

Forest Roads Inventory Update

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Forest Resources Division

NRC 01/09/2025



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



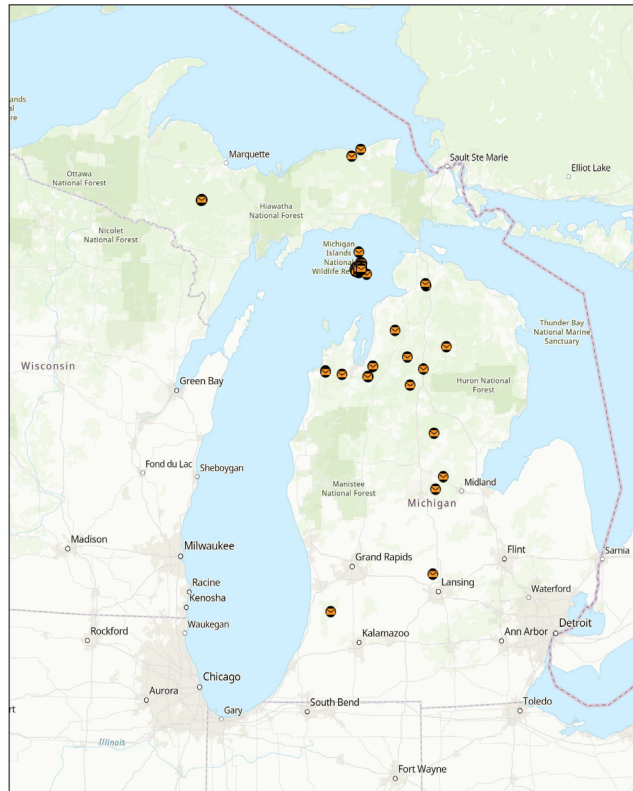


Inventories Completed

- 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



Legend

● Received Comments

- 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 60 comments from Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024; 24 comments were received during the Nov. 1-Dec. 1, 2024, public review phase



2024 Proposals

- Remove 69.0 miles of road segments from state forest maps for conventional & ORV use
- Delete 21.2 miles of roads due to data cleanup of non-existing or duplicate roads
- Add 15.3 miles of roads to maps that were not previously included in the inventory; 11.7 miles will be open to ORV use, 3.6 miles closed to ORV use.

