Environmental Quality

Deer and Elk Hunting on Fort Sill
Environmental Quality
Deer and Elk Hunting on Fort Sill

History. This circular supersedes Fort Sill Circular 200-19-02, Deer and Elk Hunting on Fort Sill 5 August 2019.

Summary. This publication establishes the Fort Sill hunting and fishing season and bag limits on Fort Sill game and fish. This regulation is distributed solely through the Department of Human Resources, Administrative Services Division Homepage at: http://sill-www.army.mil/USAG/publications.html

Applicability. This publication is applicable to all personnel authorized to participate in Fort Sill hunting and fishing activities.

Supplementation. Local supplementation of this circular is prohibited without prior approval of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW). All requests for exceptions or waivers to this publication will be staffed through DPW, Environmental Quality Division (EQD), Natural Resources and Enforcement Branch (NREB), Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the DPW, EQD, NREB. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to DPW, EQD, NREB, 1950 Barbour Rd, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 73503.
Purpose. This circular sets forth the procedures and dates for the conduct of the deer and elk seasons under authority prescribed in Fort Sill Regulation 200-1.

Reference. Required and related publications; and, prescribed and referenced forms, are listed in appendix A.

Explanation of Abbreviations and Terms. Abbreviations and terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

Records Management. Records created as a result of processes prescribed by this regulation must be identified, maintained, and disposed of according to Army Regulation (AR) 25-400-2, The Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS) and DA Pamphlet 25-403, Guide to Recordkeeping in the Army. Record titles and descriptions are available on the ARIMS website (https://www.arims.army.mil/arims/Default.aspx).

General.

a. Fort Sill ranges are closed to all recreational activities on Mondays. The only exceptions are federal holidays that fall on a Monday. Any exceptions will be posted in self-check building 1464.

b. There is no self-check option for range passes to pursue archery elk, muzzleloader deer or deer/elk gun hunting. These passes are awarded through drawings.

c. Hunters will not enter Fort Sill range areas without first physically reporting to Sportsmen Services or the NREB Trailer at Falcon Gate (Gun weekends). The only gate authorized for use by personnel that have been issued a key through Sportsmen Services for access to Quanah Range is Twin Gates unless otherwise posted in self-check building 1464.

d. It is mandatory that archery and muzzleloader hunters on East and West Range will return to building 1464 at the end of their hunt day, no later than 1 1/2 hours after official sunset. Hunters, with or without a deer, will enter the appropriate information in the harvest reporting section of their permit and place it into the Sportsmen Drop Box. Hunters must physically check harvested deer and elk at the self-check in building 1464 prior to departing for residences or other non-hunting activities. Each hunter must accurately complete all the harvest reporting section on the range pass if there is no NREB employee present to assist checking animals (archery). Unsuccessful Archery and Muzzleloader hunters on Quanah Range will return to either building 1464 or use the Twin Gates Sportsman Drop Box at the end of their hunt day, no later than 1 1/2 hours after official sunset. Quanah keys must be returned to Sportsmen Services during business hours or the key tube on
the west all of building 1464. No keys shall be placed in a Sportsmen Drop Box. During
deer/elk gun deer weekends hunters must physically return passes to Sportsmen Services
(East and West) or The NREB trailer (Quanah) at Falcon Gate after hunting.

e. Guests are prohibited during gun deer season, elk seasons, and all weekends of
muzzleloader deer season. Sponsor permit holders are permitted one guest per day
during archery deer and on weekdays during muzzleloader seasons.

f. Persons less than 12 years of age will not participate in gun deer or muzzleloader
deer seasons. An adult (21 years or older) with a valid hunting permit must accompany
and positively supervise each hunter under 16 years old. A non-hunting sponsor permit
holder may escort a hunting dependent. Persons under 16 years will not participate in elk
hunting.

g. If a person harvests an elk during either the archery or gun season, he or she will
not be eligible for elk hunting on Fort Sill for 3 years. **Hunters are not eligible for gun elk
hunting in 2020 if they were drawn during the 2017 season or later.**

h. All hunters in a party will occupy a deer or elk-hunting slot.

i. Dogs are prohibited for deer or elk hunting.

j. Hunting hours are 1/2 hour before official sunrise to 1/2 hour after official sunset.

k. Hunters must comply with all state field tagging requirements along with physically
checking harvested deer and elk at building 1464 prior to departing for residences or other
non-hunting activities. **All deer and elk must be E-Checked online at:**
wildlifedepartment.com via the Go Outdoors OK application within 24 hours of leaving
the hunt area. Once checked, the animal will be issued an online confirmation number.
This number must remain with the carcass through processing and/or storage at
commercial processing or storage facilities. Authorized personnel may also collect blood
and tissue samples from harvested animals.

l. The DPW Natural Resources Administrator may change bag limits, close hunting
areas, restrict weapons, close hunting by sex and range or take any measures deemed
necessary if data indicates an undesirable harvest of deer or elk.
The DPW Natural Resources Administrator may shut down hunting at any time, not
necessarily at the end of the proposed season. Closure information will be posted in
building 1464.

m. During muzzleloader and gun deer/elk season, certain roads are closed to hunters
unless they are recovering a harvested deer or elk. Open roads are indicated on the
Sportsmen’s Road Restriction Map posted in building 1464 and at Falcon Gate during
dereer/elk gun seasons.
n. Fully automatic firearms, laser sights, thermal tracking devices, air bows and light enhancement devices are not authorized.

o. All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATVs/UTVs) are permitted only to retrieve dead deer, hogs or elk. Post safety requires Fort Sill ATV riders follow the current AR 385-10, “The Army Safety Program”

p. Hunters must remove the entire carcass (excluding viscera, hide, and bones) from the range. Violations of this regulation carry a significant fine and privilege loss. Hunters may obtain additional assistance in packing out their kill. Before going to the range area these individuals must first obtain a recovery pass from 1464, the self-check building. During deer/gun weekends Quanah helpers can obtain assistance passes at the NREB trailer at Falcon Gate. The hunter will serve as the sponsor for any helpers who do not have a Post Permit.

q. Hunters who are 60 years of age or older, may use a crossbow. Hunters who have a permanent disability to the extent that they cannot use a conventional longbow, as certified by a licensed physician, may hunt with a crossbow. A person who qualifies to use a crossbow must have written evidence certified by a physician or proof of age in their possession while in the field. Hunters may not transport crossbows in a motor vehicle unless uncocked or disassembled. Crossbows are required to have a minimum draw weight of 100 pounds and be equipped with safety devices. Leverage gaining devices are permitted. Arrows for crossbows must be a minimum of 14 inches in length and equipped with broad head hunting type points not less than 7/8 inches wide

r. The use of trail cameras, electronic calls, baiting and decoys/silhouettes is prohibited.

s. The use of UAV's or drones is prohibited on Fort Sill.

t. Permanent affixed stands are prohibited, and all portable stands and blinds must be conspicuously marked with Fort Sill range safety card number identifying its owner. Unmarked stands may be subject to confiscation.

u. Buckshot is prohibited on Fort Sill.

License Requirements.

a. Oklahoma State Licenses: Fort Sill hunters must possess, all applicable state licenses and permits required by the State of Oklahoma for each hunting season (see current year Oklahoma Hunting Guide). Applicants will obtain and show proof of applicable licenses and permits prior to registration for deer drawings, or
signing out to hunt, whichever is pertinent. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) lifetime license holders and Senior Citizen Licenses are exempt from the purchase of the annual state hunting license and deer permits. Unless exempt, hunters 35 years of age

and younger are reminded that on Fort Sill a state hunter safety certificate is required to purchase a deer, elk or turkey license. Fort Sill does not recognize state apprentice designation license for deer, elk or turkey.

b. Fort Sill Permits: In addition to state licenses and permits, all hunters must also possess a Fort Sill Hunting Permit on their person while engaged in hunting activities. Electronic photos are acceptable.

**Hunting Dates.**

a. Archery deer season dates are in effect except when such dates conflict with gun deer season. Archery hunters may hunt in the designated archery only and archery/small game areas during deer gun season.

b. Deer and Elk Season dates are listed in the current season and bag limits circular.

**Bag Limits.**

a. Annual Deer and Elk Bag Limits. Depending on the status of the deer and elk herds before the hunt, NREB will post special provisions for this hunt in building 1464, the Self-Check Building before the end of September. The bag limit of one elk and the three year “sitting out” period do not change. Fort Sill Bag limits are typically well below state limits to allow longer seasons and spread out hunter opportunities for these very popular hunts.

b. Deer harvested on Fort Sill count against the state and season bag limits. An antlered deer is a deer with at least 3-inches of antler above the natural hairline on either side. Other deer are considered antlerless. Guests are restricted to one deer only per year. Hunters must follow all bag limits for each season.

**Legal Weapons.**

a. Hunters must comply with Fort Sill DES Regulation 190-1 for all privately-owned firearms and other weapons.

b. Legal means of taking during Archery Deer Season.

(1) Bows: A minimum for 40 pounds draw weight. Any device that permits a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw is prohibited with the exception of the crossbow (if authorized for use). Broad-heads: Hunting type points not less the 7/8 wide, including
mechanical broad-heads meeting this width requirement when fully open.

(2) Crossbows and Mechanical Bow Draw Retention Devices: Allowed only in certain circumstances as stated on page 3.

(3) Illegal Devices: Laser sights, thermal tracking, night vision, air bows and thermal scopes.

(4) Firearms Restriction: No person may carry or use any firearm in conjunction with archery equipment during the archery season while hunting deer or elk.

c. Legal means of taking during Muzzleloader Deer Season. Muzzleloader hunters may use muzzleloaders or archery equipment, but only one weapon type may be carried afield.

(1) Muzzleloader.

(a) Primitive season. .40 caliber or larger rifle must be shoulder fired, side hammer primitive weapon type (or replica) similar to those in common use during the mid1800’s and meet the following: The use of pelletized or stick powder systems is prohibited; firing only a single lead projectile, including round ball, pumpkin ball, mini or maxi bullet, or other spherical or conical projectile. Sabot rounds are prohibited regardless of composition, as are jacketed or belted projectiles; must be loaded from the muzzle; any sighting device other than open or iron sights is prohibited; 209 shotgun primers and/or electronic or battery devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to the firearm. Muzzleloader pistols meeting the above requirements are allowed as a secondary firearm but may only be used for killing downed deer.

(b) Modern. .40 caliber or larger rifles or 20-gauge or larger shotgun, firing a single slug or ball that is loaded from the muzzle. Muzzleloader pistols are allowed as a secondary firearm but may only be used for killing downed deer.

(2) Archery: Equipment described as legal for deer archery season may be used in a deer muzzleloader slot provided the hunter is using a deer muzzleloader license.

(3) Illegal devices: Black powder firearms loaded from the breech, laser sights and light enhancement devices (night vision or thermal scopes) are illegal.

d. Legal means of taking during Youth Deer Gun Season: Equipment described as legal for deer gun season.

e. Legal means of taking during Gun Deer Season.

(1) Hunters may only carry one weapon while hunting.
(2) Archery-only areas: Archery only areas include A2, A3, D4, D5, E1, E2, F1 and F2.

(3) Shotgun-only areas: Shotgun only areas include A1, all the B and C areas on east range, D1, D2, D3, E3, G1, H3, K1, K3, K4 on west range, and all of Quanah Range. You may use 20 gauge or larger, firing a single slug. Buckshot is prohibited. Primitive muzzleloader rifles as described in paragraph 9c (1a) above are authorized weapons for any gun area during gun season. Handguns are authorized if chambered for a .24 caliber or larger, 100 grain or heavier, soft-nosed bullet having an overall cartridge case length of at least 1 1/4 inches and no longer than 1.7 inches, with barrel length no less than 4 or greater than 10 inches. Handguns chambered for ammunition developed for rifles are prohibited in shotgun only areas.

(4) Rifle areas (if authorized): During deer gun season rifle areas include H1, H2, H4, H5, I areas, J areas, and K2. The Natural Resources Administrator may authorize rifles meeting Oklahoma state requirements.

(5) Archery: Equipment described as legal for deer archery season may be used in a deer gun area provided the hunter is using a deer gun license and filling a deer gun slot.

   f. Legal means of taking during Archery Elk Season.

      (1) Bow: A minimum of 55 pounds draw weight. Hand held releases are legal.

      (2) Crossbows and Mechanical Bow Draw Retention Devices: Allowed only in certain circumstances as stated on page 3.

   g. Legal means of taking during Elk Gun season.

