

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

6232

2026 ELK SEASON

PUBLISHED 06-08-2026

EFFECTIVE 06-08-2026

EXPIRES 03-01-2027

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to 2026 Elk Season.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2026 Elk Season**

1.3 **6232.4300 ~~SEASONS~~ 2026 SEASON DATES AND OPEN AREAS QUOTAS FOR**
1.4 **TAKING ELK.**

1.5 *[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.6 **Subp. 1a. Season dates.** Licensed hunters may take elk during the following 2026
1.7 seasons:

1.8 A. season A either sex: September 12 to 20;

1.9 B. season B antlerless: September 12 to 20;

1.10 C. season C either sex: September 12 to 20;

1.11 D. season D antlerless: September 12 to 20;

1.12 E. season E either sex: September 12 to 20;

1.13 F. season F antlerless: September 12 to 20; and

1.14 G. season G antlerless: September 26 to October 4.

1.15 **Subp. 2. Open areas.**

1.16 A. A license for the Grygla Elk ~~zones~~ Zone is valid for taking elk within the
1.17 Primary Grygla elk zone prescribed in part 6232.4600, subpart 1, and the Secondary Grygla
1.18 Elk Zone as described in part 6232.4600, subpart 2.

1.19 *[For text of item B, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.20 C. A license for the Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone is valid for taking elk in
1.21 the elk zone prescribed in part 6232.4600, subpart 4.

2.1 Subp. 3. **Quotas.** The number of available licenses for the 2026 elk-hunting season
2.2 is two in the Grygla Elk Zone, three in the Kittson County Central Elk Zone, and seven in
2.3 the Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone, distributed as follows:

2.4 A. season A: up to one license in the Grygla Elk Zone valid for either-sex elk;

2.5 B. season B: up to one license in the Grygla Elk Zone valid for antlerless elk;

2.6 C. season C: up to one license in the Kittson County Central Elk Zone valid for
2.7 either-sex elk;

2.8 D. season D: up to two licenses in the Kittson County Central Elk Zone valid for
2.9 antlerless elk;

2.10 E. season E: up to one license in the Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone valid for
2.11 either-sex elk;

2.12 F. season F: up to two licenses in the Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone valid
2.13 for antlerless elk; and

2.14 G. season G: up to four licenses in the Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone valid
2.15 for antlerless elk.

2.16 **6232.4400 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR TAKING ELK.**

2.17 *[For text of subparts 1 to 6, see Minnesota Rules]*

2.18 **Subp. 7. Orientation required.** A successful applicant may only obtain an elk license
2.19 by attending an orientation session at the Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area headquarters
2.20 at a location designated by the commissioner of natural resources.

2.21 **Subp. 8. Registration.** Within 24 hours of taking an elk, a person must present the
2.22 elk for mandatory biological sampling and register the elk in person at an elk-registration
2.23 station designated by the commissioner of natural resources.

3.1 **6232.4500 ELK LICENSE APPLICATION PROCEDURE.**

3.2 Subpart 1. **General provisions.** The provisions in this part apply to the elk license
3.3 application process.

3.4 A. If the number of applications for any zone and season exceeds the quota, a
3.5 random selection will be conducted to determine the successful applicants.

3.6 *[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]*

3.7 D. The application deadline is ~~the Friday nearest July 15~~ Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

3.8 *[For text of items E and F, see Minnesota Rules]*

3.9 *[For text of subpart 2, see Minnesota Rules]*

3.10 Subp. 3. **Drawing procedure.**

3.11 ~~A. If one or more qualified landowners in either zone apply, a drawing to select~~
3.12 ~~one landowner in the Primary and Secondary Grygla Elk Zones, combined, and one~~
3.13 ~~landowner in the Kittson County Central Elk Zone shall occur first. The remaining parties~~
3.14 ~~shall then be selected in a general drawing to finalize successful parties. If no qualified~~
3.15 ~~landowners apply, all licenses shall be drawn from the general pool of applicants.~~

3.16 ~~B. There shall also be alternate parties drawn from the pool of unsuccessful parties.~~
3.17 ~~These parties would be offered the opportunity to purchase licenses that have been offered~~
3.18 ~~to a successful party, but not purchased. The pool consists of the remaining landowners,~~
3.19 ~~tenants, and parties from the general drawing. An alternate party shall only be notified in~~
3.20 ~~the event that a successful party decides not to purchase a license.~~

3.21 A. The first, mandatory, selection process will occur through a random drawing
3.22 from a pool of applicants consisting of individuals with ten years or more of elk license
3.23 application history. Twenty percent of the total available licenses for the year will be allocated

4.1 to this group of applicants. At least five total licenses must be offered across all zones for
 4.2 this drawing procedure to be valid.

4.3 B. The second, discretionary, selection process for qualified landowner applicants
 4.4 may occur for up to 20 percent of licenses available in any zone where there are at least
 4.5 five licenses offered.

4.6 C. The third selection process will be a random drawing from a pool consisting
 4.7 of general drawing applicants, plus any ten-year history applicants or qualified landowner
 4.8 applicants who were not drawn during the previous selection processes. This drawing process
 4.9 will be used to distribute any available and remaining licenses that are offered in the Grygla,
 4.10 Kittson County Central, and Kittson County Northeast Elk Zones.

