

**PROPOSAL: 2021 Rocket Land and Livestock Ranch
Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement**

Under the provisions of 87-2-513 MCA, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (“Department”) is authorized to issue the following either-sex elk license and permit in the Rocket Land and Livestock, LLC (“Ranch”) Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement (“Agreement”):

One (1) either-sex elk license and 410-21 (archery) permit to Sam Gary, Jr. (or designated family member or employee), landowner/cooperator for use only on land enrolled in this Agreement.

Additionally:

One (1) 410-21 (archery) either-sex elk permit holder (Montana resident) will be selected by the Ranch from one of the following categories (first time hunters from the hunter safety program, disabled hunters, neighbors, firefighters, law enforcement, and other Montana residents who contribute to the success of the Ranch). The successful applicant will have access, by permission as set forth herein from September 4 – October 17, to hunt on land enrolled in this Agreement. This permit is a valid permit in hunting districts 410 and 417. The Ranch will develop a selection process for eligible hunters.

Two (2) 004-00 or 417-02 antlerless permit holders seeking to harvest an antlerless elk will be randomly selected from a list of applicants and will have access, by permission as set forth herein from October 23 – January 15, (depending on which permit is used), to hunt on land enrolled in this Agreement. The Department will be responsible for managing the application and selection process, and coordinating the successful applicant results with the Ranch for scheduling purposes.

Terms of the Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement include:

1. Approximately 24,000 total acres of private land in Hunting District 417 will be enrolled - see attached Exhibit A Ranch Map, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. Enrolled property will be open to free public elk hunting with legal weapons from September 4, 2021, through January 15, 2022, as set forth herein.
3. Access shall be coordinated with Pat Pendergrass (“Ranch Manager”), who can be contacted at (406) 464-5034.
4. Terms of access include:
 - a) The three (3) hunters receiving 410-21 either-sex elk, or 004-00 or 417-02 antlerless elk permits must schedule their hunts with the Ranch Manager at least 30 days in advance. Each hunter agrees to be accompanied by the Ranch Manager or the Ranch Manager’s designee at all times while on the Ranch. It will be the hunter’s responsibility to contact the Ranch Manager to arrange for access. The Ranch will not be responsible for contacting any hunter to report the presence or absence of elk.

- b) There are no restrictions on the number of days the Ranch or any of its designees or other invitees can hunt the Ranch property.
- c) Within reasonable limits, the three (3) designated public hunters under this Agreement should have sufficient time to harvest an elk. However, in fairness to all participants, the Ranch will restrict the number of days per hunter to five (5) calendar days, once they have been scheduled with the Ranch Manager.
- d) If a hunter wounds an elk, they will not be allowed to shoot at another elk on the Ranch. The Ranch Manager will use best efforts to assist the hunter in recovering the wounded elk.

5. Other obligations of hunters include:

- a) Executing a legal release of liability (for both hunters and guests) prepared by the Ranch.
- b) Photographing harvested animals and freely sharing those photos with the Ranch and Department to assist with elk management goals and objectives.
- c) Abiding by all state and federal hunting statutes, regulations, and rules.
- d) Maintaining proper safety procedures regarding firearms, including but not limited to, ensuring that all firearms are unloaded while in vehicles and in the vicinity of all buildings.
- e) Maintaining proper vigilance aimed at preventing damage to the Ranch, and to promptly report any damage that may occur on the Ranch to the Ranch Manager.
- f) Ensuring all Ranch gates are left as originally found.
- g) Using best efforts to keep the Ranch free of litter at all times.

A hunter's failure to abide by these requirements shall result in the hunter's Ranch access rights being immediately terminated, and the hunter dismissed from the Ranch.

6. Hunter/Ranch/Department satisfaction data will be acquired after the season through Department surveys of the Ranch and hunters involved with this contractual Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement.

Hank Warsech, Department Director

Date

Pat Pendergrass, Ranch Manager

Date