

PROPOSAL: 2020 John Swanz Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement

Under the provisions of 87-2-513 MCA, the Department is authorized to issue the following either-sex elk permits in the John Swanz Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement:

One (1) 411-20 either-sex elk permit to John Swanz (or designated family member), landowner/cooperator for use only on land enrolled in this agreement.

Additionally:

Four (4) 411-20 either-sex elk permit holders will be randomly selected from the list of successful applicants and will have access, by permission, to hunt on lands enrolled in this agreement. These permits are valid in hunting districts 411, 511 and 530.

Terms of the John Swanz Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement include:

1. Approximately 10,960 total acres of private land will be enrolled, consisting of two separate ranch units - North Unit comprised of 5,880 acres in Hunting District 411, and South Unit comprised of 5,080 acres in Hunting District 511.
2. Enrolled property will be open to free public elk hunting with firearms from October 24, 2020 through November 29, 2020.
3. Permission may be obtained by contacting one of the following: John Swanz (406) 473-2201, Jason Swanz (406) 473-2462 or Jamie Gilbert (406) 374-2205. Jamie is John's son-in-law and lives on the north side. Jason lives next door to John on the south ranch.
4. Terms of access include:
 - a) The four hunters receiving 411-20 either-sex elk permits valid in HDs 411, 511 and 530, and are selected for this program, may hunt any day they call and request permission. John Swanz will try to monitor elk use, and if elk are present, will offer to assist any of these four hunters with harvesting an elk. It will be the hunter's responsibility to contact John to arrange for access. John will not be responsible for contacting any hunter to report the presence or absence of elk.
 - b) From 1-3 other public hunters per day who, possess a 411-20 either-sex elk permit, a 411-00 antlerless elk license, a 004-00 antlerless elk license (north unit in HD 411 only), a 005-00 antlerless elk license (south unit in HD 511 only) or unused general elk license, will be allowed to hunt for antlerless elk on enrolled land throughout the period covered by this agreement.
 - c) There are no restrictions on the number of days John, or his designees can hunt his property.
5. Use restrictions include:
 - a) South Unit: Hunters will be required to walk from designated roads.
 - b) North Unit: Hunters will be required to walk from designated roads.
6. Hunter/landowner/Department satisfaction data will be acquired after the season through Department surveys of the landowner and hunters involved with this contractual Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement.