

NAVAJO NATION FALL HUNTING PROCLAMATION

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS June 13, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. MDT

www.nndfw.org

IMPORTANT CHANGES

The penalty fee for failure to return a survey card/submit hunt report will be \$100 for the 2025-2026 Hunting Season.

HUNT REPORTING

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is doing away with survey cards. However, all big game permit holders must report the results of their hunt, even if they did not make a kill. Hunt reporting must now be done electronically by going to the Fish and Wildlife Website at www.nndfw.org. This can be done by cell phone, tablet or personal computer. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will no longer accept hunt surveys by mail. If you need assistance reporting the results of your hunt, you can call the front office at 928-871-6450/6451. **HUNT SURVEYS ARE STILL DUE WITHIN 30 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE HUNT THE PERMIT WAS ISSUED FOR.** Failure to submit the required hunt report by the due date will cause you to be ineligible for the following big game hunt season. Hunters that fail to return their hunt report may pay a \$100 penalty fee, per hunt, in order to become eligible again.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- All 2025/2026 Navajo Nation fall hunts (EXCEPT AYH, Guide Permits, auction and prize permits) require submission of hunt applications at www.nndfw.org. The big game hunt application system will not be available until May 5, 2025 at 8:00 A.M. MDT and will close down at 5:00 P.M. MDT on June 13, 2025.
- Each applicant must have their own individual email address in order to submit their electronic application.
- When submitting a hunt application, only the non-refundable application fee will be charged. Payment must be made by credit/debit cards. If drawn, the remaining permit cost will be charged to the credit/debit card. If a credit/debit card needs to be updated, it is the applicant's responsibility to update the credit/debit card information prior to the hunt draw. An applicant can update their credit card information via email, 2025documents@nndfw.org, or in person using a Credit Card Authorization form before June 13, 2025.
- Applicants can still apply as a group, if permitted, and one person can enter the other applicants in the group as long as he/she has all information required for the other applicants. The system will only accept one credit/debit card for group applications.

- If an application requires supporting documentation such as Navajo Senior Citizens, Navajo Veterans, Navajo Mobility Impaired and Non-Navajo Spouses documents these documents must be submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to 5:00 P.M. MDT, June 13, 2025 in person or at 2025documents@nndfw.org. The Department maintains a list of Navajo Senior Citizens and Navajo Veterans and supporting documentation is not necessary if you are already on the list; hunters are encouraged to contact the Department to verify their on the appropriate list already.
- Applicants who are ineligible and who submit an application will be denied entry into the hunt draw and **WILL NOT BE REFUNDED** the \$15 application fee. However, applicants who are ineligible due to survey card infractions may pay a \$100 penalty fee for each survey card listed on the ineligible list. Applicants who are ineligible due to a law enforcement infraction must successfully complete a Hunter's Education class prior to being allowed into the hunt draw. Proof of course completion must be submitted to Fish and Wildlife in person or email at 2025documents@nndfw.org prior to 5:00 P.M. MDT on June 13, 2025.
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife at 928-871-6450 to verify their eligibility prior to submitting an electronic hunt application.
- Individuals needing assistance with applying online may request assistance by contacting the Department of Fish and Wildlife at (928) 871-6450 or at hunt@nndfw.org.

Non-refundable big game hunt application processing fees are as follows:

- \$15.00 for Navajo, non-Navajo, Navajo Spouse, Navajo Senior Citizens, Navajo Veterans and Navajo Mobility Impaired hunters
- \$25.00 for AG and BHS
- \$50.00 for DNS and ENS
- AYH and Navajo Guide Applications will still be accepted via mail, fax, email and paper at the Department's main office, along with required documentation. Payments for Navajo Guide Permits must be made using Credit/Debit Cards.
- New Lands hunters and Navajo guides must check in and check out keys in order to access New Lands to hunt. A \$50.00 cash deposit is required in order to check out a key. The deposit will be returned to the hunter when the key is returned. Failure to return the key within 30 days after the hunt ends will result in forfeiture of the \$50.00.
- **Using onX Hunt while hunting on the Navajo Nation.** The Navajo Nation does not supply ONX with any information in regards to land status. Terms like Off Reservation Trust is a term used by ONX but was not given by the Navajo Nation. The term Off Reservation Trust appears primarily in Units 13 and 14. The exact land status may be Trust, Allotted, Tribal fee, or Private land owned by the Navajo Nation. Units 13 and 14 are very checkerboard, with a lot of the land being allotted. Allotted Lands are treated the same as private property!! Allotees can deny access to Allotted lands which may be fenced and locked. You need written permission from the Allotee to hunt on Allotted land. On lands where there are multiple Allotees, hunters need 51 percent of the registered Allotees to have permission to hunt on that portion of Allotted land. Hunters should inquire about land status and land status maps by contacting the Navajo Nation Land Department at (928)871-6401 or Website: nnld.org, for exact status of certain lands.
- **Closed Areas:** Leased lands such as Coal Mines and Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (**NAPI**) are closed to big game hunting.
- **Mandatory Check-Ins:** The only hunts with a mandatory check-in will be the DG-11, DNS, ENS and BHS hunts. The Department is trying to increase the number of Chronic Wasting Disease (**CWD**) samples taken in the deer and elk herds due to the disease being found adjacent to the Navajo Nation in the four corners area. Therefore, there will be a mandatory check-out requirement for the DG-11 hunt at the Hovenweep check station or by appointment at the main office in Window Rock. Failure to check out an animal will result in the hunter being ineligible the

following big game hunt season. All other hunters are encouraged to get their animals checked at deer check stations during the rifle deer hunt or make an appointment at the Department main office in Window Rock, the Fish Hatchery in Toadlena, or at Nenahnezad Chapter House Warehouse. Hunters can call 928-871-6450 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

- ☐ **Left-Over Permits:** Left-over permit sales will start July 12, 2025. Left-over sale procedures will be available prior to July 12, 2025.
- ☐ **The Navajo Nation Fall Hunting Proclamation** is a supplement to the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulation Booklet. Any changes outlined in this proclamation supersede the Hunting and Trapping Regulations.
- ☐ **ATV's** are not allowed during big game hunts, except by special permit, or to retrieve downed game. Possession of a firearm, bow or muzzleloader during retrieval is prohibited.
- ☐ **Use of Hounds:** Non-Navajo hunters using hounds for bear, lion and bobcat may only be accompanied by Immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother. Aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, are not considered immediate family. It is illegal to accompany a non- Navajo in the field while hunting or scouting if that person is not an immediate family member.
- ☐ **Use of Guides:** Non-Navajo hunters using illegal guides or hounds-men who make a kill and subsequently remove the carcass from the Navajo Nation are in violation of both Navajo Nation and federal wildlife laws and will have their hunting privileges revoked. Non-Navajos accompanying big game hunters will be issued a citation for illegal guiding under this provision.
- ☐ **Small Game Permits:** Small game hunting, including furbearers, is permitted year-round with proper small game permit.
- ☐ **Baiting is Illegal:** It is illegal to bait big game for the purpose of hunting or scouting. Baiting is defined as placing a natural or artificial food source or supplement utilized to attract a big game animal.

- ☐ **Wildlife Violations:** If you receive a wildlife violation citation, you will be ineligible to hunt big game. You must successfully complete a hunter education class to become eligible to hunt again.
- ☐ **Tooth Samples and photo Required:** All deer and elk hunters are required to submit the 2 lower middle incisors (Teeth). All buck deer and bull elk hunters must also submit a photograph of the animal they harvest. This can now be done through the on-line hunt report.
- ☐ **Trophy Hunt Applications:** If you wish to apply for a trophy hunt, you can select up to three DTN hunt choices on one application and three ETN hunt choices on one application. You cannot mix the DTN hunts with the ETN hunts on one application.
- ☐ **Mobility Impaired Navajo Hunts:** Mobility Impaired permits are for individuals who are permanently disabled. Mobility Impaired permits are available at a 50% discount. 5 General Deer Permits and 5 General Elk Permits are reserved for Mobility Impaired Hunters. If there are more than 5 applicants, for each hunt, then a random computer drawing will be conducted. To apply for a Mobility Impaired Hunt, documentation of a Mobility Impaired Card or current Doctor's statement must be emailed to 2025documents@nndfw.org before 5:00 P.M. MDT on June 13, 2025. Rear-view mirror placards are not acceptable. A mobility impaired permit authorizes the permittee to hunt and/or shoot from a vehicle and/or use an ATV/UTV. If a mobility impaired hunter has additional needs, they should include any special needs or other hunting regulation variances in a request to the Fish and Wildlife Director. **Mobility Impaired Hunters must apply individually and cannot apply for other general deer or elk hunts at the same time. If you apply for both, mobility impaired and general deer and/or elk hunts, all applications will be rejected.**
- ☐ **For temporary disabilities,** an individual may request an exemption to the hunting regulations for a specific time frame by requesting the exemption in writing to the Director along with a Doctor's statement.
- ☐ **2025 Mountain Lion and Spring Gobbler** hunters that fail to return their survey card will be placed on the 2026/2027 ineligible list due to time constraints with survey card deadlines and fall hunt application deadlines.

