

June 15, 2004

To: Persons Drawing Controlled Archery Elk Hunt 252R Permits for the Starkey
Experimental Forest and Range - 2004 Hunting Season

Congratulations on drawing a controlled permit to hunt on the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range within the 25,000-acre research enclosure. We look forward to seeing you during hunting season and hope you have a pleasant and profitable hunt. This hunt is intended to assist Starkey Project personnel fulfill the objectives of a study examining the effects of archery hunting on elk reproduction.

As part of the research, you may be required to collect some animal parts or answer questions about your hunting experience. Specific requirements will be explained when you check into the fenced area at the main gate off Highway 244.

Research efforts focus on collecting information for future forest, range, and wildlife management. The research goals are paramount in management of the area. We are counting on your cooperation to help make this hunt a success so that elk hunts can continue as part of the research in future years.

In an attempt to answer any questions about the hunt, we have prepared a briefing document (attached) entitled "Guidelines and Regulations - 2004 Controlled Archery Elk Hunt 252R - Starkey Experimental Forest and Range". If you have other questions, please write or call at the addresses listed in the attachment.

Best wishes,

Edward J. DePuit
Program Manager
U. S. Forest Service

Craig Ely
Regional Director
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS
2004 CONTROLLED ARCHERY ELK HUNT 252R
STARKEY EXPERIMENTAL FOREST AND RANGE

1) HUNTING REGULATIONS

* Only hunters with permits for controlled hunt 252R are allowed to hunt elk within the 19,000-acre Main study area at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range during this season (August 28-September 26). Hunting with a centerfire rifle for other species is not allowed during archery season.

* Hunters with a permit to hunt inside the enclosure must initially check in at the check station at the main gate on Friday, August 27 between 9am and 9pm. Persons entering the hunt area for the first time after August 27 must check in with the ODFW host at the headquarters (1 mile from the main gate) if the check station is unattended. If you have established a camp before the first day the check station opens, you must return to the station and register before hunting. Check station hours are flexible between 4:30 am and 9:00 pm daily during the season, and information will be posted if the check station is unattended.

* Hunters will be asked to fill out a questionnaire for information on their hunting experiences and on animals harvested. All requirements and instructions will be provided when hunters check in. Hunters who have a permit to hunt within the enclosure may be accompanied by other persons, provided these persons do not hunt. All hunters, successful and unsuccessful, should leave their completed questionnaire in a box or on a clipboard at the check station, or with the host. Maps of the hunt area can be obtained from the sources listed on the last page.

* If you are unsuccessful and are leaving the hunt area, please sign out on the clipboard at the check station or with the host. It is mandatory that all successful hunters have their elk measured and recorded by project personnel in the field, or with the host, or at the check station. Please respect the personal time of the host and restrict the time you have your elk checked to those hours posted at the check station.

* The 25,000-acre enclosure is subdivided with 8-foot-high game fence into 4 parts: 900-acre winter feedground, 1,500-acre Campbell pasture, 3,600-acre intensive timber management area, and the Main study area of 19,000 acres. The winter feedground, Campbell pasture, and intensive timber management area are closed to hunting and public entry. All archery hunting for elk will occur within the Main study area, which is subject to motorized travel and camping restrictions as outlined in the next sections. The Main study area is open anytime for scouting or camping.

* A no-hunting buffer zone is in effect within 50 yards (archery season only) of either side of all 8-foot-high game fences.

2) VEHICLE TRAVEL

* Roads marked with green reflector dot signs posted at the road junctions are open to vehicle travel; all other roads are closed to motorized vehicles, except as designated by project personnel. A map of green dot roads open to motorized travel is posted at the main gate of the enclosure. Note in particular the following closures that are in effect:

* The 12-foot right-of-way along each side of all 8-foot-high game fences is closed to all motorized travel. This includes internal fences and fences along the perimeter of the enclosure.

* The Meadow Creek riparian study area is closed to all motorized vehicles, camping, and firewood cutting.

* All off-road motorized vehicle travel (including ATV) is prohibited beyond 100 yards of an open road.

3) CAMPING

* Camping is allowed within the main study area of the enclosure. Camps may be established anywhere within 100 yards of a green dot road. Off-road camps may be established elsewhere, provided they are packed in and out without motorized vehicles. Horses are allowed and should be maintained within temporary enclosures or high-lined. No camping is allowed within the winter feedground, Meadow Creek riparian study area, Campbell pasture, intensive timber management area, posted riparian areas, or within 1/4 mile of the check station.

* The only source of potable water within the enclosure is at a marked hydrant in the parking lot of the headquarters compound. This source of water is not dependable due to possible freezing, pump failure, etc. Hunters are strongly encouraged to bring drinking water. A public pay telephone is located there also. The rest of the headquarters compound is not open to public use. Hunters should take all questions to the check station if staffed or to the host within the specified hours.

* Campfires are allowed within the enclosure if current fire regulations specified by the U.S. Forest Service allow them. Information can be obtained at the check station, or from the La Grande offices of the Oregon Department of Forestry (541-963-3168) or Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (541-963-7186). Please be careful with fires.

* When cutting firewood for camp use, only use down material and do not disturb decked logs at logging operations. Do not fell any snags. Firewood cutting is prohibited within the Meadow Creek riparian study area. Camp wood is not to be hauled home at the end of your stay.

* Please leave a clean camp. Our most frequent violations are leaving trash in camp (including fire rings) and not covering or dismantling latrines. Both of these instances will result in citations. Also, please dismantle corrals, burn or remove straw and hay, and be certain fires are completely extinguished.

4) MISCELLANEOUS

* Cattle (500 cow-calf pairs) will be grazing south to north on a rotation through 3 pastures. Information on specific areas will be available at the check station.

* Fishing is not allowed within the Starkey Experimental Forest, but there are other streams nearby.

* The estimated elk population is about 500 elk, with a bull to cow ratio of 20 bulls (older than or equal to 3 years of age) per 100 cows. This translates into about 70 bulls within those ages. The oldest age class of bulls is 10 years old, and we estimate that 10-12 are available. The other bulls older than or equal to 3 years of age are comprised of somewhat similar numbers within age classes 3 to 9.

* Previous year's success rates for this hunt have ranged from 12%-27% and the number of elk harvested has ranged from 11-23.

* Bear and cougar seasons opened August 1 and can be hunted with a bow, but hunting with a centerfire rifle is not allowed during this archery season.

* Information on meat lockers will be available at the check station.

For additional information write:

USDA Forest Service
Forestry and Range Sciences Lab
1401 Gekeler Lane
La Grande, OR 97850

Or call 541-963-7122 and ask for one of the following:

Jim Noyes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Scott Findholt, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bruce Johnson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
John Kie, U.S. Forest Service
Brian Dick, U.S. Forest Service

To purchase topography maps for the La Grande Ranger District, which includes the Starkey Experimental Forest, write or call: USDA Forest Service, La Grande Ranger District, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande, OR 97850 (541-963-7186). These maps are also available close to the Experimental Forest at the Starkey store. The two USGS quadrangle maps that cover the Starkey Experimental Forest are Bally Mountain and Sullivan Gulch.

Good luck on your hunt. We hope it is an enjoyable and successful experience.