



Score a Memory with the Controlled Hunts Program

ANY OKLAHOMA SPORTSMAN WILL TELL you that our state offers some truly first class hunting, whether that be on private property or on one of the Wildlife Department's wildlife management areas. And many have even been lucky enough to draw out for one or more of the most sought after hunts in Oklahoma through the Wildlife Department's controlled hunts program. But then again, luck isn't the only factor in getting drawn for one of these unique hunts.

A total of 121,547 hunters applied for one of the 6,210 individual hunt permits available in 2011, many of which will apply again when the 2012 Controlled Hunts applications

are made available later this year. And while it may seem obvious, "putting your name in the hat" by submitting an online application is the most important step you can take to get drawn for a hunt. Controlled Hunts applications usually become available online at wildlifedepartment.com in March, and the deadline for completing an application is May 15. 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.

Aside from making sure to apply, the large number of hunters hoping to draw a hunt can do

a few things to increase their chances of being drawn for what could be the hunt of a lifetime.

Winners of the 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. Additionally, if you are not drawn for a hunt category for which you applied, you gain a preference point toward future years' drawings. Not only that, but some hunt categories allow you to apply with a group of other hunters.

In the pages that follow, you'll gain some



A bull elk pictured at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

insight into how the Controlled Hunts program works, insight that may just give you the edge you need to get drawn for a hunt that you won't forget.

Oklahoma is rich in outdoor opportunities, and the Wildlife Department's Controlled Hunts are just one more way you might be able to add to a successful year afield. Don't miss this chance to take part in a hunt you won't forget, and make sure and gather a few friends to apply with you. We all know that when it comes to hunting, the only thing better than being in the woods is being there with friends and family. – Michael Bergin, associate editor

How Does It Work?

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 and turkeys.

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 submit-

ting 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.

Helpful Tips

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.

Things You Need to Know

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.

The Controlled Hunts application process usually begins in late March, when you will be able to log on to the Wildlife Department's website 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 get immediate confirmation when your application is processed, so you can't 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

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.

Who can apply?

Any resident or nonresident 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 possess, apprentice-designated hunting licenses may also apply

(although some hunts require hunter education certification by the date of the hunt.)

What does it cost?

All applicants (including lifetime license holders) must pay a \$5 application fee to enter controlled hunts. This fee is paid only once per person per year regardless of the number of categories entered. You may pay the application fee with a Visa or MasterCard debit or credit card.

If drawn, additional license and user fees may apply.

Why not have a true preference point system for the controlled hunts?

There are too many hunters applying for too few hunts for this kind of system to work.

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.

If I can't make my hunt, do I get my preference points back?

No, once selected, your points in that category go back to zero.

Can I apply with a group of friends for a hunt?

Yes, but be sure all of your information is correct or your group could be disqualified.

What if I have an address change after I apply?

Contact our License Section at (405) 521-3852.

If I am a nonresident hunter, can I apply for a controlled hunt?

Yes! Visit wildlifedepartment.com for more information.



Controlled deer hunts are available for both antlered and antlerless deer at destinations across the state.

Deer Hunts

Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	3001	2,059	75	27	55
Camp Gruber Cantonment	Either-Sex	Archery	10/29/11	10/30/11	3010	737	40	18	42
Candy Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/11	10/30/11	3020	159	8	19	44
Candy Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/19/11	12/04/11	3021	236	8	29	58
Canton WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/19/11	11/20/11	3030	1,103	75	14	36
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/05/11	11/05/11	3041	146	75	1	2
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/06/11	11/06/11	3043	78	75	1	3
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/13/11	11/13/11	3047	135	75	1	4
Cherokee GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/12/11	11/12/11	3045	190	75	2	6
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/06/11	11/06/11	3042	810	50	16	40
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/11	11/13/11	3046	908	50	18	43
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/05/11	11/05/11	3040	1,339	50	26	53
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/11	11/12/11	3044	1,349	50	26	54
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/30/11	10/30/11	3062	36	40	1	1
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/06/11	11/06/11	3065	68	40	1	5
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/29/11	10/29/11	3061	81	40	2	7
Cookson WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/05/11	11/05/11	3064	139	40	3	12
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/29/11	10/30/11	3060	876	20	43	69
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	3063	1,405	20	70	72
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	12/07/11	12/08/11	3081	227	60	3	13
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/28/11	10/30/11	3080	995	50	19	45
Four Canyon Preserve	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/22/11	10/23/11	3090	42	4	10	27
Four Canyon Preserve	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/18/11	11/19/11	3092	43	4	10	28
Four Canyon Preserve	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/11	10/23/11	3091	264	2	132	79
Four Canyon Preserve	Either-Sex	Gun	11/18/11	11/19/11	3093	319	2	159	80
Ft. Cobb WMA and SP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/19/11	10/21/11	3100	290	40	7	25
Ft. Gibson WRP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/19/11	10/19/11	3111	221	50	4	16
Ft. Gibson WRP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/02/11	11/02/11	3112	209	50	4	17
Ft. Gibson WRP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/18/11	10/18/11	3110	671	50	13	35
Ft. Gibson WRP	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/03/11	11/03/11	3113	1,084	50	21	49
Grady County WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/11	10/30/11	3120	219	8	27	56
Grady County WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/19/11	11/27/11	3121	255	8	31	62
Hugo Lake COE	(2) Antlerless Only	Gun	01/06/12	01/08/12	3130	161	15	10	29
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/19/11	11/20/11	3140	1,225	50	24	52
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/16/11	11/16/11	3152	401	135	2	8
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/17/11	11/17/11	3153	323	135	2	9
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/13/11	11/13/11	3151	447	135	3	14
Lexington WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/11	11/12/11	3150	854	135	6	20
Little River NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	11/11/11	11/13/11	3161	483	30	16	41
Little River NWR	Either-Sex	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	3160	682	30	22	50
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/14/11	10/16/11	3171	1,851	275	6	21
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/21/11	10/23/11	3172	2,063	275	7	26
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/28/11	10/30/11	3173	3,166	275	11	33
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/11/11	11/13/11	3175	4,121	275	14	37
McAlester AAP	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	11/04/11	11/06/11	3174	4,155	275	15	39
McAlester AAP Physically Challenged	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/07/11	10/09/11	3170	226	100	2	10
McCurtain Co. WA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/04/11	11/06/11	3190	309	16	19	46
McGee Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/29/11	10/30/11	3200	1,063	100	10	30
McGee Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	3201	1,449	75	19	47
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/19/11	11/20/11	3210	747	70	10	31
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	12/03/11	12/04/11	3211	700	70	10	32

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Total applicants (includes first, second, third, fourth and fifth choice preferences): **68,366**

Total permits available: **4,611**

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

Deer Hunts for Persons With Disabilities

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **271**

Total permits available: **135**

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

Youth Deer Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **3,842**

Total permits available: **891**

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

Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Osage-Western Wall WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/11/11	11/12/11	3220	811	15	54	71
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	11/04/11	11/06/11	3230	2,075	75	27	57
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/25/11	11/27/11	3248	754	36	20	48
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/02/11	12/04/11	3250	812	36	22	51
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/14/11	10/17/11	3241	357	12	29	59
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Muzzleloader	10/21/11	10/23/11	3242	669	22	30	61
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Archery	10/14/11	10/16/11	3240	508	16	31	63
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Muzzleloader	10/21/11	10/24/11	3243	503	12	41	66
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/02/11	12/05/11	3251	509	12	42	68
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/25/11	11/28/11	3249	532	12	44	70
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	3244	1,586	22	72	73
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/11/11	11/13/11	3246	1,633	22	74	74
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/11/11	11/14/11	3247	1,189	12	99	76
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/04/11	11/07/11	3245	1,225	12	102	77
Sandy Sanders WMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	3272	63	25	2	11
Sandy Sanders WMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/22/11	10/23/11	3270	787	25	31	64
Sandy Sanders WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	3271	1,158	10	115	78
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/30/11	12/01/11	3282	242	60	4	18
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/26/11	10/27/11	3280	360	60	6	22
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	11/16/11	11/17/11	3281	365	60	6	23
Sequoyah NWR	(2) Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	12/14/11	12/15/11	3283	386	60	6	24
Spavinaw GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/12/11	11/13/11	3291	240	60	4	19
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/11	11/13/11	3290	1,648	40	41	67
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/08/11	12/09/11	3300	709	20	35	65
Walnut Creek SP Area 2	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	01/06/12	01/08/12	3310	443	5	88	75
Washita NWR	Antlerless Only	Gun	10/19/11	10/20/11	3320	288	25	11	34
Waurika WMA & COE Public	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader	10/11/11	10/13/11	3331	83	25	3	15
Waurika WMA & COE Public	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/11/11	10/13/11	3330	444	15	29	60
Wichita Mts. NWR	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/08/11	11/10/11	3341	447	30	14	38
Wichita Mts. NWR	Antlered Only	Gun	11/08/11	11/10/11	3340	6,421	20	321	81

Youth Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Atoka WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/29/11	10/30/11	5001	193	50	3	8
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/08/11	10/09/11	5010	213	50	4	17
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/22/11	10/23/11	5020	163	50	3	9
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/07/11	10/09/11	5030	90	25	3	10
Ft. Cobb WMA and SP	Antlerless Only	Muzzleloader / Shotgun	10/15/11	10/16/11	5040	40	50	1	1
Ft. Gibson WRP	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	12/10/11	12/10/11	5050	141	25	5	19
Hugo WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/07/11	10/09/11	5060	80	25	3	11
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/21/11	10/23/11	5070	172	50	3	12
James Collins WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/28/11	10/30/11	5071	177	50	3	13
Keystone COE	Either-Sex	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	5080	48	7	6	24
McAlester AAP	Antlerless Only	Shotgun	11/25/11	11/27/11	5090	62	25	2	3
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/12/11	11/13/11	5111	91	24	3	14
Okmulgee GMA	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	5110	131	24	5	20
Osage-Western Wall WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	5120	81	15	5	21
Pine Creek WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/11/11	11/13/11	5130	40	12	3	15
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/28/11	10/30/11	5141	145	50	2	4
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/21/11	10/23/11	5140	173	50	3	16
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	10/21/11	10/23/11	5150	114	6	19	32
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/11/11	11/13/11	5152	134	6	22	33

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LARRY D. BROWN

Deer Hunt Hints

- 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. If you avoid these, your odds go up for getting drawn.

- 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.

Youth Deer Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	5151	140	6	23	34
Sequoyah NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	10/13/11	10/15/11	5160	201	30	6	25
Sequoyah Resort Park	Antlerless Only	Gun	12/03/11	12/04/11	5170	87	15	5	22
Spavinaw GMA	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	5182	19	20	1	2
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	10/29/11	10/30/11	5180	94	40	2	5
Spavinaw GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	5181	164	40	4	18
Tenkiller COE	Either-Sex	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	5190	63	10	6	26
Texoma COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Rifle	10/14/11	10/16/11	5200	57	6	9	29
Texoma COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Rifle	11/11/11	11/13/11	5201	66	6	11	31
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	10/20/11	10/21/11	5210	109	20	5	23
USDA Grazinglands R.L.	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	12/09/11	12/10/11	5221	168	24	7	27
USDA Grazinglands R.L.	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Rifle	11/04/11	11/05/11	5220	196	24	8	28
Walnut Creek SP Area 2	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Muzzleloader	12/09/11	12/11/11	5230	62	6	10	30
Washita NWR Youth Exemption	Antlerless Only	Gun	10/14/11	10/15/11	5240	67	25	2	6
Washita NWR Youth Exemption	Antlerless Only	Gun	11/04/11	11/05/11	5260	61	25	2	7

Deer Hunts for Persons with Disabilities	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA	Either-Sex	Gun	10/01/11	10/02/11	4001	38	40	1	1
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/12/11	11/13/11	4010	47	30	1	2
Deep Fork NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/28/11	10/30/11	4020	17	5	3	7
Hugo Lake COE	(2) See Code P	Rifle	12/09/11	12/11/11	4030	25	16	1	3
Oologah Lake COE	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	4040	35	8	4	11
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	12/02/11	12/04/11	4054	2	2	1	4
Salt Plains NWR	(2) Only 1 Antlered	Muzzleloader	10/21/11	10/23/11	4050	7	2	3	8
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/25/11	11/27/11	4053	6	2	3	9
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/04/11	11/06/11	4051	10	2	5	12
Salt Plains NWR	(2) See Code K	Gun	11/11/11	11/13/11	4052	12	2	6	13
Sequoyah Resort Park	Either-Sex	Muzzleloader	12/10/11	12/11/11	4070	38	10	3	10
Tishomingo NWR	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Gun	11/09/11	11/10/11	4080	23	10	2	6
Waurika Lake COE	(2) 1st Antlerless, 2nd E-S	Gun	10/19/11	10/21/11	4090	11	6	1	5



Scouting is key to the success of a hunter in bringing home game. Finding sign such as tracks, rubs, scrapes or even heavily used trails and feeding areas help hunters locate areas where they may have the best chance of seeing game. But before any of that takes place, hunters need a place to hunt. Enter the Wildlife Department's controlled hunts program, which provides sportsmen with exclusive hunts in locations where unrestricted hunting would pose safety concerns or where over-harvest might occur. Often hunters win the "hunt of a lifetime" by harvesting a trophy animal or by hunting a unique area with close friends.

A Moment Meant for Sydney

SYDNEY ELLIS TOOK THIS 146-LB. eight-point buck one Friday evening in 2011 at the Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area, just three days after her 10th birthday. You might say that moment (6:20 p.m. to be specific) was meant for Sydney, because her name was drawn for a youth hunt on the area through the Wildlife Department's controlled hunts program.

Her name was drawn because the time was taken to apply.

"We were hunting from a ground blind on the WMA that we had just setup around 2:30 p.m. that afternoon," said her father, Chuck Ellis. "We picked the location based on deer sign in the area, much of which was identified by Sydney."

Sydney harvested her buck with a .243 rifle.

"This is her first buck," Ellis said "She took her first doe just the weekend before during the fall youth rifle season. She took her first turkey in the spring of 2010."

Ellis said Sydney loves the outdoors. The controlled hunts program works out great for people like Sydney and her father because it gives them a chance to head to the woods as a family.

"We have a great time together in the outdoors regardless of whether either one of us takes an animal," Ellis said. "Just enjoying the time together and spending it in the outdoors is what it is all about. This is what defines a successful hunt for us."

The controlled hunts program offers several youth deer and turkey hunts on wildlife management areas across the state, giving

hunters exclusive opportunities and helping to maximize their chance to see and harvest wildlife.

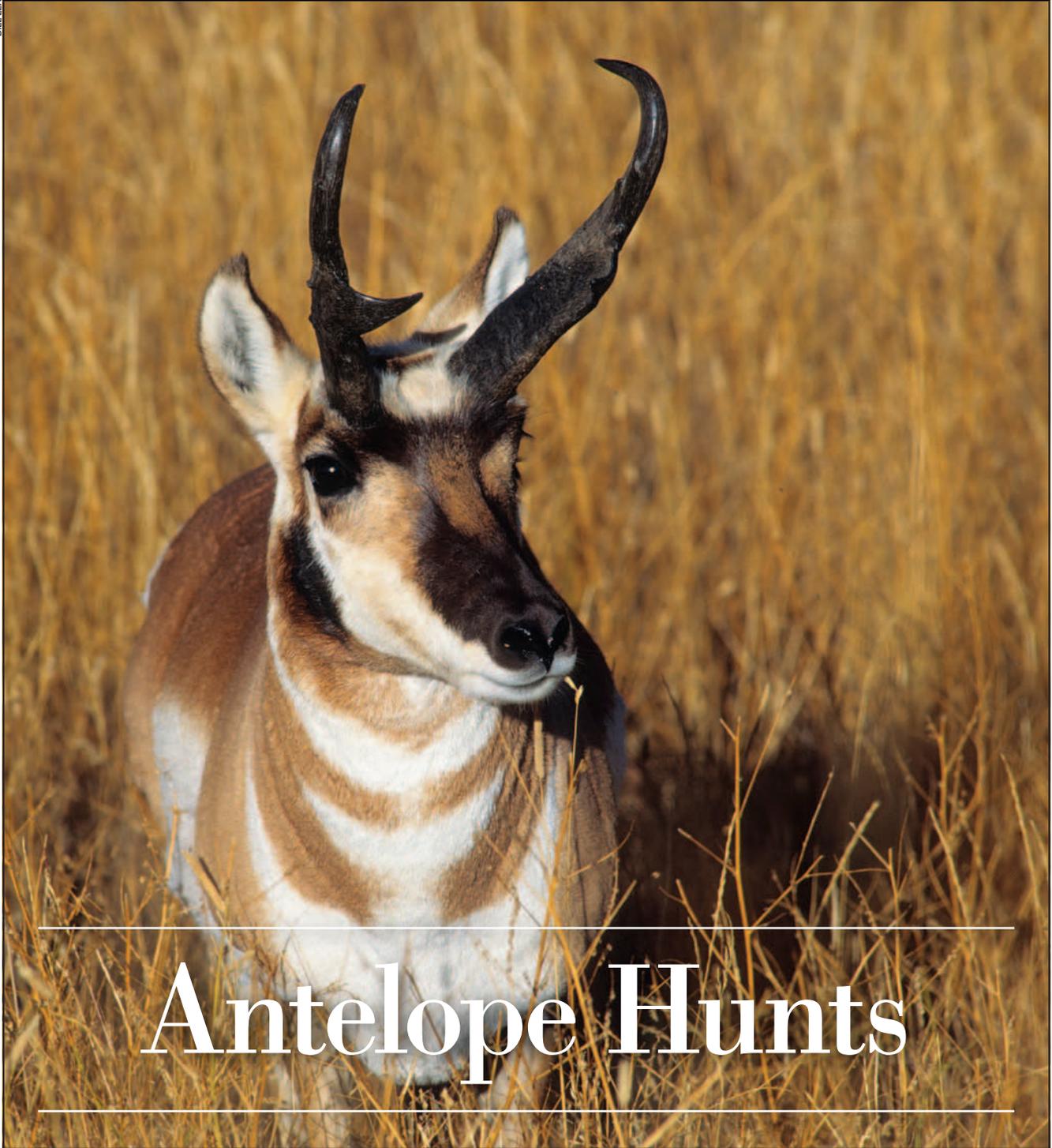
As a parent, Ellis has seen the program work first-hand.

"I encourage all other hunters out there with children to take advantage of the youth controlled hunt opportunities that the state Wildlife Department offers," he said.

Ellis also offers a special thanks to Jack Waymire, southeast region senior biologist at Pushmataha WMA, and Wildlife Department personnel for helping make Sydney's hunt a success, providing "great leadership and support as well as some good hot dogs and cookies for the kids." 🌿



PHOTO COURTESY CHUCK ELLIS



Antelope Hunts

Total applicants (includes first and second choice preferences): **8,556**

Total permits available: **315**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 27**

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 No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cimarron County	Doe	Gun	09/12/11	09/21/11	2002	876	175	5	2
Cimarron County	Either-Sex	Gun	09/08/11	09/11/11	2001	3,985	50	79	3
Texas County	Doe	Gun	09/12/11	09/21/11	2011	304	75	4	1
Texas County	Either-Sex	Gun	09/08/11	09/11/11	2010	3,391	15	226	4



Sportsmen can help increase public hunting and fishing lands by ordering the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's 2012 pronghorn antelope habitat donor patch or donor hat, available now in the Wildlife Department's Outdoor Store in the back of this issue.

Elk Hunts



Elk Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **28,024**

Total permits available: **82**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 342**

Elk Hunt Hints

- Cow hunts offer much better odds of being selected than bull hunts.

Elk Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cookson WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	11/05/11	11/06/11	1001	7,287	1	7,287	4
Pushmataha WMA	Either-Sex	Gun	09/10/11	09/11/11	1010	7,034	1	7,034	3
Wichita Mts. NWR	Cow	Gun	12/13/11	12/15/11	1021	2,552	56	45	1
Wichita Mts. NWR	Bull	Gun	12/13/11	12/15/11	1020	11,151	24	464	2

Turkey Hunts



Spring Turkey Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **12,488**

Total permits available: **176**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 71**

Spring Turkey Hunt Hints

- The hunts at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant have some of the highest application rates and are some of the hardest spring turkey hunts to draw.

- In areas that offer two hunts, the hunts offered later in the season are usually easier to draw.

Youth Turkey Hunts

Total applicants (includes first, second and third choice preferences): **1150**

Total permits available: **62**

Overall odds of getting drawn for any one specific permit: **1 in 19**

Youth Turkey Hunt Hints

- Hunts with low permit numbers may be harder to draw than other hunts, even though more youngsters applied for the other areas.



Spring Turkey Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA	Tom	Gun	04/13/12	04/15/12	6001	1,421	25	56	3
Deep Fork NWR	Tom	Gun	04/20/12	04/22/12	6010	499	5	99	6
Four Canyon Preserve	Tom	Gun	04/18/12	04/19/12	6021	352	4	88	4
Four Canyon Preserve	Tom	Gun	04/06/12	04/07/12	6020	510	4	127	8
Ft. Gibson WRP	Tom	Gun	04/12/12	04/12/12	6030	784	5	156	10
Little River NWR	Tom	Gun	04/27/12	04/29/12	6040	594	20	29	1
McAlester AAP	Tom	Gun	04/27/12	04/29/12	6052	1,836	20	91	5
McAlester AAP	Tom	Gun	04/20/12	04/22/12	6051	2,318	20	115	7
McAlester AAP	Tom	Gun	04/13/12	04/15/12	6050	2,599	20	129	9
McCurtain Co. WA	Tom	Gun	04/20/12	04/22/12	6060	640	16	40	2

Youth Turkey Hunts	Type	Hunt Type	Begin Date	End Date	Hunt No.	No. of Applications	Permits	Draw Ratio	Rank
Cherokee GMA	Tom	Gun	04/06/12	04/08/12	7001	328	25	13	2
Deep Fork NWR	Tom	Gun	04/13/12	04/15/12	7010	296	7	42	1
Ft. Gibson WRP	Tom	Gun	04/06/12	04/08/12	7020	311	5	62	3