



2026 ELK INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

This Informational Handout for the elk over-the-counter nonpermit-tags is being provided for reference only to assist hunters in understanding this unique but limited and restricted hunting opportunity. **Hunters are reminded that the 2026 Pronghorn and Elk Hunt Draw Information booklet has precedence over this informational handout and is the legal controlling document.**

In this handout you will find:

- Overview
- Common Violations
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Season Dates, Allowable Weapon Types, and Open Areas
- Reference Maps of Open Areas

OVERVIEW:

The elk over-the-counter nonpermit-tags are for very specific and limited locations where the Department is attempting to create areas with few or no resident elk.

Certain areas of the state have been identified as “Minimal Occurrence Population Management Zones” which are areas the Department does not want resident elk herds due to conflicts with private landowners and/or the management focus is on other wildlife such as pronghorn or deer.

Elk numbers in these hunt areas are very low; therefore, hunt success is expected to be very low. However, one advantage of these hunts is that they afford the opportunity to hunt with family and friends, which hasn't always been possible because of the difficulty in getting drawn for draw hunts.

Hunters need to be attentive to the hunt area boundaries, as they are different in most cases from the unit boundaries.

Some of these areas have significant amounts of private property. Hunters who obtain these over-the-counter elk tags should make sure they contact the property owner and obtain permission before hunting on private land.

These hunts will not affect your bonus points but do count toward your one-elk-per-calendar-year bag limit.

NOTE: Hunters are reminded that many of these hunts occur in lower elevations and during the hotter times of the year. These two conditions make it imperative to quickly field dress your harvested game, including removing the hide to preserve the meat BEFORE transporting. Those hunting in the Verde Valley, Alamo Lake, and the 28, 31 and 32 hunt areas should have plenty of coolers and ice to preserve their harvest BEFORE the hunt.



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COMMON VIOLATIONS:

- Hunting outside of a defined Hunt Area, "Take Wildlife During Closed Season. A.R.S. 17-309.A.10"
 - If the rest of the unit or units outside your designated "Hunt Area" have concurrent hunts taking place, a hunter who takes an animal with a nonpermit-tag is the same as "Take Wildlife in Wrong Unit. A.R.S. 17-309.A.1 Per, R12-4-302.D.2" or "Take Wildlife without Valid Permit/Tag A.R.S. 17-309.A.1 Per R12-4-302A "
- Pick up your litter, "A.R.S. 17-309.A.9"
- Stay on existing roads/trails, Follow regulatory signage on public and private land, "A.R.S. 17-454"
- Vandalism while hunting can include livestock, crops, personal property, open/close gates, signboards, or other improvements, "A.R.S. 17-309.A.3"
- Camp At Least 1/4 Mile From Waters, "A.R.S. 17-308"
- Do Not Shoot Within 1/4 Mile Of Occupied Structures, "A.R.S. 17-309.A.4"
- Do Not Trespass on Private Property, "A.R.S. 17-303.2"
- Do Not Attempt to Take Wildlife from a Vehicle A.R.S. 17-301.B

For the complete language on these Title 17 laws and others, visit www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=17. A copy of the Arizona Game and Fish Laws and Rules booklet can be purchased from any Department office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

Question: WHAT are nonpermit-tags?

Answer: Nonpermit-tags are tags that may be purchased over-the-counter from Department offices and some license dealers without applying through the Department's Draw (lottery) process.

Question: WHY is the Arizona Game and Fish Department offering nonpermit-tags for elk hunts?

Answer: Certain areas of the state have been identified as "Minimal Occurrence Population Management Zones" which are areas the Department does not want resident elk herds due to conflicts with private landowners and/or the management focus is on other wildlife such as pronghorn or deer. In these areas, our standard hunt structures have not always met our management goals in these areas, which is why we offer nonpermit-tag elk hunts in certain isolated areas around the state.

Question: WHAT is the expected hunt success?

Answer: Hunt success is expected to be low on all nonpermit-tag elk hunts. These areas, as identified through public process, are not traditional elk habitat and their continued occupation is not desired. Elk numbers in these hunt areas are very low; therefore, hunt success is expected to be very low.



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Question: What type of hunting license and permit do I need for these hunts?

Answer: A current, valid hunting license (General Hunting or Combination Hunt and Fish) and an elk nonpermit-tag (over-the-counter) for the year of the hunt, are required.

Question: Do I need the archery-only, HAM and general nonpermit-tags to hunt different weapon type seasons?

Answer: No, there is only one nonpermit-tag required that may be used for either weapon type hunt. The separate listings in the regulations are required to identify differences in open areas, seasons, legal animals, or weapon types. Hunters can possess an elk nonpermit-tag and adjust their hunt to the seasons and weapon types as permitted by the current elk hunting regulations.

Question: WHEN can I hunt with an elk nonpermit-tag?

Answer: Open hunting areas are subject to change from year to year. The very nature of this opportunity is to address problem areas. All hunt areas and season dates are subject to change from year to year. Hunters must thoroughly review the appropriate year's Pronghorn and Elk Hunt Draw Information booklet, including the notes section, for detailed boundaries of open areas, legal game and other pertinent information. (Note: Open areas are not the same as the familiar Game Management Units in most cases.)

Question: Where can I get a map of the open areas for elk nonpermit-tag holders?

Answer: All the boundaries of open areas are identified in the notes section of the appropriate year's Pronghorn and Elk Hunt Draw Information booklet. For reference only, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is providing map(s) of the hunt areas. You can log onto the Game and Fish Web site at www.azgfd.gov/otc. Caution: Be sure to pick the appropriate year's "Informational Handout."

Question: Do I lose my bonus points if I purchase a elk nonpermit-tag?

Answer: No. You do not lose or accrue bonus points when buying an elk nonpermit-tag.

Question: If I purchase a elk nonpermit-tag can I still apply for a tag through the Draw?

Answer: Yes.

Question: If I harvest an elk during a nonpermit-tag season and then find out I was awarded a tag through the "Draw" of the same year can I hunt elk again with that permit-tag?

Answer: Yes. The annual bag limit still applies, of one (1) elk per calendar year (excluding special raffle tags per R12- 4-120). If an elk is harvested with a nonpermit-tag, that hunter cannot participate in a hunt that he or she may have been drawn for in the same calendar year. That hunter can apply for a bonus point, however. A nonpermit-tag may be transferred to a hunter's minor child or minor grandchild, or donated to a qualified organization per R124-121. For details on transferring a tag, visit www.azgfd.gov/hunting under "Tag Transfer Program."



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Alamo Lake Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for Alamo Lake Area (per note 63): Alamo Lake Hunt Area in Units 16A, 42, and 44A - Beginning at the junction of Bill Williams River and Planet Ranch Road, north on Planet Ranch Road to Yucca-Alamo Road, southeast on Yucca-Alamo Road to Chicken Springs Ranch Road, northeast on Chicken Springs Ranch Road to U.S. Hwy 93; U.S. Hwy 93 south to U.S. Hwy 60, U.S. Hwy 60 west to Vicksburg Road, north on Vicksburg Road to AZ Hwy 72, AZ Hwy 72 west to AZ Hwy 95, north on AZ Hwy 95 to Bill Williams River, east along Bill Williams River to Planet Ranch Road.

