

2023 Bighorn Sheep Hunt Permit Lottery Application



SEASON AT A GLANCE

Season dates: Nov. 28 – Dec. 22, 2023

Permit type: Lottery

Number of permits available: One

Shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Application period: April 17 – Aug. 4, 2023

Who may apply: Nebraska residents only

Drawing: August 2023

Application fee: \$29 (nonrefundable)



OutdoorNebraska.org

GUIDING REQUIREMENT

Permit holders must be accompanied by a representative of Game and Parks while hunting, unless a written exemption is provided by a designee of the Director of Game and Parks.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Required for all hunters ages 12 through 29:

- Persons hunting with a firearm must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education.
- Persons hunting big game with bow and arrow or crossbow must carry proof of successful completion of Bowhunter Education.
- Persons who have not completed a Firearm Hunter and/or Bowhunter Education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks.

NOTE: Hunter Education is not required for hunters under 12 or over 29.

APPRENTICE HUNTER EDUCATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

An Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate is available for those who have not completed the education requirements. Firearm or crossbow hunters under age 12 and those using the exemption certificate can never hunt alone and must be accompanied when hunting anything with a firearm. The accompanying person must be age 19 or older, a licensed hunter and if age 19-29, must be certified in hunter education. Accompanied means you must be in unaided verbal and visual communications at all times. This certificate is issued to the hunter, who must carry it during the hunt, not the accompanying person. The certificate may be obtained once in each person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once. The fee is \$5.

For more information, contact any Game and Parks office or visit OutdoorNebraska.org.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or service, should contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-0641, the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-2024, TTY/TDD 800-642-6112; Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

2023 Nebraska Bighorn Sheep Lottery Permit Application Form

It is unlawful to submit more than one application per calendar year for a lottery sheep permit. If more than one application is submitted by or for any person, all of his or her applications will be excluded from the drawing and the accompanying lottery fees will be forfeited.

All applications must be accompanied by a nonrefundable lottery application fee of \$29. Applications must be received in the Lincoln office or submitted online by Aug. 4, 2023. Only Nebraska residents are eligible to apply. Send application and fee to:
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503

Cut along dotted line

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Hunter Education Number	State Certified
Address — Street/ P.O. Box/ Rural Route & Box Number			E-mail address	
City	State			ZIP

Date of Birth	Age	Sex	Hair Color	Eye Color	Last Four Digits of Social Security Number
Height	Weight	Telephone — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Home Phone		

Credit Card Number (VISA or MasterCard Only) _____ Expiration Date (mm/yyyy) _____ Three-Digit Verification Number (on back of card)

I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT revoked in any state and I am NOT delinquent on any child support payments.

NEBRASKA'S BIGHORN SHEEP

Before the 1900s, Audubon bighorn sheep inhabited parts of western Nebraska, including the Wildcat Hills, Pine Ridge, areas along the North Platte River into eastern Lincoln County, and areas along the Niobrara River. It is thought the Audubon bighorn sheep became extinct in the early 1900s, with its last stronghold being the South Dakota Badlands.

Beginning in 1981, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began a project to return bighorn sheep to some of their native ranges in Nebraska. The program has been popular among hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy watching the majestic animals in a natural setting.

In 1999, Game and Parks adopted a Bighorn Sheep Management Plan that has allowed for maintenance and expansion of the free ranging bighorn sheep population in the Pine Ridge. The plan, updated in 2019, provides for hunting and viewing opportunities while continuing with a goal of establishing self-sustaining, free-ranging populations in all areas of native, suitable habitat in the state.

Using proceeds from permit auctions, lotteries and donated funds from conservation organizations, including the Wild Sheep Foundation, Nebraska Chapter of Safari Club International, Iowa Chapter of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Nebraska Big Game Society, has allowed Nebraska to re-establish bighorns in five areas of the Panhandle. These populations now provide viewing opportunity on public land in the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills.

Bighorn Sheep Program Releases:

1981 — 12 bighorns released into a 500-acre enclosure at Fort Robinson State Park near Crawford

2001 — 22 bighorns from Colorado released on Cedar Canyon Wildlife Management Area in the Wildcat Hills

2005 — 49 bighorns from Montana released on Bighorn WMA in the Pine Ridge near Crawford

2007 — 51 bighorns from Montana released on private land in the eastern Wildcat Hills near McGrew

2012 — 41 bighorns from Alberta released at Sowbelly Canyon northeast of Harrison

2014 — 26 bighorns moved from the Wildcat Hills to the Pine Ridge

Since the first hunting season in 1998, 32 mature rams have been harvested in the state, 12 by auction permit buyers and 20 by lottery permit winners. Current population estimates now approach 305 and would be much higher except for significant and periodic disease losses

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Area

The exact hunting location within Banner, Box Butte, Dawes, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux counties will be determined by Game and Parks, depending on ram availability.



affecting recovery efforts. The hunting season was closed in 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2013 to allow for recovery and assessment of populations after disease losses.

Researchers continue to investigate disease outbreaks and track herd movements as part of a study on behavior and habitat preference. Since Game and Parks began making permits available, nearly \$2 million has been raised from the permit auctions and lottery permits. These proceeds are critical to the continued success of the program.

LOTTERY PERMIT

- Applications will be accepted between 1 p.m. Central time on April 17 and 5 p.m. CT on Aug. 4, 2023, from Nebraska residents only.
- All applications must be accompanied by a nonrefundable lottery fee of \$29.
- Online applications to [OutdoorNebraska.org](https://www.outdoornebraska.org) must be submitted before midnight Aug. 4, 2023.

- The drawing for the lottery permit will be in August 2023.
- The successful lottery applicant will be notified by Game and Parks staff.
- Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.
- Permits are nontransferable.
- A current Nebraska Habitat Stamp is required for all resident hunters at least 16 years of age.

NOTE: It is unlawful to submit more than one application per calendar year for a lottery sheep permit. If more than one application is submitted by or for any person, all of his or her applications will be excluded from the drawing, and the accompanying lottery fees will be forfeited.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A BIGHORN SHEEP LOTTERY PERMIT?

- Nebraska residents who will be at least 12 years old by the date the season opens.
- Nonresidents are not eligible for the lottery.
- Residents may receive only one permit in a lifetime.

Residency: A resident is any individual who has lived in Nebraska continuously for 30 days and intends to become a resident of this state. Military personnel and full-time students stationed or attending school in Nebraska for a period exceeding 30 days are eligible to obtain a resident permit. It is unlawful to falsely state the place of legal residence.

ORIENTATION SESSION

Permit holders must attend an orientation session before hunting. The session will be scheduled by prior arrangement at a time convenient to the hunter.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The winner of the lottery permit will receive up to four days of free guide service from Game and Parks staff and up to four days and nights of meals and lodging at Fort Robinson State Park.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

- 1) Rifles, 25 caliber or larger that deliver at least 1,700-foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
- 2) Muzzleloading rifles, 45 caliber or larger
- 3) Crossbows with a 125-pound minimum draw weight, recurve bows, longbows and compound bows.

NOTE: Semi-automatic firearms capable of holding more than six cartridges are not allowed.