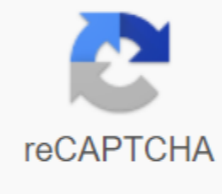




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## Oregon draw odds 2018

I'm not an expert when it comes to drawing elk tags, but you can bet that I will have at least a couple of elk tags in my pocket every fall. Each country manages its own elk numbers independently, and they all have their own way of assigning tags through the draw process, so you have to be a research junkie sift through each country's ever changing proclamations to figure out the best way to get the tag you want. In this article I'm going to try to give you my approach to logged in and looking for elk tags using draws and over-the-counter options. I hope this information helps unfold some of the mysteries behind getting into the elk draw game so you can set yourself up with a long-term plan that works for you and your budget. Focus on one area regardless of your elk hunting course, it's better to know a particular unit closely than to accidentally bounce around different elk units across the west. Most elk hunting is easy to find elk and is hunting with them every day. More appointments provide more opportunities, which means more success. I try to be an archery range elk every day that my boots are laced up during the hunting season. That's what it takes for me to be successful every fall with archery equipment. To do this, you need to get to know the area very well. Know where elk want to rut, where they're in the summer, where they calve, where they feed, where they run away, where they water, and of course where they sleep. Return year after year and check out all the nuances kept by the state. This means that you need to focus on the same over-the-counter areas that you can hunt every year, regardless of the draw in the game. You'll start to figure out where the weathing wants to be and when they want to be there. This will greatly increase your chances of success, no matter how good you shoot the bow or how physically and mentally tough you are. To play the game you will miss 100% of the shots you do not take, so put your name in the hat and play the elk draw game. I cancel the budget every year drawing tags. I have consistently played the game for over a decade and my mindset has always been a low trajectory, a long-term strategy. Some countries are only going to take a few years to do this, others for decades, and some you just can never do. This is why you have to figure out your priorities and create your own custom plan based on your goals. I live in Washington state, so it's an expense to drive to other states outside the Pacific Northwest. It takes time to get there and I probably won't be able to scout before the season. The idea of hunting somewhere new with a tag that took ten years to do without prior knowledge of the area horrifies me. That's why I usually keep Southwest tags for premium elk and other countries I get on quality areas that will be I get the tag every couple of years. I will break down my strategy for each country based on my budget, logistics and capabilities. Just know that some countries require you to buy an expensive out-of-state hunting license just to put in their quality hunting. Some states require you to pay the full price tag up-front before you draw, so you have hundreds of dollars spent waiting for results and refunds for the tags not drawn up. Almost all countries charge some form of fee to implement the draw, regardless of the outcome. It's not cheap to play the game to figure out your budget and prioritize where you want to invest in the long term. Breakdown Here is my state-by-state strategy (in alphabetical order). And then in the end make sure to check out some useful resources and a reminder to help you build your tag strategy. Arizona I dreamed of it's a September elk tag in Arizona, but it's probably just not a real guy like me. Let me explain... My strategy is to hunt Arizona every few years late in the archery season. I figure if I can hunt in Arizona, regardless of the season, I'll have the opportunity for a big bull. There are a limited number of elk hunting days in life, so it is better to tag in hand than to be on the sidelines. I'm sure rut hunting is incredible, but many years ago, when Arizona went from paper applications to 100% online, I accidentally burned like an 8-point cow tag. I had to completely start over, so I changed my strategy. Arizona has a great reputation for solid game management, amazing genetics and mild winters – producing some of the biggest bulls in the country. The draw is the only way to get the coveted Arizona tag because there are no land owner tags available for purchase. You probably should start applying yesterday. Arizona's lottery system is kind of complicated. They have three passes through the hat, the first being awarded 20% of the tags for those having the most points. The second pass covers selections 1 and 2, and the last pass covers selections 3, 4 and 5. It seems like they make changes every year, so I count on resources to discover what changes were made each year. Their draw is one of the starting ones, so the first year are ready to get going on your application through your website. A couple of tips to help you all out is that