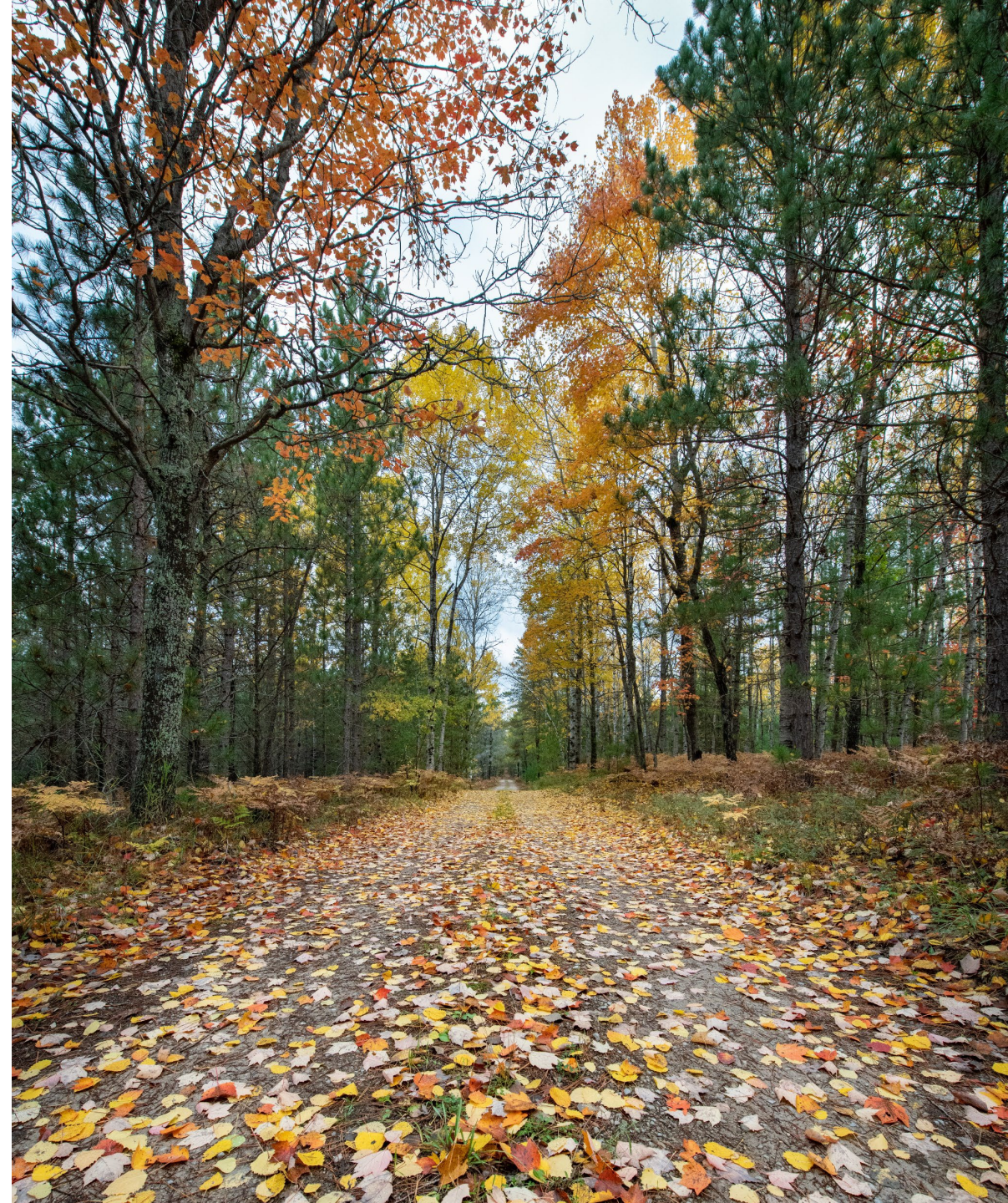


Miles of Road by Region

- Upper Peninsula: 5,706.4 miles open to ORV use out of 5,800.6 total miles
- Northern Lower Peninsula: 6,094.9 miles open to ORV use out of 7,286.7 total miles
- Southern Lower Peninsula: 9.1 miles open to ORV use out of 359.1 total miles

What's Next?

- Director's action in February
- Maps reflecting approved changes will be published online by April 1, 2025
- Signs will be posted on state-managed forest roads closed to ORV use, including seasonal closures



Questions?



Parks and Recreation Division Land Use Orders of the Director



Nos. 2, 3 & 4 of 2025

LUOD 2 of 2025

LUOD 2 of 2025 is being proposed to:

- Dedicate the acquired Houghton Douglass Falls property as the Houghton Douglass Veterans Memorial Scenic Site.
- Include a definition of “Scenic Site”.
- Clarify that it is the launching of an unmanned aircraft from state land.
- Clarify the definition of Recreation Area (RA), so that it is inclusive of all aspects of a RA and not inadvertently only inclusive of certain facility aspects.
- Remove the definition of Personal Assistive Mobility Device as that definition is no longer in alignment with federal and state law.



LUOD 3 of 2025

LUOD 3 of 2025 is being proposed to address snowmobile use within state parks and recreation areas. This LUOD would not affect the use of snowmobiles on snowmobile trails or for use at a Boating Access Site to access the frozen waters of the state.

- Currently, state parks and recreation areas are open to snowmobile use unless specifically designated in a LUOD as closed.
 - Many lands within these areas are incompatible with snowmobile use due to: 1) resource impact the use would have on the primitive nature, cultural significance, special dedication (i.e. natural area, critical dune, natural area, etc) of the lands and 2) user-conflicts within areas with significant portions of non-motorized trails, field trial areas, and location within a heavily populated area as well as safety concerns due to infrastructure of the campgrounds and day use areas that may not be visible during times of snowfall.



LUOD 4 of 2025

LUOD 4 of 2025 is being proposed to prohibit bicycles on a portion of the Cedar River North Trail and the Thunder Valley Equestrian Trail.

- These proposed closures are consistent with internal Department recommendations to address trail incompatibility issues and were supported at various public meetings.



Questions

Thank you!



Preliminary 2024 Elk Season Results

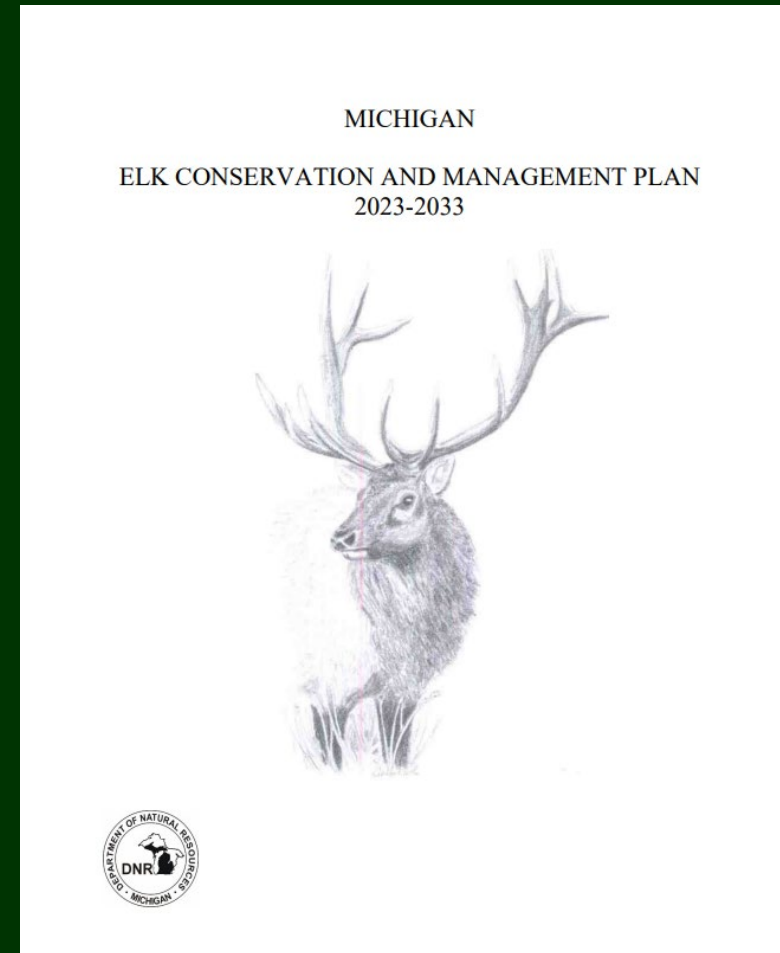


Chad Fedewa, Acting Deer, Elk, and Moose Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
January 9, 2025



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
