



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park
Moose, Wyoming

Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Program Hunt Outfitters

Category Defined:

Hunt Outfitters assist in providing support services for the Elk Reduction Program in Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) and hunting in John D Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR). These services may provide guiding expertise for a specific area, game animal, and/or climate/terrain. They also may provide hunters with necessary gear and supplies. If and when an animal is taken, outfitters may assist in the retrieval and/or harvesting of the hunted animal. Hunting activities occur within the JODR September through December. Specific dates, laws, and limits on hunted animals are detailed in annual information released by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Hunting activities associated with the legislatively permitted Elk Reduction Program within Grand Teton National Park occur from October-December only for identified species; no regular hunting is permitted. Commercial operators may only provide services for visitors who have already obtained the appropriate state and park permits/licenses. In 2019, Hunt Outfitters accounted for about 2.5% of all authorizations issued (3 out of 119 total operators).

Specific Statement of Appropriate Use:

Hunt Outfitter Services are appropriate to GRTE and JODR because they assist visitors in the participation of an activity that has been deemed as appropriate by the enabling legislation of both park units. The enabling act for Grand Teton National Park provides specific legislation allowing for an indefinite “Elk Reduction Program when jointly determined by the NPS and the State of Wyoming to be necessary for the proper management of the elk population.” It is not mandated to occur on an annual basis.¹

Management Objectives:

Hunt Outfitter Services adhere to the management objectives of GRTE and JODR. The General Management Plan for JODR allows hunting.² Management objectives for the elk reduction program in GRTE are most recently specified in the 2007 *Bison and Elk Management Plan for Grand Teton NP and the National Elk Refuge*.

¹ Excerpt from the enabling legislation for GRTE; September, 15th 1950: “SEC 6. (a) The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service shall devise, from technical information and other pertinent data assembled or produced by necessary field studies or investigations conducted jointly by the technical and administrative personnel of the agencies involved, and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Wyoming for their joint approval, a program to insure the permanent conservation of the elk within the Grand Teton National Park established by this Act. Such program shall include the controlled reduction of elk in such park, by hunters licensed by the State of Wyoming and deputized as rangers by the Secretary of the Interior, when it is found necessary for the purpose of proper management and protection of the elk.”

² 1980 JODR General Management Plan, PG 3



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Operating Plan

Conditions of Use:

- Clients of Hunt Outfitters must obtain and carry with them all applicable licenses and follow all applicable State, Federal, and park unit laws.
- Outfitters are responsible for the legal conduct of their clients and must report any infractions immediately to the Teton County Dispatch Center.
- All representatives and employees of CUA holders must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- The name and employing company of all CUA representatives and employees must be identifiable through the use of uniforms and name tags.
- Outfitters must provide accurate and unbiased information, safety messaging, and bear food storage education.
- All business transactions must take place outside of Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR).