



WYOMING ELK

DEC / JAN • 2013 • ISSUE 134 ELK • MULE DEER • ANTELOPE • BIGHORN SHEEP • MOOSE • MOUNTAIN GOAT

This Is The Year

It hardly seems possible that we are starting to think about 2013 tags, but nonetheless, here we are. This past year was an interesting one for both nonresidents and residents alike, as the drought had a severe effect on many hunts. Many guys, myself included, found themselves drawing some great tags, but after a week to 10 days of hunting they were heading home where a delicious bowl of tag soup awaited them.

As far as forecasting what 2013 might be like, well, we will hope and pray for a mild, yet wet winter. This past winter was definitely easier on the winter ranges across the West, however the severe drought of 2012 leaves them in a very fragile state

heading into the winter months. Hopefully, Mother Nature will take it easy over the next couple months and then spring will usher in ample rainstorms early in 2013.

One important thing to pay attention to in 2013 as far as the MRS goes is the fact that we've added a few heavily sought after states to the lineup. Seems like the amount of interest over the past couple of years in California and Washington has been increasing, so we decided to meet the needs of our subscribers. Each of these new states will be covered in 2013, however, they will be smaller in size due to the fact we have no "back data" to beef them up with. What they will do is give you a glimpse as to what's coming in future issues, and perhaps help you begin to

plan your hunt to one of these states someday.

We've tentatively slated the Washington MRS to run in EBJ 137 and have the California MRS following it in EBJ 77. After looking at projected draw deadlines and digging into when all the necessary information will be available, we believe these are the best issues for them to run in. Things may change, and they may shift by an issue, but we will always strive to leave you with enough time to do your homework and get your applications in on time.

So with that, we just want to say good luck in 2013 and may this be the year that you pull the tag you've always dreamed of. Guy's starting off 2013 with his Wyoming Elk MRS and it's a good one.

2013 PROJECTED APPLICATION DEADLINES (DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Deadline Date	Issue	State	Species	Results Posted	Deadline Status
January 31, 2013	EHJ-134 (Dec/Jan)	Wyoming	Elk	Late February	Still Ahead
February 12, 2013	EBJ-75 (Jan/Feb)	Arizona	Elk/Antelope	Late April	Still Ahead
February 28, 2013	EBJ-75 (Jan/Feb)	Wyoming	Sheep/Moose/Goat	Early May	Still Ahead
March 1, 2013*	EBJ-75 (Jan/Feb)	Utah	All Species	Late April	Still Ahead
March 15, 2013*	EHJ-135 (Feb/Mar)	Montana	Elk/Deer/Antelope	Late April	Still Ahead
March 15, 2013	EHJ-135 (Feb/Mar)	Wyoming	Deer/Antelope	Late June	Still Ahead
March 29, 2013	EHJ-135 (Feb/Mar)	New Mexico	All Species	Mid June	Still Ahead
April 2, 2013	EBJ-76 (Mar/Apr)	Colorado	All Species	Mid June	Still Ahead
April 16, 2013*	EBJ-76 (Mar/Apr)	Nevada	All Species	Mid June	Still Ahead
April 30, 2013	EHJ-136 (Apr/May)	Idaho	Sheep/Moose/Goat	Mid June	Still Ahead
May 1, 2013	EBJ-76 (Mar/Apr)	Montana	Sheep/Moose/Goat	Mid June	Still Ahead
May 15, 2012	EHJ-136 (Apr/May)	Oregon	All Species	Mid June	Still Ahead
May 18, 2013*	EHJ-136 (Apr/May)	Washington	All Species	Early June	Still Ahead
June 2, 2013*	EBJ-77 (May/Jun)	California	All Species	Early July	Still Ahead
June 5, 2013	EBJ-77 (May/Jun)	Idaho	Elk/Deer/Antelope	Mid July	Still Ahead
June 11, 2013	EBJ-77 (May/Jun)	Arizona	Sheep/Deer	Late July	Still Ahead

*Indicates that the date we were given is not final

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WELCOME to the Members' Research Section (MRS): This up-to-date publication is prepared for your convenience—however, always check with the appropriate agency for current information. Our information is gathered from sources deemed reliable, but Eastmans' Hunting Journal is not responsible for errors contained within. You must do your own research! The MRS is merely a tool designed to get you started. We recommend you contact biologists, Forest Service personnel, BLM personnel, taxidermists, ranchers, outfitters and other hunters in order to find out about the trophy opportunities in an area. Keep in mind, any area can change from year to year depending on a variety of factors...but that's why they call it hunting! All MRS information contained herein is copyrighted and may not be reproduced by any means without written permission from Eastmans' Publishing, Inc. © 2013

2013 APPLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

Species		Resident	Nonresident
Elk	Application Period and Deadline	1/1 - 5/31	1/1 - 1/31
	Draw Results Available	7/10	2/28
Sheep, Moose & Goat	Application Period and Deadline	1/1 - 2/28	1/1 - 2/28
	Draw Results Available	5/8	5/8
Deer & Antelope	Application Period and Deadline	1/1 - 5/31	1/1 - 3/15
	Draw Results Available	7/10	7/10

Wyoming Game & Fish Department Offices:

Cheyenne (307) 777-4600
Casper (307) 473-3400
Cody (307) 527-7125
Green River (307) 875-3223
Jackson (307) 733-2321
Lander (307) 332-2688
Laramie (307) 332-2688
Pinedale (307) 367-4353
Sheridan (307) 672-7418

Draw Results (307) 777-4655

Licensed Outfitters (800) 264-0981
<http://outfitters.state.wy.us>

Wyoming State BLM Office

Cheyenne (307) 775-6256

U.S. Forest Service

Western (801) 625-5306
Eastern (303) 275-5350

2013 LICENSE COSTS AND OTHER FEES

Species	Resident	Nonresident
Antelope	\$33	\$286 / \$526
Deer	\$38	\$326 / \$566
Elk	\$52	\$591 / \$1,071
Moose	\$112	\$1,416
Sheep	\$117	\$2,266
Mountain Goat	\$122	\$2,166
Conservation Stamp	\$12.50	\$12.50
Archery License	\$18	\$30
Application Fee	\$5	\$14

PREFERENCE POINTS

Species	Resident	Nonresident
Antelope	N/A	\$30
Deer	N/A	\$40
Elk	N/A	\$50
Moose	\$7	\$75
Sheep	\$7	\$100
Youth Points	N/A	\$10



Wyoming Elk Dwindling Tag Quotas and Possible Price Increases on the Horizon.

By Guy Eastman

The trend of dwindling tag quotas seems to be continuing in the Cowboy State. Just this year alone (2012) the limited quota elk areas in Wyoming lost 735 total tags. This was mostly due to three distinct factors: two closed areas, area five going from limited quota to general, and some very significant quota reductions. The financial repercussions of this move are substantial to the Game and Fish budget. I estimate that these 700 or more lost tags have cost the state over \$150,000 in lost revenue just from this year alone. Multiply this over the past five years and add in the lost revenue on the other tags they have cut over the last five years as well, and we have a \$1 million plus hole burning its way through the budgets down in Cheyenne. I believe this has been the reason the state is starting to talk about increasing the tag costs in the future. I don't think those tag costs will go into effect until 2014, but you never know how desperate the situation may become. For this MRS I have left the current pricing as it stands on the Wyoming Game and Fish website. This could change, and if it does, we will let you know as soon as we do in our free E-Newsletter.

Despite this, the elk hunting in Wyoming this year was pretty good considering how dry the year has been. The second worst single-year drought

on record had most of us very worried, but somehow the elk seemed to manage just fine up to this point. We'll see what winter brings on. Cross your fingers.

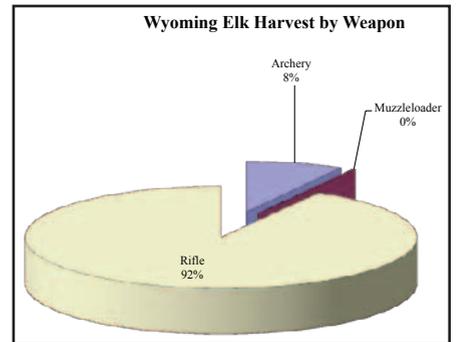
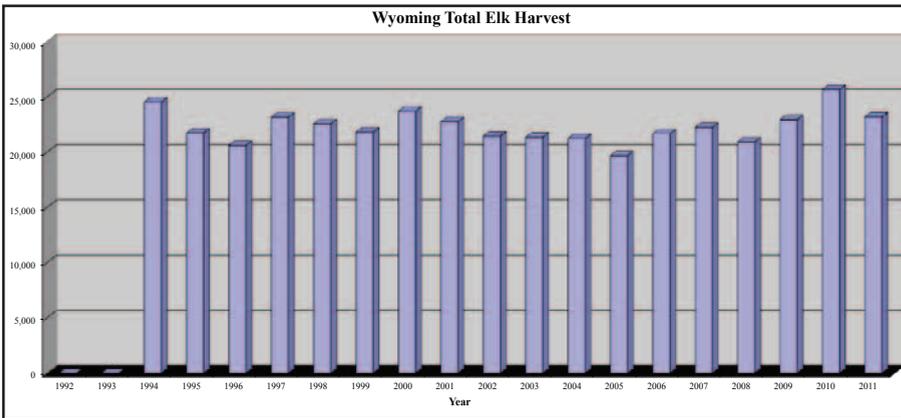
When you look at the map and charts for Wyoming elk this year, you will definitely see that the region for the best elk hunting has now completely swung to the center of the state from its historic locale in the northwest corner of the state. Now areas like 22, 24, 30, 31, 32, 100, 111, and 118 have found their way into the "Blue Chip" listing and bumped out some of the more traditional elk areas around Jackson and Cody. With the late season hunts in Crandall and Sunlight basin gone as well as the Teton Park hunt, the elk hunting landscape in Wyoming is definitely changing. The fact remains, the elk in the desert regions of the state are doing well, very well. Many of these areas have had their tag quotas increased over the past year, a sure sign of either more elk or a Game and Fish agency that wants to cut the numbers of elk back due to landowner backlash. I'm not completely sure which, however, one thing is for sure, these tag increases have not quite made up for the tag quota drops that have come lately within the "wolf zone" units in the northwest corner of the state.

