

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**K.A.R. 115-25-8.** Elk; open season, bag limit and permits.

**DESCRIPTION:** This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2008-2009 muzzleloader, archery, and firearm seasons for elk. The units allow for statewide use, except in Morton County. Elk hunters would be allowed to hunt during any open season with the equipment that was allowed during that season. The proposed regulation would allow elk hunting from September 1, 2007 through March 15, 2008 statewide (outside Fort Riley). All fifteen antlerless permits would also be valid during a September muzzleloader and archery equipment season on Fort Riley. However, only five antlerless-only elk permits at a time would be made available for use during each of three seasons on subunit 8a (Fort Riley) (October 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008; November 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008; and December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008). Ten any-elk permits would be valid from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 on subunit 8a and from September 1, 2008 through March 15, 2009 in the remainder of the state, except Morton County. In addition, an unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land (HOYOL) antlerless-only elk permits would be made available, to be used during any open season. Fort Riley military personnel would continue to control access to the military grounds for the purpose of elk hunting, and are expected to provide hunting access only during a portion of the available days during the open seasons. The seasons are intended to provide increased opportunity for those hunters drawing elk permits, and increased flexibility to address elk that may disperse off the Fort. This represents an increase of 6 total permits for 2008.

**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** It is anticipated that 45 elk permits may be issued, including 20 available non-HOYOL permits. In addition, it is estimated that 930 of people will apply for the drawing permits and those individuals pay a \$5 nonrefundable application fee. The application fee generates \$4650. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$8,600. Administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department. Approximately 390 days of hunting activity may occur, thus providing economic benefit to businesses providing goods and services. To the extent the expanded unit, seasons, and permit numbers help prevent dispersal of elk onto private land, and therefore help prevent occurrence of damage from dispersed elk, there may be some positive economic impact to the general public. No other economic impact on the general public or on other state agencies is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None