Season Dates:

January 1 – March 31, 2026 - Any elk

August 1 – December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for Alamo Lake Hunt Area:

General hunt - Any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 63

Other notes for Alamo Lake Hunt Area:

Elk in this hunt area are limited in number, and most hunters have had poor success finding them. Small groups of elk have been located, throughout the year, in the river bottoms of the Big Sandy and Santa Maria Rivers upstream of Alamo Lake, and those portions of the Bill Williams River near Alamo Lake. The river bottoms are wide and dominated with dense thickets of cottonwood, willow, mesquite and salt cedar trees. There may be multiple stream channels which may or may not contain flowing water or moist soil conditions.

Primary access to the Unit 44A portion is the paved Alamo Road beginning in Wenden. Direct access to the Santa Maria River from there is on the Three Rivers Road and the road crossing Date Creek (about ¼ mile east of the Wayside Inn. Some hunters have had success locating elk from the bluffs along the south side of the river. Elk can be located along the Santa Maria River as far up as the Palmerita Ranch. Motorized vehicle travel is allowed in the Santa Maria River upstream from Date Creek.

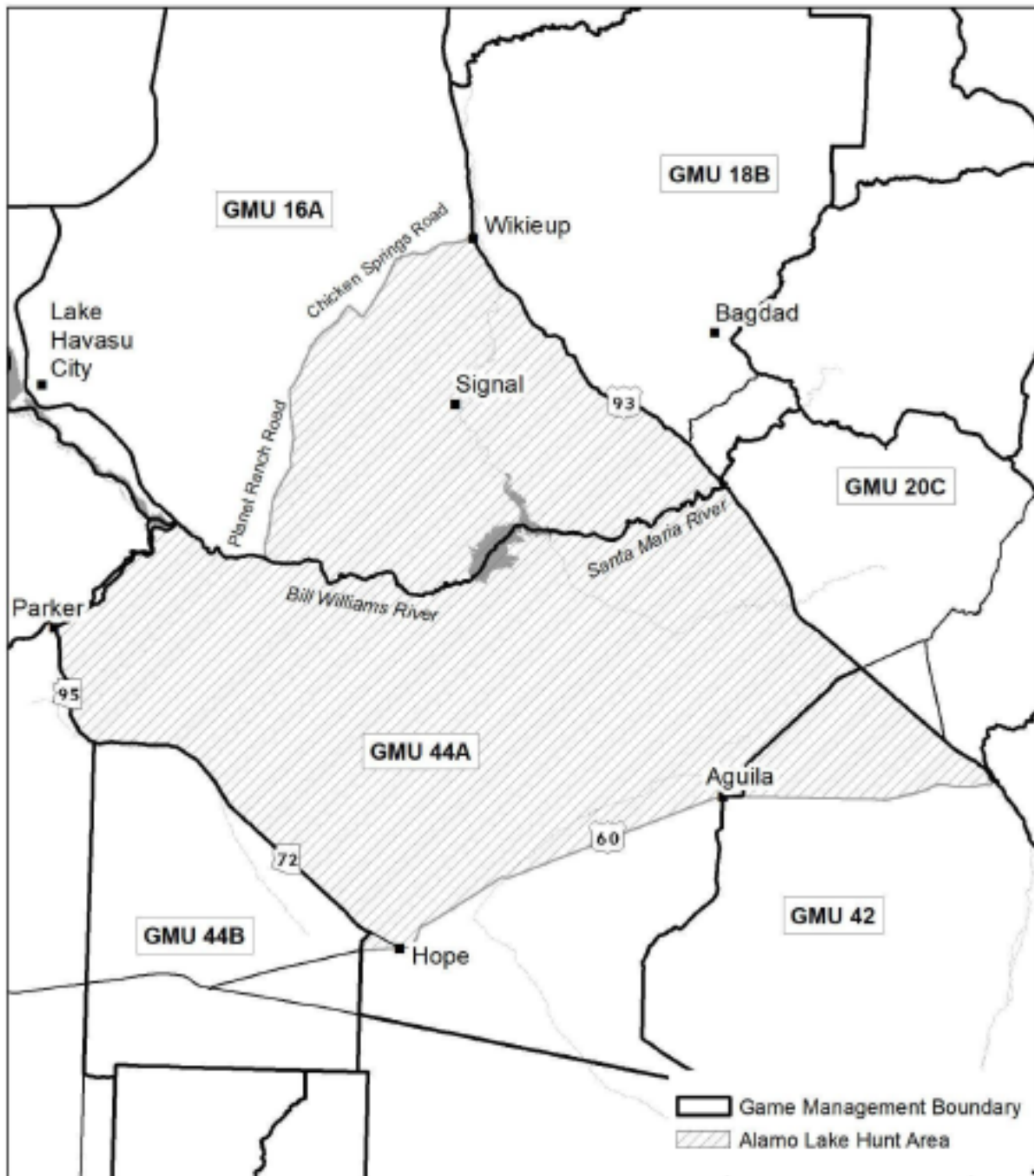
Primary access to southern Unit 16A portion along Bill Williams River and lower Big Sandy River, from the south, is the Brown's Crossing Road (that ends at the gauging station at the confluence of the Santa Maria and Big Sandy Rivers). Travel up the Big Sandy River is limited to about a mile to the wilderness boundary. Primary access to northern Unit 16A is the Alamo Road, from Signal Road or Chicken Springs Road. Some elk can be found as far up the Big Sandy River as Highway 93. Access along the Bill Williams River, above the Alamo Lake, west to Planet Ranch Road is essentially foot access. Much of the area is designated wilderness and vehicle access to the area is limited. Hunters must respect private landowner rights.

Unit 16A and 44A hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters may report their harvest by calling Hunter Pauling, Wildlife Manager Unit 44A, at 480-338-0177. Please leave a message.

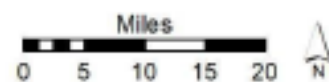


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Alamo Lake Hunt Area Map



Alamo Lake Hunt Area





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Dry Lake Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for Dry Lake Area (per note 156):

Dry Lake Hunt Area in Unit 4B - That portion of Unit 4B beginning at the Territorial Road crossing of Chevelon Creek; east on Territorial Road to intersection of Territorial Road and Obed Road (at this intersection Territorial Road becomes McLaws Road); east on McLaws Road to AZ Hwy 77; south on AZ Hwy 77 to the intersection with Hwy 377; southwesterly on AZ Hwy 377 to the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest boundary; west along the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest boundary to Chevelon Creek; north along Chevelon Creek to the Territorial Road.

Season Dates for Dry Lake Hunt Area:

March 1 – 31, 2026 - Any elk

April 1 – July 31, 2026 - Bull elk

September 25 – November 26, 2026 - Antlerless elk

Method of Take for Dry Lake Hunt Area:

General hunt - Any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 156, 165

Other notes for Dry Lake Hunt Area:

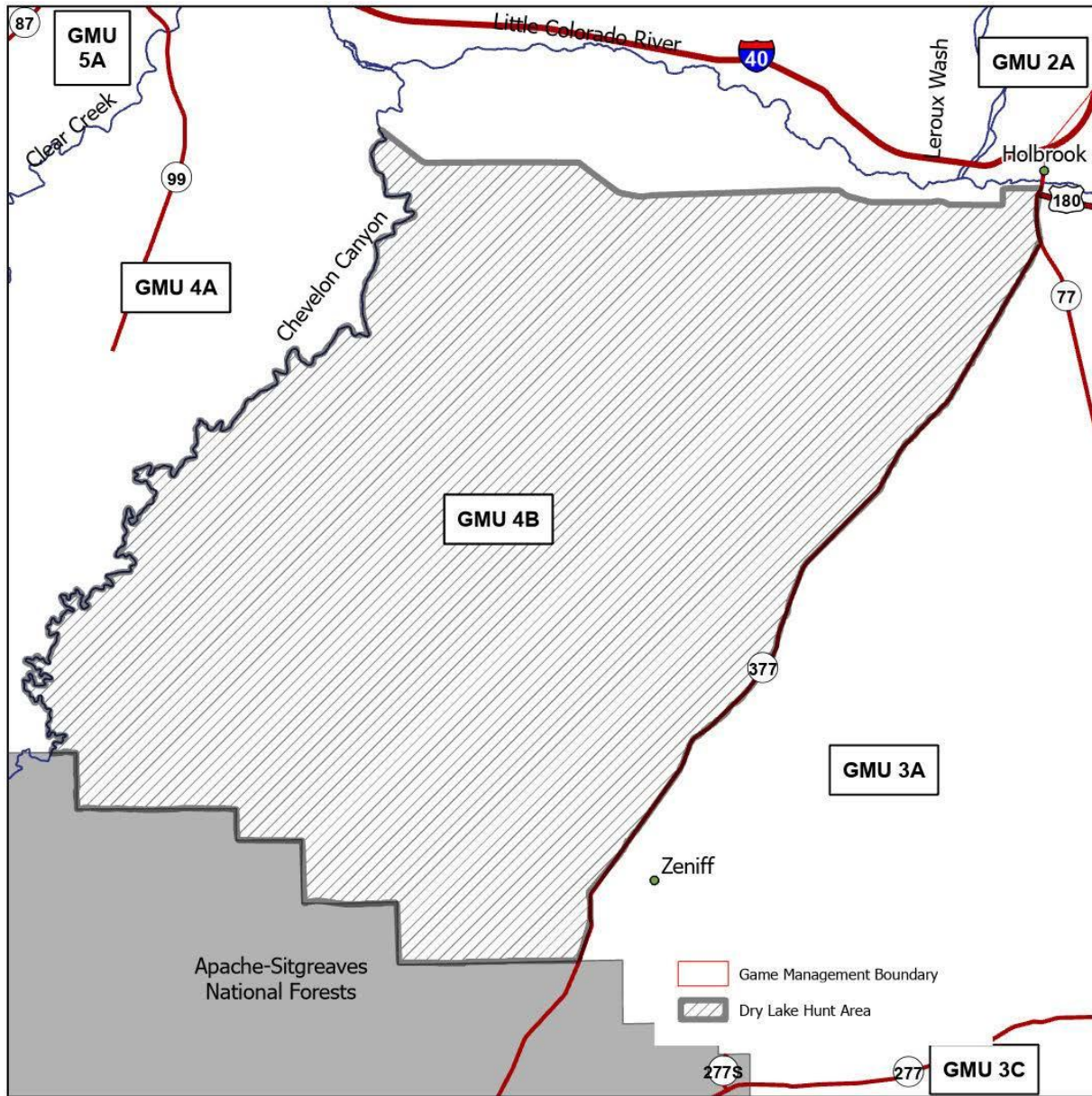
This hunt is designed to address elk versus livestock issues on private lands as well as irrigated pasture fields. The land ownership is mostly private, mixed with sections of Arizona State Trust lands and BLM lands. This area also has several subdivisions, or small ranchettes, and hunters need to pay attention to the private land and/or no trespassing signs. Cross country travel is prohibited!

Unit 4B hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters can report their harvest by calling John McMahan, Wildlife Manager Unit 4B, at 602-989-7448. Please leave a message.



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Dry Lake Hunt Area Map



Dry Lake Hunt Area

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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St. Johns Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for St. Johns Hunt Area (per note 77):

St. Johns Hunt Area in Units 2A, 2B, and 2C – Beginning at the junction on U.S. Hwy 180/191 and Apache County road 4162 (TEP Power Plant road near Richville); east on County Road 4162 to TEP Power Plant; north around TEP Power Plant property to the railroad tracks; north along the railroad tracks to the Zuni River (north of St. Johns); west along the Zuni River to the Little Colorado River; west along the Little Colorado River to U.S. Hwy 180 near milepost 340; east on U.S. Hwy 180 to AZ Hwy 180A; south on AZ Hwy 180A to AZ Hwy 61; south on AZ Hwy 61 to milepost 364; from milepost 364 east along Latitude N34.37648 on a line through Little Ortega Lake, Ortega Sink, and Hidden Spring then continuing east to U.S. Hwy 180/191 (milepost 379, north of Lyman Lake); south on U.S. Hwy 180/191 to Apache County Road 4162.

Season Dates for St. Johns Hunt Area:

January 1 – March 31, 2026 - Any elk

April 1 – July 31, 2026 - Bull elk

August 1 – December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for St. Johns Hunt Area

General hunt - Any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 77

Other notes for St. Johns Hunt Area

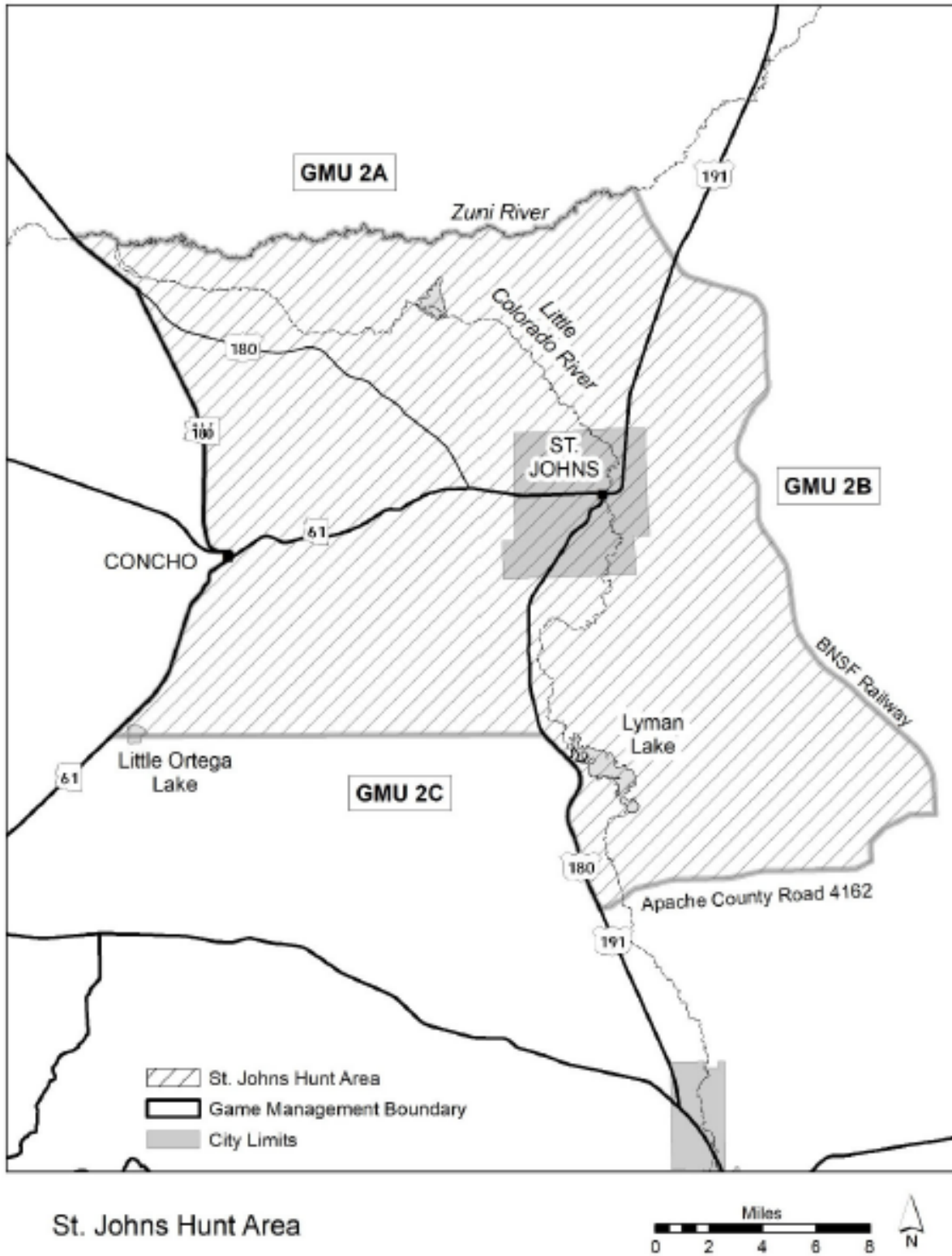
Portions of Units 2B and 2C are considered as winter-range elk management zones and, therefore, Flexible Elk Management Zones. Unit 2A is considered a Minimal Occurrence Elk Management Zone, an area where the Department does not want a resident elk herd due to conflicts with private landowners and the management focus is on other wildlife such as pronghorn or deer. Most of these elk-landowner conflicts occur around the St. Johns area and along the Little Colorado River corridor northwest of St. Johns. Some of this area is within the city limit St. Johns of (see attached map), where the discharge of an authorized weapon is prohibited.

Unit 2B and 2C hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters can report their harvest by calling Joel Weiss, Wildlife Manager Unit 2A, 2B, and 2C at 928-242-7492. Please leave a message.



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St. Johns Hunt Area Map



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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Verde Valley Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for Verde Valley Hunt Area (per note 64):

Verde Valley Hunt Area in Units 6A, 19A, and 21 – Beginning in that portion of Unit 6A at the junction of I-17 and FR 618 (Beaver Creek Road); southeasterly along FR 618 to AZ Hwy 260 (General Crook Trail); east along AZ Hwy 260 to FR 708 (Fossil Creek Road); east along FR 708 to FR 500; south along FR 500 to the Verde River to Chasm Creek; west along the bottom of Chasm Creek to FR 574 (Salt Mine Road) in the Prescott National Forest; northwesterly along FR 574 to Oasis Road; westerly along Oasis Road to AZ Hwy 260; west along AZ Hwy 260 to AZ Hwy 89A; north along AZ Hwy 89A to AZ Hwy 179; south along AZ Hwy 179 to I-17.

Season Dates for Verde Valley Hunt Area:

January 1 – March 31, 2026 - Any elk

April 1 – July 31, 2026 - Bull elk

August 1 – September 10, 2026 - Any elk

December 1 – December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for Verde Valley Hunt Area:

General hunt – any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 64

Other notes for Verde Valley Hunt Area:

Elk densities are low in this area and hunt success may be very low. Elk are concentrated throughout the year in the riparian areas of the Verde River, Beaver Creek, Oak Creek, and Clear Creek. Much of this area is privately owned, so hunters should be aware of property boundaries and respect land-owners' rights. Some of this area is also within the town limits of Camp Verde (see attached map), where the discharge of an authorized weapon is prohibited. At night, some elk use agricultural fields adjacent to the Verde River during the growing season, then retreat to the shady riparian areas during the day. Outside of town limits, hunters may use authorized weapons on the public lands north and northeast of Camp Verde on the Coconino National Forest in the vicinities of White Hills and Wickiup Mesa. A Coconino National Forest (US Forest Service) map is helpful in locating area boundaries, access, and roadways. Elk may be found in these locations year-round in low numbers. Throughout much of the year, elk use here is tied closely to available water on these mesas. In the summer months, stock tanks and water troughs may dry up, so these elk will live in the canyons and ravines adjacent to the mesas, above the Verde River, Beaver Creek, and Clear Creek.

Hunting is not allowed on the Yavapai-Apache Reservation or within Montezuma Castle & Montezuma Well National Monuments; hunters should be aware of these boundaries.

Temperatures in the summer months will exceed 100 degrees. Especially if hunting from April through September, hunters should have a plan to remove elk from the field quickly and get the meat to cold storage without delay, to avoid meat spoilage.

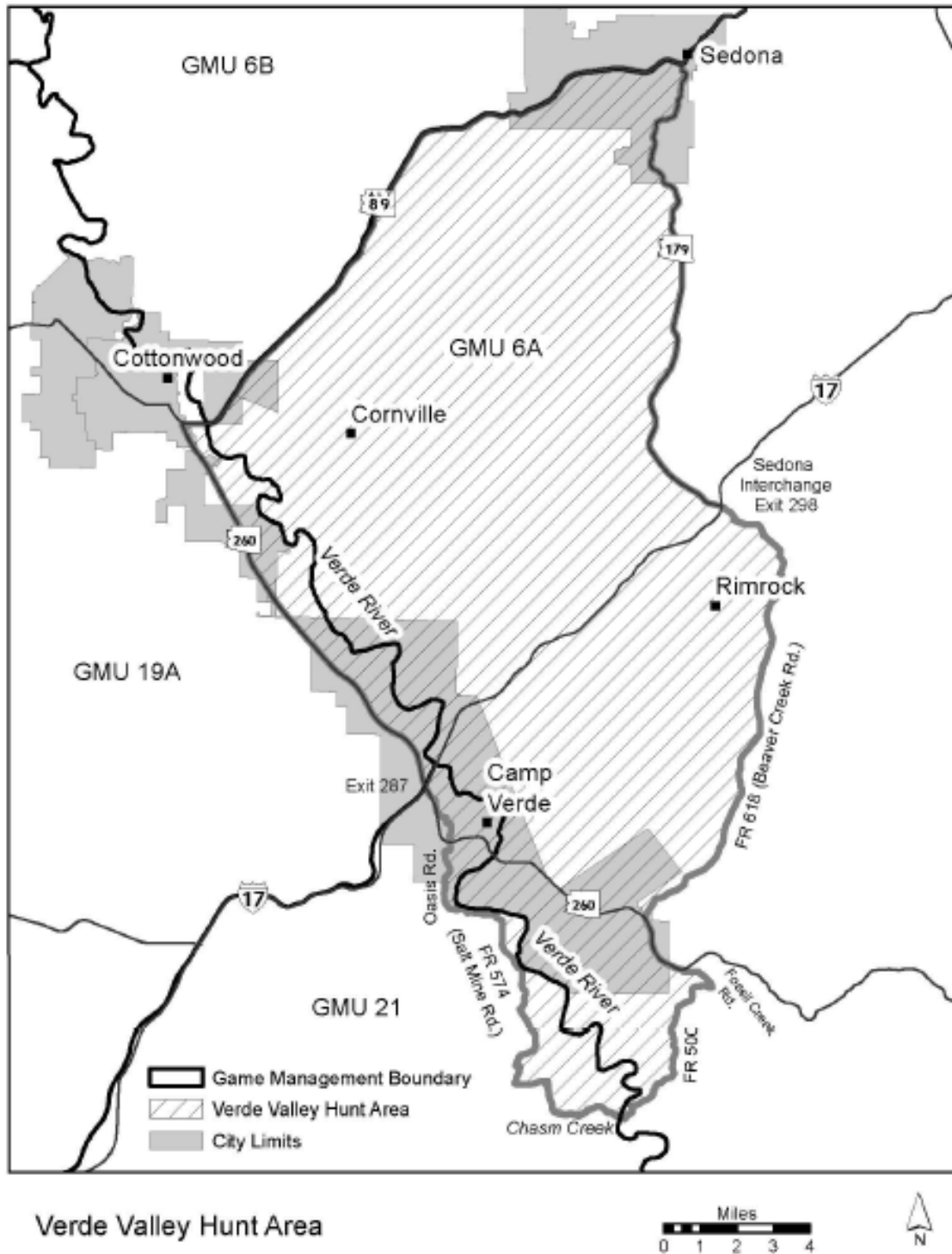
For more information, email Wildlife Manager Unit 19A, Tom Bagley at, tbagley@azgfd.gov. Hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters can report their harvest by calling the Regional Game Specialist at 928-692-7700. Please leave a message.

To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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Verde Valley Hunt Area Map



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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White Mountain Lake Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for White Mountain Lake Hunt Area (per note 162):

White Mountain Lake Hunt Area in Unit 3B North - Starting at the intersection of U.S Highway 77 and the Snowflake-Concho highway, south on U.S. Highway 77 to the National Forest Service boundary, East along the Forest Service boundary to U.S. Highway 60, east on U.S. Highway 60 to the intersection with Arizona State Highway 61, east on Arizona State Highway 61 to the intersection with Apache County Road 8235 (Stanford Road), north on Apache County Road 8235, west on Apache County Road 8256, north on Apache County road 8620, east on Apache County Road 8260, north on Apache County Road 8235, east on Apache County road 8300, north on Apache County Road 8303, east on Apache County Road 8304, north on Apache County road 8625, north on Mead Rock Road, east on Morgan Lane, North on Black Mesa Valley Road, west on Snowflake-Concho Highway to the intersection with U.S. Highway 77.

Season Dates for White Mountain Lake Hunt Area:

March 1 – March 31, 2026 - Any elk

April 1 – July 31, 2026 - Bull elk

August 1 – August 31, 2026 - Antlerless elk

Method of Take for White Mountain Lake Hunt Area

HAM hunt – Handguns, muzzleloading rifles, muzzleloading handguns, crossbow, or bow and arrow as prescribed in R12-4-318 (see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 162

Other notes for White Mountain Lake Hunt Area

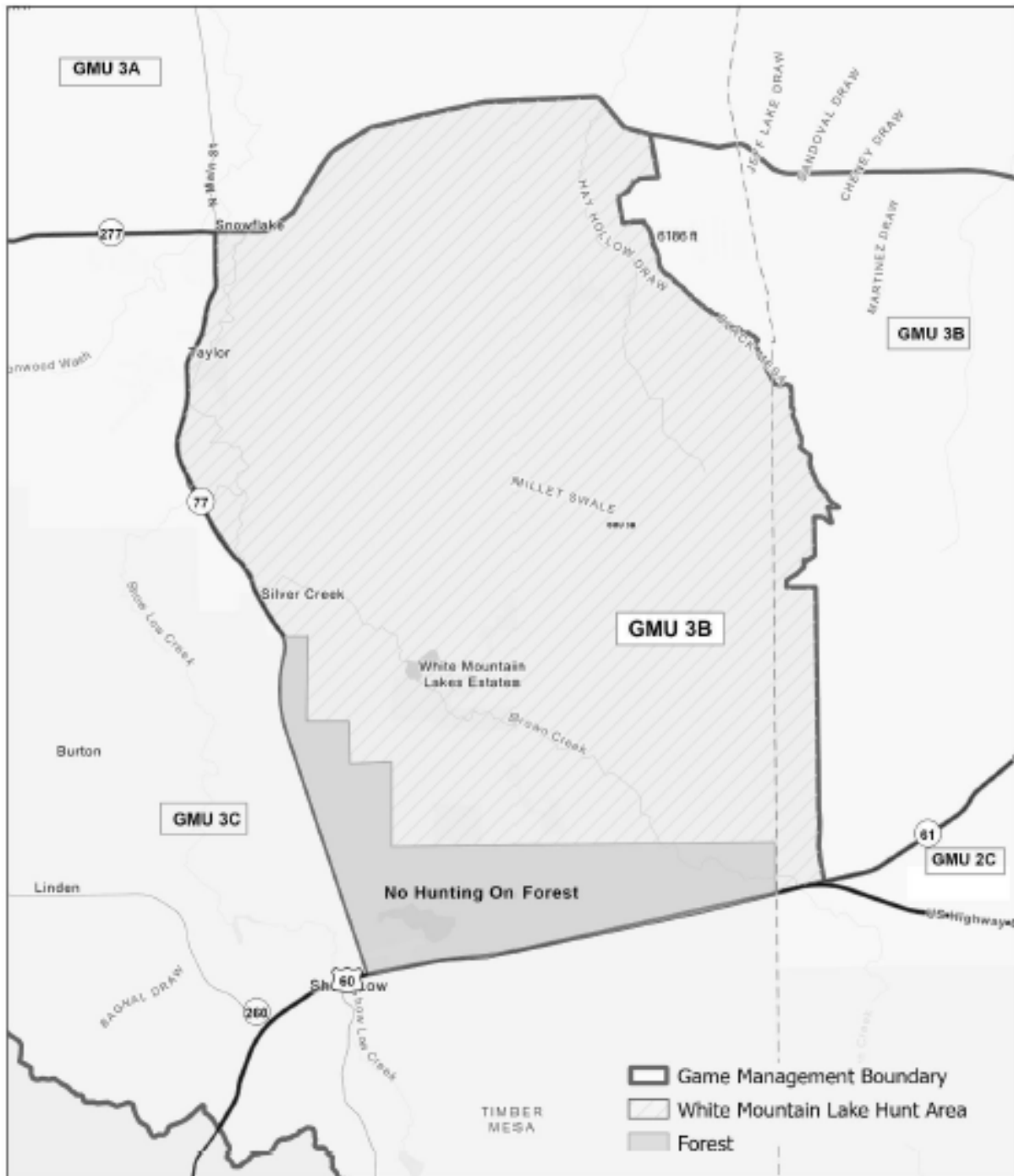
Elk densities are low in this area. Portions of Unit 3B are considered as winter-range elk management zones and, therefore, Flexible Elk Management Zones. These small transient elk herds may feed on private land which consists of irrigated pastures and alfalfa fields. Hunters must respect private landowner rights.

Hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters can report their harvest in this area to Cody Johnston, Wildlife Manager Unit 3B, at 480-868-9732. Please leave a message.



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White Mountain Lake Hunt Area Map



White Mountain Lake Hunt Area



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area (per note 62):

Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area in portions of Units 2A, 3A, 4A, and 4B - Beginning at the northwest corner of Unit 4A and the southwest corner of the Navajo Indian Reservation; south to I-40 at MP 221.4; east on I-40 to Hipkoe Drive to Business I-40 (3rd Street); east on Business I-40 to AZ Hwy 99; southeast on AZ Hwy 99 to Territorial Road; east on Territorial Road to intersection of Territorial Road and Obed Road (at this intersection Territorial Road becomes McLaws Road); east on McLaws Road to AZ Hwy 77; south on AZ Hwy 77 to the intersection with the Woodruff Road (mile post 381); east on Woodruff Road to the intersection with Old Woodruff Road; north on Old Woodruff Road to AZ Hwy 180; southeast on AZ Hwy 180 to the southwest boundary with the Petrified Forest National Park (milepost 324.5); north along the PFPN boundary to I-40; west along I-40 to AZ Hwy 77 (exit 292); north on AZ Hwy 77 to the Navajo Indian Reservation boundary; west along the Navajo Indian Reservation boundary to the southwest corner of the Navajo Indian Reservation boundary.

Season Dates for Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area

January 1 – March 31, 2026 - Any elk

April 1 – July 31, 2026 - Bull elk

August 1 – December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area

General hunt – any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 62, 165

Other notes for Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area

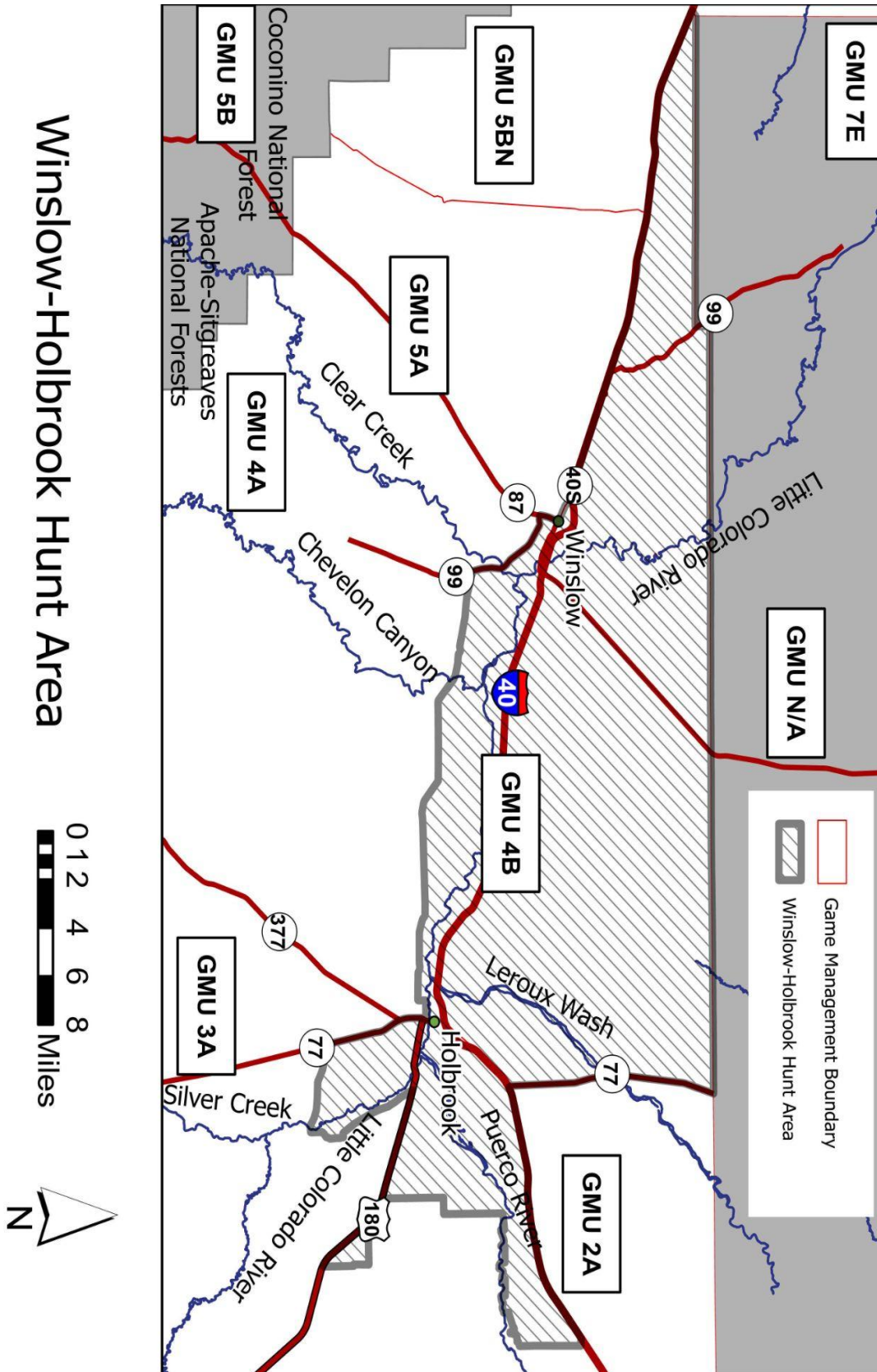
There is a resident herd of elk along the Little Colorado River (LCR) between Holbrook and Winslow that cause private land conflicts. These elk may feed on private land adjacent to the LCR, which consists of irrigated pasture and alfalfa. Hunters must respect private landowner rights. Wintering elk can also be found along the LCR near the Chevelon Wildlife Area. Some of this area is within the city limits of Winslow or Holbrook (see attached map), where the discharge of an authorized weapon is prohibited.

Unit 4A and 4B hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters may report their harvest by calling Abby Coleman, Wildlife Manager Unit 4A, at 480-536-5883. Please leave a message.



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Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area Map



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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Zeniff Hunt Area

Hunt Area Boundaries for Zeniff Hunt Area (per note 158):

Zeniff Hunt Area in Unit 3A - That portion of Unit 3A that lies north and east of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest boundary; (excluding the portion of the Winslow-Holbrook Hunt Area that extends into Unit 3A from the intersection of AZ Hwy 77 with the Woodruff Road (mile post 381); east on Woodruff Road to the intersection with Old Woodruff Road; north on Old Woodruff Road to AZ Hwy 180).

