Program Overview

**Archery Deer Program**

The District offers three programs for archery deer hunting: full season, late season, and a Special season east side 9-Day archery deer program. All archery programs, plus the combo deer hunt, are on one application. The 9-day Special Season Eastside Archery Program dates are Oct 18-20, Nov 1-3, and Nov 8-10. The Full Season will begin October 1 and Late Season will begin November 1, 2019 and will run through the end of the deer season January 19, 2020.

**Size of group:** Hunters may apply as a single, or in a group of two or three applicants. Each zone can accommodate a group up to three adult hunters. An additional **three youth hunters** may apply with a group of three adults. All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult while hunting at a 1:1 youth to adult ratio. Two (or more) youth hunters cannot hunt with one adult hunter.

**Preference to partners:** Preference in the lottery is to partners. Groups of two hunters have preference over a single applicant, and groups of three hunters will have preference over paired hunters.

**Zones:** District staff sets zones within each site. A hunter (and his/her partners) is assigned to a specific zone for the duration of their opportunity.

**Proficiency test:** Each participant must qualify to participate in the Archery Deer Hunting program by hitting 4 out of 5 arrows in an 8-inch circle with the equipment carried in the field. You must use broadheads or practice broadheads (no field points). You must bring five (5) arrows; those who have less than five arrows with them will not be allowed to shoot. If you are hunting with a crossbow, you must qualify with a crossbow. The distance for this qualification will be twenty (20) yards for compound and crossbows, and fifteen (15) yards for recurve and longbows. Participants will receive two (2) opportunities to qualify. However, in the interest of time, if an archer does not qualify on the first try, they must go to the back of the line for their second chance to qualify (youth archers will not be required to go to the end of the line). Archers attempting to qualify with multiple bows do not need to go to the back of the line to qualify with a second bow. Crossbow archers qualify by hitting 2 out of 2 arrows in an 8-inch circle, and will only receive one (1) opportunity to qualify. Crossbow archers are only required to possess the necessary two (2) arrows for qualification, not five (5).

This year’s qualifications will take place the morning of Saturday, August 10, 2019. Applicants who are invited to the qualifications will receive information on the place and time. Participants are encouraged to complete a certified Bow hunter’s Education course. For more information about courses, contact the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation at 309-647-7128.