As the state shifts the tags from traditional elk areas to more non-traditional elk country, it is even more important than ever for applicants to thoroughly research an area before applying. Many of these new up-and-coming areas have very limited or dicey access and lack the vast tracts of public land that the western part of the state holds. Most of the time, this is a very different type of elk hunting than what we might be traditionally used to in

Wyoming, particularly for the resident hunters.

Wyoming continues to have a good balance between quality and opportunity. Arizona and Utah have the biggest bulls while Colorado and Montana have the most bulls, but Wyoming probably has the best blend between quantity and quality. Wyoming has 125 different elk areas and well over 300 possible elk hunts available, making the Wyoming elk scenarios very vast. I would venture to say that well over half of those 125 elk units have produced a 330-inch plus bull in the past ten years. Wyoming offers just about any type of hunt you could ask for, from late season migration hunts in unit 78 to early general rut hunts with a rifle in units 60, 81, and 85.

Party applications are available in Wyoming, and you can party on an application with as many as six other hunters. To apply as a party, all members of the group must apply for exactly the same species, hunt area, and license type in the same order of preference. A party application ensures that either all or none of the party will be successful in the drawing. This will not give you an added advantage or increased drawing odds however. The entire party is viewed in the computer as a single individual. Nonresidents and residents are prohibited from applying as a mixed party in Wyoming.



The draw and preference point system in Wyoming is extremely simple for the resident and very, very complicated for the nonresident applicant. Both parties have two options: put in for a limited quota elk license in the draw or settle for a general elk tag of which residents can buy over the counter and nonresidents must still apply and draw for. Nonresidents of Wyoming can only obtain a bull elk license by an

application and draw process, which has an application deadline of the 31st of January. Let's break down the available options and possibilities for both residents and nonresidents.

Wyoming Resident Draw: For Wyoming residents the options are simple. Put in for a limited quota elk tag, buy a general season elk tag over the counter, or both. The best way to handle this choice as a resident hunter is

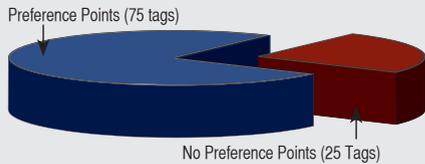
to apply for a coveted limited-quota tag and if unsuccessful, simply buy an over the counter general elk tag. Wyoming does not have a preference point system for residents. Basically, residents of Wyoming are left to take their chances in a straight-up, "old school" luck of the draw process. Just like most states, the cost to apply for residents is very economical. The cost to apply for an elk license for residents in 2012 was \$52.00, of which the entire amount was refunded if not drawn. This entire process can be done online with a credit card on the



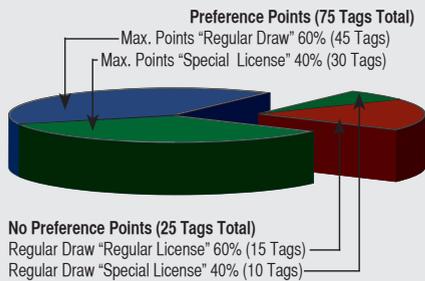
This big Wyoming bull was taken in a "Green Chip" unit. There can be some very productive elk hunting even outside the "Blue Chip" areas in the Cowboy State. Just remember, hunting an area over and over again can be a huge advantage.

Wyoming Preference Point Allocation

Using an example of 100 total tags available, the preference points pool gets allocated 75, and those without points are in the draw for the remaining 25.



Of the 75 allocated for those with preference points, the 60-40 rule applies, with a total of 45 tags going to those with maximum points in the "Regular Draw", and 30 tags for those in the "Special Draw".

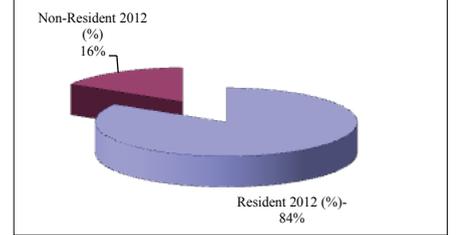


The remaining 25 tags are available for those without preference points, with 15 going to the "Regular License" holders and 10 going to the "Special License" holders.

for resident elk is January 1st through May 31st with a 5 p.m. MST deadline. See the above chart for all Wyoming application periods and draw deadlines. The Wyoming resident draw results are generally available online around the final week of June.

Wyoming Nonresident Draw: A nonresident of Wyoming has two draw options. He/she can either apply for a Wyoming "general" elk tag, which is fairly easy to draw (three out of every five years) or a "limited-quota" elk tag in a unit that limits the amount of hunters, both residents and nonresidents alike. With no over-the-counter option available, a nonresident hunter must apply and draw an elk license to hunt bull elk in Wyoming under most circumstances. There are no over-the-counter options in Wyoming for nonresident elk, deer, or antelope hunters. There is, however, a leftover first-come first-serve process for the remaining tags that are not drawn during the primary draw process. Don't hold your breath though. There are usually very few, if any, bull elk tags left undrawn after the primary elk drawing. A general Wyoming elk tag will give a hunter access to over 50 elk areas, a few of which open during the rut in the middle of September for rifle. The draw back to the general license is a good portion of the best general season elk hunting in the state resides inside designated wilderness areas in which the nonresident will need to be accompanied by a licensed guide or

2012 Wyoming General Elk License Allocation (Resident vs. Non-Resident)



outfitter. In addition to the general elk options, Wyoming has over 70 limited quota elk areas to choose from. These areas offer up some of the very best elk hunting Wyoming has to offer. Wyoming does have a preference point system in place for nonresident applicants for both the general and limited-quota drawings. Along with the point system, Wyoming also offers two different types of draws. Here is where it gets complicated. The first option is what is called the "Regular" draw, which costs \$577.00 to apply for. Or, the applicant has the option to go into the "Special" draw, which costs \$1,057.00 to apply for. There is absolutely no difference in the actual tag once drawn. The only difference is the price and therefore the draw odds. The special, more expensive tag will increase your odds of drawing simply due to the increased cost and therefore decreased demand. As a general rule of thumb, the special tag will cost you twice as much and will, on average, increase your odds of drawing a tag by 10% to 25% in most of the limited-quota units. In the general elk draw, the special tag option increased your draw odds from 22% to 100% with zero preference points in the 2012 draw. To get a better understanding of how the preference points system and the special/regular draw processes are related, read the accompanying sidebar. It will give you a complete, detailed analysis of this

Game and Fish website. This makes the process much easier by eliminating the need to physically mail the applications and payment into the department office in Cheyenne. The application period

TOP WYOMING ELK COUNTIES						
TOTAL B&C RECORD BOOK ENTRIES BY COUNTY (TYPICAL AND NON-TYPICAL)						
Rank	County	County Seat	All-Time	Past 10 yrs.	Trend	WY Elk Units in the County
1	Park County	Cody	31	15	Way Up	Units 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 121
2	Teton County	Jackson	23	4	Down	Units 75, 78, 79, 84, 85
3	Big Horn County	Basin	12	1	Down	Units 39, 40, 41, 42, 45
4	Johnson County	Buffalo	8	3	Up	Units 34, 35, 36, 37
5	Albany County	Laramie	8	0	Way Down	Units 7, 5, 6

TOP TROPHY ELK STATES					
B&C RECORD BOOK ENTRIES BY STATE (TYPICAL AND NON-TYPICAL)					
Rank	State	All-Time	Past 10 yrs.	% Entries	
				Total Entries	Past 10 Years
1	Arizona	241	90	18.0%	17.4%
2	Montana	202	63	15.1%	12.2%
3	Utah	185	144	13.8%	27.8%
4	Wyoming	153	50	11.4%	9.7%
6	Colorado	103	36	7.7%	6.9%
5	New Mexico	102	37	7.6%	7.1%
7	Idaho	85	12	6.3%	2.3%
8	Nevada	85	54	6.3%	10.4%
9	Alberta	53	13	6.3%	2.5%
10	Washington	36	14	2.7%	2.7%
11	All Other Entries	95	5	7.1%	1.0%
Total B&C Entries (Elk)		1,340	518		

TROPHY ELK TRENDS		
WESTERN STATES AND PROVINCES		
State	Trend	
Arizona	Flat	
Montana	Down Slightly	
Utah	Way Up	
Wyoming	Flat	
New Mexico	Flat	
Colorado	Flat	
Idaho	Way Down	
Nevada	Up Slightly	
Alberta	Down	
Washington	Flat	
All Others	Down	

NONRESIDENT GENERAL DRAW ODDS

	0 Points					1 Point					2 Points or More				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Regular (\$591 tag)	22%	22%	25%	23%	15%	98%	100%	100%	100%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Special (\$1071 tag)	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

very complex and confusing system so you can learn exactly how the tag allocations are broken down between the two types of licenses. Nonresidents can also apply online with a credit or debit card, or by the use of a paper mail-in application. Either way, the Wyoming Game and Fish office in Cheyenne must receive the application by the 31st of January for nonresidents of Wyoming. The nonresident application period is from January 1st until January 31st. If your application is unsuccessful in the elk draw process, you will be refunded the entire amount of the application with \$50.00 taken for an elk preference point. An applicant can opt out of an elk preference point on an unsuccessful application, but that is certainly not recommended. If you forget to apply in Wyoming, keep in mind you can go online and purchase an elk preference point for \$50.00 anytime before September 30th. Only one preference point per hunter per year is allowed. The Wyoming nonresident draw results are usually available on the Wyoming Game and Fish website around the 21st of February.

The General Hunt Option: Wyoming offers some decent elk hunting during the general season for hunters who can manage to get into the backcountry after bulls and hunt hard. Many of the general elk seasons open up in September and offer some great hunting opportunities during the rut with a rifle. In Wyoming you can also hunt during the bow season, which generally opens up on September 1st, and if you don't get a bull you can then carry over into the rifle season with the same license. You

will, however, need to purchase an archery license (\$16.00 for residents and \$30.00 for nonresidents). We have laid out the general license draw odds for nonresidents in one of the following charts. We have handicapped what I feel to be the top ten general elk units in the state. All 10 of these units offer decent populations of elk with strong bull-to-cow ratios and fair overall success rates. Any one of these units can offer up a savvy elk hunter, in good shape or with horses, a good chance at a 300+ inch six-point bull during a week long hunt in most cases. Every one of these units produces a few 350-class bulls each year and has produced a Boone and Crockett bull in the past. Keep in mind that the country in most of these units is very rough and the elk are not stupid. You will need to hunt hard and be able to get back into the backcountry where the elk are. Many of these units also contain Wilderness areas that require a nonresident to be accompanied by a licensed guide or outfitter to hunt. The general elk tag in Wyoming is one of the best options for hunters who plan on hiring an outfitter, want to bowhunt, or are very experienced and physically fit. If you are none of the above, or you are looking for that elusive 350+ bull, I would highly suggest you stick to one of the higher quality limited quota elk hunts.

The Limited-Quota Option: With 125 total elk units and well over 70 limited-quota hunts to choose from, putting your name in the hat for just one area can be a very tough decision. The good news is we have graded all of the limited quota elk areas to help you narrow down your decision. Take a glance

2012 GENERAL AREAS

Area	Rating	Success Rate
(Branch-Antlered Bulls)		
60	General	59%
59	General	40%
56	General	35%
71	General	34%
70	General	32%
67	General	30%
73	General	30%
82	General	27%
81	General	26%
3	General	24%
83	General	23%
127	General	20%
126	General	19%
66	General	17%
86	General	17%
128	General	17%
36	General	16%
84	General	16%
129	General	16%
69	General	15%
89	General	15%
10	General	14%
55	General	14%
106	General	14%
13	General	13%
21	General	12%
68	General	12%
92	General	12%
102	General	12%
85	General	11%
98	General	11%
103	General	11%
87	General	10%
90	General	10%
15	General	9%
37	General	9%
91	General	9%
104	General	9%
110	General	9%
12	General	8%
28	General	8%
94	General	8%
105	General	8%
9	General	7%
97	General	6%
107	General	6%
96	General	5%
77	General	4%
80	General	2%
130	General	0%
130	General	0%
Avg.:		14.90%

TOP 10 WYOMING GENERAL SEASON ELK UNITS
GOOD QUALITY WYOMING GENERAL ELK UNITS

Unit #	Type	Trophy Quality	2011 Season Dates	Terrain/Access			Success Rates					Days Hunted	
				Terrain	Public Land (%)	Access to Public	Branch-Antlered Bulls						
							11	10	09	08	07		
55*	GEN	Fair	Oct. 1 - Oct. 21	Extreme	95%	Excellent	14%	20%	25%	25%	25%	34.3	
56*	GEN	Fair	Oct. 1 - Oct. 21	Extreme	80%	Excellent	35%	20%	16%	24%	24%	14.6	
59*	GEN	Good	Oct. 1 - Oct. 21	Extreme	80%	Excellent	40%	34%	32%	23%	23%	13.7	
60*	GEN	Excellent	Sep. 10 - Oct. 21	Extreme	100%	Excellent	59%	58%	42%	33%	33%	8.4	
70*	GEN	Fair	Sep. 20 - Oct. 31	Rough	90%	Excellent	32%	29%	26%	24%	24%	17.2	
71*	GEN	Good	Sep. 20 - Nov. 4	Rough	100%	Excellent	34%	30%	33%	23%	24%	14.0	
81	GEN	Fair	Sep. 26 - Oct. 25	Rough	90%	Good	26%	22%	13%	15%	15%	23.7	
85	GEN	Fair	Sep. 26 - Oct. 31	Rough	80%	Fair	11%	15%	10%	14%	14%	31.8	
89	GEN	Fair	Oct. 15 - Oct. 17	Rough	85%	Excellent	15%	14%	18%	10%	10%	22.6	
90	GEN	Fair	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31	Rough	80%	Good	10%	11%	8%	9%	9%	30.5	
Average							28%	25%	22%	20%	20%	21.1	
5-Year Average							23%						

Note: *This unit contains large portions of designated Wilderness where a non-resident must be accompanied by a licensed Wyoming guide.

at the color-coded “limited-quota” map for additional details and the geographic locations of the areas. We have graded and color-coded each limited-quota unit in the entire state of Wyoming. The blue chip units are the best units in the state, followed by the green chip units, and then the yellow and white Chip units. There are 19 total blue chip units this year, the same number as last year, and an increase of four versus 2009. Based on my opinion and experience, each of these areas can, and most times will, produce the best elk hunts in the state. We have provided a pile of useful information to help you further narrow down your choice for an elk area in Wyoming. Some areas have better public access than others, some have rougher country than others, while some have better season dates than others. Many contain wilderness areas and some have a little bit better trophy potential historically than others do. A

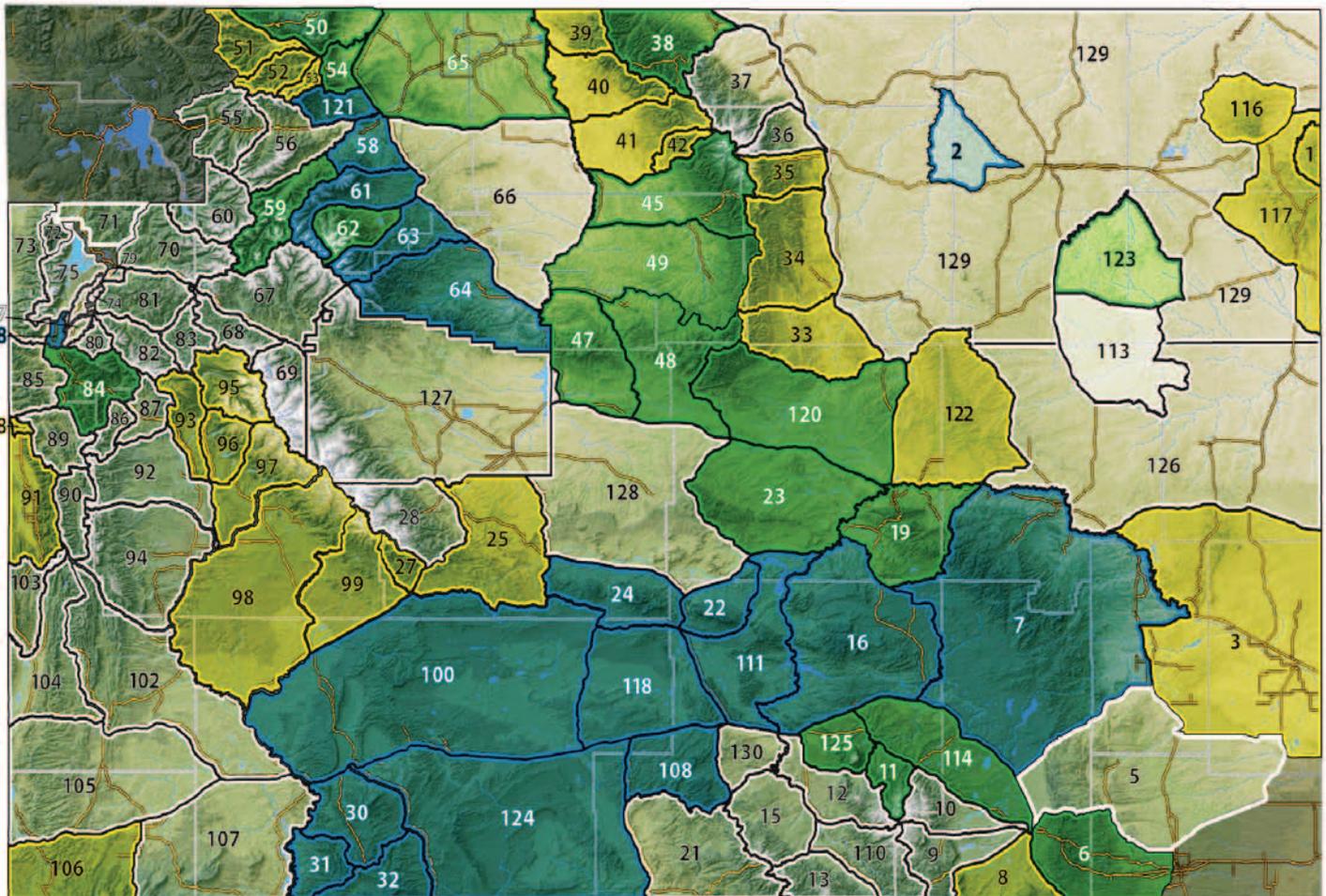
savvy trophy hunter will need to study this chart carefully to make a decision as to which elk area best fits his needs and expectations. However, keep in mind that some of the green chip units can provide a really good hunt with much better draw odds than a blue chip. I personally spend most of my time elk hunting in the green chip units. Some of the blue chippers like areas 58 and 100 can take you a very, very long time to draw and in my opinion, sometimes just aren't worth the wait.

Wyoming only has a handful archery only Type-9 elk tags available. Most areas require an archery hunter to draw along with the rifle hunters, giving crossover hunters a huge advantage inside the Wyoming elk draw system. If you are fortunate enough to draw an elk tag this way, you have the opportunity to hunt for up to 30 additional days with your bow. If you are unsuccessful during the archery season, you can then come back and hunt

during the designated rifle seasons as well. This is an option that very few states allow and can substantially increase the overall quality of the experience if you are a crossover bow/rifle hunter.

Analysis: Here is some solid general information to get you started. The Bighorn Mountains in north-central Wyoming have good access, no grizzlies, no wolves, and some nice bulls, making the area a very popular destination for hunters who want to camp or backpack in deep. Units 33, 34, 35, 38, and 39 are all limited-entry units and units 36 and 37 are general units that do have some decent elk hunting opportunities, particularly during the rut in bow season. The bowhunting here can be very productive, but the rifle seasons can be a whole lot tougher, as the bulls tend to head for the timber after the rut is over. Don't underestimate how high the elk can be here. It is very common

Ratings for Wyoming Limited Quota Elk Hunts



- Best Wyoming limited quota units
- Good Wyoming limited quota units
- Marginal Wyoming limited quota units
- Poor Wyoming limited quota units

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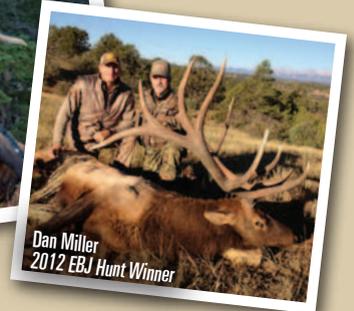
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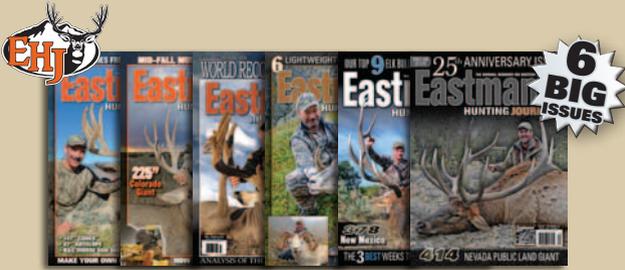
FREE

+ \$13.99 S&P



KNIFE VALUE
\$36.99

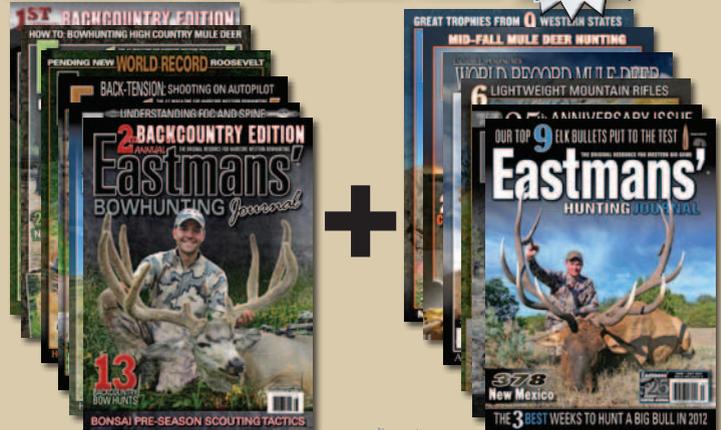
KNIFE
HAYALON Knives



OR

BEST DEAL

12 BIG ISSUES



1-Year of or + **FREE** + \$13.99 S&P
ONLY \$24.99 KNIFE

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to see elk rutting above timberline at over 10,000 feet in the Big Horns. The elk hunting trend here is slightly on the decline however. I feel the Game and Fish department is giving out way too many elk tags in this region in an effort to make up for the loss in elk tags and revenue created by the wolf situation on the other side of the Bighorn Basin in the areas around Cody.

Most of the units around Yellowstone National Park have wilderness areas that require a guide (or you must be with a resident who has applied for a permit to hunt with a nonresident in a wilderness area.) Some of these units include 51, 55, 56, 60, 59, 70, 79, and 71. The grizzlies are extremely thick here and the wolves have had a definite impact on the elk population and behavior. Many of the limited-quota units in this region have lost up to 30% of their quota in the past three years, making the draw odds very tough and hard to predict. Do not burn too many preference points to hunt here. Bare in mind, it is very big country; without the proper equipment and wilderness savvy you could end up spending your final days on a mountaintop here.

The elk hunting is still good around Jackson. In the early part of the season you might have to deal with some people who will still be hiking and biking in the mountains. The elk herds on the southern end of the valley remain over objective. Concentrate on the areas south of the Hoback and Snake Rivers for the best elk numbers. The weather can and does change quickly in this area, so you need to be prepared. There is also some wilderness that you will need to be aware of, including all or parts of units 80, 82, 84, 93, 95, and 97. The bowhunting here is very good on a general tag. Once the rifle season starts things can get a bit stirred up.

In the southeastern part of the state, the general elk hunting can be decent, but the hunting pressure can be almost unbearable at times, particularly on the weekends. These units and hunts are extremely popular with the residents. Look at units 10, 11, 16, 114, and unit 125 for some good opportunities; none of these units have wilderness areas.

The northeast corner of the state has fewer opportunities than the rest of the state because there are fewer elk. Though, some very good bulls do come out of these limited draw areas. Area 2 was added as a blue-chip contender last year with over 60% of the hunters here taking branch antlered bulls during the 2010

season. According to my preliminary reports, the hunting here continued to be very solid during the 2012 season.

The southwest part of the state has some very good elk hunting; it just doesn't have the overall elk population the northwest part of the state has. Most of the units here are general tags, so getting to hunt there is easier than in some other parts of the state. I would advise speaking with a game biologist to get a handle on where the best opportunities are. Much of this area is general; you will have plenty of competition from other hunters and some access issues at times.

The center of the state is where the bread and butter of the best elk hunting is now located. Area 7 has too many permits to consistently produce the kind of elk hunting that it has enjoyed over the past 10 or so years. This area is very close to being downgraded to a green-chip unit, probably next year. Based on my preliminary reports, the hunting this year was very slow and the harvest should come in at a historic low for the unit. However, some of the fringe units and the areas to the west have been producing some fantastic elk hunting as of lately. It's really hard to beat the elk hunting in the four-plex of units 22, 24, 111, and 118. If you have the points needed to draw a tag, the bow hunting here can be off the charts. It will require max points to hunt here in the future.

If you are serious about hunting elk in Wyoming as a nonresident, I strongly suggest you invest the money to buy preference points. A few points can make a huge difference in your draw odds for almost any tag in the state. A very good limited quota nonresident elk tag can be garnered with only three to five preference points and a little bit of luck. As discussed above, I would look to the central area of the state for some of the better elk hunting opportunity. As the wolves and grizzlies continue to take their toll on northwestern Wyoming's elk herds, these more non-traditional elk areas continue to outperform the rest of the state when it comes to quality and opportunity at big bulls. I would venture to say that the more open country of central Wyoming now holds some of the best elk hunting in the state, particularly during the rut bound archery seasons in September.

Good luck in the draw and I hope this information helps to get you started with your preparation for next year's elk season in Wyoming.

Changes for this Year

- Area 7 quota was dropped from 1,750 to 1,500. I think it should be more like 750.
- Area 24 had unusually low success on branch-antlered bulls during the 2011 season (38%). Fluke or trend?
- Area 61, Type-2 had the quota increased from 25 tags to 50. Still a very good hunt.
- Area 61, Type-2 the season was opened on October 15th instead of November 1st.
- Area 75, Teton Park was closed indefinitely. A sad day for elk hunting.
- Area 100, the quota was cut from 225 tags down to 175. An improvement.
- Area 111 had a quota increase from 50 tags to 75 tags. Helps the odds a bit.
- Area 124, the quota was almost doubled from 25 tags to 40 tags. More revenue or more elk?
- There was a 9% total decrease in the amount of tags in the "Blue Chip" category. The trend continues.
- Area 5 was changed from a limited quota to a general area. Not sure why.
- Area 16 added a Type-2 tag. More options in a very good elk area.
- Area 48 had the quota dropped by 50 tags. A sign of a struggling elk herd.
- Area 79 was closed indefinitely. More trouble in western Wyoming.
- Area 114, tag quota dropped by 50 tags. Less deer and now less elk. Tough times.
- Area 116, elk tag quota increased by 50 tags. Still a mediocre area.
- Area 117, quota increased by 75 tags. More elk in the Black Hills?
- 625 elk tags lost in the "Blue" and "Green Chip" areas combined. Bad sign for the G&F budget.
- The limited quota elk areas in Wyoming lost a total of 6% of their tags in one year. Draw odds dropping. Ouch!!!!

Detail #11

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How to Read this Chart?

The Basics:

Blue Chip Areas- These areas represent the best limited-quota elk hunting areas available in the state of Wyoming. Each one of these nineteen "Blue Chip" units has the ability to produce bulls in excess of 350-inches B&C on a good year.

Green Chip Areas- A "Green Chip" area is a quality elk area that can produce bulls over the 320-inch mark and will offer a hunter a reasonably good elk hunt. These areas tend to be a little easier to draw, and while the hunting is generally not quite as good as a "Blue Chip" area, a good hunter can still make it happen here.

Yellow Chip Areas- The "Yellow Chip" areas are limited quota units that generally do not produce the best hunts in the state for large bulls. These areas can often offer a good "fill the freezer" type hunt for smaller bulls or spikes. A hardcore DIY hunter can sometimes make it happen here on a decent 300+ inch bull.

Archery Only Areas- These 17 areas offer a special "Archery Only" tag that gives the hunter the ability to hunt only during the archery season. These tags tend to be easier to draw than the standard tags, but details of these seasons and hunts should be researched carefully before applying.

The Categories:

Area- These are the designated Wyoming elk hunt areas. See the Wyoming elk proclamations and map for the actual area descriptions and boundaries. Note: Do not use this map as such.

Type- In Wyoming the "Type" means the type of hunt or the type of game

WYOMING ELK - ALL LIMITED QUOTA AREAS																					
2013 LIMITED QUOTA ELK HUNTS																					
Area	Type	Trophy Quality	Resident				Nonresident										Estimated # Points To Draw				
			Quota Total Elk Tags		Draw Odds		Regular (\$591.00)					Special (\$1071.00)									
			2012	2011	2012	2011	Preference Points-Draw Odds					Preference Points-Draw Odds						Reg-Spl			
0	1	2	3	4	5	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	
2	1	Excellent	30	60	6%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	100%	15-6
7	1	Excellent	1,500	1,750	27%	33%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	75%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	42%	100%	8-6	
16	1	Excellent	200	200	14%	16%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	36%	5%	5%	5%	5%	100%	100%	17-5		
16	2	Excellent	50	-	59%	N/A	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0-0	
22	1	Excellent	50	50	8%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	100-21		
24	1	Excellent	200	175	13%	11%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	24%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	47%	25-13		
30	1	Excellent	40	50	5%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	10%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	18%	60-33		
31	1	Excellent	100	100	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%	200-100		
32	1	Excellent	75	75	10%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	12%	150-50		
58	1	Excellent	35	35	11%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	55-22		
61	1	Excellent	150	175	35%	53%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	80%	100%	6%	6%	6%	66%	6%	36%	100-6	
61	2	Excellent	50	25	31%	10%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	30%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	33%	20-18		
63.64	1	Excellent	200	200	21%	24%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	46%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	30%	13-20		
78	1	Excellent	50	50	27%	32%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	60%	5%	5%	5%	5%	100%	100%	10-5		
100	1	Excellent	175	225	5%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	16%	100-38		
108	1	Excellent	75	75	36%	45%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	83%	3%	3%	3%	3%	100%	100%	7-5		
111	1	Excellent	75	50	24%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	29-18		
118	1	Excellent	35	35	20%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	16-4		
121	1	Excellent	100	100	33%	43%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	86%	3%	3%	3%	3%	83%	100%	7-6		
124	1	Excellent	40	25	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	200-150		
6	1	Good	100	200	14%	21%	4%	4%	4%	17%	100%	100%	100%	33%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-1	
11	1	Good	150	150	24%	22%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	19%	100%	5%	5%	5%	5%	100%	100%	6-4	
19	1	Good	150	150	17%	31%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	100%	100%	7%	7%	7%	100%	100%	100%	5-3	
19	2	Good	150	150	28%	37%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	100%	100%	5%	5%	5%	100%	100%	100%	4-4	
23	1	Good	125	125	24%	23%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	100%	100%	4%	4%	4%	4%	50%	100%	5-5	
38	1	Good	400	400	40%	41%	5%	5%	5%	5%	100%	100%	100%	15%	15%	79%	100%	100%	100%	4-3	
45	1	Good	350	350	26%	30%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	23%	100%	6%	6%	6%	6%	67%	100%	6-6	
47	1	Good	200	150	100%	86%	11%	11%	11%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-0	
47	2	Good	25	25	100%	100%	29%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1-0	
48	1	Good	300	350	100%	100%	10%	10%	10%	45%	100%	100%	100%	27%	27%	60%	100%	100%	100%	4-3	
49	1	Good	300	300	82%	72%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	36%	100%	4%	4%	4%	4%	100%	100%	6-4	
50	1	Good	20	20	26%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100-2	
54.65	1	Good	50	50	15%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	55-55	
59	1	Good	10	10	14%	16%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	30-18	
62	1	Good	125	125	23%	26%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	70%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	36%	100%	9-6	
64	2	Good	100	100	39%	33%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	56%	100%	2%	2%	2%	75%	100%	100%	6-5	
84	1	Good	20	20	100%	100%	8%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1-0	
114	1	Good	100	150	62%	90%	8%	8%	8%	8%	100%	100%	100%	6%	6%	6%	100%	100%	100%	4-4	
120	1	Good	100	100	24%	23%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	100%	8%	8%	8%	8%	100%	100%	100%	6-4	
123	1	Good	N/A	50	N/A	31%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
125	1	Good	150	125	100%	100%	77%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1-0	
1	1	Marginal	150	150	20%	19%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	53%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	8%	100%	11-6	
3	1	Marginal	75	75	49%	40%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	100%	100%	20%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-1	
8	1	Marginal	150	150	100%	100%	71%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1-0	
25.27	1	Marginal	200	200	36%	35%	8%	8%	17%	100%	100%	100%	57%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-1	
33	1	Marginal	200	150	87%	64%	7%	7%	7%	7%	55%	100%	100%	11%	11%	11%	22%	100%	100%	5-4	
34	1	Marginal	800	800	98%	99%	13%	13%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	2-1	
35	1	Marginal	150	150	28%	28%	4%	4%	4%	4%	59%	100%	13%	13%	13%	42%	100%	100%	100%	5-4	
39	1	Marginal	100	90	46%	37%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	100%	100%	7%	17%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-2	
39	2	Marginal	75	75	71%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0-0	
40	1	Marginal	175	175	35%	37%	6%	6%	6%	27%	100%	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-1	
41.42	1	Marginal	375	375	69%	60%	11%	11%	18%	100%	100%	100%	100%	17%	30%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-2	
51	1	Marginal	100	100	100%	95%	40%	40%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	2-0	
52.53	1	Marginal	40	40	62%	59%	8%	8%	8%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-0	
88	1	Marginal	40	60	71%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0-0	
91	1	Marginal	100	100	67%	65%	6%	6%	6%	33%	100%	100%	100%	9%	9%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-2	
93	1	Marginal	175	175	82%	90%	5%	5%	5%	46%	100%	100%	100%	30%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-2	
95	1	Marginal	175	175	38%	38%	9%	9%	9%	9%	40%	100%	21%	21%	25%	100%	100%	100%	100%	5-3	
95	2	Marginal	30	30	96%	59%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0-0	
96	1	Marginal	200	300	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0-0	
97	1	Marginal	300	300	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0-0	
98	1	Marginal	350	350	100%	100%	13%	13%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	2-1	
99	1	Marginal	200	175	66%	61%	8%	8%	20%	100%	100%	100%	100%	62%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-1	
106	1	Marginal	50	50	53%	37%	66%	66%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	2-0	
116	1	Marginal	200	150	81%	51%	4%	4%	4%	4%	29%	100%	5%	5%	5%	40%	100%	100%	100%	5-4	
117	1	Marginal	350	275	39%	30%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	63%	100%	12%	12%	12%	12%	100%	100%	6-4	
122	1	Marginal	50	50	100%	100%	6%	6%	6%	100%	100%	100%	100%	11%	11%	11%	100%	100%	100%	3-3	
Archery Only-Type-9 Tags																					
45	9	Excellent	150	150	44%	44%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	46%	100%	7%	7%	7%	7%	42%	100%	6-5	
54.65	9	Excellent	25	25	38%	38%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	100%	6-5	
38	9	Good	250	250	34%	38%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	25%	100%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	100%	5-3	
39	9	Good	70	70	32%	36%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	100%	100%	8%	8%	8%	100%	100%	100%	5-3	
40	9	Good	50	50	45%	61%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	100%	100%	10%	10%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4-2	
41.42	9	Good	125	125	71%	60%	8%	8%	8%	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	3-2	
50	9	Good	20	20	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1-0	
59	9	Good	25	25																	