Season Dates for Zeniff Hunt Area

Mar. 1 – Mar. 31, 2026 - Any elk

Apr. 1 – Jul. 31, 2026 - Bull elk

Sep. 25 - Nov. 26, 2026 - Antlerless elk

Method of Take for Zeniff Hunt Area

General hunt – any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 158

Other notes for Zeniff Hunt Area

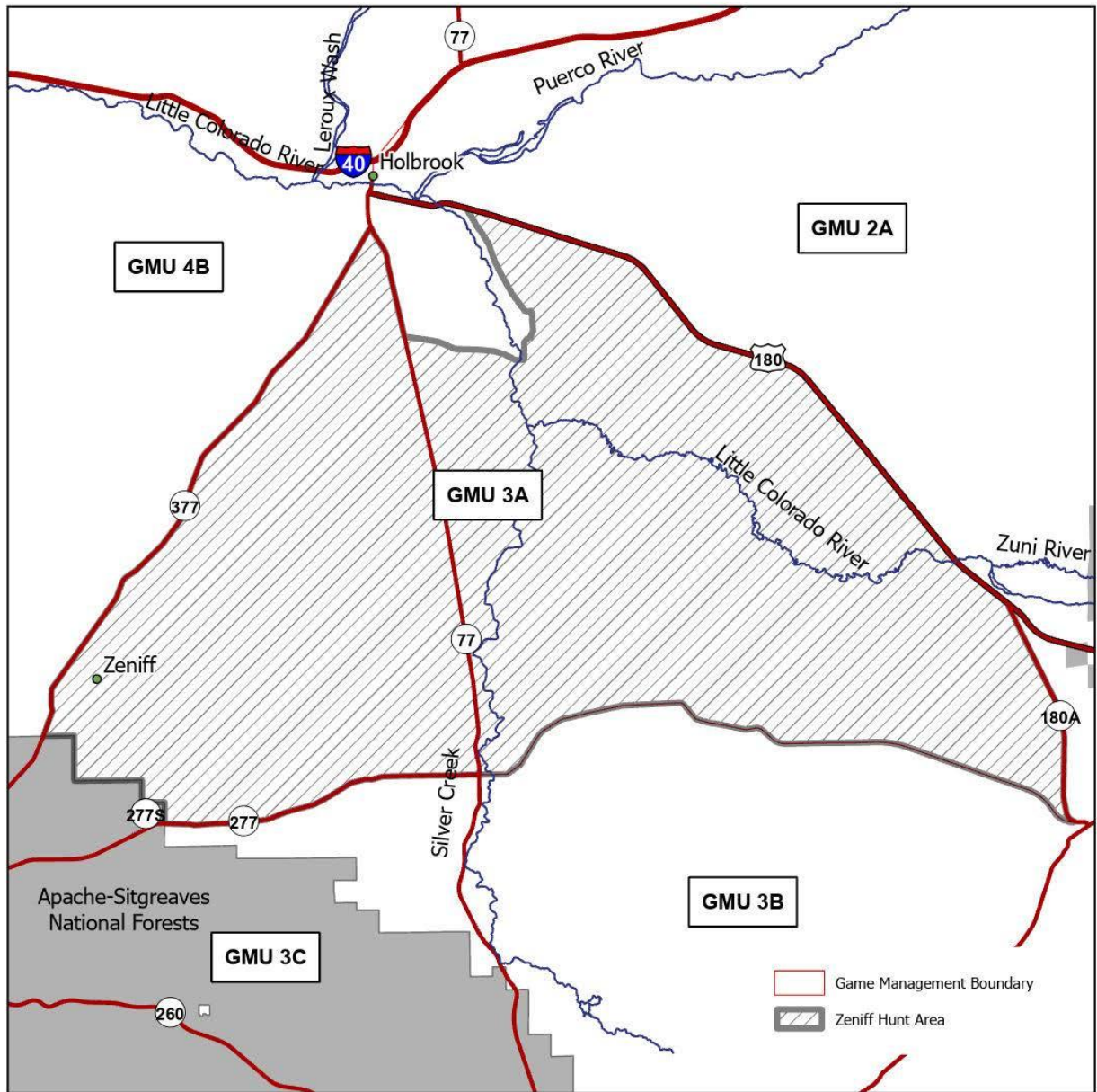
This hunt is designed to address elk depredation issues on private lands as well as irrigated pasture fields. The land ownership is mostly private, mixed with sections of Arizona State Trust lands and BLM lands. This area also has several subdivisions, or small ranchettes, and hunters need to pay attention to the private land and/or no trespassing signs. Cross country travel is prohibited!

Unit 3A hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters may report their harvest by calling Barry Austin, Wildlife Manager Unit 3A/C, at 928-245-1136. Please leave a message.



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Zeniff Hunt Area Map



Zeniff Hunt Area

0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700



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12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B Game Management Units

Hunt Area Boundaries for Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B: See current regulations for unit boundaries per R12-4-108 under Unit 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B.

Season Dates for Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B:

January 1 - December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B:

General hunt – any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 3, 9

Other notes for Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B:

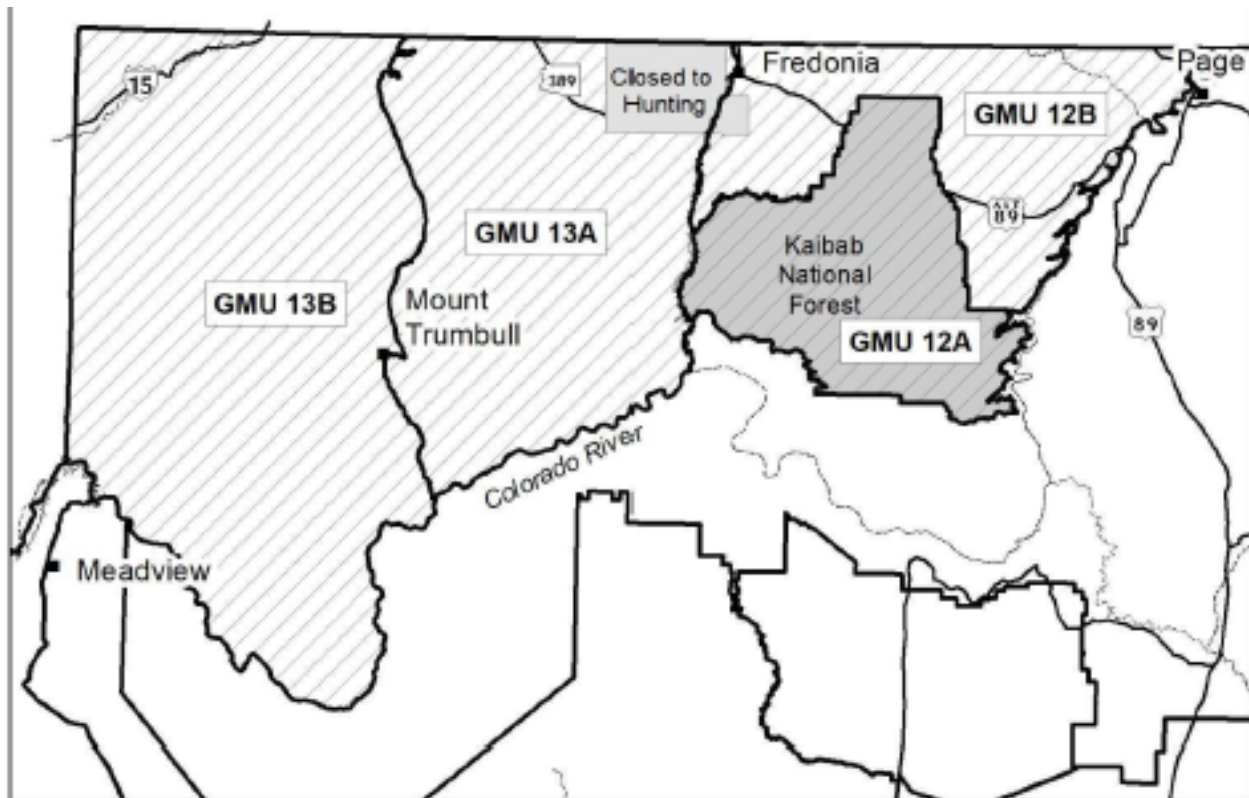
This hunt may be very difficult with very low success rates. Elk densities are low in these Game Management Units. Hunters should be aware of the season dates and Unit boundaries.

