



2026 ELK HUNT DATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

HUNT DATES

BEAR VALLEY TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 329 Antlerless and Hunt Code 330 Bull: October 10 – 18, 2026

BISHOP TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 487 Bishop Period 1 Muzzleloader Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 396 Bishop Period 2 Apprentice Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 490 Bishop Period 3 Bull: October 17 – 25, 2026

Hunt Code 348 Bishop Period 4 Bull: November 7 – 15, 2026

CACHE CREEK TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 484 Period 1 Apprentice Bull: October 10 – 25, 2026

Hunt Code 406 Period 1 Bull: October 10 – 25, 2026

Hunt Code 416 Period 2 Antlerless: October 17 – November 1, 2026

CENTRAL COAST TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 382 Antlerless Archery and Hunt Code 383 Bull Archery: September 1 – 30 2026

Hunt Code 375 Antlerless and Hunt Code 376 Bull: October 3 - December 1, 2026

EAST PARK RESERVOIR TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 463 Antlerless and Hunt Code 461 Bull: September 5 - October 1, 2026

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 449 Archery only Either-sex: August 1 – August 9, 2026

Hunt Code 450 Archery only Antlerless: November 7 – 15 2026

Hunt Code 448 Period 2 Antlerless: November 21 – 29, 2026

Hunt Code 447 Period 3 Bull, Hunt Code 471 Apprentice Antlerless and Hunt Code 472: December 22, 2026 – January 3, 2027

GABILAN TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 377 Antlerless and Hunt Code 378 Bull: November 14 – December 6, 2026

GOODALE TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 373 Period 1 Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 365 Period 2 Antlerless: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 366 Period 3 Antlerless: October 17 – 25, 2026



GRIZZLY ISLAND TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 433 Period 1 Antlerless and Hunt Code 466 Apprentice Antlerless: August 11 – 14, 2026

Hunt Code 437 Period 2 Spike Bull and Hunt Code 469 Apprentice Spike Bull: August 13 – 16, 2026

Hunt Code 357 Period 8 Spike Bull: September 3 – 6, 2026

Hunt Code 358 Period 9 Antlerless: September 8 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 359 Period 10 Bull: September 10 – 13, 2026

Hunt Code 360 Period 11 Antlerless: September 15 – 18, 2026

Hunt Code 362 Period 12 Bull: September 17 – 20, 2026

Hunt Code 363 Period 13 Antlerless and Hunt Code 381 Period 13 Bull: September 22 – 25, 2026

INDEPENDENCE TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 367 Period 1 Muzzleloader Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 368 Period 2 Antlerless and Hunt Code 369 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 370 Period 3 Antlerless and Hunt Code 371 Bull: October 17 – 25, 2026

LA PANZA TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 385 Archery Bull and Hunt Code 386 Archery Antlerless: September 1 – 30, 2026

Hunt Code 417 Period 1 Antlerless and Hunt Code 419 Bull: October 10 – November 1, 2026

Hunt Code 418 Period 2 Antlerless and Hunt Code 420 Bull: November 14 – December 6, 2026

Hunt Code 464 Apprentice Antlerless: October 10 - November 1, 2026

LAKE PILLSBURY TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 387 Period 1 Antlerless: August 29 – September 4, 2026

Hunt Code 388 Period 2 Antlerless: September 5 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 389 Period 3 Antlerless: September 12 – 18, 2026

Hunt Code 390 Period 4 Bull: September 26 – October 2, 2026

Hunt Code 391 Period 5 Bull: October 3 – 9, 2026

LONE PINE TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 337 Period 1 Archery Antlerless, Hunt Code 311 Period 1 Archery Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 486 Period 2 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 496 Period 3 Bull: October 17 – 25, 2026



MARBLE MOUNTAINS ROOSEVELT ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 408 Either-sex Apprentice, Hunt Code 301 General Antlerless and Hunt Code 302

Bull: September 9 – 20, 2026

Hunt Code 303 Muzzleloader/Archery Either-sex: October 31 – November 8

MENDOCINO ROOSEVELT/TULE ELK HUNT

Hunt Code 328 Bull: September 23 – October 4, 2026

NORTHEASTERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 411 Archery Either-sex: September 2 – 13, 2026

Hunt Code 409 Either-sex Apprentice: September 16 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 304 Antlerless: November 11 – 22, 2026

Hunt Code 305 Bull: September 16 – 27, 2026

NORTHWESTERN ROOSEVELT ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 374 Antlerless, Hunt Code 355 Bull, and Hunt Code 483 Either-sex: September 2 – 24, 2026

OWENS VALLEY TULE ELK HUNT

Hunt Code 422 Owens Valley Multiple Zone Archery Bull: August 8 – 16, 2026

****Tag is valid in Bishop, Independence, Goodale, and Lone Pine.***

SAN LUIS RESERVOIR TULE ELK HUNT

Hunt Code 497 Either-sex: October 3 – 25, 2026

SISKIYOU ROOSEVELT ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 401 Antlerless: September 9 - 20, 2026

Hunt Code 300 Bull: October 7 - 18, 2026

Hunt Code 384 Archery Bull: August 26 – September 8, 2026

TEHACHAPI ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 379 Antlerless and Hunt Code 380 Bull: September 5 - October 4, 2026

TINEMAHA TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 312 Tinemaha Period 1 Archery Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 426 Tinemaha Period 2 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

TINEMAHA MOUNTAIN TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 392 Tinemaha Mountain Period 1 Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 393 Tinemaha Mountain Period 2 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026



WEST TINEMAHA TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 315 Period 1 Bull: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 317: Period 2 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 394: Period 3 Bull: October 17 – 25, 2026

WHITNEY TULE ELK HUNTS

Hunt Code 343 Period 1 Bull Archery: September 12 – 27, 2026

Hunt Code 323 Period 2 Bull: October 3 – 11, 2026

Hunt Code 324 Period 3 Antlerless: October 17 – 25, 2026

GENERAL ELK HUNT INFORMATION

Please note that elk hunting seasons may overlap with hunting seasons of other species. You may encounter other hunters while in the field.

Collared elk

Some elk within the hunt zone have been fitted with GPS collars to help CDFW collect information on elk survival, habitat use, movements, and distributions, which help inform elk conservation and management. In the event that you take a collared elk, please contact the Unit Biologist listed at the top of this document immediately so CDFW can make arrangements to retrieve the collar. **Hunting regulations require collars to be returned to CDFW within 10 days of harvest ([Title 14 CCR §364\(n\)\(3\)](#)).**

Tooth collection

CDFW collects teeth from harvested animals for age determination. Successful hunters should remove only the two front teeth and return them using the provided envelope. **Do not wrap teeth in plastic or enclose in materials other than the envelope provided as this may cause teeth to rot.** Tooth-age results will be posted [online](#) as soon as possible, but may not be available until **2027 or later**.

Return elk teeth samples by mail to:

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch — Elk and Pronghorn Program
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an always fatal disease affecting deer and elk. It is the most significant disease of management concern for deer and elk in North America and has now been detected in California. CDFW maintains an active sampling and testing program



for CWD and we strongly recommend that hunters have their harvests sampled and tested for CWD. Hunters can bring their harvest, or just the head, to their local CDFW office, a participating meat processor or taxidermist, or to a CDFW-run check station. For those hunters interested in collecting and submitting samples themselves, CDFW has created a how-to-video and printable guide at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD/Collect-Submit-Samples>. For more information on CWD and our sampling and testing program visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/CWD>.

Lameness in elk and collection of hoof samples

If you observe elk that are limping, lame, or sickly in appearance, or have deformed, broken, or missing hooves, please report your observation to CDFW immediately by calling the Unit Biologist at the top of this document or by using the online mortality reporting tool: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/laboratories/wildlife-investigations/monitoring/mortality-report>

Although signs such as lameness or limping can have various causes, they can be an indication of treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD, elk hoof disease) – a type of hoof rot related to infection by bacteria in the *Treponema* genus. Elk hoof disease has been detected in elk in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and was first reported in elk in Del Norte County, California, in April 2020. CDFW is conducting surveillance to determine the statewide prevalence and distribution of elk hoof disease.

If you harvest an elk, please inspect its hooves and feet following the guidelines that will be provided in your packet. If there are hoof or foot abnormalities as described in the training, we ask that you remove the affected hoof off just above the dewclaws for submission to the Unit Biologist. Please contact the CDFW staff member listed at the top of this document immediately to arrange transfer of samples. Along with the sample, please provide your name and tag number, location and date of harvest, and which hoof is included (left/right, front/hind).

Tagging harvested animals and reporting on your hunt

Successful hunters are required to completely fill out their tag, [tag their animal](#), and have the tag validated by an [authorized individual](#) (see [§708.6](#) and [§708.11](#) in Title 14 California Code of Regulations).

CDFW implores all elk hunters to provide the most accurate harvest information possible. Information you provide will contribute to conservation and management of California's elk herds, including for their continued recreational use and hunter opportunity. Harvest data are crucial for CDFW personnel to evaluate and modify harvest strategies, assess herd health, track elk distributions, and recommend tag quota changes to the California Fish and



Game Commission. For harvest locations, reporting a GPS location is encouraged. [Online reporting](#) is ideal, but please use any method to report your hunt.

Care of meat

Improper handling of a carcass can lead to meat spoilage. Warm ambient temperatures and steep, rugged terrain within the hunt zone make it critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. Elk are large mammals and hold heat, which leads to spoilage. Promote cooling by opening the neck area, hip joints, and shoulders of the carcass. You should be physically fit and prepared to skin and quarter or de-bone and pack out your elk **immediately** after it is tagged. Meat should be hung in fly-proof, breathable sacks in the shade while you're still in the field. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need a minimum of four game sacks (six is better for loose cuts of meat), plenty of rope, a game hoist, a knife, a knife sharpener, and a pack frame. A meat saw or hatchet and a tarp also are recommended. Never lay meat directly on the bed of a truck because the exhaust system heats the bed and can lead to spoilage. It is suggested you place a pad or sleeping bag between the bed of the truck and the meat for insulation.

Failure to properly care for or remove all edible portions of a harvested animal can lead to a violation of the [California Fish and Game Code, §4304](#).

Guides and outfitters

You may wish to employ the services of a licensed guide in the hunt or provide pack animals to bring the elk carcass out to a trailhead. Many have limited space so be sure to contact them as soon as possible to reserve their services. Department employees will not be available to assist hunters in removing elk from the field. It is your responsibility to verify any guides you retain have a current guide license issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. If you plan to hunt on Federal property your guides will also need to be permitted with that agency. Failure to verify the proper licenses required may result in a citation to both the hunter and guide. A list of licensed guides can be obtained [online](#).

Additional information is available at the following links

- CDFW elk hunting (zone maps, season dates, harvest success, report an elk sighting): <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Elk>
- Fish and Game Laws and Hunting Regulations: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current>
- Online reporting: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales>
- Tooth age data: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Elk/Harvest-Data>
- California Big Game Hunting Digest: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Hunting-Digest>
- CDFW elk management and conservation: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/elk>
- Interactive map viewer: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios6/>
- Report poachers and polluters to CalTip: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP>



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- List of hunt guides:
<https://www.licenses.wildlife.ca.gov/internetsales/PublicListSearch/SelectPermitType>