- 2024 Elk survey estimates:
 - 1,146 estimated animals (95% CI: 884-1,408)



Population Goal and Estimate History

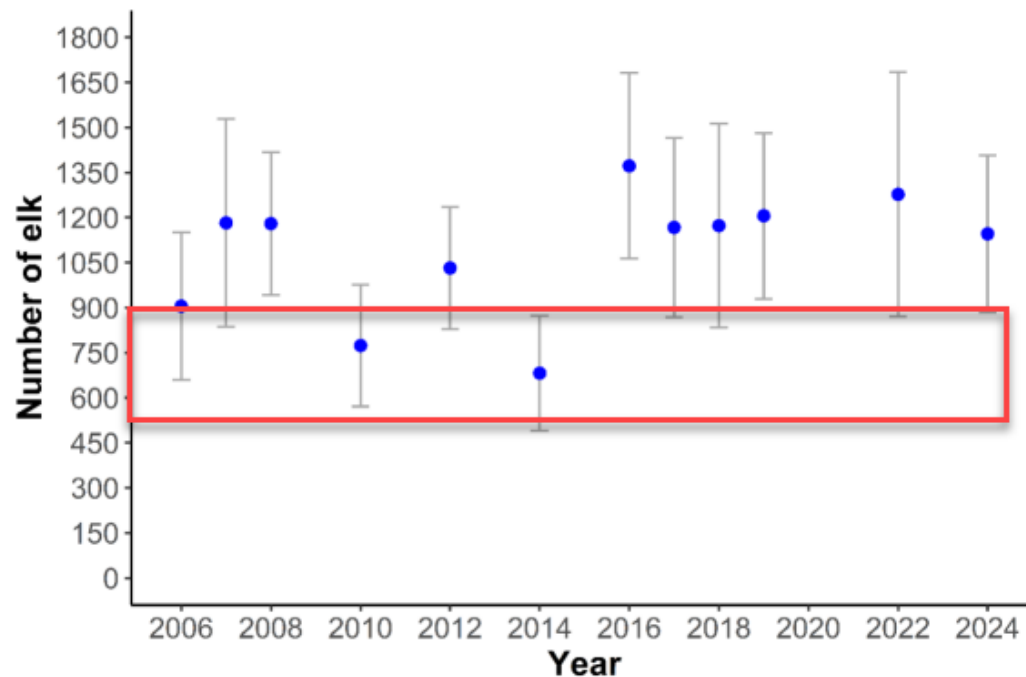
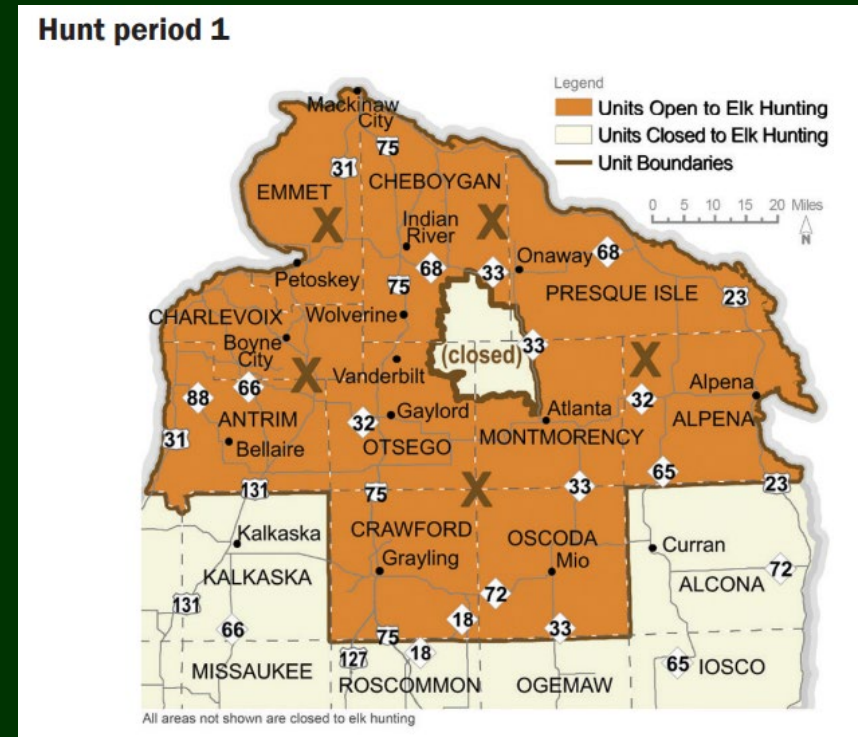


Figure 5. Estimates of elk abundance derived from the sightability model of Walsh et al. 2011 and aerial survey data, 95% confidence intervals shown in grey.

2024 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1:
 - Aug. 27-30, Sep. 13-16, Sep. 27-30
- License Quota: 100
 - 30 any elk
 - 70 antlerless only elk
- Temps were hot

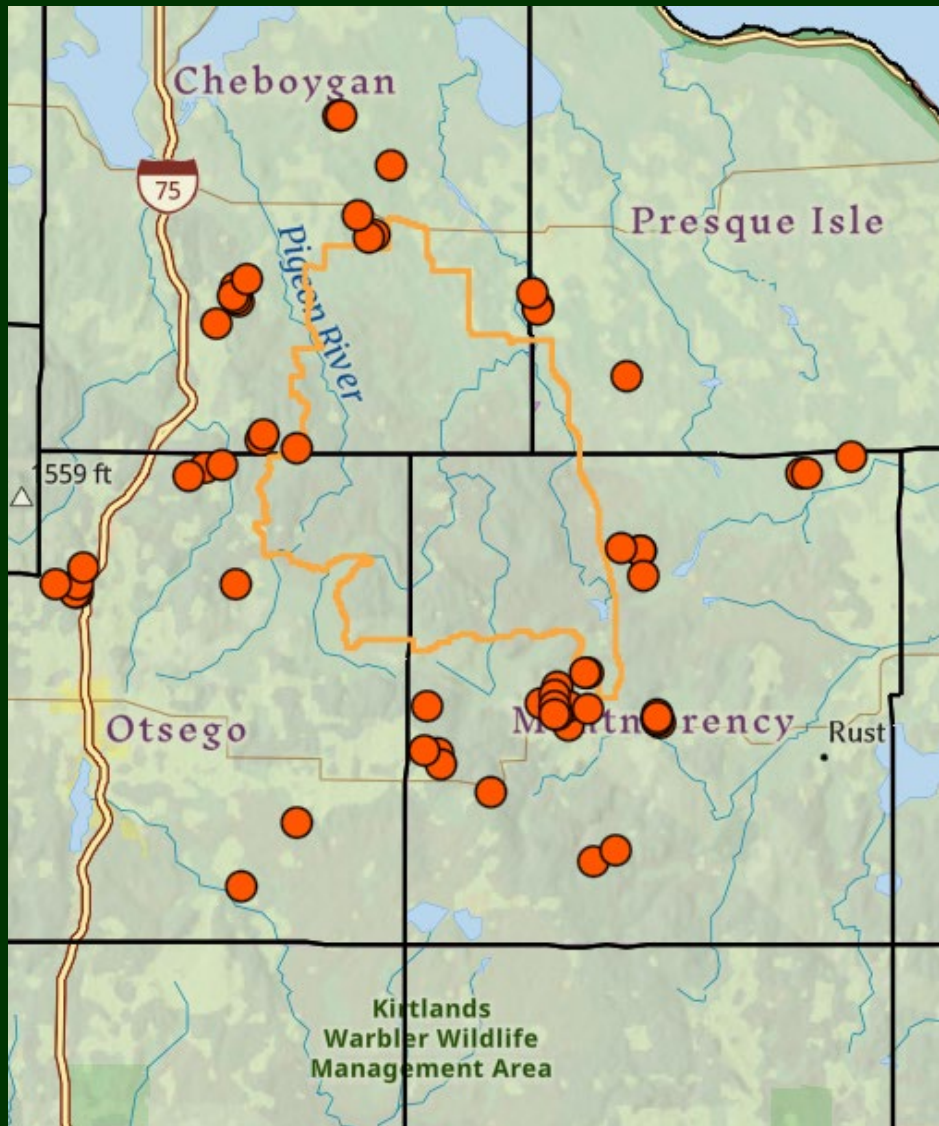


Elk Harvest – Early Season

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest
- State hunter harvest:
59 legally harvested elk
 - 24 antlered elk (bulls)
 - 33 antlerless elk (2 calves)
 - 61% success (97 hunters)
- No double kills or bulls on cow tag

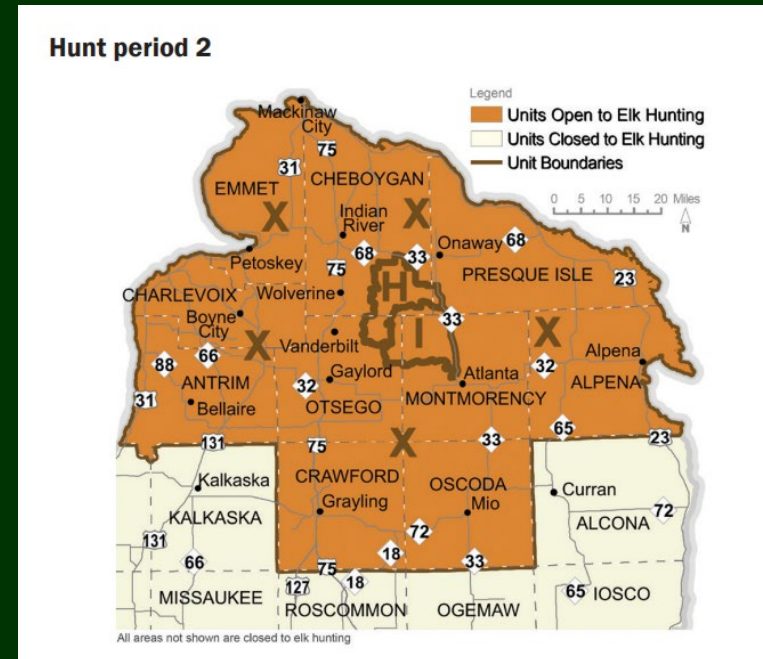


Hunt Period 1



2024 Late Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 2:
 - December 14-22
 - Hunt Areas
 - H and X or I and X
- License Quota: 160
 - 50 any elk
 - 110 antlerless only elk
- Weather conditions better than Hunt 1

