

Forest Roads Inventory Update

Mark Monroe

PRCSF Unit Manager/Road Inventory Lead

Forest Resources Division

NRC 01/11/2024



Public Act 288

- Signed by Gov. Snyder in 2016
- Requires determination of motorized and non-motorized use restrictions
- Requires DNR to post maps and mileage open to motorized use each year
- Requires an inventory of forest roads by region, including:
 - Location
 - Condition
 - Development Level

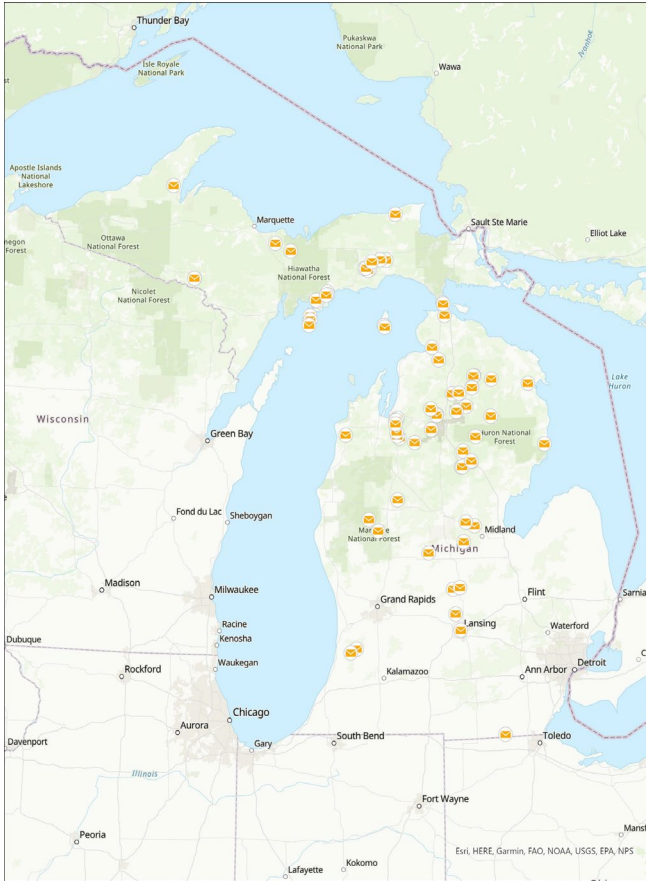




Inventories Completed

- Dec. 14, 2017: LUOD designated roads open to ORVs in the NLP
- Dec. 13, 2018: LUOD identified UP and SLP roads open to ORVs
- Maps are fine-tuned each year
- Roads may be opened or closed to ORVs or other vehicles





Process for Change

- Status changes can be initiated by public comment, Department staff, stakeholders, tribal governments or local units of government
- Multi-disciplinary DNR team reviews and recommends changes
- 30-day public review each year before proposed changes are made
- DNR received 95 comments from Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2023; 11 comments were received during the Nov. 1-Dec. 1, 2023, public review phase



2023 Proposals

- Remove 38.7 miles of road segments from state forest maps for conventional & ORV use
- Delete 36.0 miles of roads due to data cleanup of non-existing or duplicate roads
- Add 254.9 miles of roads to maps that were not previously included in the inventory; 252.0 miles will be open to ORV use, 2.9 miles closed to ORV use, and 3.6 miles open to seasonal ORV.
- Updated the language of the LUOD, so that Boating Access Sites open/closed to ORV use is regulated by what is identified on the map.

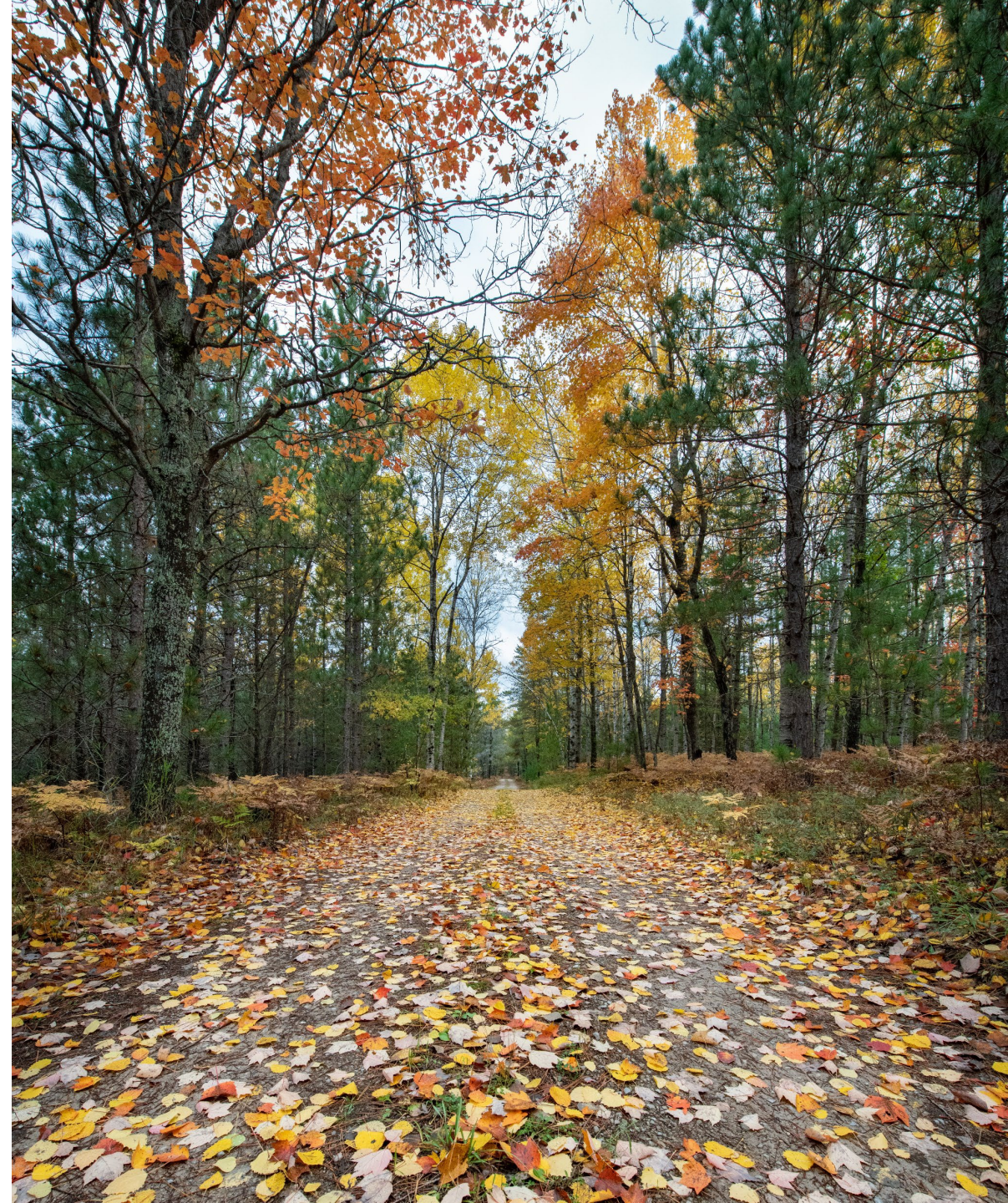


Miles of Road by Region

- Upper Peninsula: 5,686.6 miles open to ORV use out of 5,767.4 total miles
- Northern Lower Peninsula: 6,068.6 miles open to ORV use out of 7,251.2 total miles
- Southern Lower Peninsula: 10.1 miles open to ORV use out of 358.0 total miles

What's Next?

- Director's action in February
- Maps reflecting approved changes will be published online by April 1, 2024
- Signs will be posted on state-managed forest roads closed to ORV use, including seasonal closures



Questions?





Fisheries Order Recommendations

Seth Herbst, Ph.D.

Fisheries Division

Research Section and Regulatory Affairs Unit Manager

January 11, 2024

Fisheries Order – *Director's Authority*

for information

- FO-255: Reporting Requirements - Charter Boat, State-Licensed Commercial, and Sport Fishing Guides

Fisheries Orders 255.24

for information

- Implement recently passed legislation related to fishery specific reporting
 - Public Act 239 of 2023 – Senate Bill 441
 - Commercial fishing, wholesale, and Charter Boat reporting requirements
 - Also complies with 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree
 - Public Act 220 of 2023 – Senate Bill 103
 - Inland Sport Fishing Guide reporting requirements



Fisheries Orders 255.24

for information

- Commercial fishing, wholesale, and Charter Boat reporting requirements
 - Reports must be submitted via Fishery Activity & Catch Tracking System (FACTS).
 - Must file an electronic report of their catch activity by 11:00 pm Eastern Time on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month.
 - Report must include all trips that occurred on Great Lakes and Great Lakes connecting waters.
 - Lists specific data that must be included in each report.



