



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

ELK HUNTING ACCESS AGREEMENT

Part A. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

This is an agreement ("Agreement") made on _____, 2026, between Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks ("Department") and Blacktail Breaks Ranch LLC ("Landowner") of lands being enrolled in the Elk Hunting Access (EHA) Agreement Program under the provisions of § 87-2-513, MCA.

Landowner Name: Zachary Mercer

Mailing Address: 11875 O'Brien Creek Rd, Missoula, MT 59804

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Physical Address (if different from mailing): _____

Deeded Private Land Acreage Enrolled: TOTAL 718

Private Land Acres Not Owned by Landowner/Ranch but Leased for Agricultural Purposes (if applicable): TOTAL _____

Name of Individual Leasing Lands to Applicant (if applicable): _____

Contact Information for Individual Leasing Lands to Applicant (if applicable):

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Hunting District(s) of Lands Enrolled: 690

Appendix A. Maps depicting the exact EHA boundaries and lands open to participating Landowner/Landowner designees and public hunters provided by Landowner at time of application.

Appendix B. If lands enrolled are less than 640 acres, the Regional EHA Evaluation Form.

Department Staff Contact: Katie Iverson 406-808-7073

Part B. DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

1. Maximum days for each public hunter?

Choose one: ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes: Number of Days 3

2. Are public hunters required to provide advance notice prior to seeking hunting access? Choose

one: ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes: Number of Days 14

3. Which hunting seasons are public hunters allowed access? (For at least one public hunter (per license/permit), this must be the same as when the landowner/designee license is valid and is considered the Agreement start date).

☒ General Rifle (**required**)

☒ Archery

☐ Muzzleloader

☐ Late Elk Shoulder Season ☐ Early Elk Shoulder Season (starting 8/15- if applicable)

Please describe if it's a combination of seasons for public hunters:

4. Requirements for public hunters under the terms of this Agreement: (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ check-in upon arrival ☐ accompaniment required while hunting
☒ walk-in only ☒ motorized retrieval

☒ Other rules (describe):

Motorized retrieval with landowner permission; Access only for elk; No deer hunting/harvest allowed. Possible sheep hunting allowed.

5. Public Hunter Landowner/Representative Contact Information: This is the person the public hunters will contact to coordinate public hunting access. (If identical to Landowner contact information (Part A), or if the property is going to be managed by the Landowner's Block Management Program permission system, check this box). ☒

Note: Landowner is responsible if the Landowner's representative, listed below, does not respond or coordinate access with willing public hunters in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Representative Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

6. Does the Landowner wish to select up to one-third of the public hunters for this Agreement?

Choose one: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Landowner elects to select up to one-third of the public hunters eligible to hunt lands enrolled, Landowner must make their selections known to FWP no later than three-weeks prior to the Agreement start date (i.e., the first hunting season the Landowner/designee license will be used by Landowner/designee). If Landowner fails to make their public hunter selections in the required time-frame, Landowner public hunter selections will be forfeited and FWP will fill the spots with FWP selected public hunters.

If landowner does not agree to the above process/methodology, please describe another process/methodology to make public hunter selections. Timeline of selections provided to FWP no later than three-weeks prior to Agreement start date applies. (Please supplement the Agreement with a separate document outlining the process/methodology if you require more room than below).

7. SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY LANDOWNER SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED (if applicable):

☒ EITHER-SEX ELK

☐ ANTLERLESS ONLY ELK

☐ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTLERLESS Describe: _____

8. SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY DEPARTMENT SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTERS ON LANDS ENROLLED: (For every permit/license or combination issued to a Landowner/designee, at least one of the Department selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the Landowner or the Landowner's designee.)

☒ EITHER-SEX ELK

☐ ANTLERLESS ONLY ELK

☐ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTLERLESS Describe: _____

PART C: LANDOWNER/LANDOWNER DESIGNEE AND PUBLIC HUNTER LICENSE/PERMIT INFORMATION

By entering into this Agreement, Landowner agrees to provide free public elk hunting on the Landowner's property or private property leased by the Landowner for agricultural purposes. In return, the Department may issue, at no cost to Landowner and/or Landowner's designee, an elk license (including elk B license), permit or combination of the two, whichever is required in that hunting district.

Pursuant to § 87-2-513(1)(b), MCA, a designee may be an immediate family member or an authorized full-time employee of the Landowner who is eligible for licensure under Title 87, chapter 2. An "employee" means a person who works full-time for the Landowner as part of an active farm or ranch operation enrolled in the program. See § 87-2-513(9)(a), MCA. An "immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, niece, or nephew by blood, marriage, or legal adoption. See § 87-2-513(9)(b), MCA.

For every three members of the public allowed to hunt under this Agreement, the Department may issue one license, permit, or combination of the two to a Landowner and/or Landowner's designee. For every permit/license issued to a Landowner or Landowner's designee, at least one of the Department selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the Landowner or the Landowner's designee. The Department may limit the total number of licenses and permits issued through this program.

This Agreement authorizes the issuance of the following license(s) and permit(s) as represented by the decision of the Fish and Wildlife Commission:

1 690-21 general elk license/either-sex elk permit to the Landowner or Landowner's designee, for use only on land enrolled in this Agreement. This permit/license is to be used by the Landowner or Landowner's designee during the following seasons on private land or private land leased by the landowner for agricultural purposes (check all that apply):

☒ Archery ☐ General Rifle ☐ Muzzleloader ☐ Late Elk Shoulder Season

☐ Early Elk Shoulder Season (starting 8/15- if applicable)

 elk B license to the Landowner or Landowner's designee, for use only on land enrolled in this Agreement. This permit/license is to be used by the Landowner or Landowner's designee during the following seasons on private land or private land leased by the landowner for agricultural purposes (check all that apply):

☐ Archery ☐ General Rifle ☐ Muzzleloader ☐ Late Elk Shoulder Season

☐ Early Elk Shoulder Season (starting 8/15- if applicable)

Additionally:

1 public hunters who possess 690-21 elk license/permit will be selected by the Landowner to hunt either-sex elk on lands enrolled in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

1 public hunters who possess 690-21 elk license/permit will be randomly selected by FWP from a list of eligible public hunters and will have access, by permission as set forth herein, to hunt either-sex elk on lands enrolled in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. For every elk license/permit issued to the landowner, at least one public hunter selected by the Department, must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to Landowner or Landowner's designee.

1 public hunters who possess 690-01 elk license/permit will be randomly selected by FWP from a list of eligible public hunters and will have access, by permission as set forth herein, to hunt antlerless elk on lands enrolled in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

PART D. TERMS OF ELK HUNTING ACCESS AGREEMENT:

By signing below, the landowner or landowner representative understands and agrees to the following terms of the Agreement:

1. The Agreement start date is the first hunting season the landowner/designee will utilize the license(s)/permit(s) awarded through this program. The end date of the Agreement will be February 15 annually or earlier based on season opportunities and willingness of landowner to allow public access.
2. Landowner owns at least 640 acres of occupied elk habitat and agrees that he/she may not charge a fee or authorize a person to charge a fee for hunting access on enrolled property. If Landowner owns acreage below the 640 acres required, Landowner understands the Department must determine that site conditions exist to accommodate successful public hunting and that he/she may not charge a fee or authorize a person to charge a fee for hunting access on his/her enrolled property.
3. At least one public hunter selected by the Department must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to Landowner or Landowner's designee. Landowner also agrees that the Department, in consultation with the Landowner, shall select the hunters.
4. A license or permit issued pursuant to this Agreement:
 - a. is nontransferable and may not be sold or bartered; and
 - b. may only be used for hunting conducted on property that is opened to public access pursuant to this Agreement.
5. The Department may prioritize distribution of licenses or permits, for this program, to the areas the Department determines are most in need of management.
6. If the Department determines that Landowner or Landowner's designee has not abided by the restrictions and conditions of a license or permit issued pursuant to this Agreement, that Landowner or Landowner's designee is not eligible to receive another license or permit pursuant to this section during any subsequent license year.
7. The public hunters (Part C) selected for access under this Agreement must contact the Landowner or Landowner's representative to schedule their hunts in accordance with the notice requirements (Part B).
8. When public hunters contact the Landowner or Landowner's representative, he/she will inform the public hunters of the rules and requirements governing access. This includes, but is not

limited to:

- a. Signing written permission slips or Department hunter-sign in rosters to provide public hunter contact information for the Department's evaluation of the program;
 - b. Abiding by all state and federal hunting statutes, regulations, and rules;
 - c. Following all Landowner rules, which will be provided in advance of the hunt. These may include reasonable hunter management restrictions, such as a limitation on the total number of days a public hunter may access the property;
 - d. Maintaining proper safety procedures regarding firearms and/or archery equipment;
 - e. Maintaining proper vigilance aimed at preventing property damage to the Landowner, and to promptly report any property damage that may occur to the Landowner or the Landowner representative;
 - f. Ensuring all gates are left as originally found;
 - g. Using best efforts to prevent fires and keep the Landowners property free of litter at all times;
 - h. How harvested game may be retrieved; and
 - i. How wounded animals may be pursued.
9. If a public hunter wounds an elk and is unable to harvest and retrieve it, that hunter is not allowed to shoot at another elk on the Landowner's property without permission of the Landowner or Landowner's representative. Hunters must notify the Landowner or Landowner's representative prior to pursuing any wounded elk.
10. The Landowner or Landowner's representative is not responsible for contacting any hunter to report the presence or absence of elk.
11. The Landowner or Landowner's representative reserves the right to deny access to the lands enrolled, for cause, including, but not limited to: intoxication, violation of rules, or previous misconduct on lands enrolled. Willful violation of Agreement regulations which set the terms of entrance on a landowner's property can be grounds for termination of privileges on an EHA property and a misdemeanor citation under §87-6-415(1), MCA - Hunting Without Landowner Permission.
12. A hunter's access rights may be terminated under this Agreement for failure to abide by the requirements of this Agreement. The hunter may be dismissed from the Landowners property immediately on such occurrence; the Landowner or Landowner's representative should notify the Department of the dismissal as soon as practicable.
13. If Landowner elects to select up to one-third of the public hunters eligible to hunt lands enrolled, Landowner must make their selections known to FWP no later than three-weeks prior to the Agreement start date (i.e., the first hunting season the Landowner/designee will utilize the license). If Landowner fails to make their public hunter selections in the required timeframe, Landowner public hunter selections will be forfeited and FWP will fill the spots with FWP selected public hunters.
14. Participation in the EHA agreement program qualifies a landowner for livestock loss compensation should any livestock be injured or killed as a direct result of public hunting which occurred on the enrolled lands. Compensation for livestock loss will be made if it has been reported by the Landowner to the Department of Livestock immediately upon discovery of loss, a FWP Livestock Loss report is filed by the investigating Livestock Inspector within 14 days, and FWP review verifies the circumstances and loss. Any claims paid will be at market value at the time of the loss up to a maximum of \$5,000.

15. Enrollment in the EHA agreement program may be terminated by FWP or Landowner if the terms of the Agreement are violated. Any such notice must be in writing. The Agreement may be canceled, and Landowner's property withdrawn from the program at any time due to circumstances beyond the control of Landowner or the Department, such as death, illness, natural disaster, or acts of nature. Landowner shall notify the Department immediately upon discovery of any occurrence which would affect the ability to fulfill the provisions of this Agreement. In the event of cancellation or termination of the Agreement, Landowner or Landowner's designee will forfeit any licenses/permits issued resulting from participation in the EHA agreement program.
16. Lands enrolled in the EHA agreement program may be temporarily closed by Landowner or Landowner's representative in conjunction with the Department due to weather, fire danger, or other conditions or circumstances that would place public safety or resources in jeopardy.
17. Through participation in the EHA agreement program, Landowner agrees to permit FWP personnel on the property for the purposes of establishing and monitoring hunter use, enforcing fish and wildlife laws, and maintaining contact with the Landowner or Landowner's representative to respond to any needs, issues, or problems which develop over the course of the length of the Agreement. By permitting Department personnel on the property, Landowner is not relinquishing any rights or control over property under his/her ownership or responsibility.
18. Landowner, through participation in the EHA agreement program, is covered by the state recreational liability statute (§ 70-16-302, MCA) which provides a liability shield to landowners who allow recreation on their property without charge or other consideration.
19. By signing below, the Landowner/Landowner representative understands and agrees that this agreement and/or any supplemental materials submitted to the Department or Commission may be available to the public so as to ensure compliance with the law and government transparency.

Christy Clark, Director

Date

Landowner or Landowner Representative

Date

**2026 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

FWP may issue, at no cost to a landowner who provides free public elk hunting on the landowner's property, an either-sex or antlerless elk license, permit, or combination of the two as required in that hunting district for the landowner or the landowner's designee to hunt on the landowner's property or on private property leased by the landowner for agricultural purposes.

The commission shall prioritize approval of an application for a license, permit, or combination of the two based on the willingness of the landowner to allow, in either the regular hunting season or a shoulder hunting season, additional cow harvest by public hunters in addition to the number of public hunters required.

Completion of this application does not guarantee approval by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

Please send this application and to the address below or submit via the State of Montana File Transfer Service using email to: filetransfer@mt.gov. Applications may also be sent to your local FWP Regional office c/o FWP Regional Access Program Manager.

**RETURN TO: FWP PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM**

PO BOX 200701, HELENA, MT 59620-0701

All information is required and must be received FWP
no later than 5:00 PM on MAY 1, 2025.

PART A: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

- 1) PROPERTY NAME in which the land is recorded (i.e. ranch name, corporate/partnership name, or individual on the deed): BLACKTAIL BREAKS RANCH LLC

- 2) LANDOWNER OF RECORD OR LANDOWNER AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION:

- a) NAME: ZACHARY W. WELCH
b) MAILING ADDRESS: 1157 CEDAR CREEK RD
c) MAILING CITY, STATE, ZIP: MISSOULA, MT 59704
d) HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
e) EMAIL: [REDACTED]

- 3) DEER/ELK HUNTING DISTRICT(S) OF LANDS TO BE ENROLLED: 690

- 4) TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANT PRIVATE LAND ACRES TO BE ENROLLED: 713

Licenses/permits issued through this program for the landowner/landowner's designee are only valid on the landowner's property or private property leased by the landowner for agricultural purposes. NOTE: The landowner must allow public hunters to hunt the same land area as available to the landowner/landowner's designee through participation in this program.

TOTAL PRIVATE ACRES LEASED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES TO BE ENROLLED (if applicable): NA

Applicants including leased acres for agricultural purposes must provide a copy of the lease agreement and verify the owner of leased land is willing to allow free public elk hunting access.



PART B. DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

For every three members of the public allowed to hunt under the elk hunting access agreement, FWP may issue one license, permit, or combination of the two. FWP may limit the total number of licenses and permits issued under this program.

At least one of the FWP selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the landowner or the landowner's designee. FWP, in consultation with the landowner, shall select the hunters.

- 1) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS FOR EACH PUBLIC HUNTER (if applicable): 3 DAYS (Leave blank if you do not wish to limit the total number of days any one public hunter has public access). Minimum number of days required to be available per public hunter is 2 days.

- 2) ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HUNTERS (if applicable): 14 DAYS (Leave blank if you do not want public hunters to reach out to you in advance of obtaining access/hunting).

- 3) PLEASE SELECT ANY RULES OR REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HUNTERS:

CHECK IN WITH LANDOWNER OR REPRESENTATIVE UPON ARRIVAL ☐

ACCOMPANIMENT REQUIRED WHILE HUNTING ☐

WALK IN HUNTING ONLY ☒

MOTORIZED GAME RETRIEVAL ALLOWED WITH PERMISSION ☒

OTHER (please list): ☐

ACCESS ONLY FOR ELK. POSSIBLY SHEEP
NO DEER HARVEST ALLOWED

- 4) LANDOWNER/REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT SECTION: This is the person who the public hunters will contact to coordinate public hunting access. (If identical to landowner information page 1 or if the property is going to be managed by the Block Management Program check this box ☒). Landowners are responsible if representative/contact listed does not respond or coordinate access with willing public hunters in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE/CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

PART C. PUBLIC HUNTER SELECTION AND SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED

- 1) DOES THE LANDOWNER WISH TO SELECT UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE PUBLIC HUNTERS REQUIRED FOR THE AGREEMENT? Choose one: YES ☒ NO ☐ (skip to 84 [page 3])

LANDOWNERS WANTING TO SELECT UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE PUBLIC HUNTERS WILL BE EMAILED AND PROVIDED A LIST OF ELIGIBLE PUBLIC HUNTER CANDIDATES FOR THE LANDOWNER TO MAKE THEIR LANDOWNER-SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER SELECTIONS.

If a landowner elects to select up to one-third of the public hunters eligible to hunt lands enrolled, the landowner must make their selections known to FWP no later than three weeks prior to the agreement start date (i.e., the first hunting season the landowner/designee license is valid). If a landowner fails to make their



public hunter selections in the required timeframe, landowner public hunter selections will be forfeited and FWP will fill the spots with FWP selected public hunters.

DOES THE LANDOWNER ACKNOWLEDGE THIS METHODOLOGY? Check one: YES ☒ / NO ☐ go back to #1 above or describe a different process or methodology the landowner will use to select up to one-third of the public hunters. Timeline of selections provided to FWP no later than three weeks prior to agreement start date applies. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- 2) SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY LANDOWNER SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED (if applicable):

☒ EITHER-SEX ELK ☐ ANTILERLESS ONLY ELK
☐ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTILERLESS Describe: Sheep

- 3) SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED FOR LANDOWNER SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED (if applicable):

☒ ARCHERY ☒ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15- if applicable)

- 4) SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY FWP SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTERS ON LANDS ENROLLED: (At least one of the FWP selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the landowner or the landowner's designee.)

☒ EITHER-SEX ELK ☐ ANTILERLESS ONLY ELK
☐ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTILERLESS Describe: Sheep

- 5) SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED FOR FWP SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED:

☒ ARCHERY ☒ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15- if applicable)

- 6) DOES THE LANDOWNER WISH TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL FREE PUBLIC ELK HUNTING IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER REQUIRED IN EITHER THE REGULAR HUNTING SEASON OR A LATE ELK SEASON?

Choose one: ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

PART D: LANDOWNER/LANDOWNER DESIGNEE LICENSEE INFORMATION

FWP may issue an either-sex or antlerless elk license, permit, or combination of the two as required in that hunting district for the landowner or the landowner's designee. Qualifying designees include immediate family members, full-time employees or a person with a developmental or physical disability.

"Full-time employee" means a person who works full-time for the landowner as part of an active farm or ranch operation enrolled in the program. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, niece, or nephew by blood, marriage, or legal adoption. "Developmental disability" means a developmental disability as defined in 55-20-102, MCA. "Physical disability" means a person experiencing a condition medically determined to be permanent and substantial and resulting in significant impairment of the person's functional ability.



PART D: LANDOWNER/LANDOWNER DESIGNEE LICENSEE INFORMATION (continued)

Each person (landowner/landowner designee) wishing to receive a license, permit or combination of the two must fill out the form below. If there's more than one license/permit to be requested through this program, please provide copies of this page for each person. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

1) RELATIONSHIP TO LANDOWNER:

- a) SELF ☒
 b) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER ☐
 c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE ☐
 d) PERSON WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY ☐

2) SEASONS LANDOWNER/DESIGNEE WILL USE PERMITS/LICENSES ISSUED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM (This will be used to determine the start date of your agreement and the season at least one of the Department selected hunters will have equivalent opportunity). (check all that apply)

- ☒ ARCHERY ☐ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MIXED/LOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15 - if applicable)

3) LICENSE/PERMIT TYPE (e.g., KXX-20 or KXX-05 (w/ B) REQUESTED: 690-21

DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]	DATE OF BIRTH IS MANDATORY FOR ALL APPLICATIONS. Your A/D number is a 1 or 2 digit number that follows your date of birth. If you do not have an A/D number you will be assigned a random A/D number the first time you apply for a hunting or fishing license.		
NAME: <u>ZACHARY W. WERDE</u>	DOB: [REDACTED]	SEX: [REDACTED]	AGE: [REDACTED]
MAILING ADDRESS: <u>1130 CORNACORP</u>	<u>MISSOULA</u>	STATE: <u>MT</u>	ZIP: <u>59704</u>
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	CITY: [REDACTED]	STATE: [REDACTED]	ZIP: [REDACTED]

Physical address and phone number should be a valid current address and phone number. License Information: This will not be released to any other source.			
1) Previous ☒ New ☐	2) Height: <u>5'10"</u>	3) Weight: <u>175</u>	4) Eyes: <u>BROWN</u>
5) Hair: <u>BROWN</u>	6) Skin: <u>FAIR</u>	7) Blood: <u>BLOOD</u>	8) Other: <u>OTHER (Please list details)</u>

MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENT Any hunter who is born after January 1, 1967 must submit with all hunting license applications a copy of their certificate verifying that he/she has completed a course in hunter education from any state or province. (MCA 87-2-110)	EDUCATION VERIFIED ☒
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1) I agree to provide a valid photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license.	2) I agree to provide a valid photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license.
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STATEMENT OF RESIDENCY (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ONLY)

2) I am claiming Montana residency. I hereby declare that I have been a legal resident of the State of Montana for at least 180 consecutive days (6 months) before the date of my application for a hunting license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license. I understand that I will be required to provide a photo for my license.

**PART E. REQUIRED ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION, FUTURE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND LANDOWNER SIGNATURE**

TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST ALSO INCLUDE:

- 1) One legible map showing the area available public hunting access opportunity for the landowner (or designee) and public hunters. This map will be provided to public hunters selected by FWP and landowner and must be legible.
- 2) Signatory authority documentation (if applicable). If the land in which you are proposing for this application is held as a corporation, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, trust or an association, you MUST provide documentation that you have the legal authority to make this decision on behalf of the business. (i.e. articles of incorporation, partnership agreement, certificate of trust, etc.).
- 3) Copy of lease agreement for private lands leased for agricultural purposes to be enrolled in the program (if applicable).

If this application is approved by the commission, an end of season landowner satisfaction and harvest survey is required in order to be considered eligible for enrollment in subsequent years.

By signing below, I attest that the information provided in this application packet is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I, the applicant also understand and agree that this application and/or any supplemental materials submitted to the Department or Commission may be available to the public so as to ensure compliance with the law and government transparency.

SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER OR LANDOWNER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: [Signature] Date: 4/22/26

PRINTED NAME OF LANDOWNER OR LANDOWNER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: ZACHARY W. WILSON Date: 4/22/26





2026 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

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Please send this application and to the address below or submit via the State of Montana File Transfer Service using email to: Indsportrelations@mt.gov. Applications may also be sent to your local FWP Regional office c/o FWP Regional Access Program Manager.

**RETURN TO: FWP PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM**

PO BOX 200701, HELENA, MT 59620-0701

**All information is required and must be received FWP
no later than 5:00 PM on MAY 1, 2026.**

PART A: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

1) **PROPERTY NAME** in which the land is recorded (i.e. ranch name, corporate/partnership name, or individual on the deed): BLACKTAIL BREAKS RANCH LLC

2) **LANDOWNER OF RECORD OR LANDOWNER AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- a) **NAME:** ZACHARY W. MERCER
- b) **MAILING ADDRESS:** 11875 OBRIEN RD
- c) **MAILING CITY, STATE, ZIP:** MISSOULA, MT 59804
- d) **HOME PHONE:** _____ **CELL PHONE:** [REDACTED]
- e) **EMAIL:** [REDACTED]

3) **DEER/ELK HUNTING DISTRICT(S) OF LANDS TO BE ENROLLED:** 690

4) **TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANT PRIVATE LAND ACRES TO BE ENROLLED:** 718

Licenses/permits issued through this program for the landowner/landowner's designee are only valid on the landowner's property or private property leased by the landowner for agricultural purposes. **NOTE: The landowner must allow public hunters to hunt the same land area as available to the landowner/landowner's designee through participation in this program.**

TOTAL PRIVATE ACRES LEASED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES TO BE ENROLLED (if applicable): -----N/A

Applicants including leased acres for agricultural purposes must provide a copy of the lease agreement and verify the owner of leased lands is willing to allow free public elk hunting access.

**PART B: DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITY**

For every three members of the public allowed to hunt under the elk hunting access agreement, FWP may issue one license, permit, or combination of the two. FWP may limit the total number of licenses and permits issued under this program.

At least one of the FWP selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the landowner or the landowner's designee. FWP, in consultation with the landowner, shall select the hunters.

1) **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS FOR EACH PUBLIC HUNTER** (if applicable): 3 **DAYS** (Leave blank if you do not wish to limit the total number of days any one public hunter has public access). Minimum number of days required to be available per public hunter is 2 days.

2) **ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HUNTERS** (if applicable): 14 **DAYS** (Leave blank if you do not want public hunters to reach out to you in advance of obtaining access/hunting).