- **Hunt Code Classifications:** General Deer Hunts are DA, DY and DG hunts. General Elk hunts are EA, EM, EY and EG hunts. An applicant may select up to 4 choices in the General Deer Hunts and General Elk Hunts. However, you cannot mix General Deer Hunts with General Elk Hunts on the same application. If you apply for a General Deer Hunt, then you may select any of the other general deer hunts for additional choices. The same applies to the General Elk Hunts. A person may only submit one big game permit application for each of the general deer and general elk hunts for the big game draw. A person may only obtain one permit per hunt code.
- Youth Hunt applicants are limited to one person per application.
- **If one applicant is ineligible or disqualified, then all applicants on that application will also be rejected.**
- **AG Hunt:** A person drawn for this hunt cannot apply for the AG hunt the next three (3) hunt seasons.
- Legal method of take for Turkey Hunts: **Shotgun and bow only.**
- If you do not receive your big game permit(s) by August 1, 2025, please call (928) 871-6450.
- Camping is permitted while in possession of a valid big game hunting permit.
- Big game hunters must sign their big game permit prior to hunting in order to validate the permit. It is illegal to not tag big game immediately upon making a kill.
- For those people born after Jan. 1, 1970, proof of Hunter Education Certification (Card) must be in possession when taking big game.
- The mountain lion hunt will be published in a separate proclamation at a later date.

DUE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS, ALL SPORTSMEN ARE REQUIRED TO PACK IN/PACK OUT GARBAGE FROM ALL AREAS OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All Navajo big game permits are issued on an APPLICATION and RANDOM DRAWING BASIS (if necessary) to ELIGIBLE PERSONS. Any individual may submit one hunt application per species for deer and elk, with the exception of the DTN, ETN, DNS and ENS hunts. This does not apply to left-over permits. A person is restricted to one permit per hunt code. In the event a person submits more than one application per species for deer or elk, their applications will be rejected.

Any person 12 years of age and older may hunt big game on the Navajo Nation when properly permitted. A person under the age of 12 may apply for big game hunts only if he/she turns 12 years of age before the beginning of the hunt(s) they are applying for and has successfully completed a Hunter Education Class.

Persons under 12 years of age, having successfully completed a Hunter Education Course, may hunt small game without a permit if accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older) who has a valid Navajo Nation Small Game Permit in their possession.

No one born after January 1, 1970, may take any game without having satisfactorily completed a certified Hunter Education Course. For those people born after January 1, 1970, proof of Hunter Education Certification (card) must be in possession when taking game animals.]

NO COMPLIMENTARY (free of charge) PERMITS will be issued to any person, with the exception of the Annual Youth Hunt and Annual Youth Hunt fundraising efforts and promotional/marketing purposes.

A limited number of special permits for deer, elk and turkey may be issued or donated through fund raising events, pursuant to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Big Game Permit Donation Policy. Written requests for permit donations must be received on or before November 1st of prior year for the following big game hunt season.

Deer densities in some areas are very low. Deer occur in small, widely spaced "pockets". Most resident elk occur in small, local populations. Hunts are designed primarily to control these expanding elk populations.

Hunters dissatisfied with guide services may file a written complaint to the Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife. The complaint should be submitted within thirty days of the hunt and should include a copy of the contract, complaint details and any other relevant documentation. See Section 2.05B of the Navajo Hunting and Trapping Regulation Booklet.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

NO REFUNDS will be made on drawn or issued permits. PERMITS CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED.

If the permit is lost or destroyed, a DUPLICATE PERMIT may be issued at a cost of \$50.00 each. The person whose permit was lost or destroyed must fill out a notarized affidavit in order to receive a Duplicate Permit. The Department is not responsible for permits lost in the mail; the \$50.00 duplicate permit fee still applies. The Department will only issue one (1) duplicate permit per person per permit per hunting season. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that application information is legible and accurate. If there is an error on the Department's part, the Department will issue a duplicate permit at no cost.

An **eligible person** is a person who returned their survey card by the due date for all big game hunts he/she had a permit for the previous season; has successfully completed a hunter education course, if issued a wildlife violation citation on the Navajo Nation; does not currently have their Navajo Nation hunting and trapping privileges suspended; and are not on the Western State Compact list.

A NAVAJO CENSUS NUMBER is required for all Navajo tribal members.

Hunt draw results are confidential and will only be released to individual hunters.

REGULATION INFORMATION

Please refer to the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations for all regulations. This Section only highlights certain regulations.

ALL FISH AND WILDLIFE ARE PROPERTY OF THE NAVAJO NATION AS A WHOLE. All game, fish and other wildlife are protected on the Navajo Nation and may not be taken, possessed or transported unless specifically permitted. Hunting on the Navajo Nation is a privilege. The Navajo Nation reserves the right to refuse hunting privileges to anyone. All regulations in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet shall apply. It is the Hunter's responsibility to familiarize themselves with them.

A person may not use any aircraft, including drones, to locate or take any wildlife.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS A FIREARM WITH LIVE AMMUNITION IN THE FIRING CHAMBER IN OR ON ANY MOTOR VEHICLE.

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT: Any person (including hunt guides or others accompanying the hunter) in the act of taking big game is required to wear a minimum of 300 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange during any hunt allowing the use of any center-fire firearm.

An **ANTLERED DEER** shall mean a mule deer with at least one 2" antler. **SPIKES** are LEGAL. An **ANTLERLESS ELK** shall mean an elk with no visible antler (i.e. cow or calf bull). A **BUCK ANTELOPE** shall mean a male pronghorn antelope with a horn longer than its ear.

It is unlawful for anyone to intentionally interfere with a lawful hunt, including illegally denying access to trust lands. If a hunter encounters a locked gate, contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife for assistance.

**** WIN A GENERAL DEER or GENERAL ELK PERMIT ****

Two (2) separate random drawings will take place for eligible hunters.

1st DRAWING: Two (2) 2026-2027 general deer and two general elk hunt permits will be given away as prizes for any eligible hunter who had their animals checked out during the 2025-2026 big game hunt season. Deer check stations will be operated both weekends of the General Deer Hunts. All other hunters can have their animal checked out at the Department of Fish and Wildlife Office in Window Rock, AZ, or in the field if a Department of Fish and Wildlife employee is available.

2nd DRAWING: One (1) 2026-2027 general hunt permit will be awarded to any eligible hunter who submits the head of their deer or elk for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing within 48 hours of making a kill during the 2025-2026 big game hunt season. Tissue samples can be collected at deer check stations or you can bring the head to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Office in Window Rock, AZ.

These permits do not count against the one permit per species per person. However, an individual is still limited to one permit per hunt code.

A hunter having their deer/elk checked out **and** submitting tissue samples for CWD testing will be in **both** drawings. A hunter may receive only one prize permit/season. Department of Fish and Wildlife employees are not allowed to be in the drawings. For more information, call (928) 871-6450.

NAVAJO SENIOR CITIZEN AND NAVAJO VETERAN PERMITS

Navajo Senior Citizens, age 60 and older may purchase big game hunting permits (excluding DTN, ETN, DNS, ENS, BHS, SANT and AG hunts) at half price or the price of the application fee, whichever is higher. A document showing proof of age must be submitted via email to 2025documents@nndfw.org unless the Department already has a copy on file. This also applies to leftover permit applications.

Honorably discharged Navajo Veterans may purchase big game hunting permits (Excluding DTN, ETN, DNS, ENS, BHS, SANT and AG) at half price or the price of the application fee, whichever is higher. A copy of Form DD-214 or Honorable Discharge Certificate from the Armed Forces of the United States must be submitted via email to 2025documents@nndfw.org unless the Department already has a copy on file. This also applies to left-over permit applications. NOTE: A person may apply for only a Senior Citizen permit or a Navajo Veterans permit; not both.

NAVAJO SPOUSE PERMITS

Non-Navajo Spouses may only receive one permit per species using the Non-Navajo Spouse provision. This includes left-over permits.

Non-Navajo spouses married to Navajos may purchase big game hunt permits (excluding DG-7, DTN, ETN, DNS, ENS, BHS, SANT and AG hunts) at the Navajo price. A copy of the marriage license, Navajo Spouses Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB), and a notarized affidavit dated after January 1, 2025 and prior to 5:00 P.M. MDT on June 13, 2025 stating the applicant is still legally married to a Navajo, must be submitted via email to 2025documents@nndfw.org. The Navajo Spouse Permit provision is not available for widows of Navajo Spouses.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE NEW LANDS

No shooting is allowed within one (1) mile of any of the range unit housing clusters or rural community, or within one-half (½) mile of any access road to a housing cluster or rural community. No camping is allowed within one-half (½) mile of any natural waterhole containing water (including seeps and/or springs) or manmade facility containing water (including stock ponds and/or windmill troughs) that are available to big game. Off road vehicle travel is prohibited. New Lands gates are locked. Permitted hunter(s) and Navajo guides can check-out a key to New Lands at the Fish and Wildlife Office. A \$50 cash deposit is required when checking out a key. The key must be returned once the hunt is completed and the \$50 cash deposit will be returned to the hunter.

GUIDE REQUIREMENTS

A GUIDE (OUTFITTER) PERMIT is required for any Navajo who, for pay or gain aids or assists another in the taking of wildlife. The guide permit does not assure consumer satisfaction. It is recommended that potential clients check references before hiring a guide. Only Navajo tribal members are eligible for a guide permit and they must be eligible to hunt. The Guide permit cost is \$75 per applicant per season. The Guide permit application and payment deadline is 5:00 P.M MDT June 13, 2025.

The following are Guide requirements and documentation must be attached to a Guide Application: Must be 21 years of age. Must show proof of Hunter Safety, First Aid Certification, Valid Driver's License, and Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance.