Fisheries Orders 255.24

for information

- Inland Sport Fishing Guides
 - Beginning April 1, 2024, catch activity reports must be submitted monthly via FACTS.
 - Must file an electronic report of their catch activity by 11:00 pm Eastern Time of the first day after the end of the reporting month.
 - Report must include all trips that occurred on all waters except the Great Lakes, Great Lakes connecting waters, and lakes or ponds that have a surface area of less than 5 acres.
 - Lists specific data that must be included in each report.



Questions

Seth Herbst, Ph.D.

Fisheries Division

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Preliminary 2023 Elk Season Results

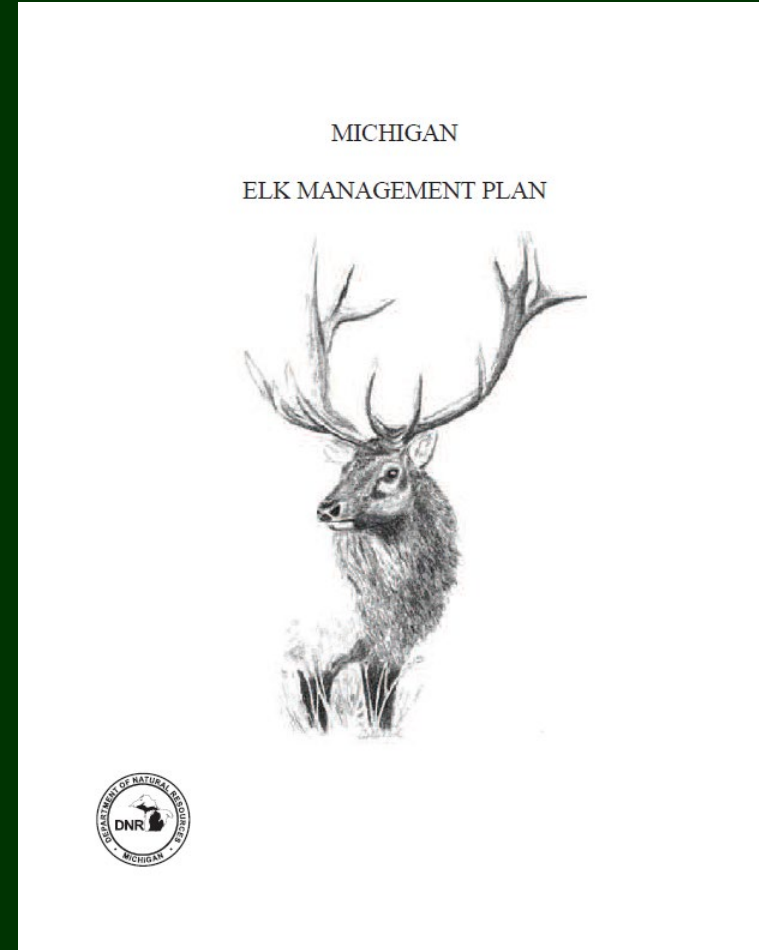


Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
January 11, 2024



Current Elk Management Plan

- Finalized in 2023
- Three main Goals
 - Manage for a sustainable elk population in balance with habitat
 - Use hunting as the primary method to control elk
 - Enhance public understanding of elk management



Population Goal and Current Estimate

- Goal of 500-900 animals in current range
- 2022 Elk survey estimates:
 - 1,277 estimated animals (95% CI: 870-1,684)



Evaluating the Past 10 years

- 1,761 elk taken (2013-2022)



2023 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1:
 - Aug. 29-Sep. 1, Sep. 15-18, Sep. 29-Oct. 2
- Consistently warm weather
- License Quota: 100
 - 30 any elk
 - 70 antlerless only elk

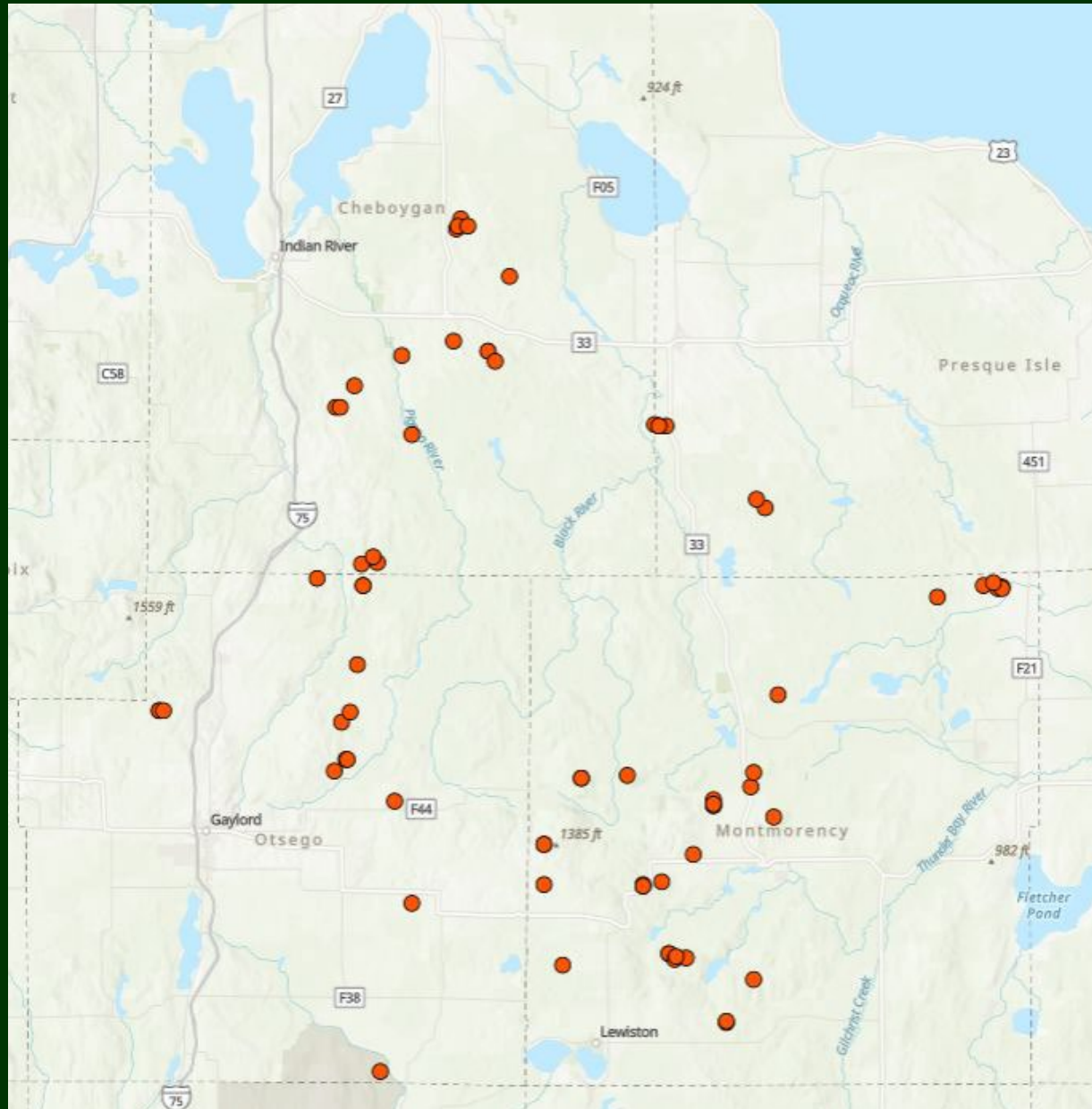


Elk Harvest – Early Season



- Hunt Period 1 Harvest
- State hunter harvest: 71 legally harvested elk
 - 30 antlered elk (bulls)
 - 41 antlerless elk (4 calves)
 - 73% success (97 hunters)
 - 1 bull by Pure Michigan Hunters
 - Tribal harvest: 3 elk reported
 - 1 double kill on a cow tag

Hunt Period 1



2023 Late Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 2:
 - December 9-17
 - Hunt Areas H, I, and X
- License Quota: 160
 - 50 any elk
 - 110 antlerless only elk
- Weather conditions were difficult
 - Very windy and rainy
 - Consistently warmer than average
 - Snow largely absent throughout the hunt

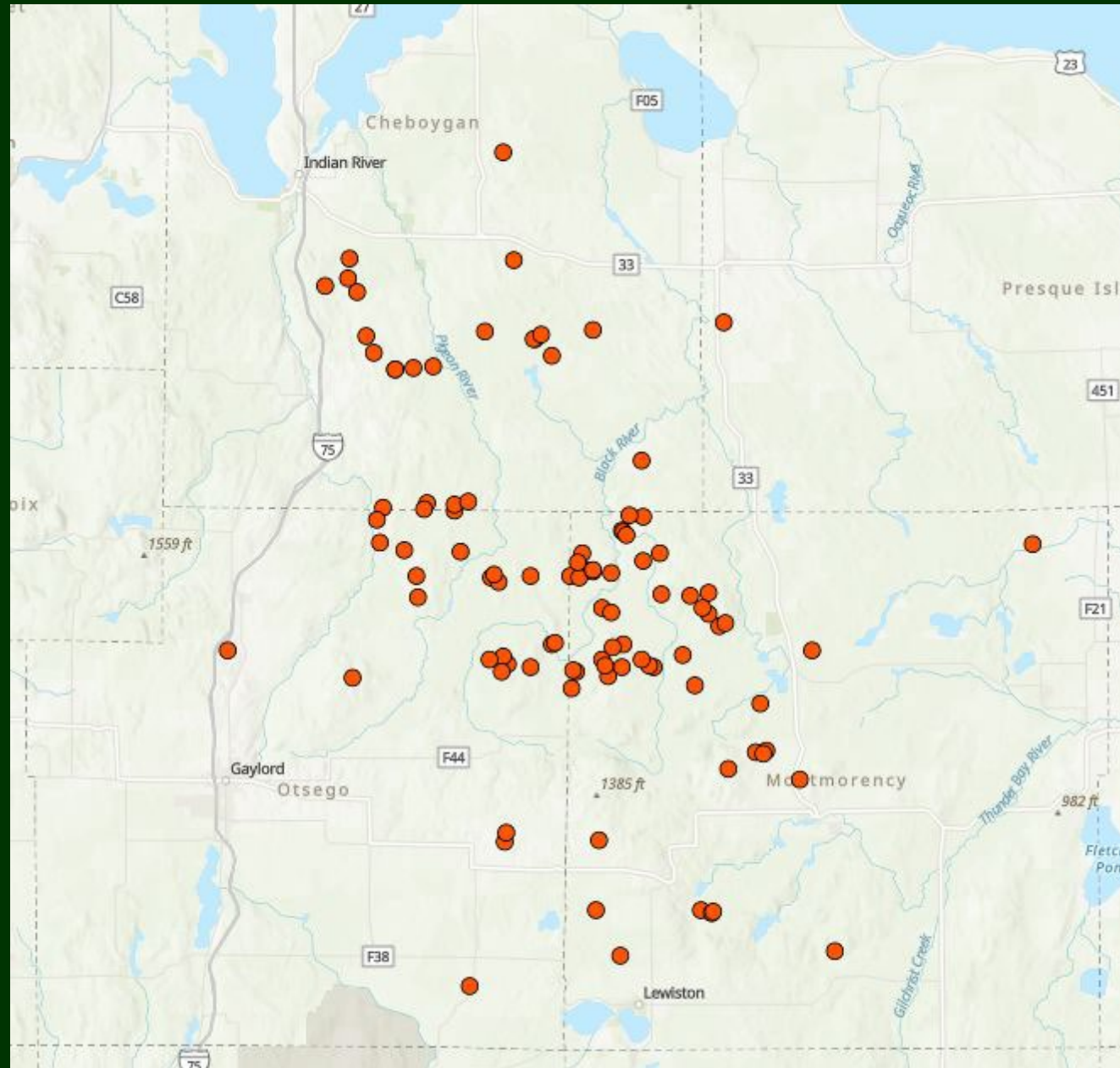


Elk Harvest – Late Season

- Hunt Period 2 Harvest
 - State hunter harvest: 97 legally harvested elk
 - 41 antlered bulls
 - 51 cows
 - 5 calves
 - 63% success (154 hunters)
 - 4 hunters took bulls on antlerless only tags
 - Tribal harvest: 1 elk (bull)



Hunt Period 2



Historical Success Rates-Statewide Drawn Hunters

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Avg.
Early Season	74%	83%	75%	80%	73%	77%
Late Season	92%	86%	89%	72%	63%	79%



2023 Total Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest:
 - State hunter harvest: 71 legally harvested elk
 - 30 bulls, 41 cows/calves; 73% success
- Hunt Period 2 Harvest:
 - State hunter harvest: 97 legally harvested elk
 - 41 bulls, 56 cows/calves; 63% success
- Tribal Harvest: 4 elk (still being tabulated)
- All 3 Pure Michigan hunters successful



2024 Elk Schedule

- Elk Survey
 - Conducted every two years in January
 - Scheduled for January 2024
 - Currently postponed due to lack of snow
- Elk Regulations
 - Presented in March



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/elk

