

Elk Hunting in Top 7 Western States vs. Colorado

Nonresident (NR) Elk Tag Sales -----Top 7 Elk States VS Colorado

State	2021-2022 Elk Population	Total Elk Tags Sold	Total Elk Tags Sold To Nonresidents **	% to Nonresidents
Montana	170,000	113,000	17,000	15%
Oregon	130,000	104,000	12,800	12%
Wyoming	120,000	57,500	5,400	9%
Idaho	107,000	88,500	12,800	14%
New Mexico	90,000	37,000	12,750	34%
Utah	85,000	48,750	3,250	7%
Arizona	40,000	29,000	2,900	10%
Total	742,000	477,750	66,900	14%
Colorado	280,000	201,000	72,000	36%

** Does not included private land tags sold back to nonresidents

Notes: The 7 Western States have more than 2.5 X's the elk populaton (742k vs 280k) yet combined the 7 Western States sell 5,100 less elk tags to NR's, than Colorado. The 7 state average % of elk tags sold to NRs is 14%, Colorado sells 36% of its tags to NR's, nearly 3x more than average.



Other Top 7 States Elk License Opportunities

- Montana-General Elk Lic OTC for residents, draw for nonres
- Oregon-Elk Lic available OTC for res & nonres, 5% of controlled hunts to nonres
- Wyoming-General Elk Lic OTC for residents, nonres draw at 5-8 pref points
- Idaho-General Elk Lic OTC for residents, capped at 12,800 for nonres and sell out day of, 70,000 people attempted to purchase in 2023
- New Mexico-All Elk Lic by draw for res and nonres, only other state close to Colorado in % of licenses sold to nonres
- Utah-Archery Elk Lic available OTC to residents
- Arizona-Archery Elk Lic available OTC to residents

Montana-Nonres Draw, Ideas CO Can Use

- For a general tag a non-resident has approximately 85% chance of drawing with 2 preference points
- A nonres can buy a preference point when applying
- When applying the 2nd yr. and buying a point the applicant would have 2, thus approximately 85% chance of drawing
- If an applicant buys a point when applying and obligates to hunt with a licenses outfitter they get an extra point, thus having an 85% chance of drawing in the 1st yr., keeping outfitters happy and not overwhelming their state with nonres hunters

Some Reasons That I Archery Elk Hunt



I started all 3 of my sons in the field fishing, moving to small game, then to big game. Archery hunting takes practice and motivation. The picture on the right is the result of my 18 yr. old son consistently practicing and having the opportunity to archery hunt in his home state. Without the opportunity to archery hunt every yr., youth will lose interest and drop out of the sport. Note-the vast majority of other states have archery deer licenses available OTC. Nonres get hooked on archery hunting because the opportunity is available in their state. If CO does away with OTC elk for residents (CO did away with OTC deer yrs. ago) our hunter participation will drop, more drastically than it has been.