

## FORT PECK TRIBES BUFFALO PROGRAM POLICY & GUIDELINES

### Tribal Member Buffalo Hunts

1. Fee for this hunt is five hundred dollars (\$500). Hunt applicants **must be tribally enrolled members of the Fort Peck Tribes** 12 years of age or older to be eligible for this opportunity.
  2. If the tribal member is between 12 and 17 years of age, a copy of the Certificate of Successful Completion of a recognized Hunter Safety Course must be attached to their application along with name of Parent/Guardian who will be the official contact for the minor applicant. If no proof of completion of a recognized Hunter Safety Course is provided, a designated shooter who must be a tribally enrolled member of the Fort Peck Tribes from the family over the age of 18 must be identified to shoot for the tribal member. If there is no designated shooter, the family may request the guide provided by the Fort Peck Tribe's Fish & Game Department to shoot the buffalo for the tribal member.
  3. To participate in the tribal member bison hunt lottery, eligible tribal members must enter the lottery by submitting a completed lottery application available at the following: online at <https://fishandgame.fortpecktribes.org>, the Fort Peck Tribe's Fish & Game office, or Fort Peck Tribe's front desk receptionist. The application must be complete with tribal enrollment number, name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address. If applicant is a minor, the Parent/Guardian who gives consent for the minor to hunt must be identified. If the application is incomplete it will be discarded. Applications will be accepted between June 1st and July 31st.
  4. The lottery will be held in the Fort Peck Tribe's tribal chambers on the first Thursday of August.
  5. Ten (10) alternates will be drawn at the time of the lottery and will be designated as alternates #1 through #10 in the order they are drawn, with priority for forfeit hunts going to those applicants drawn earliest in the sequence.
  6. An applicant name can be drawn only once for a buffalo hunting season, and will not win a second hunt if their name is drawn a second time. You can only apply for a buffalo once each year.
  7. Notification will be provided to winners by one of the following methods: e-mail, telephone, the posting of the list of winners on Facebook and/or in the local newspapers.
    - **To schedule the time and date for your buffalo hunt if drawn, you need to contact the Fish and Game Department at 406-768-2309.**
  8. **Winners of the lottery must pay out of the Five Hundred Dollar Fee (\$500) a deposit of \$125.00 no later than 30 days after the lottery. The remaining balance of \$375.00 must be paid five tribal business days before the buffalo hunt. All fees must be paid for by money order, cashier check or personal check.**
  9. Once the \$125 deposit is paid, the tribal member hunt is officially secured and must be scheduled between September 15th and December 20th of the same year. Hunt date scheduling and availability will be determined on a first-come first-served basis. The hunt is forfeit if not scheduled within that timeframe.
  10. Your deposit is non-refundable and if you cancel your hunt for any reason, your hunt is forfeit and will pass to the next alternate on the list.
  11. If a winner does not pay the deposit within the 30 days, they forfeit their opportunity and it passes to an alternate who once notified must pay the deposit within 30 days.
- Equipment:**
12. If you do not have the necessary firearm to hunt or cannot shoot, the Fish and Game staff member managing your hunt will shoot the bison for you. You must request this service at the time you schedule your hunt so the Fish & Game staff members can be prepared to drop the bison for you. Roll-over to the next Buffalo Hunting Season/Year:

13. Buffalo hunts will not be allowed to rollover into the next buffalo hunting season/year unless agreed upon by Fish & Game staff. It is done on a case by case basis. If you cannot complete your hunt for any reason between September 15 through December 20<sup>th</sup> of the season for which you have drawn a hunt, your hunt is forfeited. (See #10.)

14. You will need to use a gun with a minimum caliber of .30-06 as well as skinning/hunting knives to field dress your buffalo (e.g., gutting, skinning).

**Skinning, Butchering, & Packaging:**

15. It is the responsibility of the lottery winner when they conduct their hunt to arrange for the processing of their animal. **The lottery winner is responsible for their own skinning, gutting, and transport to their processor.** The lottery winner is responsible for providing their own gun with a caliber of at least .30-06 unless other arrangements have been made (See #12). The lottery winner is responsible for bringing their own skinning knives and equipment needed for onsite processing. All costs associated with processing are the hunter's responsibility.

**Rescheduling a Hunt:**

16. Your hunt may be rescheduled by Fort Peck Tribes' Fish & Game staff to an alternate date due to unexpected circumstances beyond the control of the staff or the hunter. (Examples: Freezing weather with dangerous wind chills, failure of equipment, illness of staff, death of relatives, etc.) This rescheduling is at the sole discretion of the staff of the Fort Peck Tribes' Fish & Game Department. Notification will be given to the hunter as early as possible so they can reschedule.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIBAL MEMBER BUFFALO HUNT**

1. Payment (by money order or check) – you must have your deposit (\$125) and remaining balance (\$375) paid in full five tribal business days before your hunt.

a. Payment made out to: Ft. Peck Tribes Buffalo Program

b. On memo line write: your name, buffalo hunt

2. Meet at the time provided to you by Fish & Game Staff on the day of your scheduled hunt at the Quonset hut at Turtle Mound Buffalo Ranch (see attached map) or designated meeting area as agreed upon with the Fish & Game staff member assigned to you for your hunt.

3. Fish & Game staff will guide your hunt & identify your buffalo. After you have shot your buffalo, Fish & Game staff will use their equipment to lift/load it into your vehicle so you can take it to your processor. If you choose to process on site, they will move your buffalo to an area where you will do your own processing.

4. IF YOU ARE TAKING YOUR BUFFALO TO A PROCESSOR – YOU MUST NOTIFY YOUR PROCESSOR IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE YOU WISH TO BRING YOUR BUFFALO, SO THEY CAN SCHEDULE PROCESSING.

**Suggested local processors:**

Lustre, Marottek Meats: 406-392-7040

Glasgow, Treasure Trails Processing: 406-228-9011

Glasgow, Hi-Line Meats Inc: 406-263-2879

**If you have questions call the Fish and Game Office at 406-768-2309 or 406-768-2310.**

# Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Cultural Buffalo Herd