      (1) rifle areas (if authorized): During elk gun season rifle areas include H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, I areas, J areas, and K2. Hunters in rifle areas using rifles must use centerfire rifles with a cartridge that produces 1,400 foot-pounds of energy at 300 yards. This number can be found by consulting the energy levels published by cartridge manufacturers. Examples of popular deer hunting cartridges not legal under these rules are 243, 30-30, 35 Remington, and 30-06 with 125-grain factory loads (30-06 with heavier bullets are legal). If requested, hunters must be able to prove that their cartridges are legal. You may use shotguns, 12 gauge or larger using slugs, or muzzleloader rifles .50 caliber or larger in all gun areas. Gun elk hunters will not carry more than 5 bullets in the field.

      (2) Shotgun only areas: During elk gun season shotgun only areas include D1, D2, D3, E3, G1, K1, K3, K4, and all of Quanah Range. You may use shotguns, 12 gauge or larger using slugs, or muzzleloader rifles .50 caliber or larger. Gun elk hunters will not carry more than 5 bullets in the field.
(3) Archery only areas: During elk gun season archery only areas include F1, F2, D4, E1 and E2. Equipment must be legal for elk archery season (see paragraph f above).

**Clothing Requirements.**

a. All hunters participation in any Fort Sill deer or elk season using a firearm (muzzleloader or gun) must conspicuously wear both a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline (hat and vest), both totaling at least 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange. Camouflage hunter orange is legal as long as there is at least 400 square inches of hunter orange.

b. Other hunters, except those hunting waterfowl or while hunting furbearing animals at night, must wear either a head covering or upper garment of hunter orange clothing while hunting during any Fort Sill deer or elk firearms (muzzleloader or gun) season. Deer and elk hunters, in archery only or small game and archery only areas, are not required to wear hunter orange.

**Procedures for Deer Hunting.**

a. **Archery Deer Hunting.** A drawing to assign archery hunters to hunting areas is held at 1200 the day prior to the hunt. Each hunter will obtain from Sportsmen Services one hunting area permit (an area is designated by a letter and a number [example "Area C2"]) prior to hunting. If there is not a significant enough number of hunters to necessitate a draw, these permits will be available on a first come, first served basis in the self-check building (1464).

b. **Muzzleloader Firearm Hunting.** A drawing to assign muzzleloader hunters to hunting areas is held at 1200 the day prior to the hunt. Each hunter will obtain from Sportsmen Services one hunting area permit (an area is designated by a letter and a number [example "Area C2"]) prior to hunting. Hunters not in the draw can fill any available slots after the drawing on a first come, first served basis during Sportsmen Services hours of operation. Hunters are encouraged to purchase their deer muzzleloader permit a minimum of one day prior to the draw they wish to enter.

c. **Gun Deer Hunting.**

(1) A drawing is used to assign gun deer hunters to hunting areas that have limited quotas.

(2) Drawings for each deer gun weekend will be held the Friday immediately preceding the weekend. Sign up for the drawing will occur between 1100 and 1200. The drawing is held at noon.
(3) An alternative drawing for hunters is the standby drawing. See paragraph 8.

(4) Hunters may register as a party (up to four persons) or individually, but not both. If a party is drawn, there must be an area with enough openings to accommodate the entire party. Parties may not split after registration is closed.

(5) An unbiased committee comprised of one sportsman from the audience and a NREB employee will monitor drawings. This committee shall take action on any irregularities. Committee decisions will be expedient and final.

(6) Drawn hunters assigned to East and West ranges will pick up passes at Sportsmen Services after 0500 on the day of their hunt prior to hunting. Quanah Range hunters will pick up passes at Falcon Gate during the same times. NREB will reassign any hunter’s permit that is not picked up by 0530 to standby hunters unless prior arrangements have been made for a later pick-up.

(7) Hunters desiring standby on East or West ranges will personally sign up at Sportsmen Services each hunt day, while those desiring Quanah Range will personally sign up at Falcon Gate. Standby list sign up will begin at 0500 and end by 0530. NREB personnel will conduct a drawing at 0530 for standby hunters. There will be no passes offered from 0600 to 0900 or after 1500. Passes are offered to hunters from 0900-1500 on a first-come-first-served basis.

(8) During deer gun season, the only legal game for deer hunters is deer, hogs, and coyotes.