Arizona will give you an extra point to do after you apply for five years in a row. That's awesome! The other end is that they have a hunter safety class that is specific to their condition that you can take, and it will get you an extra point to make each year. The warning is that you have to do a field day in person to get a point. I flew to Arizona, rented a car, stayed in a hotel just to attend class and get a point. There is a difference between being interested and committed, I'm committed! Arizona needs to be applied To me. Arizona Game & Fish Colorado Colorado owns more elk and issues more elk permits than any other state. Like Idaho, it's a great backup option at least. Over-the-counter hunting are some of the best, and they are much the country's most ambitious elk hunter to explore. For the draw, Colorado considers all plaintiffs the first choice before they consider a further choice. Typically, most hunting choices are filled in this first pass, and usually do not require a second choice for the application. Colorado uses preference points for its markers, but really you should be researching an incredible number of units that have over-the-counter tags. Colorado made some changes, and now the cheapest state to apply for trophy-weeding units. Applicants pay only \$3 application processing fee, and then the nominal preference point fee if the unit you are trying to draw is unsuccessful and you do not meet the exemption criteria. But Colorado has some serious point creep issues that can make you point purgatory as I am. Even though I have double-digit points, I'm still far behind many others who have been at it longer, so I'll probably never make a dream tag in the Northwest corner of Colorado. I plan on burning my points soon and find some areas I can draw both elk and deer tag every other year and really learn some country. Again, it's better to know the area really well than to have some special tag that you can only hunt once or twice in your lifetime. Colorado should be your top choice for over-the-counter tag options, go there year after year and focus on a specific unit! Colorado Parks & Wildlife Idaho I have killed a lot of elk on Idaho state lands, with over-the-counter tags. This state is awesome, even if definitely a wolf problem in central and northern Idaho. Idaho has some good draw units for elk, but truly it's best to book Idaho as a back-up state for over-the-counter elk hunting when other state draws haven't come out in your favor. Idaho is one of those places where you can get a tag year after year and build knowledge of a particular unit. As I mentioned earlier, this is the best strategy I can imagine when it comes to the shrinking elk hunting learning curve. Many units in Idaho require physically strenuous, backcountry elk hunting; in some parts of the country there are elk that inhabit less challenging terrain. Over-the-counter archery tags can be purchased in quality controlled units that are seasonal, occurring during the rut. Idaho doesn't have a bonus point system, so it's really luck to do a lottery system. Idaho's tag prices are very reasonable, and in some units, you can buy a second elk tag that I get almost every year. That's right, I can kill two bulls for about \$800, the same cost as buying only one elk tag in Montana. I urge everyone to think that comes from the west to strongly consider Idaho because of its generous season and the huge amount of public land in the backcountry. While you're at it, please pick up the wolf tag, they're heavily discounted and you can only get a chance. Idaho Fish & Game Montana montana has one of the best overall archery seasons in the country, and bowhunters are a full six-week hunt. I have killed some Montana bulls with an archery tackle in early October, weeks after the archery season has closed in many other states. For me, that makes Montana a viable option every fall. It also helps that Montana offers a lot of public land and some quality bulls across the country. The southwestern part of the country probably has the highest density of elk, so be sure to research that in the general area. The western half of the country can be very remote and the mountains are rugged, but with long seasons, hunters can be a solid option for a big bull. Folks want to hunt Montana elk for the general tag, probably stick to the western part of the state and put on miles to get the edge of archery seasons. If you don't tag-out in the archery season, you can turn around and hunt for another five weeks with a rifle. That's right, an 11-week hunt with one tag! Recently Montana has been selling its general tags by the time the fall rolls around, so be sure to put in the beginning of the year to secure your tag. Last year, for example, I wanted to buy a leftover tag in early October and they were sold out. If you missed the draw you can buy a point online after the draw. Trophy areas are pretty well known, as are the units around Missouri breaks and in the southeastern part of the state. If you are going to hunt central Montana elk, just know that elk will be near or on private land throughout the hunt, so it is important you have something like onXmaps to ensure that you can hunt legally and with confidence. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Nevada I have yet to draw nevada's very tag, and this is another state where I have double-digit points. Most tags are issued through a lottery system. Unsuccessful applicants can get bonus points that are squared to improve the chances of drawing tags. Much like lottery tickets, bonus points give hunters additional options to draw tags. You can get one bonus point a year by buying them, or by signing up and not being able to draw tags. Nevada also offers landowner tags that can be sold and put that option too expensive on my blue-collar budget. The other thing to note is that you have to buy a license just to apply so it's not going to be a cheap process. Nevada is stingy with their non-resident tags, but the quality of hunting is some of the best in the west. When I do this, I will be selling on the tag and devote all your energy and effort into exploration and set aside plenty of time to truly enjoy a special hunt. I would urge everyone to apply because they are some of the best bulls in the country to hunt – even if it will take years to get a chance to chase them. The Nevada Department of Wildlife New Mexico I have hunted in New Mexico twice and punched my tag both times. The last time was over 10 years ago and I haven't dialed a tag since. Without a preference or bonus point system, it's never too late to start applying in New Mexico. Non-resident tags are a challenge to the prospect of drawing many much desired items for all elk. Ten percent of the tags are reserved for customers who are contracted by a licensed New Mexico outfitter. Six percent of the tags are reserved for non-resident hunters who don't apply to the outfitter. The last 84 percent of tags are allocated to resident applicants. If there are fewer than 10 tags for any particular hunt, then all tags are given to resident applicants. I for one don't want to hire an outfitter for elk, so my chances are bleak. You can increase your chances by applying for less desired elk areas, which I think still offer some great elk hunting. Landowner tags can be purchased, but with new kids and college to help pay, I have no excuse to explore these options. Purchasing a landowner tag for NM can be very expensive and prices are just going up. I would say New Mexico is another applicable state – a non-scoring system is truly a success draw, so you always have a chance and hunting is incredible throughout. New Mexico Game & Fish Oregon I didn't put on Oregon. It's relatively close to my home and opens up in late August archery, but I still have to dedicate myself to my head down there. Oregon supports a lot of elk and you can buy tags over-the-counter for cascade, or archery hunting in most units east of Cascade. I don't know enough about doing the system to give advice, but I can tell you that to hunt one of their much sought-after Northeast archery elk tags is going to take many years of application and a lot of luck. They have some terrific hunting Roosevelt on the westside, but you have to do your research on privately owned wooden land and wait to pay to play when it comes to access. In the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Utah I always hope I can pull off a limited-entry archery elk tag in Utah, but I still have to do so – even with double-digit points. Utah has incredible public elk hunters and some real remote backcountry. The public has managed the quality of most, which is one of the reasons why getting the coveted tag can be a challenge. There are some over the counter and spike just hunting available, but my strategy is to go to Utah when I have a legit tag in hand. Hunters who for a restricted entry permit to receive bonus points for each unsuccessful application, giving them an additional opportunity to draw future lottery drawings. Half of the restricted unit tags are allocated to hunters who have more bonus points than other hunters, ensuring that hunters who have been faithful in applying year after year end up on the hunt, although the hunter is only now starting to not live long enough to achieve maximum bonus-point status. Utah issues some landowners with transferable coupons that allow the holder to bypass the drawing and buy the elk tag, but such options are too rich in my blood. In applying it is important to know that you can choose three hunting choices for restricted entry or general seasonal tags. The state believes that all applicants must first hunt for a choice before considering any applicant's second choice. As a result, no highly desirable tags are given to hunters who are looking for the tag as a second or third choice. Non-residents receive 10% of tags for each hunting choice if at least 10 tags are offered. I patiently wait to pull a big tag and make a steady effort when my name is finally dressed. I usually count on not drawing, but I'm always looking forward to Mt Dutton or Monroe elk tag archery – maybe someday! The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in Washington My home state is not pleasant to non-residents. To introduce for the draw, you have to buy a hunting license and tag. It's good if you don't draw the elk tag you put in order, you will be left with a tag and license this year. It's terrible! I want them to change that. I don't even hunt Washington over-the-counter elk because their archery season is almost two weeks long and there's a large number of hunters in small areas. I usually put in a limited record of elk hunting in Southeast Washington, known as the Blue Mountains. I drew that tag once in 2011. It took about ten years of applying as a resident, and I ended up arrowing a 330-class bull in the desert. It was a remarkable hunt and maybe I can do it again someday soon. Washington forces you to choose the East or West side tag. If you hunt west of the cascade, you can find a higher density of elk and even get to the Roosevelt herds. On the east side there are some great areas of over-the-counter option – especially in the northeast corner – but you will have to deal with wolves and a short season. There are currently no wolf management plans in Washington that include hunting. Finally, Washington also forces you to choose a weapon so you can't make a strategy by trying with archery first and then coming back to the muzzle load or rifle season. I would most likely skip this position if you didn't live here. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Wyoming This is one state that I believe should apply to the state, even if it's just about the general tag. You safe to hunt there every few years really get to know the places. They have the elk density that is required for the archer to have the opportunity and learn the ropes. Their best alals tags may take some time to draw, but there are general tag options that are much easier to do consistently. The general elk tag is a great way to get into the

mountains and still has a darn good chance of harvesting a quality bull. Wyoming considers all bidders the first choice before they consider any second or third choice. This means that most hunting choices are filled in this first pass, and usually do not require a second choice for the application. The Wyoming preference point system assigns 75% of tags to applicants with the most preference points. The last 25% of the tags will be issued to non-resident applicants at random. This applies only to the choice of hunting with at least four common non-resident tags. I haven't hunted WY since 2007, however I had to draw the 2018 season and burn two-digit points to do it. I knew I was going to do this based on the chances of making, which was nice, and Wyoming is usually the first public post to draw results that allow you to make plans early in the year. If you missed the draw, you can wait for the summer and buy a bonus point for the algae, which I recommend. Wyoming has a crazy rule that non-residents can't hunt in the desert without a resident guide so make sure you don't put on an area that's all over the desert unless you're planning on hiring an outfitter or being a Wyoming resident who can take you there and stay with you while you're hunting. Wyoming Game & Fish Department Reminder & Resources After reading all this your head can be spinning. Don't worry, just narrow your attention based on time, money and energy. The time it takes to really know the unit is critical. Find an over-the-counter unit in Colorado, Montana or Idaho and go back year after year – it will pay off. If you get super happy and pull an amazing tag, sell it and spend your entire season there, hoping that you will never come back. It will take thousands of dollars to apply in all of these countries, so make sure you crunch some numbers and set aside the money that you are comfortable with. I focus on the strategy for dream hunting, quality hunting and opportunity hunting. Elk hunting tags are just like the financial portfolio that you want to have a strategy for the long, medium and short term. Once you start figuring out your focus, you will need to be able to dive into the chances of making and each country's process. I use GoHunt.com figure out my prospects and I use onXmaps from the desktop to learn access and forget the domains. I think anyone can agree on the power of Google Earth cyber research and practically flying over units to find out function and get lay on the ground. I would say that the more time you put behind your desktop the better time Make sure you work with everything that is inside your controls. This includes becoming a connoisseur with your weapon, developing physical and mental strength, and taking steps with your work and family so you can enjoy every second of the hunt. There are a limited number of elk hunting days in your life, make the most of them. Dan Staton is an ordinary blue collar family man with an extraordinary passion for archery elk hunting. Dan founded ElkShape.com is a resource for hunters who want to shorten the learning curve when it comes to public land elk hunting from the West. There you can peak in his training magazine, read past articles or catch up on his podcast, where he interviews fellow DIY elk hunters. Dan also owns and operates CrossFit in Spokane Valley as his routine, and when there is no help for people to achieve their goals, he is busy hustling toward his own. Contact Dan ElkShape.com, YouTube or Instagram. or Instagram.

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