

Elk Herd Management Program at Canadian Forces Base Suffield

2020-2021

Important Information

- A maximum of 140 hunters can participate during each of the designated hunt dates (listed below).
- Indigenous hunters will be required to pre-register for access to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield during hunt seasons. To register, please email SUFEHRP@forces.gc.ca.
- All participants must attend a daily safety briefing at the [CFB Suffield Recreation Centre](#) parking lot in Ralston, Alberta, which takes place at 6:45 a.m. each day of the hunt. Parking lot opens at 6 a.m. Briefing will be delivered via FM frequency. If issues arise participants will be required to read/review the handouts themselves
- All hunters must wear masks during any interaction with military and AEP staff at briefings and the Hunter Check Station
- Hunting maps and vehicle passes will be distributed to each vehicle during the registration, which follows the daily safety briefing.
- All participants must be off the Range and Training Area by no later than 6:00 p.m.
- All hunters must be at least 18 years of age or older. No one under the age of 18 will be granted access to CFB Suffield (government issued photo ID required).
- When done hunting for the day, hunters are to remain in their vehicles when exiting the range at the Hunter Check Station. Range Control & Provincial personnel will approach all vehicles at the Hunter Check

Station to collect vehicle pass, record any elk data and collect volunteered elk heads for CWD testing. Heads must be removed prior to arriving at the exit point/Hunter Check Station.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Elk Herd Management Program at CFB Suffield?

In 2012, an Elk Herd Reduction Program (EHRP) was implemented by the Government of Alberta. CFB Suffield has supported the province's efforts to reduce the elk population to an acceptable level by granting access to the base for an annual hunt. As of 2017, this provincially run hunt continues, but has been renamed the Elk Herd Management Program (EHMP) at CFB Suffield.

Why is there an elk hunt at CFB Suffield?

An elk herd was re-introduced at CFB Suffield in 1997. From a population of about 200 elk in 1997, the population grew to more than 7,000 by 2014. Because there are few predators in the area, without hunting, this population was projected to increase by more than 20 per cent annually. The overall aim is to reduce conflict with neighbouring agricultural producers and maintain a sustainable number of elk, which are an important large grazing species native to the prairie habitats of CFB Suffield.

When is the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

This year's EHMP will take place from November 16, 2020 to January 27, 2021.

The schedule for the hunt is as follows:

- Week 1 – November 16 to 18, 2020
- Week 2 – November 23 to 25, 2020
- Week 3 – January 11 to 13, 2021
- Week 4 – January 18 to 20, 2021
- Week 5 – January 25 to 27, 2021

How do I contact Alberta Environment and Parks and CFB Suffield?

To contact Alberta Environment and Parks:

Email: AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca

Toll Free: 1-877-944-0313

To contact CFB Suffield regarding the EHMP:

Email: SUFEHRP@forces.gc.ca

Phone: 403-544-5555 (Note: This phone line is manned during the hunt dates).

Who can participate in the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

- Hunters ages 18 and up who have been drawn for a special licence from the Government of Alberta. All hunting licences must be acquired through the Government of Alberta. CFB Suffield does not issue hunting tags. For more information, visit [My Wild Alberta](#).
- First Nations hunters ages 18 and up who have pre-registered with CFB Suffield will be granted access on an availability basis to the EHMP through a registration process. First Nations hunters must submit their request to hunt and register with CFB Suffield in advance by emailing SUFEHRP@forces.gc.ca.
- For safety reasons, each hunter will be booked into specific dates and times in order to distribute participation across the entire hunt period.

What First Nation communities are eligible to hunt during the EHMP?

- CFB Suffield does not determine hunting eligibility and shall adhere to provincial law with respect to wildlife management.
- First Nations members ages 18 and up who are recognized by the province's regulations and laws to be eligible for hunting in southeastern Alberta will be able to register to hunt during the EHMP.

Where does the hunt take place?

- Hunters will be granted access to parts of CFB Suffield's Range and Training Area on a daily basis after attending the mandatory daily safety briefing.
- [CFB Suffield](#) is located 5 km north of the Trans-Canada Highway along Highway 884. It is approximately 50 km northwest of the City of Medicine Hat.
- Some sections of the Range and Training Area will be restricted for safety reasons. Restricted areas may change daily and will be briefed accordingly at the daily safety brief.

Are there other conditions that must be followed when participating in the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

- All participants must submit a signed waiver at the morning safety briefing. This will be provided upon entry prior to the daily safety briefing. There is no requirement to submit paperwork in advance.
- All hunters are required to have the following items in their possession:
 - A charged cellphone with them at all times.
 - Blaze hunter orange or equivalent visible clothing must be worn at all times when outside of vehicle while on the range.
- Hunters must ensure they have sufficient fuel for their day's activities.
- The CANEX gas station at the base now has regular, premium and diesel fuels available.
- CANEX weekday hours during the hunt are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The next closest fuel station to CFB Suffield is in Redcliff, Alta., which is approximately 40 km southeast on the Trans-Canada Highway.

What documentation is required for registration?

Bring this paperwork with you:

- Government-issued photo identification.
- For provincially registered hunters: elk hunting license and hunting tags.
- For First Nations hunters: Government-issued Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card.
- Vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
- All hunters must have their Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) for firearms, or must be in direct supervision of someone who has a PAL. Direct supervision means close enough to see at all times and talk without a raised voice.

What is required to hunt in the CFB Suffield National Wildlife Area (NWA)?

- Access to the CFB Suffield NWA will be granted through a draw each morning prior to the safety briefing.
- Those interested in hunting in the NWA must enter the draw for either the northern NWA or southern NWA. Entry must be done daily prior to the daily safety brief.
- Those successfully drawn for the NWA can also hunt the main hunting area.
- Hunters must be accompanied by at least one helper/hunter to hunt in the NWA. For safety reasons, hunters cannot hunt alone in this area..
- Some additional equipment is needed to hunt in the CFB Suffield NWA. The following equipment is mandatory and will be checked:
 - Handheld GPS or compass (other than a cellphone), and
 - Flashlight.
- Recommended:
 - A method of animal retrieval, such as a game hunting cart or sled, and
 - Spare batteries for flashlight & GPS.

- The NWA is a walk-in and walk-out area where no motorized vehicles are permitted off road. The area is remote and cellphone/wireless connectivity is limited.

What is not permitted on the base?

- There is a zero-tolerance policy for drug and alcohol use or possession in the Range and Training Area, including medical cannabis or any drug that will impair an individual's judgement or cognitive ability. If a participant is found to be in possession of these items, they and their hunting party will be banned immediately upon entering the base. All vehicles will be searched.
 - No photography or videography is allowed.
 - Speeding will not be tolerated.
 - CFB Suffield is a controlled airspace, and therefore, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) are not permitted.
- Base personnel are not able to assist with the recovery of a disabled vehicle during the EHMP. In the event that a vehicle gets stuck or breaks down, towing and recovery will be an owner's responsibility. Most towing companies can be called out to the Range and Training Area, but they will need to be escorted by Range Control personnel.
 - Base personnel will not assist with animal retrieval.

What types of vehicles are permitted?

- A vehicle pass to enter the Base will be issued to each vehicle during registration. Four-wheel drive, pickup trucks and SUVs are strongly recommended.
- Non-motorized bicycles (with or without small trailers) are permitted. These can be used in the NWA.
- If bicycles are used, fat-tire bicycles are strongly recommended due to sandy soil.
- Repair kits are strongly encouraged due to low-lying cactus plants in the area.
- All-terrain vehicles (quads, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, etc.) are not permitted in the Range and Training Area.
- Light cargo trailers are permitted for the transport and storage of harvested animals.