WYOMING ELK - ALL LIMITED QUOTA AREAS

2013 LIMITED QUOTA ELK HUNTS

Area	Type	Description	Success Rates					Hunting Seasons			Terrain/Access					Specifics								
			Historic Hunter Success Rates Branch-Antlered Bulls					2013	2012	General Overlap	Terrain Rating	Public Land %	Access to Public	Amount of Wilderness	Hunter Mgmt. Area	Walk-In Acres	Trophy Potential	Hunting Pressure	Access	Terrain	Quality of Hunt			
			2011	2010	2009	2008	2007															5yr avg	Days/Harvest	
2	1	Fortification	57%	61%	52%	57%	36%	53%	6.9	10/21	10/21-10/31	No	Moderate	75%	Marginal	None	None	0	0	B	A	D	A	B
7	1	Laramie Peak	49%	48%	38%	61%	62%	52%	15.3	10/15	10/15-11/20	No	Rough	45%	Marginal	None	Yes (3)	32,443	B	C	C	B	B	
16	1	Shirley Mountain	62%	63%	51%	43%	51%	54%	9.6	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Moderate	70%	Poor	None	Yes (2)	0	B	B	C	D	A	B
16	2	Shirley Mountain	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	11/1	11/1-11/30	No	Moderate	70%	Poor	None	Yes (2)	0	B	A	D	A	A	
22	1	Ferris	59%	56%	62%	63%	59%	60%	11.9	10/8	10/8-10/21	No	Moderate	90%	Fair	None	Yes (1)	3,520	B	A	B	B	B	
24	1	Green Mountain	38%	57%	67%	46%	50%	52%	9.0	10/1	10/1-10/14	No	Moderate	90%	Good	None	None	0	B	C	A	B	B	
30	1	Aspen Mountain	72%	75%	84%	83%	85%	80%	10.9	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Moderate	66%	Good	None	None	0	C	A	B	A	A	
31	1	Little Mountain	72%	79%	82%	79%	88%	80%	12.2	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Rough	85%	Excellent	None	None	0	B	B	A	C	B	
32	1	Pine Mountain	65%	70%	74%	58%	43%	62%	14.1	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Rough	85%	Good	None	None	0	B	B	A	C	B	
58	1	Sage Creek	63%	81%	47%	53%	73%	63%	13.9	10/1	10/1-11/30	No	Rough	60%	Fair	None	Yes (1)	0	B	A	C	C	B	
61	1	N. Greybull River	73%	82%	55%	57%	69%	67%	7.2	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Rough	90%	Marginal	Some	Yes (1)	0	A	B	A	C	A	
61	2	N. Greybull River	38%	33%	77%	38%	71%	51%	14.9	10/15	10/15-11/15	No	Rough	90%	Marginal	Some	Yes (1)	0	A	A	C	B	A	
63,64	1	Wood River, Owl Creek	52%	48%	39%	35%	68%	48%	8.9	10/1	10/1-10/21	No	Rough	65%	Good	Some	Yes (1)	0	A	B	C	C	A	
78	1	Wilson	78%	88%	90%	56%	89%	80%	12.4	9/26	9/26-1/31	No	Moderate	20%	Marginal	None	None	0	A	B	D	A	B	
100	1	Steamboat	88%	89%	95%	82%	82%	87%	6.4	10/15	10/15-10/31	No	Moderate	85%	Excellent	None	None	1,480	B	C	A	A	B	
108	1	South Rawlins	82%	71%	55%	55%	57%	64%	8.0	10/11	10/11-10/31	No	Moderate	65%	Fair	None	None	0	B	A	C	A	A	
111	1	Seminole	73%	79%	70%	68%	84%	75%	11.3	10/10	10/10-10/31	No	Moderate	70%	Good	None	None	2,550	B	A	A	B	A	
118	1	Shamrock Hills	76%	81%	85%	64%	75%	76%	8.5	10/15	10/15-10/31	No	Moderate	50%	Marginal	None	None	475	A	A	C	A	A	
121	1	Trout Creek-Rattlesnake	57%	54%	41%	24%	41%	43%	19.8	11/1	11/1-11/30	No	Rough	70%	Good	Very Little	None	0	A	B	A	C	A	
124	1	Powder Rim	64%	92%	45%	75%	56%	66%	19.0	10/15	10/15-11/30	No	Moderate	60%	Good	None	None	0	B	A	B	B	A	
6	1	Pole Mountain	61%	42%	40%	30%	35%	42%	10.1	10/20	10/20-11/15	Yes	Moderate	40%	Poor	None	Yes (2)	0	B	C	C	B	C	
11	1	Medicine Bow River	26%	41%	44%	50%	33%	39%	25.9	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Rough	70%	Poor	None	None	0	B	B	D	C	C	
19	1	Muddy Mountain	61%	48%	53%	45%	44%	50%	10.4	10/1	10/1-10/14	No	Moderate	40%	Fair	None	Yes (1)	3,263	B	B	C	B	C	
19	2	Muddy Mountain	39%	74%	62%	47%	42%	53%	18.6	11/1	11/1-11/20	No	Moderate	40%	Fair	None	Yes (1)	3,263	B	B	C	B	B	
23	1	Rattlesnake	36%	51%	46%	70%	59%	52%	22.7	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Moderate	65%	Good	None	Yes (1)	125,710	B	C	C	B	C	
38	1	Tongue	17%	18%	19%	26%	24%	21%	22.4	10/15	10/15-11/5	No, Type-9	Moderate	95%	Good	None	None	0	B	D	A	B	C	
45	1	Paint Rock & Leigh Cr.	34%	24%	36%	31%	40%	33%	15.4	10/15	10/15-11/4	No, Type-9	Rough	60%	Good	Some	None	640	B	C	B	C	B	
47	1	Copper Mountain	35%	37%	30%	49%	38%	38%	9.3	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Moderate	35%	Poor	None	None	Yes (1)	3,000	C	B	D	B	B
47	2	Copper Mountain	33%	42%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.7	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Moderate	35%	Poor	None	Yes (1)	3,000	C	C	D	B	C	
48	1	Upper Norwood	29%	47%	25%	35%	46%	36%	13.3	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Rough	65%	Poor	None	Yes (2)	26,688	B	C	D	B	C	
49	1	Other Creek	24%	30%	47%	35%	25%	32%	15.4	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Rough	40%	Poor	None	Yes (1)	0	B	C	D	C	C	
50	1	Beartooth	65%	47%	22%	0%	0%	27%	10.8	10/1	10/1-10/31	No, Type-9	Extreme	80%	Good	Some	None	3,962	B	A	B	B	B	
54,65	1	Bald Ridge, McCulloughs	30%	38%	67%	58%	N/A	48%	31.4	10/1	10/1-11/30	No, Type-9	Rough	75%	Marginal	None	Yes (2)	0	C	A	B	D	C	
59	1	Boulder Basin	20%	50%	50%	38%	91%	50%	32.0	11/1	11/1-11/15	Yes, Type-9	Extreme	50%	Good	Mostly	Yes (1)	0	A	A	B	D	B	
62	1	S. Greybull River	40%	30%	38%	43%	43%	39%	13.5	10/1	10/1-10/21	No	Rough	90%	Excellent	None	Yes (1)	0	B	C	A	C	C	
64	2	Owl Creek	39%	54%	41%	51%	35%	44%	17.1	11/1	11/1-11/15	No	Rough	35%	Good	Very Little	Yes (1)	0	B	B	C	B	B	
84	1	Lower Hoback	100%	19%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.2	11/1	11/1-1/31	Yes	Rough	85%	Good	None	None	0	B	A	B	B	B	
114	1	Kyle	49%	60%	61%	56%	45%	54%	16.7	10/1	10/1-1/31	No	Rough	20%	Poor	None	None	0	B	C	F	B	C	
120	1	Buffalo Creek	55%	57%	44%	35%	41%	46%	10.5	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Moderate	60%	Good	None	Yes (1)	31,805	B	B	C	B	B	
123	1	Black Thunder	81%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	9/10	9/10-9/30	No	Moderate	65%	Poor	None	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
125	1	Elk Mountain	47%	47%	43%	52%	49%	48%	6.6	10/1	10/1-12/31	No	Moderate	55%	Poor	None	Yes (1)	510	B	C	C	B	C	
1	1	Black Hills	16%	34%	25%	43%	31%	30%	46.1	10/15	10/15-11/30	No	Moderate	10%	Good	None	None	825	-	-	-	-	-	
3	1	Rawhide	49%	74%	44%	52%	54%	55%	13.8	9/15	9/15-10/14	Yes	Moderate	15%	Poor	None	Yes (1)	12,380	-	-	-	-	-	
8	1	Boulder Ridge	25%	26%	29%	21%	14%	23%	15.6	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Moderate	15%	Poor	None	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
25,27	1	South Pass, Sweetwater	30%	48%	26%	39%	30%	35%	19.3	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Rough	75%	Fair	None	None	3,340	-	-	-	-	-	
33	1	Middle Fork	44%	40%	33%	43%	35%	39%	15.5	10/9	10/9-10/31	No	Rough	60%	Good	None	None	120	-	-	-	-	-	
34	1	Upper Powder River	23%	28%	26%	30%	25%	26%	18.3	10/15	10/15-11/15	No	Rough	65%	Fair	None	None	400	-	-	-	-	-	
35	1	Hunter Mesa	35%	34%	31%	20%	31%	30%	22.7	10/15	10/15-11/5	No, Type-9	Rough	80%	Good	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
39	1	Deer Creek	17%	25%	7%	20%	16%	17%	11.6	10/15	10/15-11/4	No, Type-9	Rough	90%	Good	None	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
39	2	Deer Creek	23%	28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.4	10/15	10/15-11/4	No, Type-9	Rough	90%	Good	None	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
40	1	Horse Creek	25%	28%	25%	18%	28%	25%	13.3	10/15	10/15-11/4	No, Type-9	Rough	85%	Good	None	None	214	-	-	-	-	-	
41,42	1	Medicine Lodge	26%	23%	26%	18%	20%	23%	16.1	10/15	10/15-11/4	No, Type-9	Rough	75%	Good	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
51	1	Crandall	40%	35%	25%	13%	35%	30%	14.3	10/1	10/1-10/31	No, Type-9	Extreme	85%	Good	Mostly	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
52,53	1	Sunlight, Dead Indian	22%	24%	13%	19%	28%	21%	24.6	10/1	10/1-10/31	No, Type-9	Extreme	80%	Good	Mostly	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
88	1	Greys Feedground	7%	20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.1	10/1	10/1-10/31	Yes	Moderate	100%	Good	None	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
91	1	Salt River	25%	32%	13%	17%	11%	20%	20.5	10/1	10/1-10/31	Yes	Extreme	80%	Fair	None	None	1,740	-	-	-	-	-	
93	1	Waterdog Lakes	33%	38%	27%	26%	14%	28%	15.6	10/1	10/1-10/31	No	Extreme	85%	Fair	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
95	1	Green River	30%	25%	37%	33%	32%	31%	23.3	10/15	10/15-11/5	No, Type-2	Extreme	90%	Good	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
95	2	Green River	10%	32%	33%	32%	0%	21%	33.3	10/1	10/1-11/5	No, Type-1	Extreme	90%	Good	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
96	1	New Fork	10%	19%	20%	30%	21%	20%	41.8	10/1	10/1-10/31	Yes	Rough	70%	Good	Some	None	0	-	-	-	-	-	
97	1</																							

to be hunted. As a general rule "Type-1" and "Type-2" licenses are for "antlered" or "any" game, male or female. A "Type-9" license is for archery only and a "Type-0" license designates a muzzleloader hunt. The remaining types are set aside for antlerless big game hunts.