Must attend a Department and Navajo Guide Association sponsored Guide Workshop once.

1. Must have no felony or more serious misdemeanor convictions in the last five (5) years; and must not be on the Department's ineligible list. If ineligible for not meeting hunt reporting requirements, the applicant is required to pay the \$100 penalty fee, per hunt, in order to receive a Guide permit.
2. Guides must submit two Law Enforcement background checks with their Guide Application. The background checks must be from the Navajo Nation and the state within which they reside. Background checks for first-time guides must go back a period of five years.
3. Guides are required to have a written contract with client(s) for each hunt where guiding services are provided. Guides must provide a copy of each contract to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
4. Each guide must submit a guide report to the Department of Fish and Wildlife by March 31, 2026 whether or not any guiding activities took place. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of guiding privileges for the following big game season. A guide may pay a \$100 penalty fee to be reinstated, if they submit a late report.

ANNUAL YOUTH HUNT

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/ Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
AYH	Any Deer or Antlerless Elk	Sept. 26-28, 2025	1-5, 16B	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	100

Hunters must be 12 to 16 years of age. AYH Hunt applications are due at Fish and Wildlife by 5:00 P.M. MDT on June 13, 2025. Applications may be submitted in person or via email for Fax and is not part of the new hunt draw system. **Only one applicant per application. Proof of Hunter Education Certification (card) must be in possession when taking big game animals.** Weapons: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations.

ARCHERY DEER HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Antlered Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
DA-1	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	1	10	0	1	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	40	55
DA-2	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	2	21	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	134	44
DA-3	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	3	21	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	100	31
DA-4	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	4	21	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	97	39
DA-5	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	5	24	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	63	15
DA-6	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025 Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	8 - 11	25	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	16	0
DA-7	Archery Deer	Aug. 30 – Sep. 7 2025	13 - 15	25	1	2	\$23.50	\$47	\$400	24	13

Weapons: Any legal bow as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations in the DA hunts. An applicant may select up to 4 General Deer hunt choices when applying. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

RIFLE DEER HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Antlered Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
DG-1	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	1	5	0	0	\$26.00	\$52	NA	45	43
DG-2	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	2	23	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	196	64
DG-3	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	3	23	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	152	71
DG-4	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	4	23	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	139	80
DG-5	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	5	23	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	134	30
DG-6	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	6	9	0	1	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	24	0
DG-7	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	7	5	0	0	\$26.00	\$52	NA	23	25
DG-8	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	8	17	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	20	28

DG-9	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	9	17	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	21	11
DG-10	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	10	17	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	28	11
DG-11*	Rifle Deer	December 13-17, 2025	11	30	1	3	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	16	9
DG-13	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	13	17	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	37	6
DG-14	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	14	17	1	2	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	54	13
DG-15	Rifle Deer	October 18 – 26, 2025	15	9	0	0	\$26.00	\$52	NA	33	0

Weapons: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. An applicant may select up to 4 General Deer hunt choices when applying. DG-11 hunters are required to have their deer checked and sampled for Chronic Wasting Disease. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible the following big game season. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

YOUTH DEER HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Permits Available		COST		2024 1 st Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Non-Navajo	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
DY-1	Youth Deer	November 14 – 16, 2025	2, 3, 4	32 Antlered	3 Antlered	\$27	\$300	100	35

Hunters must be 12 to 16 years of age during the hunt. NOTE: **Only one applicant per application.** Hunters must be accompanied during the hunt by a person 18 years of age or older. **Proof of Hunter Education Certification (card) must be in possession when taking big game animals.** Weapons: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. A youth deer applicant may select DG and/or DA hunts as 2nd, 3rd and 4th choices on their application. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

ARCHERY ELK HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Any Elk Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
EA-1	Archery Elk	Sept. 10 – 24, 2025	1-5, 12	150	4	20	\$26.00	\$52	\$600	216	11
EA-2	Archery Elk	Sept. 10 – 24, 2025	13 and 14	120	4	20	\$26.00	\$52	\$600	110	6
EA-3	Archery Elk	Sept. 10 – 24, 2025	6, 7, 8	50	2	5	\$26.00	\$52	\$600	47	5

Weapons: Any legal bow as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. An applicant may select up to 4 General Elk hunt choices when applying. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

YOUTH ELK HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Any Elk Permits Available		COST		2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Non-Navajo	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
EY-1	Youth Elk	October 11 – 15, 2025	1 – 8	50	4	\$27	\$300	47	30
EY-2	Youth Elk	October 11 - 15, 2025	11-14	30	3	\$27	\$300	14	17

Weapons: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. Hunters must be 12 to 16 years of age during the hunt. NOTE: **Only one applicant per application.** Hunters must be accompanied during the hunt by a person 18 years of age or older. **Proof of Hunter Education Certification (card) must be in possession when taking big game animals.** An applicant may select a second choice EY hunt when applying. A youth elk applicant may select EA, EG and EM hunts as 2nd, 3rd and 4th choices on their application. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

MUZZLELOADER ELK HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Any Elk Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/ Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
EM-1	Muzzleloader Elk	Oct. 1 - 5, 2025	1 – 8	55	2	6	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,300	105	19
EM-2	Muzzleloader Elk	Oct. 1 - 5, 2025	11-14	30	1	3	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,300	29	12

Weapons: Any legal bow or muzzleloader as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trappings Regulations. An applicant may select up to 4 General Elk hunt choices. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

GENERAL ELK HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/ Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
EG-1	General Elk	Nov. 1 - 5, 2025	1 - 8, 11 - 14	120 Any Elk	4 Any Elk	26 Any Elk	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	301	2
EG-2	General Elk	November 8 – 16, 2025	1 – 10	175 Antlerless	5 Antlerless	25 Antlerless	\$26.00	\$52	\$300	144	12
EG-3	General Elk	November 8 – 16, 2025	11 – 15	75 Antlerless	2 Antlerless	25 Antlerless	\$26.00	\$52	\$300	107	19
EG-4	General Elk	Jan. 3 - 11 8, 2026	1 – 8	30 Any Elk	1 Any Elk	5 Any Elk	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	33	16
EG-5	General Elk	Jan. 3 - 11, 2026	11 – 14	50 Any Elk	1 Any Elk	5 Any Elk	\$26.00	\$52	\$1,400	39	19
EG-6	General Elk	February 1 – 28, 2026	1 – 14	100 Antlerless	3 Antlerless	25 Antlerless	\$26.00	\$52	\$300	122	30
EG-7	General Elk	February 1 – 28, 2026	16A	20 Antlerless	1 Antlerless	2 Antlerless	\$26.00	\$52	\$300	60	69
EG-8	General Elk	February 1 – 28, 2026	16A and 16B	3 Antlerless	NA	0	\$26.00	\$52	NA	12	33

Unit 16 has been split into sub-units for the elk hunts. 16A is all of New Lands excluding Padres Mesa. Unit 16B is the Padres Mesa area within New Lands. Weapons: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. An applicant may select up to 4 General Elk hunt choices when applying. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt.

FALL TURKEY HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Any Turkey Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/ Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		
TF	Fall Turkey	November 15 – 23, 2025	1 – 5, 15	60	2	6	\$16.00	\$32	\$100	132	11

Weapons: Shotgun or bow only.

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNT

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Buck Permits Available		COST	2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse			
AG	Antelope	Sept. 3 - 7, 2025	16	3	0	\$50.00	121	100

Weapon: Any legal weapon as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulations. This hunt is open to Navajo tribal members only. A person drawn for this hunt cannot apply for the next three (3) hunt seasons. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible for any big game hunts the following season. If you are not drawn, you do not receive a refund. Only 1 person may apply per AG application.

BLACK BEAR HUNT

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	Any Bear Permits Available			COST			2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
				Navajo	Spouse	Non-Navajo	Vet/Senior	Navajo	Non-Navajo		

B-1	Black Bear	Aug. 6 - Oct. 15, 2025	1-5	40	1	4	\$28.50	\$57.00	\$1,000	50	15
B-2	Black Bear	Aug. 6 - Oct. 15, 2025	12	5	0	2	\$28.50	\$57.00	\$250.00	9	0

WEAPONS: Any legal weapon for big game, as defined in the Navajo Nation Hunting and Trapping Regulation booklet. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible for any big game hunts the following season. Baiting is not allowed. Dogs may be used for pursuit as long as the permit holder is present. Cubs and sows with cubs may not be taken.

TROPHY DEER HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	NUMBER OF NAVAJO AVAILABLE PERMITS	NAVAJO COST	2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
DTN-6	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	6	1 Antlered	\$315.00	4	50
DTN-7	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	7	1 Antlered	\$315.00	8	100
DTN-8	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	8	1 Antlered	\$315.00	4	100
DTN-10	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	10	1 Antlered	\$315.00	6	0
DTN-12	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	12	1 Antlered	\$315.00	37	100
DTN-13	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	13	1 Antlered	\$315.00	6	100
DTN-14	Trophy Deer	Dec. 6-14, 2025	14	1 Antlered	\$315.00	7	100
DTN-16	Trophy deer	Dec. 20 - 30, 2025	16	1 Antlered	\$315.00	28	0

DTN Hunts: An applicant may select a second and third choice DTN hunt on the application. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report within thirty (30) days of the end of the hunt. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible for any big game hunts the following season.

TROPHY ELK HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	NUMBER OF NAVAJO AVAILABLE PERMITS	NAVAJO COST	2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
ETN-1	Trophy Archery Elk	Sept. 6 - 21, 2025	9,10,15,16A	2 Bull Elk	\$315.00	28	100
ETN-2	Trophy Archery Elk	Sept. 6 - 21, 2025	9,10,15,16A and B	1 Bull Elk	\$315.00	15	100
ETN-3	Trophy Rifle Elk	Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2025	9, 10, 15, 16A	1 Bull Elk	\$315.00	36	100

ETN-4	Trophy Rifle Elk	Sept. 27. – Oct. 1, 2025	9,10,15,16 A and B	1 Bull Elk	\$315.00	29	100
ETN-5	Trophy Rifle Elk	January 1-10, 2026	9, 10, 15, 16A	1 Bull Elk	\$315.00	24	100

ETN HUNTS: Unit 16A is all of New Lands excluding Padres Mesa. Unit 16B is the Padres Mesa area within New Lands. An applicant may select up to three ETN hunt choices on the application. All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report in accordance with the Survey Report Deadline. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible for any big game hunts the following season.

SPECIAL ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME HUNTS

HUNT CODE	HUNT TYPE	HUNT DATES	OPEN UNITS	NUMBER OF NAVAJO PERMITS	NAVAJO COST	2024 1 st Choice Apps.	2024 % Hunt Success
SANT	Antelope	Aug. 16 – Sept. 30, 2025	1-16	1 Buck	\$50	NA	NA
BHS	Desert Bighorn Sheep	December 1 – 7, 2025	6	1 Ram (Once in a lifetime)	\$50	132	0
DNS	Navajo Special Deer	Sept. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026	1-16	1 Antlered (once in a lifetime)	\$50	63	100
ENS	Navajo Special Elk	Sept. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026	1-16	1 Any Elk (Once in a lifetime)	\$50	63	100

Special Once-in-a-lifetime hunts: If you are not drawn, you do not receive a refund. BHS, DNS and ENS hunts have a mandatory check-in, if you harvest an animal. Call 928-871-6450 to make an appointment to check animal.

SANT HUNT: The SANT hunt is only open to Navajo tribal members. Application Cost is a non-refundable \$50. Only one person may apply per application.

BHS HUNTS: The BHS hunt is only open to Navajo tribal members. Contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife for more information on accessing the hunt areas. Application Cost is a non-refundable \$50. Successful sheep hunters must have their horns plugged by the Department. Only 1 person may apply per application.

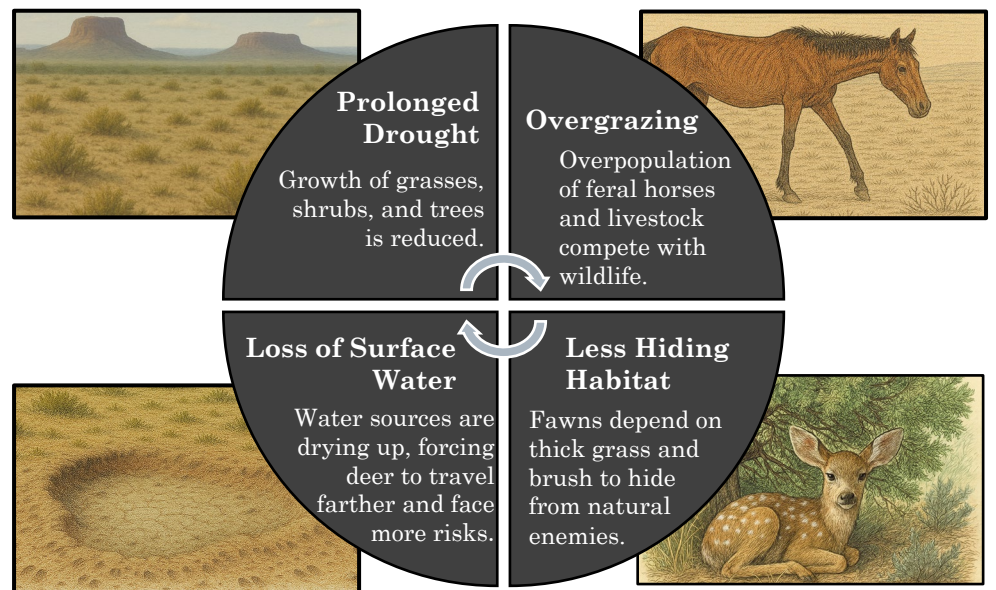
DNS HUNT: Application Cost is a non-refundable \$50. The hunt is only open to Navajo tribal members. The DNS hunter is required to have their deer checked and sampled for Chronic Wasting Disease. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible the following big game season. Only 1 person may apply per DNS application.

ENS HUNT: Application Cost is a non-refundable \$50. This hunt is only open to Navajo tribal members. The ENS hunter is required to have their elk checked and sampled for Chronic Wasting Disease. Failure to do so will result in the hunter being ineligible the following big game season. Only 1 person may apply per ENS application.

All hunters making a kill are required to submit teeth, a photo, and check sheet/hunt report in accordance with the Survey Report Deadline.

Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

Q & A



Causes of Decreasing Mule Deer Herds on Navajo Nation

Big Game Management: Mule Deer Q&A

Q: Where does the money come from to manage and research game animals?

A: Most funding comes from hunting and fishing permits, the general fund, federal conservation programs, and grants that Navajo Nation wildlife biologists apply for. Every permit helps support surveys, habitat projects, and research. Some federal funds also come from taxes on hunting and fishing gear, which go toward wildlife work on tribal lands.

Q: How does Fish and Wildlife monitor deer and elk populations?

A: We conduct annual helicopter surveys, usually in fall or winter when animals are easier to see. These surveys help us count animals, identify their age and sex, and track changes over time. Helicopters are more effective than drones for covering large areas and following moving herds. This method is used by wildlife agencies across the country.

Q: Why are hunting permits for mule deer going down?

A: Permit numbers are based on population estimates from these aerial surveys. As deer numbers decline, we reduce permit numbers to protect the herds and allow time for recovery.

Q: Why are mule deer populations decreasing on the Navajo Nation?

A: Several factors are connected. Prolonged drought reduces food and cover. Overgrazing by livestock and feral horses worsens habitat loss. Surface water sources are drying up due to prolonged drought and soil compaction caused by heavy livestock use. This makes it harder for water to soak into the ground and refill springs. Fewer places to hide makes fawns more vulnerable to predators. All of this stresses the herds, but habitat restoration and better grazing management can help reverse the trend.

Q: Why not just reduce predators to help the deer?

A: Predators like coyotes and mountain lions play a natural role in removing weak or sick animals. The main issue for deer isn't predators — it's habitat loss. When there's enough food and hiding cover, fawns survive even with predators around.

Q: What's more important for trophy bucks — genetics or habitat?

A: Both matters, but habitat is more important. A deer with great genetics still needs quality food, water, and low stress to grow large antlers. Without quality habitat, genetic potential can't be fully reached.

Q: Can livestock and big game share the land?

A: Yes, but only with good land management. Overgrazing hurts both wildlife and livestock. When grazing is balanced and land is rested, native plants can recover, water can be retained, and all animals benefit.

Q: Why do feral horses increase faster than deer?

A: Feral horses can have one foal each year and face fewer predators. They also travel farther for food and water and don't need hiding cover like deer fawns. Without population control, horse numbers can grow quickly and damage wildlife habitat.

Q: How many fawns does a mule deer have in its lifetime?

A: A healthy doe usually has 1–2 fawns a year starting at 1.5 years old. The average observed lifespan of mule deer in the wild is around 4–6 years, this means only 2–8 fawns in her lifetime depending on habitat quality, predation, and drought.

Q: Why are elk doing better than mule deer?

A: Elk are more adaptable. They eat a wider range of plants, travel farther for resources, and don't rely on dense cover for their calves. They've been less affected — but if drought and overgrazing continue, elk herds could also decline.

Q: Why do you ask for a tooth with my hunt survey?

A: Submitting a tooth helps wildlife biologists learn the exact age of the deer you harvested. By knowing how many young, middle-aged, and older deer are being harvested, the Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department can track population trends.

Q: Why do you need the deer head at check stations?

A: We don't need the whole head — we collect a small sample (lymph nodes or obex) for **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing**. After we take the sample, you're welcome to take the head back. These tests help protect the health of Navajo Nation's big game herds.

Respect Fences – Keep Access Open for Everyone

Do NOT cut fences, tie them together, or damage them in any way.

Fences are not just barriers — they are essential tools for land management. Ranchers and land stewards rely on them to:

- Manage grazing areas for livestock
- Prevent overgrazing and protect vegetation
- Keep feral or unauthorized livestock out of permitted areas

Building and repairing fences is expensive and time-consuming. Damaged fences create serious challenges and financial burdens for grazing permit holders.

Let's work together to hunt responsibly, support local ranchers, and preserve access for future generations

Thank you for your cooperation.

— Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

Navajo lead-free Hunting Ammunition Program

The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is proud to join over 50 organizations as a partner of the North American Non-Lead Partnership, working together to address lead poisoning in scavenging wildlife, such as golden eagles and California condors.

Hunters can play a critical role in this effort by choosing non-lead ammunition for their hunts. Alternatively, they can help reduce exposure by minimizing scavengers' access to lead-contaminated remains—such as by burying gut piles and carcasses left in the field.

Switching to lead-free ammunition offers numerous benefits for both wildlife and human health. To learn more about the advantages of non-lead hunting options, we encourage you to visit our partners' website: <https://huntingwithnonlead.org>.