 20A & 26: antlered only Unit 27: brow-tined bulls only Oct 1 - Oct 31	
	<p>Note: 1,551 A Tag Quota Available First-Come, First-Served.</p> <p>2023 Capped tags go on sale for Residents 7/10/2023 and Nonresidents 12/1/2022 Residents - If you apply for a controlled elk hunt there is a 5 day waiting period to purchase capped general elk tags, see page 112 for details.</p>		
B Tag	Any weapon — Units 20A & 26: antlered only Unit 27: brow-tined bulls only Sep 15 - Sep 30		Any weapon — Units 20A & 26: antlered only Unit 27: brow-tined bulls only Nov 1 - Nov 18
	<p>Note: 1,636 B Tag Quota Available First-Come, First-Served.</p> <p>2023 Capped tags go on sale for Residents 7/10/2023 and Nonresidents 12/1/2022 Residents - If you apply for a controlled elk hunt there is a 5 day waiting period to purchase capped general elk tags, see page 112 for details.</p>		

Salmon Zone (Units 21, 21A, 28, 36B)			
	August/September	October	November
A Tag	Archery only — any elk Units 21, 21A & 36B only Aug 30 - Sep 30		Archery only — any elk Unit 28 only Dec 1 - Dec 31
B Tag		Any weapon — antlered only Oct 15 - Nov 8	
	<p>Note: 2,507 B Tag Quota Available First-Come, First-Served.</p> <p>2023 Capped tags go on sale for Residents 7/10/2023 and Nonresidents 12/1/2022 Residents - If you apply for a controlled elk hunt there is a 5 day waiting period to purchase capped general elk tags, see page 112 for details.</p>		