Trophy Quality- This is the overall rating of an elk area's potential to produce trophy quality bulls and offer up a very good hunt with limited hunting pressure and plenty of elk to choose from in the area.

Total Elk Tag Quota- This is the total quantity of tags available for the specific elk area and hunt. Keep in mind, the Wyoming Game and Fish department generally does not set the next year's tag quotas until the winter counts are done. This is to make sure they do not over-hunt the population. The elk draw is so early for nonresidents that they generally go off of the previous year's quota numbers and add or subtract the difference from the resident pool. For this chart we used the 2012 elk quotas.

Resident Draw Odds- There is no preference point system for Wyoming residents. Wyoming residents are allocated 80% of the total elk tag quota. Keep in mind, even slight fluctuations in the tag quotas can cause significant changes in the drawing odds from one year to the next.

Nonresident Draw Odds- This section lays out the nonresident odds of drawing a tag in four different categories. The first is the "Regular" or \$577.00 draw category and the second is the "Special" more expensive tag at \$1,057.00. Keep in mind that during the 2012 application year the maximum amount of points possible was six. The chart shows the actual odds of drawing a tag with each number of points from zero to the max of six for the 2012 application season. Be aware that these odds do change from year to year based on a number of factors.

Estimated Points to Draw- This is a calculated prediction of the number of preference points a nonresident hunter would need to be 100% successful in the draw for that tag. The first number is the number of points you would need as a nonresident in the regular (\$591.00) draw and the second number is the points that would be required to draw the tag in the "Special" (\$1,071.00) draw. Keep in mind, this is the amount of points it would take to draw 100% of the time if you were the final successful hunter in your point pool to get a tag. It is a "worst-case scenario" calculation.

Hunter Success- These are the hunter

success rates on "branch antlered" bulls for the 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 hunting seasons along with the historic five-year average during that time period. The number of "Days/Harvest" figure is the average number of days each hunter spent in the field before harvesting their animal. These numbers can be somewhat "ridiculous" from time to time and I only use them as a gauge of how "hard" or "easy" a hunt is relative to the other hunts in the chart. The hunter's filling out the surveys generally tend to "over-inflate" how long they actually hunted.

Hunting Seasons- The Wyoming Game and Fish Department usually does not set the season dates for the next hunting season until summer. Therefore, we use the previous year's hunting season dates for our charts. The "General Overlap" column will let a hunter know if his area also has a general hunting season in the area as well as a limited quota season. Beware of this scenario. This can significantly reduce the overall quality of your hunt and experience as the general tags are over the counter for residents and there is no limit on how many can be sold as such.

Terrain and Access- The terrain category rates on a scale from "Easy" to "Moderate" to "Rough" and finally "Extreme." For example, the Tetons in

western Wyoming would be rated at an "Extreme" while the grassland country around Gillette would be rated as "Easy." The amount of "Public Land" in the next column denotes the estimated percentage of public land contained in that unit. The next column, "Access to Public," is the estimated measure of how accessible that public land is to the general public. An area that has a large percentage of public land but a "Poor" access rating would signify large blocks of public land that are "land-locked" by tracts of private property making access to the public acreage nearly impossible. The access ratings go from "Poor" to "Excellent." Keep in mind that it is possible for a unit to have large amounts of public land but still have very limited access to that public land. The final column is the amount of "Walk-In Acres" contained in that unit. These are private acres that allow public hunting. These are the 2012 acreage calculations for each unit and those amounts can, and do, generally change slightly from one year to the next. The "Amount of Wilderness" measure denotes how much Wilderness the hunting area contains, of which a nonresident hunter would need to be accompanied by a licensed outfitter or guide to hunt there. The "Hunter Management Area" and "Walk-In" area columns tell the prospective applicant if



Doug Wesley took a chance and bucked the odds with five points in Area 2 to kill this massive Wyoming bull. Doug researched his hunt diligently and the results of his hard work certainly speak for themselves. Watch for the complete story on this huge bull in the special "Elk Issue" of EHJ (June/July 2013) coming next summer.

and how much public access an area has on private land available to the hunter.

The Specifics- These criteria are all rated on a scale from “A” to “F” where an “A” always denotes the most favorable scenario to the hunter and an “F” is a very unfavorable variable for the hunter.

Trophy Potential- This is a measure of what type of bulls this unit can produce. An “A” grade means the area can produce bulls in excess of 350-inches B&C. While a “B” area generally produces bulls in excess of 320, a “C” area has bulls in excess of 300 and a “D” has large five-point and small six-point bulls. An “F” is, well, just that—a very poor unit for mature bulls, consisting of “rag-horns” and smaller type bulls.

Hunting Pressure- The “Hunting Pressure” measures how likely you are to see other hunters in the field while hunting. An area with only 50 tags, a lengthy season, and lots of country would be rated an “A”. This means you would only see a few hunters while you were afield. An “F” would signify an



Beto Flores arrowed this awesome public land bull during the general archery season this past September. Beto told us he hunted the area for eight years before he was finally able to get on one of the “big” bulls he’d chased for so long.

Archery Only (Type-9) Areas

A “Type-9” license in Wyoming is an archery only tag. However tempting this may sound to the hardcore bowhunter, BE CAREFUL. Many of these tags can be “sucker” plays. In order for a guy to seriously look at a Type-9 tag versus the regular limited-quota tag I believe he should either be A) a very hardcore, diehard bowhunter or B) know the area very well. Wyoming has a total of 17 Type-9 archery only tags. However, just because there is an archery only option in that unit does not mean you will always be the only hunter in the area, and sometimes not even the only bowhunter. Some units in the Bighorn Mountains, areas 35, 45, and 46 in particular, the limited quota rifle hunters can also bowhunt later on in the bow season after the 14th of September, adding some additional bowhunting pressure to the area. I generally recommend hunting early in September with a Wyoming Type-9 license particularly in the Bighorn Mountains. If you do apply for a Type-9 license, make sure you check the regulations for the area thoroughly to make sure you know what other tags are valid in that area during your hunt. Sometimes the “General Elk” tag holders can even hunt during the entire Type-9 bow season. As a general rule, if you hunt in the better Type-9 areas in the Bighorn Mountains it is strongly advised you hunt early in September to try and circumvent some of the additional hunting pressure. After the 15th of September in many of these areas the limited quota rifle tag holders can bowhunt as well, which often creates a significant increase in hunting pressure and can even cause the bulls to shut down and timber-up during the rut.

The average bowhunter success on branch-antlered bulls in the Type-9 areas during the 2011 hunting season was 17%, which is down a tick from the historic five-year average of

18%. This is almost double that of the average statewide bow success for elk mostly due to the “seriousness” factor of the Type-9 hunters who do not have the option to come back and rifle hunt later on in the season.

What the Type-9 areas do offer are a little bit better draw odds in some historically very good units. Statistically speaking, some of the best areas for archery success out of the available Type-9 areas are Area 54 (32% 5-yr. avg. success), Area 45 (24% success), and Area 38 (23% success). These three areas are well above the state average for success on archery bulls, many of them more than double the state average.

If you’re willing to go guided, I would seriously consider heading to the Thoroughfare region on a wilderness bowhunt. Area 60 is total wilderness but has some tremendous hunting during the archery season for big bulls. The general rifle season starts on the 10th of September, so this would be a very early bowhunt. Bowhunters here had a 21% success rate in 2007, but only a 9% success in 2010 with draw odds that are a little better than the general elk draw.

In a nutshell, I’m not overly impressed with a majority of the Type-9 bowhunts offered by the state of Wyoming. I think a guy is much better off doing a little more research and choosing an area out of the limited-quota draw and hunting during the regular bow season. The average bowhunter in the regular limited-quota units tends to be less serious and just doesn’t hunt as hard knowing they have the option to come back during the rifle season and hunt again. In my opinion, these areas are much better than most of the Type-9 areas offered in Wyoming, but if you’re willing to hunt hard and want slightly better draw odds, these Type-9 tags might make for a decent option with very few points needed.

overhunted unit swarming with a sea of orange.

Access- This grade is given based on the amount of public land, public access, and "Walk-In" areas available in a hunting unit. An elk unit that consists mostly of public land would be rated as an "A" while an area that has huge tracts of private property and no "Walk-In" areas would be rated as a "D" or "F".

Terrain- The "Terrain" category

measures how rough and user friendly the terrain in the area is for the hunter. For example the Gros Ventre region of western Wyoming would be rated as a "D" due to the rocky, steep, and tough country it contains while the sagebrush country around Casper would be rated an "A" as almost anyone could get around the area without breaking too much of a sweat. Consider this a measure of the "blister factor", how likely you are to

blister your feet when you hunt there.

Quality of Hunt- The "Quality of Hunt" measurement is a very, very subjective measure of how exciting the hunt might be. Are you just shopping for a big one, while passing up numerous smaller specimens, this would be an "A" while a "D" would be an area where you might have to hunt super hard for an entire week just to get one shot at a mature trophy.

WYOMING BLUE-CHIP ELK AREAS

Area 2 (Fortification)- With a recently reduced quota of only 30 elk tags and a very short end-of-October season, this was a newcomer to the Blue Chip area list last year. This area is in some very open, nontraditional elk country, but the hunting can be very good here. The area consists of about 75% public land with decent public access. Over the past five years, almost 60% of the hunters have taken branch-antlered bulls here while only hunting six days to do so. If this trend keeps up, this could become one of the easiest and best elk hunts in the state over the next few years. Please note, there is no archery season in this area at this time.

