

August 1st Early Elk Season Information

The extended youth cow elk hunts are designed with maximum flexibility to work around busy school schedules. The season is five months long and allows hunting before the school year starts, and includes some holidays and school breaks. Additionally, successful youth's can use the tag during other seasons that may occur in the hunt area if other adults have appropriate tags for the area. For example, you can hunt for your cow elk with a licensed adult during the bow season, rifle deer season and bull elk seasons that also occur in your unit. If the adult you are hunting with is also hunting, the adult must have the appropriate tag for those seasons in your hunt area.

Hunting Tip: If you hunt during August or early September, remember that some cows may still have calves with them. Hunting during this time period is an excellent opportunity to observe your quarry, practice target identification, and select a cow without a calf at heel as your target.

Rifle hunting during archery season

If you hunt with your rifle during an archery season, you must take special care and precautions. Most archers excel at not being seen, are often very good at sounding like an elk, and may use a variety of elk decoys. As you learned in your Hunter Education Safety Course, positive identification of your target and the surrounding area is an absolute must before you shoot.

Hunting on private land

The August, early September, late November, and December portions of these seasons may allow you to assist ODFW with damage situations, including early August crop damage. Many landowners have said they will allow youth hunting. We encourage you to contact local landowners in the unit your tag is valid for. But please remember that you must always "Ask First" before hunting on private lands.

Practice before you go

Prior to hunting it is highly recommended that you practice by firing and sighting-in your gun, as well as reviewing safe hunting practices. We urge you to use your local gun clubs or rifle ranges. These facilities have qualified range masters that are happy to give instructions if contacted. For information and location about these facilities, contact your local hunter education instructor.

A word to adults

This controlled hunt is an ODFW program designed to encourage youth participation in big-game hunting. As a reminder, youth 13 years of age and younger, must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older. Please be a good role model for your young hunters and make this an enjoyable experience. We anticipate the highest level of hunting ethics on your part and wish you a very pleasant outing.