TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Amended at ARRS Committee)

301 KAR 5:210. Special agency fundraising permits.

RELATES TO: KRS 150.025, 150.170,150.175, 150.195
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025, 150.195
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, pursuant to statutory authority to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 150 as established in KRS 150.025 and as an independent department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in KRS 150.021(1), promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in accordance with KRS 150.010(1), does hereby certify this administrative regulation is promulgated in compliance with Section 8 of 2025 RS HB6.
NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025 authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate administrative regulations to establish hunting seasons, bag limits, and the methods of taking wildlife. KRS 150.175 requires the department to promulgate administrative regulations establishing game permits to be used in combination with a statewide hunting license or valid youth statewide license, as well as requirements on how those permits are to be used. KRS 150.195(1) requires the department to promulgate administrative regulations pertaining to the issuance of, and other matters relating to, licenses and permits issued by the department. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for the issuance and use of Special Agency Fundraising Permits.

Section 1. Definitions.
(1) "Big game pursuit permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of either sex, and in the spring turkey season the year after selection, one (1) legal spring turkey.
(2) "Elk expedition permit" means a permit that allows the holder to harvest one (1) elk of either sex.
(3) "Grand slam permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take during the year of selection, one (1) elk of either sex and, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of either sex; and in the spring turkey season the year after selection, one (1) legal spring turkey.
(4) "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, mother, father, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, or son.
(5) "Proceeds" means the amount of money received from the sale of applications for special agency fundraising permits.
(6) "Special Agency Fundraising Permit" means a Kentucky hunting permit subject to a special application and drawing process to select the holder, that includes privileges to take specified big game animals when used in conjunction with a statewide annual hunting license.

Section 2. Application and Drawing Process.
(1) The application period shall be August 1 of the year preceding through May 30 (midnight eastern time) of the year in which the drawing occurs.
(2) An applicant shall:
(a) Complete the application process on the department's website at fw.ky.gov, in accordance with Section 1 of 301 KAR 5:030; and
(b)

1. Pay the applicable non-refundable application fee for the permit desired, as outlined in 301 KAR 5:022; or

2. Complete the process for free entry for a big game pursuit permit, as follows:

a. Harvest and telecheck at least four (4) female deer from Zone 1 counties during the previous hunting season as established in 301 KAR 2:172;

b. Electronically submit a time-stamped image of each harvested female deer, up to four (4), to the department at fw.ky.gov; and

c. Submit a request to the department for entry into the big game pursuit permit drawing at fw.ky.gov.

(3) An applicant may purchase an unlimited number of applications or bundles of applications.

(4) The number of special agency fundraising permits available per year shall be:

(a) One (1) elk expedition permit for a resident or nonresident holder;

(b) One (1) grand slam permit for a resident or nonresident holder;

(c) One (1) big game pursuit permit for a resident; and

(d) One (1) big game pursuit permit for a nonresident.

(5) There shall be a random electronic drawing conducted subsequent to the general elk hunt drawing each year. This drawing shall be taken from among applications in each applicant pool for the corresponding special agency fundraising permits available for that fall's hunting seasons.

(a) Each drawing shall be sequential, in the following order:

1. The grand slam permit first;

2. The elk expedition permit second; and

3. The big game pursuit permit, for selection of resident and nonresident permit holders, third.

(b) If an individual applicant is selected for the grand slam permit or elk expedition permit, that applicant shall be removed from the other special agency fundraising permits applicant pools prior to the drawings to determine the holders of those other permits.

(6) The commissioner shall extend the application deadline if technical difficulties with the application system prevent applications from being accepted for one (1) or more days during the application period.

(7) An applicant who is selected for a grand slam permit shall be ineligible to receive a grand slam permit or the prizes associated with a grand slam permit in any subsequent year's drawing.

(8) A person subject to a waiting period resulting from being selected in the general Kentucky Elk Hunt drawing shall be eligible to apply for special agency fundraising permits.

Section 3. Issuance and Use of Permits.

(1) Upon conclusion of the drawing process for special agency fundraising permits, the department shall announce the drawing results on the agency website and issue the permits to the recipients, subject to any applicable deferrals or transfers as described in Section 4 of this administrative regulation, prior to the first hunting season for which the permits are applicable.

(2) A permit holder shall only take animals:

(a) Through the use of legal hunting equipment; and

(b) During the normal season dates for which take is otherwise allowed.

(3) A permit holder shall carry proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license, unless exempted from the requirement to be licensed in accordance with KRS 150.170.

(4) The holder of a permit that allows take of an elk shall comply with the statewide bag limit of one (1) elk per hunter per license year and other requirements in 301 KAR 2:132.

(5) The holder of a special agency fundraising permit that includes privileges to take elk may use the permit in any elk hunting unit open to hunting during any open elk hunting season on:

(a) Private land with permission from the landowner; or

(b) Lands that are:

1. Owned or managed by the department; and

2. The subject of public access agreements between the landowners and the department.

(6) The permit holder referenced in subsection (5) shall only use methods allowed during the season segment that is open while he or she is hunting, as established in 301 KAR 2:132.

Section 4. Deferral or Transfer of Permits.

(1) A recipient of a special agency fundraising permit that includes privileges to take elk in Kentucky may:

(a) Defer use of the elk hunting privilege included in the permit for one (1) year if he or she has previously obtained an elk permit of any kind for use during the Kentucky elk hunting season to which the special agency fundraising permit pertains; or

(b) Transfer use of the elk hunting privilege included in the permit to one (1) member of his or her immediate family for use during any hunting season to which the permit pertains.

(2) A holder wishing to transfer or defer use of the elk hunting privilege included in a permit shall contact the office of the commissioner in writing, no later than July 31 of the year in which he or she is selected through the drawing for the permit.

Section 5. Goods or Services May Be Included. The department may obtain goods or services of interest to prospective applicants, through purchase, donation or sponsorship, to incentivize applications for a special agency fundraising permit. The recipient of the permit shall also receive applicable goods or services included in the drawing for a permit, as posted on the agency website, except that a recipient may refuse an applicable good or service at his or her choosing.

Section 6. Use of Fees. Fees from the sale of special agency fundraising permits shall be deposited into the department's restricted Fish and Game Fund account and used solely for agency operational expenditures.

(301 KAR 005:210. 50 Ky.R. 2113; 51 Ky.R. 41; eff. 7-18-2024; 53 Ky.R. 298, 946; eff. 11-5-2026.)

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