Unit 12A, 12B, 13A and 13B hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters may report their harvest by calling the Regional Game Specialist at 928-214-1248. Please leave a message.



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12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B Game Management Units Map



GMU 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B Hunt Area

- Game Management Boundary
- Unit 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B Hunt Area
- Tribal Lands





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28 (excluding the Gila River corridor), 31, and 32 Game Management Units

Hunt Area Boundaries for Units 28 (excluding the Gila River corridor (per note 66)), 31, and 32: See current regulations for unit boundaries per R12-4-108 under Unit 28 (see closure below), 31 and 32. CLOSED Area Boundaries for Gila River corridor: Gila River Corridor in Unit 28 - That portion of Unit 28 within the following boundaries is closed to elk hunting: beginning at the San Carlos Reservation boundary and U.S. Hwy 70 east of Bylas; east along U.S. Hwy 70 to East Sanchez Road (in Solomon); north along East Sanchez Road to North Airport Road; west along North Airport Road to the Safford-Bryce-Eden Road; west along the Safford-Bryce-Eden Road through to the North River Road and on to the San Carlos Reservation boundary; and south along the San Carlos Reservation boundary to U.S. Hwy 70.

Season Dates for Units 28 (excluding the Gila River corridor), 31, and 32

November 20 – December 31, 2026 - Any elk

Method of Take for Units 28 (excluding the Gila River corridor), 31, and 32

General hunt – any method described in Commission Rule R12-4-304 (centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns, and archery – see rule for exact details and verbiage).

Notes: 9, 66, 129

Other notes for Units 28 (excluding the Gila River corridor), 31, and 32

The Gila River corridor is closed during the over-the-counter elk hunt. This is due to safety concerns for that area. The over-the-counter elk hunt could have the potential for a large number of hunters in this area containing many scattered houses that are not visible from a long distance. This closure would provide safety for the families that live in this area and work in the neighboring farm fields.

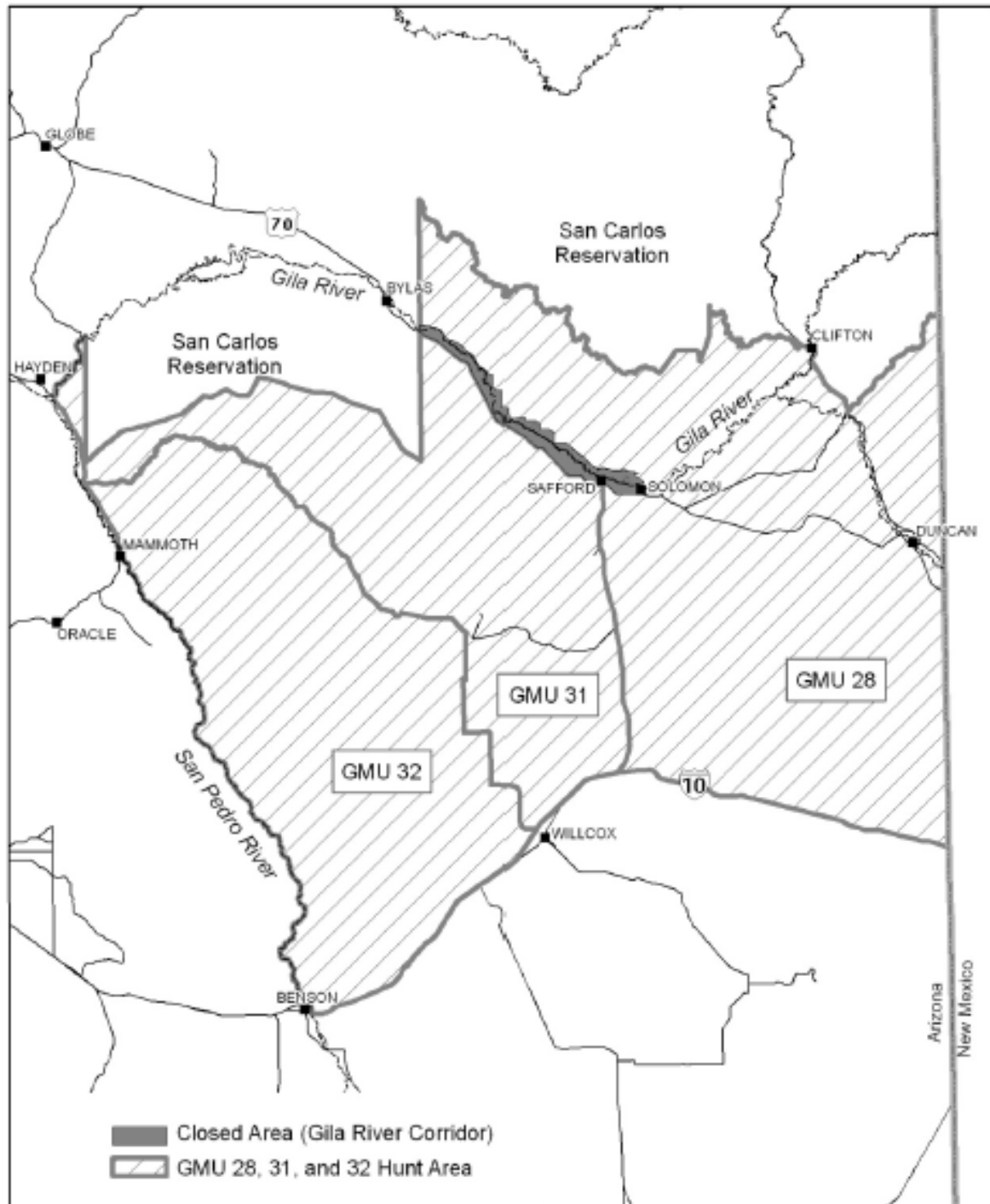
Some of the areas that elk inhabit are very rough and have very few roads. This hunt may be very difficult with very low success rates. Elk densities are low in these Game Management Units. Hunters should be aware of the season dates and Hunt Area boundaries.

Unit 28, 31, and 32 hunters will receive a hunter questionnaire, but successful hunters may report their harvest by calling the Regional Game Specialist at 520-628-5376. Please leave a message.



2026 ELK INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

28 (excluding the Gila River corridor), 31, and 32 Game Management Units



Open Hunt Area of Units 28, 31 and 32



To Report Violations, Call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700