4.11 **6232.4600 ELK ZONES.**

4.12 Subpart 1. **Primary Grygla Elk Zone.** The Primary Grygla Elk Zone consists of that
 4.13 portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

4.14 Beginning at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 89 and Marshall County
 4.15 Road (CR) 145; thence along CR 145 to 330th Ave NE, Marshall County; thence along
 4.16 330th Ave NE to County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 6, Marshall County; thence along
 4.17 CSAH 6 to the northwest corner of Section 16, Township 157 North, Range 39 West;
 4.18 thence north along the west line of Sections 9 and 4 (360th Ave NE), Township 157
 4.19 North, Range 39 West, to the Moose River; thence along the southerly shore of said
 4.20 river CR 131, Marshall County; thence along CR 131 to CR 48, Marshall County;
 4.21 thence along CR 48 to STH 89; thence along STH 89 to Randen Ridge Road, Marshall
 4.22 County; thence along Randen Ridge Road to CSAH 54, Marshall County; thence along
 4.23 CSAH 54 to Moose River Road NW, Beltrami County; thence along Moose River
 4.24 Road NW to its intersection with the Moose River impoundment dike; thence generally
 4.25 south along the Moose River impoundment dike to Moose River Dike Road; thence
 4.26 along Moose River Dike Road to the intersection with STH 89; thence west along STH
 4.27 89 to the intersection with CSAH 54, Marshall County; thence north along CSAH 54
 4.28 to the southeast corner of Section 2, Township 156 North, Range 39 West; thence west
 4.29 along the south boundary of Section 2, Township 156 North, Range 39 West to 330th
 4.30 St NE, Marshall County; thence along an unnumbered township road (330th St NE);
 4.31 Marshall County, that coincides with the south boundaries of Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6,
 4.32 Township 156 North, Range 39 West; thence along an unnumbered township road

5.1 ~~(330th St NE), Marshall County, that coincides with the south boundary of Section 1,~~
 5.2 ~~Township 156 North, Range 40 West, to STH 89; thence along STH 89 to the point of~~
 5.3 ~~beginning.~~

5.4 Subp. 2. [See repealer.]

5.5 Subp. 3. **Kittson County Central Elk Zone.** The Kittson County Central Elk Zone
 5.6 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

5.7 ~~Beginning at the intersection of County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 1 and State Trunk~~
 5.8 ~~Highway (STH) 175; thence north along CSAH 1 to 380th Street; thence east to 250th~~
 5.9 ~~Avenue; thence north along 250th Avenue to the section line between Sections 29 and~~
 5.10 ~~30, Township 164 North, Range 48 West; thence north on the section line between~~
 5.11 ~~Sections 29 and 30, Township 164 North, Range 48 West, to the United States/Canadian~~
 5.12 ~~border U.S. Highway (US) 75 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 30, Kittson~~
 5.13 ~~County; thence north along CSAH 30 to County Road (CR) 70, Kittson County; thence~~
 5.14 ~~north along CR 70 to the section line between Section 25 of Township 164, Range 50~~
 5.15 ~~West and Section 30 of Township 164, Range 49 West; thence north along said section~~
 5.16 ~~line to the United States/Canadian border; thence east long along the United~~
 5.17 ~~States/Canadian border to the northeast corner of Section 30, Township 164 North,~~
 5.18 ~~Range 46 West; thence south along the east section line of Section 30, Township 164~~
 5.19 ~~North, Range 46 West, to 370th Avenue, Kittson County; thence south along 370th~~
 5.20 ~~Avenue to County Road (CR) 51, Kittson County; thence south along CR 51 to CSAH~~
 5.21 ~~4, Kittson County; thence west along CSAH 4 to State Ditch 85 (330th Street, Kittson~~
 5.22 ~~County); thence east along State Ditch 85 to State Ditch 72 (310th Street); thence east~~
 5.23 ~~along State Ditch 72 to 480th 100th Avenue, Roseau County (Kittson/Roseau County~~
 5.24 ~~line); thence south along 480th 100th Avenue to 220th Street, Kittson County; thence~~
 5.25 ~~west along 220th Street to CSAH 10, Kittson County; thence west along CSAH 10 to~~
 5.26 ~~U.S. Highway 59; thence north along U.S. Highway 59 to STH-175 CSAH 22, Kittson~~
 5.27 ~~County; thence west along STH-175 CSAH 22 to CSAH 5, Kittson County; thence~~
 5.28 ~~north along CSAH 5 to CSAH 22, Kittson County; thence west along CSAH 22 to US~~
 5.29 ~~75; thence along US 75 to the point of beginning.~~

5.30 Subp. 4. **Kittson County Northeast Elk Zone.** The Kittson County Northeast Elk
 5.31 Zone consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

5.32 Beginning at the intersection of County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 4, Kittson County,
 5.33 and County Road (CR) 51, Kittson County; thence north along CR 51 to 370th Avenue,
 5.34 Kittson County; thence north along 370th Avenue to the west section line of Section
 5.35 29, Township 164 North, Range 46 West; thence north along the west section of Section
 5.36 29, Township 164 North, Range 46 West, to the United States/Canadian border; thence

6.1 east along the United States/Canadian border to the ~~northeast corner of Section 25,~~
6.2 ~~Township 164 North, Range 45 West~~ Kittson/Roseau County line; thence south along
6.3 ~~the eastern section line of Section 25, Township 164 North, Range 45 West~~
6.4 Kittson/Roseau County line to 480th Avenue; thence south along 480th Avenue to
6.5 State Ditch 72 (310th Street), Kittson County; thence west along State Ditch 72 to State
6.6 Ditch 85 (330th Street); thence west along State Ditch 85 to CSAH 4; thence north
6.7 along CSAH 4, Kittson County, to the point of beginning.

6.8 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, part 6232.4600, subpart 2, is repealed.

6.9 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
6.10 6232.4300, 6232.4400, 6232.4500, and 6232.4600, expire March 1, 2027. After the
6.11 emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read before the amendments
6.12 again take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule.