



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2006 06-08

PO Box 510
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Lori Iverson
307/733-9212, ext. 227

39TH ANNUAL ELK ANTLER AUCTION HELD IN JACKSON

Hundreds of residents and visitors celebrated Elkfest in Jackson, Wyoming this past weekend, highlighted by the 39th annual Boy Scout Elk Antler Auction held in the Town Square on Saturday, May 20. This year, 7,060 pounds of antlers were sold at the auction for a total of \$75,979.75.

The antlers are sold in bundles that vary from 15 to 250 pounds. They are typically sorted according to color, with brown, more recently shed antlers generally bringing in more revenue than older, bleached sheds. Matched pairs are usually sold at a higher price per pound than individual sheds. Small pallets of antlers, skull plates, and two trailers of antlers were also available for sale.

Shed antlers are routinely removed by National Elk Refuge personnel throughout the spring in order to minimize damage to feeding equipment and prevent trespassing by antler poachers. Through a special use permit, the Jackson District Boy Scouts assist in collecting the antlers and preparing them for public sale. The antlers must be sorted, bundled, weighed and tagged prior to the sale. More than 200 Scouts and adult leaders work for nearly 2,000 hours with Refuge personnel during the annual antler project. The majority of proceeds from the auction (80%) are donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist with elk management and habitat enhancement on the National Elk Refuge.

Additionally, one trailer load of antlers weighing 2,160 pounds was sold to the Jackson Rotary Club who has taken the lead on a project to rebuild the aging Town Square arches. Donations and pledges from numerous organizations, businesses and individuals helped finance the Rotary Club's purchase. To make a financial pledge or to donate antlers to the Town Square project, contact T.R. Pierce at 307/732-3050.

Next year's antler auction is set for Saturday, May 19. However, single antlers are available for sale throughout the year at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center located at 532 N. Cache Street in Jackson.

–FWS–

www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge