

FORT RILEY ELK HUNTING FACT SHEET

IMPORTANT: The military mission has precedence over the announced hunting season. The Fort Riley Military Reservation or any portion of it may be closed at any time without prior notice.

1. STATE OF KANSAS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- Kansas Hunting License: All hunters must possess a valid Kansas Hunting License.
- Kansas Elk Permit: Hunters must apply for and draw a Kansas elk permit for Elk Management Unit 2. Applications and details on the number of available permits and state regulations are available from the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) at <https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/licenses-permits-fees>

2. FORT RILEY iSPORTSMAN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All Fort Riley permits and safety briefings are available online at <https://fortriley.isportsman.net/>

- Fort Riley Conservation Permit: All recreationists, including hunters, must have a valid Fort Riley Conservation Permit.
- 2026-2027 Fort Riley Elk Permit: This permit is free of charge but required to hunt elk on the installation. To obtain it, hunters who have successfully drawn a state permit must complete the following steps:
 1. Go to the "My Safety Briefs" tab on the Fort Riley iSportsman website.
 2. Complete the mandatory 2026-2027 Elk Hunting Safety Brief.
 3. Once the briefing is complete, a Fort Riley Conservation Administrator will add the Fort Riley Elk Permit to your iSportsman account. This permit allows you to check in and out for hunting throughout the season.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

- History: Elk were reintroduced to Fort Riley in 1986 in cooperation with the KDWP, restoring a native species to the Kansas Flint Hills.
- Likely Places to Find Elk: The herd can be found throughout the installation. The most likely places are Outdoor Recreation Areas C, F, H, K, L, M, P, and Q. Elk often use timbered areas for bedding, side hills for visibility, and drainages for shelter from cold winds. They can also be observed in open grasslands.
- Feeding Times: The best times to see elk feeding are in the early morning and late in the evening. They utilize food plots, winter wheat, and alfalfa.
- Rut: The elk rut (mating season) typically begins in early to mid-September. Bull elk can be heard "bugling" to establish territories. Imitating bugles and cow calls can be an effective way to attract elk during this time.

4. OPEN AND OFF-LIMITS AREAS

- Daily Status: Hunting is only allowed in areas compatible with the post's military training, and these areas can change daily. Substantial portions of the post may be closed to rifle and muzzleloader hunting on any given day.
- Check Before You Hunt: Hunters must check the "Open Areas" tab on the Fort Riley iSportsman website (<https://fortriley.isportsman.net>) each day before recreating to see which areas are open.
- Off-Post Hunting: Fort Riley does not maintain a list of private landowners who allow elk hunting and does not track elk that move off-post.

5. ACCESS CONTROL AND ON-POST REGULATIONS

- Access Requirements: All individuals 18 and older must have a Federal ID Card or a Fort Riley Access Pass/badge. Passes can be obtained at the Visitor Control Center (Bldg. 885) south of the Henry Gate (Exit 301, I-70). For more information, visit <https://home.army.mil/riley/about/visitor-info>
- Hunter Education: Anyone hunting on Fort Riley must comply with Kansas regulations regarding hunter education.
- Youth Hunters: No one 17 or under may hunt unless accompanied by an adult who is 18 years of age or older and has completed the state hunter education requirements (or is exempt).
- Vehicle Pass: All vehicles used for recreation must display the current Fort Riley iSportsman "Vehicle Pass" in the windshield.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information concerning the Fort Riley Elk season, please contact the Environmental Division Office at (785) 239-6211 or visit the iSportsman website.