§ 113-270.3A. Elk permits by raffle and auction.

(a) Directive to Commission. – The Wildlife Resources Commission shall issue one resident Elk Permit by raffle and one Elk Permit by auction as provided in this section. These permits shall be issued for the 2027 hunting season, pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission. Any elk taken shall be reported and presented to Commission staff pursuant to the conditions of the permit issued. An Elk Permit obtained by raffle or auction is nontransferable and may not be resold or reassigned.

(b) Raffle. – The Commission shall conduct a raffle for one resident Elk Permit. Raffle tickets will be twenty dollars ($20.00) per ticket or a maximum of 30 raffle tickets for five hundred dollars ($500.00). Purchasers of raffle tickets must either have a valid North Carolina hunting license or be licensed exempt as provided in G.S. 113-276 at the time of purchase. The Commission may retain from the proceeds of the raffle the actual costs of administering the raffle for a resident Elk Permit, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000). The Commission shall deposit the remaining proceeds from the raffle in the Wildlife Resources Fund created under G.S. 143-250 to be used for the conservation and management of elk.

(c) Auction. – Notwithstanding Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes or any other provision of law pertaining to public contracting, the Commission shall select one nonprofit wildlife conservation organization to conduct an auction for one Elk Permit. The nonprofit wildlife conservation organization selected by the Commission pursuant to this section must have been involved in the reintroduction of elk into North Carolina. The nonprofit wildlife conservation organization shall retain no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the proceeds of the auction for an Elk Permit. The Commission shall deposit the remaining proceeds from the auction in the Wildlife Resources Fund created under G.S. 143-250 to be used for the conservation and management of elk.

(d) Continuing Authority. – For hunting seasons after the 2027 hunting season, the Commission, based on its evaluation of its elk management goals, may raffle off one or more Elk Permits and select one nonprofit wildlife conservation organization to conduct an auction for one Elk Permit in the manner described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. The following restrictions apply to those future hunting season activities:

(1) The Commission must conduct an Elk Permit raffle for one or more Elk Permits if it conducts an Elk Permit auction.

(2) The Commission shall reserve fifty percent (50%) of all Elk Permits made available via raffle for residents of the State of North Carolina.

(e) Funds Supplemental. – It is the intent of the General Assembly that receipts generated by the activities authorized by this section supplement, rather than replace, other funds budgeted for management of elk.

(f) Report. – No later than March 1, 2028, and every year thereafter in which the Commission conducts Elk Permit raffles and auctions, the Commission shall submit to the House Wildlife Resources Committee; the Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee; and the Fiscal Research Division a report on the effectiveness of the auction and raffle programs, including the amount of money raised, recommendations as to whether to continue the programs, and, if so, legislative recommendations to improve the programs. (2026-43, s. 4(a)-(f).)