Area 7 (Laramie Peak)- This elk area has constantly been at the top of the list over the years for big Wyoming bulls. With plenty of elk, no wolves, no grizzlies, no wilderness, and vast amounts of killer elk country, most elk hunters have typically set their sights on this area. This unit can produce bulls over 350 on a fairly consistent basis, but bulls in the 300-320 range are more the average. Even with a quota decrease back to 1,500 tags, I am afraid this area could still be a touch over hunted. Further evidence of this theory is shown in the recent drop in success rates here. Hunter success on branch-antlered bulls has dropped from a historic 60%+ high to around 45%. The preliminary reports from last fall have been much less than stellar. A combination of horrendous drought and forest fires has put this area on its heels for big bulls during the 2012 season. The late October rifle season here can make hunting big bulls very tough. Look to the archery season during the rut for the biggest bulls to hit the ground. The access in this unit can be tough at the lower elevations. Nonresident applicants will need about

six or seven points to have a good chance to draw this area.

Area 16 (Shirley Basin)- As a new comer to the list this year, the Shirley Basin unit has been on my radar for a few years now. I have contemplated upgrading this unit in the past, but this year is the year. With a historic average success of nearly 60% and a month-long season, this unit can be a great option for an elk hunter. Consider steering clear of the opener. This area packs 200 tags, making the hunting pressure fairly tough. The bulls here don't generally get huge, but this can be a great place to kill a 310- to 330-class bull. The country is fairly easy. There is also a new late season Type-2 option with only 50 tags that offers elk hunters the chance to cruise the desert hunting winter range for big bulls in November.

Area 22 (Ferris)- This area has been on the Blue Chip list for a few years now and continues to be an up-and-coming killer elk area. A historic average of over 60% success on branch-antlered bulls and some very moderate country can make for a very good hunt for guys who don't have horses and want to see plenty of elk. Only 50 tags make this hunt a real quality experience and a glasser's paradise. The only drawback here is the mid-October season, which can be a very tough time to hunt elk. The draw odds here are very, very tough, but bowhunters with max points should definitely look into this hunt for some very high-quality bowhunting for elk.

Area 24 (Green Mountain)- The Green Mountain area is another relative newbie to the Blue Chip list and one that I have been keeping my eye on for a few years now. The elk in here are doing very, very well, and the population is finally to a

point where some real slammer bulls are being taken in here each year. The tag quota was increased yet again for the 2012 season (up to 200 tags), creating a bit of a pressure challenge for a short two week rifle season in such a small area. As I have feared, the hunter success here has dropped during the 2011 season to a measly 38%. This area can produce bulls in the high 300s. Hunters wishing to hunt here should do their research and get plenty of maps. This unit is a bowhunter's paradise during the September archery season during the rut.

Area 30, 31 & 32 (Aspen, Little, and Pine Mountains)- These units border Flaming Gorge Reservoir and offer excellent hunts for 300- to 350-inch bulls. The average mature bull here is about 320 but can be tough to find sometimes during the October season. There are no wolves or grizzlies in this area, and the country can be fairly easy to hunt. With an opener on October 1st, there is the possibility of some rut hunting action with a rifle. With only 215 tags available between the three units combined, the hunting pressure here is very favorable, but the odds of drawing a tag are long. With draw odds in the single digits, this is the place for point bankers and luck hounds. If you get a tag, your odds are the best in the state to kill a branch-antlered bull at over 80% on some years. The bowhunting here is very good with very relaxed rutting elk and extremely limited pressure. I would say Area 31 could have the biggest bulls of the three on average.

Area 58 (Sage Creek)- With some wolf issues and grizzly bear encounters being a definite possibility here, this unit is certainly not what it once was. The quality and success rates in this unit have definitely wained and fluctuated over the



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past few years. Right outside the town of Cody, this unit has historically produced bulls from 320 all of the way up to the 400-inch mark, but most of the bulls being killed lately are in the 320 to 330 range. With a quota reduction from 50 down to only 35 tags a few years ago, the hunting pressure here is less than ever. A very liberal two-month rifle season still makes this area a good bet for a quality hunt despite the extremely tough draw odds. The archery season in this unit can be unreal if you're not afraid of a grizzly bear or two and are willing to hunt hard.

Area 61 (N. Greybull River)- There are two hunts in this unit: a Type-1 with 150 licenses inside the wilderness and a Type-2 tag with 50 tags off the wilderness. This can be a great hunt for huge bulls if the weather cooperates. The hunter success here is sporadic but the draw odds are considerably good, making this a great place for a hardcore resident hunter or a nonresident willing to hunt with a guide. This area borders Area 58 and offers up the same quality of bulls. This could be one of the very best backcountry archery hunts in the state for bulls during the rut. This area has experienced some wildfires over the past few years, which could create even better elk hunting in the next few years. My preliminary reports show that the elk hunting here was very, very good this year, and the elk herd is in great shape.

Area 63, 64 (Wood River & Owl Creek)- For the hardcore DIY hunter who is not afraid of grizzlies, this is still arguably one of the best areas in the entire state. These two units comprise a vast amount of super elk country with more than its fair share of elk. Most of the herd bulls here will hit that 330-360 mark. Access can be a little bit challenging in spots, but there is very little wilderness in these units. The bowhunting here is outstanding and with a rifle opener of October 1st, there is still plenty of rutting action to go around. The hunter success here on mature bulls has been as high as 70% in the past but seems to be falling off a bit as of late. This unit remains a very strong option for hunters that like to hunt rough and features classic type elk country for big bulls.

Area 78 (Wilson)- This hunt is in the Jackson Hole valley. The access can be nearly impossible, but if you gain access on the Snake River bottom to hunt elk, you can score big. The recently extended

season now goes from September 26th to January 31st, so you have plenty of time to wait for the right weather to push the big bulls around. The success rates here are often hit and miss, but with a five-year average hunter success of 80%, this is one of the highest in the entire state. This area can certainly be a risky endeavor from an access standpoint, but the reward can be big if you get lucky in the draw and hire a guide.

Area 100 (Steamboat)- Undoubtedly the easiest elk hunt in the state of Wyoming, this unit has plenty of six-point bulls, great access, and extremely mild sage brush and aspen terrain. Most of the bulls are in the 280 to 330 class with the occasional 350-class bull. The odds of drawing this tag are extremely tough, but the success rates are the best in the state with almost 90% success on branch-antlered bulls over a five-year period. With very open, sage brush type terrain, a fairly short season, and a quota decrease this year, this hunt can still be challenging at times depending on hunting pressure and weather. Patience, a ton of luck in the draw, and possibly a bow will be a huge help in this area for a successful hunt on a nice six-point bull.

Area 108 (South Rawlins)- Area 108 has been upgraded to Blue Chip status for this year. With only 75 tags and a success trend that is certainly headed in the right direction, this elk hunt has been getting better and better each year. Last year over 80% of the hunters here killed branch-antlered bulls while hunting less than 10 days per harvest. I don't expect the bulls to be huge in here, but you will find mature herd bulls in the 300 to 340 range. This area is the definition of an up-and-coming area. Access can be the only drawback of this unit.

Area 111 (Seminoe)- Mild terrain, a fairly long season, and only 75 tags put this hunt on our Blue Chip list last year. Access can be challenging in this unit, but the hunting is very good for unpressured 320-type bulls. Over the past five years, 75% of the elk hunters here killed branch-antlered bulls. The success in this area was off (68%) during the 2008 season but bounced back to slightly to over 70% during 2009 and up to 73% for the 2011 season. All indications are that this area is definitely on the up-and-coming list and could turn into a real gem of a unit for the state of Wyoming in the next three to five years. A bowhunt

here would be one of the best options in the state given the season dates and very limited bowhunting pressure on the elk.

Area 118 (Shamrock Hills)- This area has very similar country and trophy quality to Unit 111, but has only 35 tags (a 10 tag increase in 2011), a later season, and very good historic success rates on mature bulls. If you are going to hunt here, pray for some snow or a cold front to get the elk out into the open. I have seen a few 360-plus bulls that have come out of this area over the past few years. In my opinion, area 118 is a real up-and-coming elk unit in Wyoming. Over the past three years on average, 26 of the 35 hunters in this elk area killed mature bulls and they did it in less than five days of hunting, which is very, very high compared to other Blue Chip areas. Keep in mind that access can be a challenge. Prospective hunters should do some thorough research before applying here. Yet another killer bow hunting option.

Area 121 (Trout Creek & Rattlesnake)- Within site of downtown Cody, this unit can be a definite sleeper. The hunting can be tough, but the bulls can be in the 360 and better type range. The hunt here is during November, so some early snow and weather can be a definite plus. The bowhunting in here is outstanding before the bulls become timber-bound. Almost no wilderness can make this a great unit for the hardcore DIY guy. With only 100 tags and success rates bouncing back into the 50%+ range, area 121 might be a good option if you are a seasoned elk hunter who doesn't mind hunting hard for the possibility of a big public land DIY bull during November.

Area 124 (Powder Rim)- Another new area to the Blue Chip list last year, area 124 has proven itself a real winner over the past few years. This area borders one of the best elk areas in the state of Colorado. In 2010, 23 out of the 25 license holders in this area killed mature bulls after only hunting eight days for an unreal success rate of 92%. The season here goes from the middle of October clear until the end of November, offering a hunter plenty of time to wait for weather and for the second and third Colorado elk seasons to conclude across the border in unit 2 and 201. This area could offer a really exciting bowhunt during the early September archery season.