3) **PLEASE SELECT ANY RULES OR REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HUNTERS:**

CHECK-IN WITH LANDOWNER OR REPRESENTATIVE UPON ARRIVAL ☐

ACCOMPANIMENT REQUIRED WHILE HUNTING ☐

WALK-IN HUNTING ONLY ☒

MOTORIZED GAME RETRIEVAL ALLOWED WITH PERMISSION ☐

OTHER (please list): ☐

ACCESS ONLY FOR ELK. POSSIBLE SHEEP
NO DEER HARVEST ALLOWED

4) **LANDOWNER/REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT SECTION:** This is the person who the public hunters will contact to coordinate public hunting access. (If identical to landowner information page 1 or if the property is going to be managed by the Block Management Program check this box ☒). Landowners are responsible if representative/contact listed does not respond or coordinate access with willing public hunters in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE/CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

PART C. PUBLIC HUNTER SELECTION AND SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED

1) **DOES THE LANDOWNER WISH TO SELECT UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE PUBLIC HUNTERS REQUIRED FOR THE AGREEMENT?** Choose one: YES ☒ NO ☐ skip to #5 (Page 3).

LANDOWNERS WANTING TO SELECT UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE PUBLIC HUNTERS WILL BE EMAILED AND PROVIDED A LIST OF ELIGIBLE PUBLIC HUNTER CANDIDATES FOR THE LANDOWNER TO MAKE THEIR LANDOWNER-SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER SELECTIONS.

If a landowner elects to select up to one-third of the public hunters eligible to hunt lands enrolled, the landowner must make their selections known to FWP no later than three-weeks prior to the agreement start date (i.e., the first hunting season the landowner/designee license is valid). If a landowner fails to make their



public hunter selections in the required timeframe, landowner public hunter selections will be forfeited and FWP will fill the spots with FWP selected public hunters.

DOES THE LANDOWNER ACKNOWLEDGE THIS METHODOLOGY? Check one: YES ☒ / NO ☐ go back to #1 above or describe a different process or methodology the landowner will use to select up to one-third of the public hunters. Timeline of selections provided to FWP no later than three-weeks prior to agreement start date applies. Attach additional pages if necessary.

2) SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY LANDOWNER SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED:

- ☒ EITHER-SEX ELK ☐ ANTLERLESS ONLY ELK
☐ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTLERLESS Describe: _____

3) SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED FOR LANDOWNER SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED:

- ☒ ARCHERY ☐ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15- if applicable)

4) SEX OF ELK ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED BY FWP SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTERS ON LANDS ENROLLED: (At least one of the FWP selected public hunters must hold the equivalent license, permit, or combination of the two that is issued to the landowner or the landowner's designee.)

- ☐ EITHER-SEX ELK ☐ ANTLERLESS ONLY ELK
☒ COMBINATION OF EITHER-SEX & ANTLERLESS Describe: One 690-21 either sex; One 690-01 antlerless

5) SEASONS ACCESS IS ALLOWED FOR FWP SELECTED PUBLIC HUNTER(S) ON LANDS ENROLLED:

- ☒ ARCHERY ☒ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15- if applicable)

6) DOES THE LANDOWNER WISH TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL FREE PUBLIC ELK HUNTING IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER REQUIRED IN EITHER THE REGULAR HUNTING SEASON OR A LATE ELK SEASON?

Choose one: ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

PART D: LANDOWNER/LANDOWNER DESIGNEE LICENSEE INFORMATION

FWP may issue an either-sex or antlerless elk license, permit, or combination of the two as required in that hunting district for the landowner or the landowner's designee. Qualifying designees include immediate family members, full-time employees or a person with a developmental or physical disability.

"Full-time employee" means a person who works full-time for the landowner as part of an active farm or ranch operation enrolled in the program. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, niece, or nephew by blood, marriage, or legal adoption. "Developmental disability" means a developmental disability as defined in 53-20-102, MCA. "Physical disability" means a person experiencing a condition medically determined to be permanent and substantial and resulting in significant impairment of the person's functional ability.



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

PART D: LANDOWNER/LANDOWNER DESIGNEE LICENSEE INFORMATION (continued)

Each person (landowner/landowner designee) wishing to receive a license, permit or combination of the two must fill out the form below. If there's more than one license/permit to be requested through this program, please provide copies of this page for each person. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

1) RELATIONSHIP TO LANDOWNER:

- a) SELF ☒
b) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER ☐
c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE ☐
d) PERSON WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY ☐

2) SEASONS LANDOWNER/DESIGNEE WILL USE PERMITS/LICENSES ISSUED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM (This will be used to determine the start date of your agreement and the season at least one of the Department selected hunters will have equivalent opportunity). (check all that apply):

- ☒ ARCHERY ☐ GENERAL RIFLE ☐ MUZZLELOADER HERITAGE ☐ LATE ELK SEASON (if applicable)
☐ EARLY ELK SEASON (starting 8/15- if applicable)

3) LICENSE/PERMIT TYPE (e.g., XXX-20 or XXX-01 (elk B) REQUESTED: 690-21

DATE OF BIRTH		MM DD YYYY		ALS	DATE OF BIRTH IS MANDATORY FOR ALL APPLICATIONS. Your ALS number is a 1 to 3 digit number that follows your date of birth. If you do not have an ALS number you will be assigned a lifetime ALS number the first time you apply for a hunting or fishing license.		
NAME		FIRST LAST		JR., SR., ETC.		WORK PHONE	
ZACHARY W MERCER							
MAILING ADDRESS		11875 OBRIEN CREEK RD		MISSOULA		MT 59804	
PHYSICAL ADDRESS		SAME AS MAILING ☒		CITY		STATE ZIP CODE	
EMAIL ADDRESS - You must provide a valid email address to receive your license information. You will not be contacted in any other format.							
☐ Female ☒ Male		5' 10" 1995		☐ BLACK ☐ GRAY ☒ BLUE ☐ GREEN ☐ BROWN ☐ HAZEL		☐ BALD ☒ BROWN ☐ BLACK ☐ GRAY ☐ BLOND ☐ RED	
Feet Inches HEIGHT		WEIGHT		Eye Color (Circle One)		Hair Color (Circle One)	
HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT		Any hunter who is born after January 1, 1985 must submit with all hunting license applications a copy of their certificate verifying that he/she has completed a course in hunter education from any state or province. MCA 87-2-105				DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	
Last 4 digits of SOCIAL SECURITY #							
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT REQUIRED		I am the applicant or have their permission to submit this on their behalf. All statements on this form are true & correct. I understand that if I subscribe to any false statement in this application I am in violation of MCA 87-6-302				FWP receives requests for mailing lists. Do you want your name included on lists provided to requestors? ☐ YES ☒ NO NOTE: Even if you choose NO, under state law FWP is required to allow those who wish to compile their own mailing list access to department records, including name, address, gender, residency, and whether you were successful.	
STATEMENT OF RESIDENCY (MT RESIDENTS ONLY):							
If I am claiming Montana residency, I hereby declare that I have been a legal resident of the State of Montana for at least 180 consecutive days: <u>25</u> YEARS, <u>4</u> MONTHS, immediately prior to making application for this license or that I qualify for the 30 day military exemption (MCA 87-2-102). I declare all statements on this form to be true and correct and that by signing I hereby agree to the use of the information on this form for the purpose of verifying residency according to Sec. 87-2-102.							
X _____ Date: <u>4/22/2026</u>							



PART E: REQUIRED ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION, FUTURE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND LANDOWNER SIGNATURE

TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST ALSO INCLUDE:

- 1) One legible map showing the area available public hunting access opportunity for the landowner (or designee) and public hunters. **This map will be provided to public hunters selected by FWP and landowner and must be legible.**
- 2) Signatory authority documentation (if applicable). If the land in which you are proposing for this application is listed as a corporation, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, trust or an association, you MUST provide documentation that you have the legal authority to make this decision on behalf of the business. (i.e. articles of incorporation, partnership agreement, certificate of trust, etc.).
- 3) Copy of lease agreement for private lands leased for agricultural purposes to be enrolled in the program (if applicable).

If this application is approved by the commission, an end of season landowner satisfaction and harvest survey is requested to be completed in order to be considered for enrollment in subsequent years.

By signing below, I attest that the information provided in this application packet is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I, the applicant also understand and agree that this application and/or any supplemental materials submitted to the Department or Commission may be available to the public so as to ensure compliance with the law and government transparency.

SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER OR LANDOWNER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: _____ Date: _____

PRINTED NAME OF LANDOWNER OR LANDOWNER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: ZACHARY W. MERCER Date: 4/22/26