

Taking Control of Your Own Controlled Hunt

A stunning buck moves across the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

One of the key attributes of a good hunter is resourcefulness — taking what you have available and using it to your advantage. Treestands, calling techniques, feeding areas, natural travel lanes—these are all resources that a well-versed hunter can use to help him harvest the game he pursues. But there are other resources as well, like the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Controlled Hunts program. And like other resources, hunters can and should take advantage of this program designed to put hunters in unique hunting opportunities. But the Controlled Hunts program is more than just another way to hunt big game. It's a chance to hunt with family and friends that you've known for years, and it's a chance to see lands in Oklahoma you may have never seen — perhaps a chance to see land that restricts access throughout most of the rest of the year. The pages that follow will help you become familiar with the Controlled Hunts program — what it is, how it works, and even

how to increase your odds of having your own controlled hunt experience in 2011. —Michael Bergin, associate editor

Controlled hunts are held in locations where unrestricted hunting would pose safety concerns or where over-harvest might occur. Hunters “put their name in a hat,” so to speak, and names are drawn through a random computer drawing for a range of hunting opportunities across the state for deer elk, antelope, turkeys, raccoons and quail.

Several of the controlled hunt choices are highly sought after and often have many times more applicants than available permits. To date, thousands of hunters have enjoyed unique adventures through the Controlled Hunts program, including youth as well as persons with disabilities.

Getting drawn for a hunt through the Controlled Hunts program is a matter of odds, and if you stay at it year after year,

it's likely you'll get at least one chance to enjoy a unique controlled hunt offered through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Participation is easy. You start by submitting a simple, easy-to-complete application online, and in doing so, you get a chance to be drawn for one of the hunts for which you applied. Choices include such opportunities as bull-elk hunting on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, antelope hunting in northwest Oklahoma or even deer hunting at one of many Wildlife Management Areas across the state, often with exclusive privileges not offered at other times of the year.

Even though getting drawn is a matter of odds, you can still increase your chances of getting drawn by doing a little research first. And we have done all the hard work for you. All you have to do is study the data in this issue and determine which hunts you want to apply for based on the information

provided. And yes, there are ways to sway the odds in your direction.

Preference points, for example, are accumulated each year that you apply, and every time you apply and don't get drawn, it's like getting your name put in the hat an extra time during the next year's drawing. Therefore, your odds of being drawn cannot help but improve if you apply again the next around. By continually submitting an application, you can build your chances far more than those who don't apply at all because they feel the odds are too hard to beat. Additionally, some hunt categories allow you to apply with a group of other hunters, so that your friends' names are as good as your own when it comes to getting drawn.

Controlled Hunts applications usually become available online at wildlifedepartment.com in March. The application process is easy, and the program will not accept applications unless they are done correctly, so you have the assurance that your application was successful and that your name is in the drawing.

Things to Remember

One of the best things you can do to increase your chances of getting drawn is to make sure you apply each and every year like clockwork. Once again, your odds of drawing a controlled hunt will improve with each year that you apply because each preference point you earn acts like an extra application the next time you apply. In other words, if you have been putting in for the controlled hunt of your dreams for five years straight without getting drawn, you will be five times more likely than a first-time applicant to be selected in that category next year. Those who say they have stopped applying because they never get drawn are actually giving you an advantage, as long as you just keep on applying. Your chances only get better each year that you apply and they don't.

Although hunters with more preference points have greater chances of being drawn for one of Oklahoma's Controlled Hunts, the system still doesn't guarantee that those with the most points will be drawn for a hunt – only that their odds improve. First-time applicants with no preference points can and do get drawn over those with many points.

In some categories, hunters may apply

in groups of up to four people. For group applications, the preference points of each hunter in the group will be averaged. If four hunters put in together — one with no points, one with two points, and the other two with three points each — the group's preference points will be two, which is the average of all four hunters on the application. If not drawn in that category, each applicant in the hunt group will be given a single preference point.

Once you are selected for a hunt category, all Preference points that you have built up for a given category are lost once you are selected for that hunt, so make sure you can attend the hunt dates that year before applying to avoid losing the advantageous preference points you earned over the years. You can begin building preference points with the next year's application again, but it would be disappointing to apply year after year only to be selected on a year you cannot attend the hunt.

Regardless of whether or not you've been drawn, it's important to keep applying, if for no other reason than to gain preference points.

There are several other good tips to consider as well.

Selecting hunts that happen on key dates of the regular statewide seasons, such as the opening weekend of muzzleloader or gun season, can increase your odds of being drawn.

Hunts that are considered by some to be less desirable, such as antlerless deer hunts, may be just the right choice for a meat hunter looking to up his chances at getting to hunt at a premier location.

By designating additional choices, you increase your overall odds of being selected for at least one of the choices, so make the most selections a category allows (five in the deer category, for example), rather than just three, two or only one.

Rather than looking at the number of permits available for each hunt, it could be in your favor to consider the ratio of permits to applicants before making a decision on which hunts you think will give you the best chance.

For those locations that offer multiple hunts in the same category, the second or third hunts (the later hunts) are often easier to draw than the first hunts offered at that location.

You cannot submit more than one

application form per category. Previously, when applications were completed through a booklet system, this would have resulted in disqualification. Now that applications are completed and submitted online, you will receive confirmation that your application was processed correctly. This system will help you avoid mistakes, so make sure you receive confirmation of a successful application.

A Few More Tips

- Opportunities offered through the Controlled Hunts program include, among others, hunting elk at the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge or pronghorn antelope in Cimarron and Texas Counties. And though elk and antelope hunts can be more difficult to draw, Controlled Hunts applicants also have a shot at a number of exclusive deer and turkey hunts held at prime hunting locations all across the state. Upland bird hunters have a chance at one of several quail hunts at Four Canyon Preserve in western Oklahoma, and furbearer hunters are not forgotten either, with raccoon hunts available in a highly desirable hotspot in northeast Oklahoma.

- The Controlled Hunts application process usually begins in late March, when you will be able to log on to the Wildlife Department's Web site at wildlifedepartment.com to download, complete and submit an application. We here at Outdoor Oklahoma and the Wildlife Department encourage you to participate in the application process. It's done completely online, and it's both easy and fast. You also get immediate confirmation when your application is processed. In other words, there is no way you can submit your application incorrectly. There are no hassles, and no regrets that you didn't track down a hard copy application before the deadline.

- Winners of controlled hunts are randomly selected through a computerized process that draws applications from the pool of those that applied, but the good thing is that you can apply for several hunts and increase your chances of being selected for a hunt.

Deer Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second, third, fourth and fifth choice preferences): **68,580**

Total permits available: **4,620**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 15**

Deer Hunt Hints

- To increase your odds, choose lower profile hunts and steer clear of the most popular hunts, such as the Wichita Mountains buck gun hunt, the Sandy Sanders buck gun hunt and Salt Plains NWR hunts that allow either sex hunting.
- Controlled hunts held during the regular muzzleloader and gun seasons, especially those held during the opening weekends, often offer better odds of getting drawn than those held outside the regular statewide season dates since many would-be applicants already have their hunting plans in place for those dates.
- Antlerless-only hunts traditionally see fewer applicants compared to buck-only or either-sex hunts.
- Areas in the northeast like Cherokee, Cookson Hills, Gruber and Spavinaw WMAs typically have higher numbers of applicants. Consider applying for hunts in others parts of the state.
- Archery hunts are historically easier to draw on average than muzzleloader or gun hunts.

Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	301	2,305	75	30	57
Camp Gruber Cantonment	Either-Sex	Archery	10/30/10	10/31/10	302	656	40	16	45
Candy Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/23/10	10/31/10	303	158	8	19	48
Candy Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/20/10	12/05/10	304	183	8	23	53
Canton WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/20/10	11/21/10	305	1,112	75	15	39
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/07/10	11/07/10	309	70	75	1	1
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/14/10	11/14/10	313	101	75	1	2
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/06/10	11/06/10	307	147	75	2	5
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/10	11/13/10	311	153	75	2	6
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/07/10	11/07/10	308	810	50	16	44
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/14/10	11/14/10	312	866	50	17	46
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/10	11/13/10	310	1,250	50	25	54
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/06/10	11/06/10	306	1,265	50	25	55
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/07/10	11/07/10	316	82	50	2	3
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/14/10	11/14/10	319	87	50	2	4
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/06/10	11/06/10	315	112	50	2	7
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/10	11/13/10	318	157	50	3	10
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/06/10	11/07/10	314	1,257	25	50	68
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/10	11/14/10	317	1,471	25	58	69
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/29/10	10/31/10	320	788	50	16	43
Four Canyon Preserve	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/23/10	10/24/10	321	34	4	9	29
Four Canyon Preserve	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/19/10	11/20/10	323	47	4	12	36
Four Canyon Preserve	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/23/10	10/24/10	322	317	2	158	77
Four Canyon Preserve	Either-Sex	Gun	11/19/10	11/20/10	324	392	2	196	79
Ft. Cobb WMA and SP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/20/10	10/21/10	325	229	40	6	19
Ft. Gibson WRP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/03/10	11/03/10	328	177	50	4	12
Ft. Gibson WRP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/20/10	10/20/10	327	184	50	4	14
Ft. Gibson WRP	Either-Sex	Archery	10/19/10	10/19/10	326	757	50	15	41
Ft. Gibson WRP	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/04/10	11/04/10	329	1,107	50	22	50
Hugo Lake COE	Antlerless Only	Gun	01/07/11	01/09/11	330	107	15	7	25
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/20/10	11/21/10	331	1,140	50	23	52
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/18/10	11/18/10	335	331	135	3	8
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/17/10	11/17/10	334	371	135	3	9
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/14/10	11/14/10	333	457	135	3	11
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/10	11/13/10	332	829	135	6	22
Little River NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/10	11/14/10	337	320	30	11	32
Little River NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	336	423	30	14	37
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/08/10	10/10/10	338	606	100	6	21
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/15/10	10/17/10	339	2,047	275	7	26
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/22/10	10/24/10	340	2,261	275	8	28
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/29/10	10/31/10	341	3,177	275	12	35
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/12/10	11/14/10	343	4,094	275	15	40
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/05/10	11/07/10	342	4,270	275	16	42
McCurtain Co. WA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/05/10	11/07/10	344	231	16	14	38
McGee Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/30/10	10/31/10	345	1,109	100	11	34
McGee Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	346	1,575	75	21	49
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	12/04/10	12/05/10	348	654	70	9	30
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/20/10	11/21/10	347	704	70	10	31
Osage-Western Wall WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/12/10	11/13/10	349	71	20	4	13
Osage-Western Wall WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/12/10	11/13/10	350	842	10	84	73
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/05/10	11/07/10	351	2,359	75	32	58
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/26/10	11/28/10	360	668	36	18	47
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/03/10	12/05/10	362	800	36	22	51
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Muzzleloader	10/22/10	10/24/10	354	622	22	28	56
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/15/10	10/17/10	352	509	16	32	59
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/15/10	10/18/10	353	432	12	36	61
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/26/10	11/29/10	361	461	12	38	63
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/03/10	12/06/10	363	509	12	42	65
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Muzzleloader	10/22/10	10/25/10	355	527	12	43	66
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/12/10	11/14/10	358	1,367	22	62	70
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	356	1,579	22	71	72
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/05/10	11/08/10	357	1,146	12	95	74
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/12/10	11/15/10	359	1,160	12	96	75
Sandy Sanders WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	366	92	25	4	15



KIM HART

What is the Controlled Hunts program?

Awarded to applicants selected in a random drawing, controlled hunts are held in situations where unrestricted hunting would pose safety concerns or where over harvest might occur. Several of the controlled hunt choices are highly sought after and often have many times more applicants than available permits.

Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Sandy Sanders WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/23/10	10/24/10	364	802	25	32	60
Sandy Sanders WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	365	1,225	10	122	76
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	12/01/10	12/02/10	369	288	60	5	16
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	12/15/10	12/16/10	370	354	60	6	20
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/17/10	11/18/10	368	396	60	7	23
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/27/10	10/28/10	367	403	60	7	24
Spavinaw GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/10	11/14/10	372	237	50	5	17
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/10	11/14/10	371	1,445	30	48	67
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/09/10	12/10/10	373	749	20	37	62
Walnut Creek SP Area 2	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Archery	01/07/11	01/09/11	374	322	5	64	71
Washita NWR	Antlerless Only	Gun	10/20/10	10/21/10	375	275	25	11	33
Waurika WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/13/10	10/14/10	377	75	15	5	18
Waurika WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/13/10	10/14/10	376	608	15	40	64
Wichita Mts. NWR	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/02/10	11/04/10	379	524	65	8	27
Wichita Mts. NWR	Antlered Only	Gun	11/02/10	11/04/10	378	6,753	35	192	78

Whitetails have a way of consuming the minds of hunters throughout much of the fall. Hunters can make the daydreams a memory when they apply for one of a large number of both antlered and antlerless hunts. If you get drawn, you could hunt a unique area you've not seen before or even get a special opportunity to hunt a public area during a weekend closed to hunters not participating in the Controlled Hunts program. And if you apply and don't get drawn, you create a preference point for yourself for next year.

Deer Hunts for Persons With Disabilities

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **293**

Total permits available: **155**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 2**

Deer Hunts for Persons with Disabilities	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/02/10	10/03/10	401	45	40	1	1
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/02/10	10/03/10	402	48	40	1	2
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/29/10	10/31/10	403	14	5	3	7
Hugo Lake COE	(2) See Code P	Rifle	12/10/10	12/12/10	404	30	16	2	5
Oologah Lake COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	405	36	8	4	10
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/03/10	12/05/10	410	3	2	2	4
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/22/10	10/24/10	406	7	2	3	9
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/26/10	11/28/10	409	9	2	4	11
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/12/10	11/14/10	408	11	2	5	12
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	407	15	2	7	13
Sequoyah Resort Park	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/03/10	12/05/10	411	38	20	2	6
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Gun	11/09/10	11/10/10	412	29	10	3	8
Waurika Lake COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	10/20/10	10/21/10	413	8	6	1	3

Youth Deer Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **3,888**

Total permits available: **899**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 4**

Youth Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/30/10	10/31/10	501	144	50	3	9
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/09/10	10/10/10	502	228	50	5	20
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/09/10	10/10/10	503	249	50	5	22
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/08/10	10/10/10	504	92	25	4	16
Ft. Cobb WMA and SP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/16/10	10/17/10	505	38	50	1	2
Ft. Gibson WRP	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	12/11/10	12/11/10	506	139	25	6	23
Hugo WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/08/10	10/10/10	507	97	25	4	17
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/22/10	10/24/10	508	159	50	3	11
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/29/10	10/31/10	509	160	50	3	12
Keystone COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	510	62	5	12	30
McAlester AAP	Antlerless Only	Shotgun	11/26/10	11/28/10	511	59	25	2	7
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/13/10	11/14/10	513	82	24	3	14
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	512	97	24	4	19
Osage-Western Wall WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/06/10	11/07/10	514	67	20	3	13
Pine Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/10	11/14/10	515	37	12	3	10
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/29/10	10/31/10	517	133	50	3	8
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/22/10	10/24/10	516	171	50	3	15
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	10/22/10	10/24/10	519	77	6	1	3
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	10/15/10	10/17/10	518	82	6	14	32
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/12/10	11/14/10	521	102	6	17	33
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	520	128	6	21	34
Sequoyah NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	10/14/10	10/16/10	522	185	30	6	25
Sequoyah Resort Park	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/11/10	12/12/10	523	265	20	13	31
Spavinaw GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	526	15	20	1	1
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/30/10	10/31/10	524	88	40	2	6
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	525	160	40	4	18
Tenkiller COE	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/10	11/07/10	527	59	10	6	24
Texoma COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Rifle	11/12/10	11/14/10	528	73	6	12	28
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	10/21/10	10/22/10	529	92	20	5	21
USDA Grazinglands R.L.	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	12/10/10	12/11/10	531	177	24	7	26
USDA Grazinglands R.L.	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	11/05/10	11/06/10	530	206	24	8	27
Walnut Creek SP Area 2	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/10/10	12/12/10	532	73	6	12	29
Washita NWR Youth Exemption	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/05/10	11/06/10	534	44	25	2	4
Washita NWR Youth Exemption	Antlerless Only	Gun	10/15/10	10/16/10	533	48	25	2	5

Who can apply?

Any resident or non-resident who possesses a valid hunting license or who is otherwise exempt may apply for controlled hunts. A full listing of valid hunting licenses is available online at wildlifedepartment.com. Applicants must purchase the license prior to applying for controlled hunts. Applicants who are eligible for and who possess apprentice-designated hunting licenses may also apply (although some hunts require hunter education certification by the date of the hunt).



KIM HART

Antelope Hunts

Total applicants (includes first and second choice preferences): **8,847**

Total permits available: **265**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 33**

Antelope Hunt Hints

- The best odds are obtained when you put in for both the buck and doe hunt.

Antelope Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cimarron County	Doe	Gun	10/02/10	10/10/10	202	861	150	5	1
Cimarron County	Either-Sex	Gun	09/09/10	09/12/10	201	4,111	50	82	3
Texas County	Doe	Gun	10/02/10	10/10/10	204	318	50	6	2
Texas County	Either-Sex	Gun	09/09/10	09/12/10	203	3,557	15	237	4

Pronghorn hunts are a rare treat for most hunters in Oklahoma, whose primary favorite big game animal is undoubtedly the whitetail deer. Last year 265 permits were available to applicants in the controlled hunts program.



Elk Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **35,245**

Total permits available: **326**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 108**

Elk Hunt Hints

- Cow hunts offer much better odds of being selected than bull hunts.
- The second set of Wichita Mountains hunts (both bull and cow) offer better selection odds than the first set of hunts.

Elk Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt #	# of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/10	11/14/10	101	1,645	1	1,645	7
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	09/11/10	09/12/10	102	1,717	1	1,717	8
Wichita Mts. NWR	Cow	Gun	01/11/11	01/13/11	108	537	86	6	1
Wichita Mts. NWR	Cow	Gun	12/14/10	12/16/10	106	603	86	7	2
Wichita Mts. NWR	Cow	Gun	12/07/10	12/09/10	104	828	86	9	3
Wichita Mts. NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	01/11/11	01/13/11	107	9,332	22	424	4
Wichita Mts. NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	12/14/10	12/16/10	105	10,025	22	455	5
Wichita Mts. NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	12/07/10	12/09/10	103	10,558	22	479	6



The majestic elk of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are a pleasure to see and a trophy to hunt, but just as memorable as the once-in-a-lifetime controlled hunt is the stunning landscape in which the hunt takes place.



JACK WAMMIE



The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge elk hunt isn't the only once-in-a-lifetime elk hunting opportunity offered through the controlled hunts program. Hunts are also held at Cookson Hills WMA and at Pushmataha WMA, where this bull was harvested Sept. 20, 2010, by Eric D. Collins of Vian. Not only was this Collins' first elk hunt, but since he's a lifetime license holder, it only cost him \$5. Collin harvested this elk on hunt #102 on the controlled hunts listing.

If I put in for controlled hunts long enough, am I guaranteed to be drawn?

No, but your odds get better and better each year.

If I put in with a group of four for a hunt, how are our preference points calculated?

Example: One person has one preference point, one has two, one has three and one has four. This equals 10 points total. The points are averaged to two and one half and then rounded off to three points. The group is assigned three preference points.

Can I keep accumulating points indefinitely?

Yes, until you are drawn or do not put in for a given category for five years.