(9) Seasons will close early if the harvest quota is met.

Procedures for Elk Hunting.

a. Archery Elk Hunting.

(1) There is no self-check option for elk hunting.

(2) Elk hunting is closed east of Apache Gate Road.

(3) Each hunter will draw for a range pass from Sportsmen Services prior to hunting. NREB will limit the number of archers allowed to hunt per area.

(4) The drawing for the first day of hunting will be held at 1200 the day before season starts at Sportsmen Services, Building 1458. All archery elk hunters must show proof of a valid elk permit before putting in for the drawing. Hunters may elect to pass. Standby hunting will be allowed for cow only.
(5) Elk passes are either-sex or cow only. Hunters will only be allowed to harvest the animal for which they have a pass. Compartments will have a maximum of two cow and two either-sex. During archery elk season, hunting will cease if the range quota is met. The Natural Resources Administrator may shut down hunting at any time, not necessarily at the end of the proposed season.

(6) Hunters may obtain assistance in packing out their kill as described on page 3.

b. Gun Elk Hunting.

(1) All eligible hunters may register for the gun elk drawing. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older. There is no party hunting. Registration will occur the Friday preceding each elk gun weekend.

(2) Hunters drawn for a gun elk hunt will be ineligible for gun elk hunting on Fort Sill for 3 years, unless prevented from hunting by closed season, closed hunting area, or other legitimate reason as determined by the Natural Resources Administrator. This does not include missing the Friday briefing and forfeiting the hunt. **Hunters are not eligible for gun elk hunting in 2020 if they were drawn and had the opportunity to hunt during the 2017 season or later.**

(3) NREB will allow successfully drawn applicants to select either-sex or antlerless-only (cow) permits on West Range or either-sex permits on Quanah Range. Successful applicants, or their representative, will also select a hunt area on West Range or compartment on Quanah Range for the weekend drawn.

(4) Hunters, or their representative, selected for each elk gun weekend must attend a mandatory briefing at the Sportsmen Services Center, immediately following the drawing. Hunters will forfeit this hunt and future eligibility by failure to attend this mandatory briefing. This briefing will review regulations and safety aspects expected of elk hunters.

(5) NREB limits elk hunters on West Range by hunt area (I1, I2, J1, D2, etc.). NREB limits hunters on Quanah Range by compartment (L, M and N compartment). Hunters will draw for a 1-weekend period. The DPW Natural Resources Administrator may shut down hunting at any time, not necessarily at the end of the proposed season. Closure information will be posted in building 1464.

(6) Elk hunters must remain on the range (Quanah or West) they were initially drawn for. Drawn Elk hunters desiring to change areas on West Range will personally sign up at Sportsmen Services each hunt day, while those desiring to change areas on Quanah Range will personally sign up at Falcon Gate. Drawn elk hunters desiring to change areas may sign up no earlier than 0500 and not later than 0520 on the day of the hunt. At 0520 a drawing will be held and new areas assigned. Elk hunters may also move between open elk areas from 0900 to 1500 on a first-come-first-
served basis.

(7) Elk hunters will be hunting in areas occupied by deer hunters.

(8) Persons are fully responsible for any accidental killing or wounding of illegal elk. The taking of an illegal elk will result in a revocation of hunting privileges and/or fines and restitution.

(9) During elk gun season, the only legal game for drawn elk hunters is elk, hogs, and coyotes.

(10) Contingent on population numbers and harvest, The Natural Resources Administrator may open a January archery cow elk season or close the season early. Hunters should be looking for updated Memos posted at Sportsmen Services (1458) and the self-check building (1464).
Appendix A

References

Section I
Required Publications

Fort Sill Reg 200-1
Recreational Use, Management, Harvest, and Protection of Natural Resources.

USAFACFS Reg 200-2
Environmental Protection and Enhancement.

Fort Sill Circular 200-08-01
Hunting and Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits

Section II
Related Publications

Section III Prescribed Forms

FS Form 426
Deer Registration

Section IV Referenced Forms

DA Form 2028
Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms

Section I
Abbreviations

AR
Army Regulation

ATV
All-terrain-vehicles

DA
Department of the Army

DPW
Directorate of Public Works
Section II Terms

This section contains no entries.

Section III

Special Abbreviations and Terms

This section contains no entries.