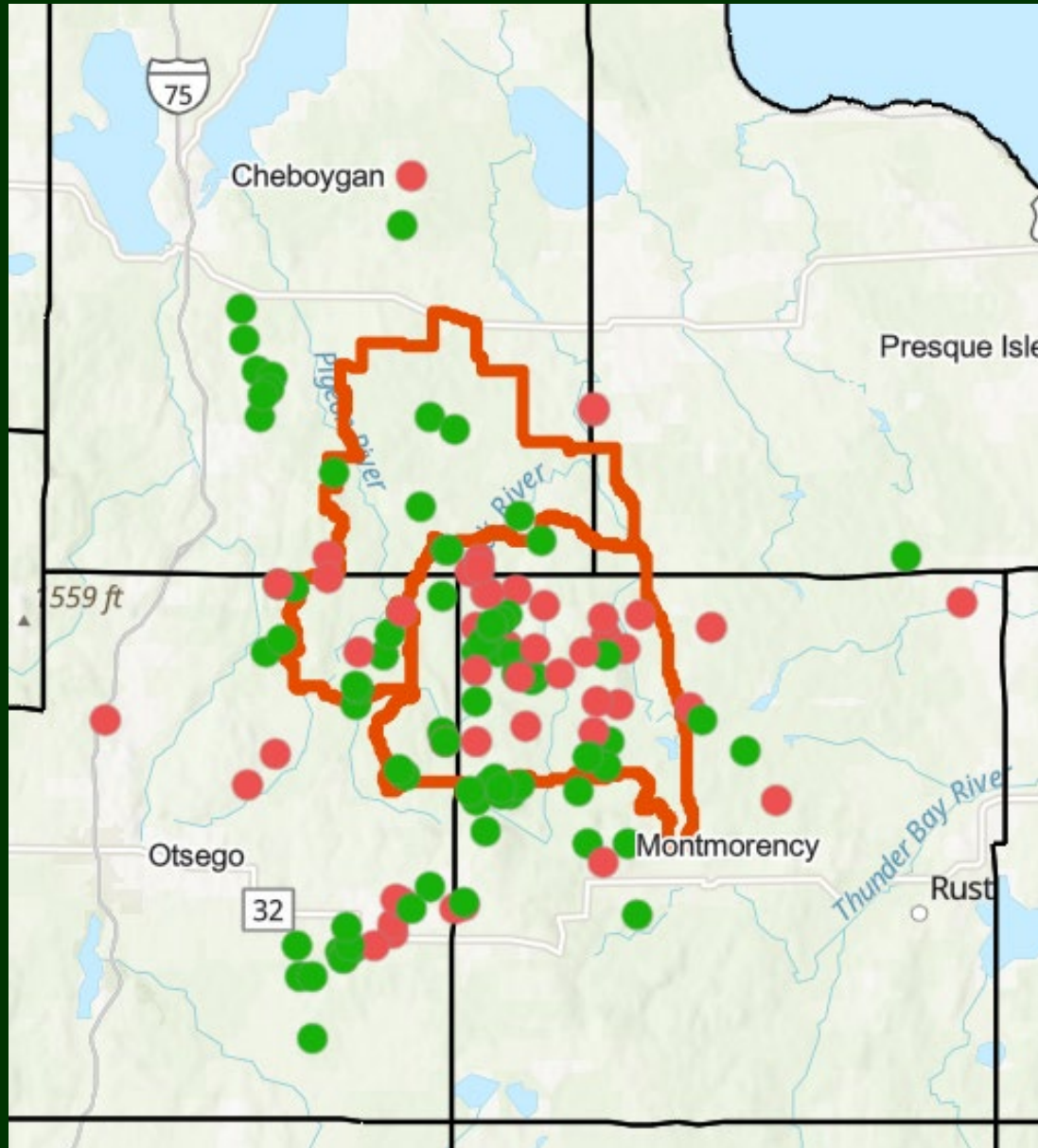


Elk Harvest – Late Season

- Hunt Period 2 Harvest
 - State hunter harvest: 121 legally harvested elk
 - 46 antlered bulls
 - 67 cows (1 Pure MI Hunter)
 - 8 calves
 - 78% success (156 hunters)
 - 1 double kill
 - 3 spike bulls taken by antlerless only hunters
 - 1 illegal bull (unknown if taken by elk hunter)



Hunt Period 2



Historical Success Rates- Statewide Drawn Hunters

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Avg.
Early Season	83%	74%	80%	73%	61%	74%
Late Season	86%	89%	72%	63%	78%	78%



2024 Total Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest:
 - State hunter harvest: 59 legally harvested elk
 - 24 bulls, 35 cows/calves; 59% success
- Hunt Period 2 Harvest:
 - State hunter harvest: 121 legally harvested elk
 - 46 bulls, 75 cows/calves; 75% success
- Tribal Harvest: 15 elk (still being tabulated)
- 1 of 3 Pure Michigan hunters successful





2025 Elk Schedule

- Elk Survey
 - Conducted every two years in January
 - 2025 is an off year
- Elk Regulations
 - 2-year cycle
 - Regulations set for 2025
 - Next cycle is for 2026-27



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/elk

