

WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits described below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

Bag Limit: One (1) elk per hunter during the license year, except where otherwise permitted by department rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the department will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

Hunting Method: Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

Elk Tag Areas: Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

Any Bull Elk Seasons: Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers; bull calves are illegal.

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

Branch: A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

Spike Bull Antler Restrictions: Bull elk taken in spike-only game management units (GMUs) must have at least one antler with no branches originating more than 4 inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

True Spike Bull Antler Restrictions: Neither antler of bull elk taken can have branching originating more than 4 inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true-spike restriction, taking an elk that has two points on one side or antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination, is an infraction under RCW 77.15.160. All other types of violations of the true-spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments under RCW 77.15.410 and 77.15.420.

3-point Antler Restrictions: Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

Permit-only Units: The following GMUs are closed to elk hunting during general elk seasons: 157, 418, 437, 485, 522, 556, 621, 636, and 653.

GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting: 490.

Elk Tag Areas

Eastern Washington: All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs.

- EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag
- EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm Tag
- EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Western Washington: All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs.

- WA - Western Washington Archery Tag
- WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm Tag
- WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2021 Dates	2022 Dates	2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 204	Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Any bull
		145 through 154, 162 through 186, 249, 336 through 368	Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Spike bull
		251, 328, 329, 334, 335	Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722	Sept. 11-26	Sept. 10-25	Sept. 9-24	Antlerless only
		124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381	Oct. 30 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2022	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2023	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2024	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Antlerless only
Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only		
Western Washington	WF	460, 466, 448, 503, 505 through 520, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638), 642 through 651, 652 (except for Elk Area 6014), 654, 658, 660, 667 through 684.	Nov. 6-17	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	3 pt. min.
		501, 504, 663, Elk Areas 4601 and 6014	Nov. 6-17	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407, 564, 666	Nov. 6-17	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	Any elk
		454	Nov. 6-17	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	Any bull

Archery General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid archery elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Bow and arrow only, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 220-414-070). Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2021 Dates	2022 Dates	2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Archery General Elk Seasons						

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2021 Dates	2022 Dates	2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 204, 243, 247, 249, 250, 272, 278, 284, 290, 373, 379, 381, 382 (except Deer Area 5382), 388	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Any elk
		162, 166, 169, 172, 175, 186, 251, 328, 329, 336, 340, 352, 356, 364	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Spike bull
		145, 149, 154, 163, 178, 181, 334, 335, 371	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Spike bull or antlerless
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WA	407, 454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Any elk
		Elk Area 4601, 501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, Elk Area 6061, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 654, 660, 663, 667 through 673, 681, 699	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except Master Hunters only in Elk Area 6064), 642 through 651, 658	Sept. 11-23	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	3 pt. min.
Late Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull
		124, 127, 373, 382, 388	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Antlerless only
		163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2022	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2023	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2024	Antlerless only
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Oct. 30 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2022	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2023	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2024	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
		334, 335	Nov. 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	Spike bull or antlerless
		249, 251, 336, 342, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	Nov. 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	Spike bull
Western Washington	WA	Elk Area 4601, 503, 505, 506, 530, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 663, 667, 672, 681, and 699. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638	Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		454, 564, 666, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		448, 603, 612, 615, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 648	Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.

Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader, as defined under WAC 220-414-060, or bow and arrow, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons. Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2021 Dates	2022 Dates	2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	101 through 121, 204, 247	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any bull
		124 through 142, 245, 250, 272, 278, 284, 290, 379	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 172, 175, 178, 181, 336 through 342, 352 through 368	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Spike bull
		249, 251, 328, 329, 334, 335, Elk Area 2051	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	True spike bull
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Aug. 1-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	407, 454, 564, 666, 684	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		448, 460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 524 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 602, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 642, 648, 660, 672, 673, 681	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), Elk Area 6014, 654, 663, 667, Elk Area 4601	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min. or antlerless
Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	130 through 142	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Oct. 30 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2022	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2023	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2024	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	407	Dec. 16-31	Dec. 16-31	Dec. 16-31	Any elk
		Elk Area 4601, 501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 667	Nov. 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		568, 574, 578	Nov. 24-30	Nov. 23-30	Nov. 22-30	3 pt. min.
		448, 601, 618, 651, 658	Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-14-022 (Order 21-61), § 220-415-050, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21; WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-050, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 19-20-078 (Order 19-245), § 220-415-050, filed 9/27/19, effective 10/28/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-050, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-050, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-050, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-358, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-059 (Order 15-98), § 232-28-358, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-358, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-358, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-358, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]