

## 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 2010-2011 muzzleloader, archery, and firearm seasons for elk. The units allow for statewide use for limited-quota permits, except in Morton County. Limited-quota elk and unlimited hunt-on-your-own-land (HOYOL) hunters would be allowed to hunt during any open season with the equipment that was allowed during that season. Unlimited general either-sex and antlerless-only permits would allow the use of the permits in all units but would exclude certain counties (Morton, Geary, Riley and Clay). Unlimited HOYOL either-sex and antlerless-only permits would be allowed statewide, except Morton County. The proposed regulation would allow elk hunting from September 1, 2010 through March 15, 2011 statewide (outside Fort Riley, except Morton County). Fifteen limited-quota antlerless permits would also be valid during a September muzzleloader and archery equipment season on Fort Riley. However, only five limited-quota 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, 2010 through October 31, 2010; November 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010; and December 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010). Twelve limited-quota either-sex elk permits would be valid from September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 on subunit 8a and from September 1, 2010 through March 15, 2011 in the remainder of the state, except Morton County. 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 as well as those animals beginning to appear within other locations in the State. This represents an increase of 4 total limited-quota permits for 2010.

**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** It is anticipated that 27 limited-quota elk permits will be issued. Based on 2009 numbers, it is estimated that at least another 20 HOYOL permits will be issued and as this is the first year, it is unknown the number of unlimited general permits that will be issued. In addition, it is estimated that 980 of people will apply for the drawing permits or bonus points and those individuals pay a \$5 nonrefundable application fee. The application fee generates \$4900. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$7500. Administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department. Approximately 235 days of hunting activity may occur, thus providing \$51,700 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, small businesses, or on other state agencies is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None

