

2025

MICHIGAN ELK HUNTING REGULATIONS SUMMARY



Important

- Orientation is mandatory for all elk hunters.
- Bovine tuberculosis testing is required for all harvested elk.

Drawing results available June 23.

Application period: May 1 - June 1, 2025

RAP (Report All Poaching): Call or text 800-292-7800

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sport fish. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/NRC.

This program receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

NOTICE: This document is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a summary of regulations issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of wildlife conservation orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available at Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.



History of elk management in Michigan

Michigan's elk herd is a wildlife management success story. Historically, elk were found in southern Michigan, but they had disappeared by the late 1800s due to unregulated harvest and market hunting. Today's elk herd is the result of seven elk brought from the western United States and relocated to Wolverine, Michigan, in 1918. The first elk hunts, held in 1964 and 1965, were in response to the growing elk population and a desire to control elk numbers. Though the hunts were a success, they were not immediately continued. Hunting began again in 1984 and has continued annually.

Managing elk

The elk seasons during August, September and October target elk outside of the core elk range. The December elk seasons are used to manage the overall elk numbers, including those in the core elk range. The elk management unit and quota system was designed to focus the harvest in specific areas to meet management goals. For more information on elk management in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/Elk.

Healthy habitat is an important part of managing elk, including preventing the spread of invasive species. Protect habitats by starting each day with clean gear and equipment and decontaminate before leaving the location.

Elk conservation and management plan strategic goals

The Michigan elk conservation and management plan is summarized below to promote an understanding of the overall elk management vision for Michigan.

1. Manage for a sustainable elk population in balance with the habitat.
2. Use hunting as the primary method to control elk numbers, herd composition and distribution.
3. Enhance public understanding of elk management in Michigan.



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Elk hunting season dates and license quotas

How many elk licenses are available in 2025?

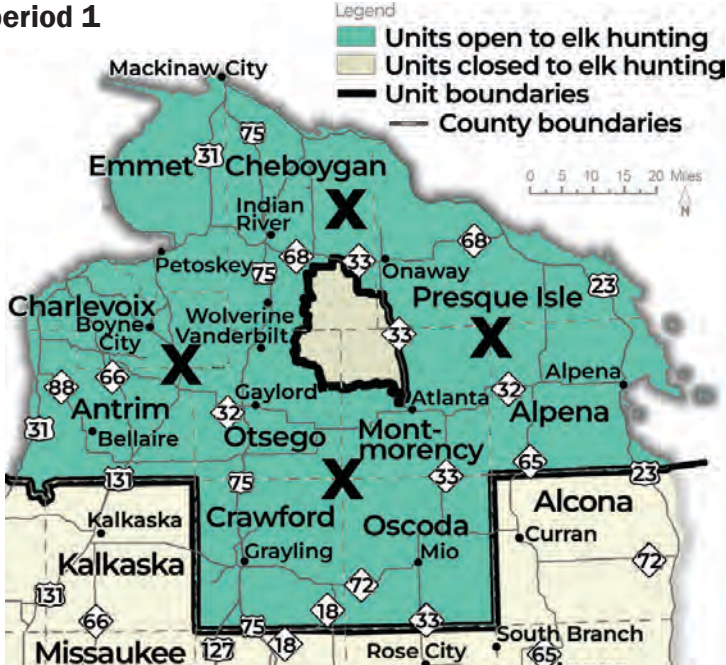
Elk licenses are valid for specific elk management units and hunting dates. In all EMUs, license availability is subject to a license quota. There are a total of 260 elk licenses available in 2025.

EMU	Hunt period	Season dates	Any-elk license quota	Antlerless-only license quota
X	1	Aug. 26-29 Sept. 12-15 Sept. 26-29	30	70
H and X	2	Dec. 13-21	20	40
I and X	2	Dec. 13-21	30	70

Elk management units

For detailed descriptions of elk management unit boundaries, visit Michigan.gov/DNRLaws or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at Michigan.gov/ContactDNR.

Hunt period 1



All areas not shown are closed to elk hunting.

Hunt period 2



All areas not shown are closed to elk hunting.

Bag limits

How many elk can I harvest with an elk license?

You can harvest one elk per elk license. The type of elk you can harvest will be stated on your elk license.

What type of elk can be harvested with an any-elk license?

An any-elk license is valid for harvesting an antlered (bull) elk or an antlerless elk.

What type of elk can be harvested with an antlerless-only elk license?

An antlerless-only elk license is valid for harvesting an antlerless elk only.

How does the elk drawing and weighted chance system work?

Hunters are selected for an elk license using a weighted chance system. In the annual drawing, an applicant's total number of chances is equal to the number of chances they have earned in past elk drawings (beginning in 2003) plus one chance for their current-year application. Drawing applicants who are not selected for a license earn one chance for future elk drawings. Only one chance will be awarded each year. **Elk hunting is limited to Michigan residents only;** nonresidents are not eligible to apply for the drawing. For more information on the elk drawing, watch the "Elk Weighted Lottery System Explained" video at Michigan.gov/Elk.

Does the elk drawing consider applicant region of residence when selecting hunters for a license?

Yes. The number of hunters selected from each region (Upper Peninsula, northern Lower Peninsula, southern Lower Peninsula) is guaranteed to be proportional to the number of individuals who applied from each region within the total applicant pool.

Where can I check my elk chances?

You can check your elk chances at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. Elk chances are tracked by customer ID. To ensure that all your chances are considered in the drawing, you should apply with the same ID used to apply in previous years. If your ID changes, call 517-284-9453 before the application deadline to ensure your elk chances are combined under your current ID.

What will happen to my chances if I stop applying?

You must apply for the elk drawing at least once every five years to retain your chances. Chances are reset to zero for applicants who do not apply for five consecutive years.

How many chances do I need to be selected for an elk license?

There is no guarantee that you will ever be successfully drawn for an elk license, regardless of the number of chances accumulated. The weighted selection system provides some advantage to hunters who apply consistently year after year while still providing an opportunity to all applicants, including those applying for the first time. The number of elk licenses available each year (260 for 2025) is very small compared to the number of expected license applicants (over 44,000).

I was selected for an elk license in the drawing. How do I receive my elk license?

To receive your elk license, you must prepay your license fee by purchasing an elk receipt and complete the mandatory elk hunt orientation. The elk receipt is not a license or kill tag and cannot be used to hunt elk. You will receive more information in your hunter packet.

What happens to my chances if I am selected for an elk license in the drawing?

If you are selected for an elk license, your chances will be reset to zero, even if you choose not to purchase your elk receipt.

If I am selected and purchase my elk license, am I eligible to apply for another elk license in the future?

If you are selected for an elk license in the drawing and purchase your elk license, you are subject to an ineligibility period for future elk drawings, as defined by the Wildlife Conservation Order:

- If you purchase an antlerless-only elk license, you are ineligible to apply for an elk license or chance for 10 years. You cannot earn chances for future elk drawings during your ineligibility period.
- If you purchase an any-elk license, you are ineligible to apply for, obtain or purchase an elk license or chance for the remainder of your life.

Application information

When is the application period for the 2025 elk drawing?

The application period is May 1 – June 1, 2025.

How much is an application?

An application is \$5.

How many elk applications can I purchase?

You can only purchase one elk application per year. You can apply for an elk license (“bull only” or “bull or antlerless”) or apply for a chance only.

What identification do I need to purchase an application?

To purchase an elk application in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver’s license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- Michigan DNR Sportcard.

Where can I purchase an application?

You can purchase an application from any license agent, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents.

Eligible applicants

Who is eligible to apply for the drawing?

The following people are eligible to apply for an elk license or elk chance (unless they have an active revocation or are otherwise ineligible):

- A Michigan resident who is 9 years old or younger and is licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program.
- A Michigan resident who is or will be 10 years old or older by the beginning of hunt period 1 and has a hunter education certificate or is licensed as an apprentice hunter or an inclusive mentored hunter.

I am an apprentice hunter. Can I apply for the drawing?

Yes. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase an application for an elk license or elk chance. See the Apprentice hunting section for more information.

I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I apply for the drawing?

No. You cannot apply for the Michigan elk drawing as a nonresident. Elk licenses are issued to Michigan residents only.

Application process

What are the three elk application types?

The three elk application types are described in the table below and on the following page.

Application type	Description	Applicant eligible to receive an any-elk license	Applicant eligible to receive an antlerless-only elk license*
Bull or antlerless	Applicant is willing to receive an any-elk license OR an antlerless-only elk license.	Yes	Yes
Bull only	Applicant is only willing to receive an any-elk license.	Yes	No
Chance only	Applicant does not want a 2025 elk license but would like to earn an additional chance for future elk drawings.	No	No

*If not selected in the any-elk license drawing.

What does it mean if I select “bull only” on my elk application?

If you select “bull only” on your elk application, you will be entered into the drawing for one of the 80 any-elk licenses available. If selected for this license, you will be issued an any-elk license, valid for taking either a bull or an antlerless elk.

What does it mean if I select “bull or antlerless” on my elk application?

If you select “bull or antlerless” on your elk application, you will be entered into the drawing for any of the 260 available licenses. If selected, you will be issued one of these licenses:

- ◇ Any-elk – valid for taking either a bull or an antlerless elk.
- ◇ Antlerless-only – valid for taking antlerless elk only.

Applicants may be selected for an antlerless-only elk license if not selected in the any-elk license drawing.

How do I apply for the drawing?

1. Look at the elk application type table on page 9 and choose the elk license you are willing to accept. You cannot select a specific hunt period or unit on your elk application.
2. Purchase an application for the application type you chose.
3. Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If selected for a license, we will use this address to mail you information regarding your hunt.
4. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof of your application.

If I know I won’t be able to hunt this year, can I apply for a chance only?

Yes. You can apply for a chance only to use for future drawings if you do not apply for a license.

How do I apply for an elk chance?

When purchasing your application, select the “chance only” application type. Do not select the “bull or antlerless” application type or the “bull only” application type. By selecting “chance only” on your application, you are not eligible to receive a 2025 elk license but will earn an additional chance for future elk drawings.

Can I auto-renew my elk chance-only application?

Yes. If you select “chance only” on your elk application, you have the option to set up auto-renewal for next year. Contact the Licensing help desk at 517-284-6057 for assistance.

Application assistance

The receipt I received is not printed clearly or has an error. What do I do?

You are responsible for obtaining a DNR application receipt that correctly states your customer ID and application type. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible.

Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof that you applied. Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline. If you submit an invalid application, you will be ineligible for the drawing.

I am having trouble applying. What do I do?

You can call 517-284-9453 for assistance.

Drawing results

When will drawing results be available?

Drawing results will be available on June 23, 2025.

How do I check my drawing results?

You can check your drawing results online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses, through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app or by calling 517-284-9453. You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results.

What happens if I am selected for a license in the drawing?

You will have an opportunity to obtain a 2025 elk license, once all requirements are met. Your chances will be reset to zero, even if you choose not to purchase your elk receipt. You will receive a packet in the mail that contains information about your hunt, assigned hunt period, elk management unit and type of license, a copy of the 2025 Michigan Elk Hunting Regulations Summary and instructions for the mandatory elk hunt orientation. You can then purchase the elk receipt for your assigned hunt. See the License types and fees section for more information. When you purchase your elk receipt, you will become ineligible to apply for, obtain or purchase an elk license in the future. See the Elk ineligibility periods section for more information.

I was selected for an antlerless-only license but would prefer an any-elk license.

Can I switch?

No. You cannot change your assigned license type.

I was selected for hunt period 1 but would prefer to have hunt period 2. Can I switch?

No. You cannot change your assigned hunt period.

I was selected for Unit I but would prefer Unit H. Can I switch?

No. You cannot change your assigned management unit.

Can I sell my drawing success?

No. You cannot sell your elk drawing success to another person.

Can I transfer my drawing success?

Yes. You can transfer your elk drawing success to an eligible individual. It is unlawful for an individual who transfers their elk drawing success to assist the transfer recipient in any manner in taking an elk for a fee or other consideration or service of value, either directly or indirectly. See the Elk hunt transfer program section for more information.

What happens if I am not selected for a license in the drawing?

If you applied in the drawing and were unsuccessful, you will receive one elk chance for use in future elk license drawings.

Elk ineligibility periods

I purchased an any-elk receipt. How long am I ineligible for future elk drawings?

If you purchase an any-elk receipt, you are ineligible to apply for a future elk license or chance for the remainder of your life.

I purchased an antlerless-only elk receipt. How long am I ineligible for future elk drawings?

If you purchase an antlerless-only elk receipt, you are ineligible to apply for an elk license or chance for 10 years. For example, those issued an antlerless-only license in 2025 are ineligible from 2026 through 2035.

I purchased an elk receipt but did not harvest an elk. Am I still ineligible for future elk drawings?

Yes. If you purchase an elk receipt, you are ineligible to apply for a future elk license or chance for the specified ineligibility period, regardless of whether or not you harvest an elk.

Elk hunt transfer program

What is the elk hunt transfer program?

The elk hunt transfer program allows successful applicants to transfer their drawing success to an eligible person they know or donate their drawing success anonymously to individuals on the DNR hunt waiting list. Visit Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers to learn more about the elk hunt transfer program.

Who is eligible to receive an elk hunt transfer?

1. Youth hunters, 16 years old and younger, who applied for an elk license and were unsuccessful in the current-year elk drawing.
2. Any person who has been diagnosed with an advanced illness. An application for a license in the current-year elk drawing is not required. Individuals with an advanced illness must complete the Physician Certification of Advanced Illness form to certify their eligibility for a transfer. The form is available at Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers.

I am a successful applicant. How do I transfer or donate my drawing success?

You must submit a transfer request form by Sept. 1. Forms are available at Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers. You have the option to transfer your success to an eligible person of your choosing or donate your success to someone on the DNR hunt waiting list. If a hunt recipient is not named on your form, the hunt will be offered to the next eligible person on the DNR hunt waiting list.

What will happen to my chances if I transfer my drawing success?

Your chances were reset to zero when you were selected for a license in the drawing. Chances will not be restored if you transfer your drawing success.

What is the DNR hunt waiting list?

Those who are eligible to receive a donated elk hunt through the elk hunt transfer program can register for the DNR hunt waiting list to receive a donated elk hunt. The registration period to join the list is March 1 - July 10. There is no guarantee that everyone on the list will receive a donated hunt.

Mandatory elk hunt orientation

What is the elk hunt orientation?

The elk hunt orientation is a mandatory, online training that all Michigan elk hunters must attend prior to their elk hunt. The orientation will cover elk hunting regulations, elk handling, safety, registering your elk and all other necessary information to have a safe and successful elk hunt. Hunters will be mailed detailed information about the orientation.



License types and fees by age

License type	Resident age 9 and under	Resident age 10-16	Resident age 17-64	Resident senior age 65+
Base license* - valid through March 31, 2026	N/A	\$6	\$11	\$5
DNR Sportcard ¹	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Elk application	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Elk license ²	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Elk receipt	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Inclusive mentored license ³	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mentored youth license	\$7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pure Michigan Hunt application	N/A	\$5	\$5	\$5

*One dollar from each of these licenses will be used to educate the public on the benefits of hunting, fishing and trapping in Michigan and the impact of these activities on the conservation, preservation and management of the state’s natural resources.

¹The DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver’s license or ID card.

²Elk licenses will be mailed to successful applicants after they have completed the mandatory elk hunt orientation. Elk licenses are not available for purchase.

³The inclusive mentored license package is only available for qualified individuals at DNR offices, online through Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

Hunter education

Is hunter education required for purchasing a license?

Yes. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, you must present your hunter education certificate or previous hunting license (other than a base apprentice license) to purchase your license. Individuals who are qualified to hunt with inclusive mentored licenses are exempt from the hunter education requirements (see the Mentored hunting section for more details). A valid hunter education certificate from another state meets this requirement. Michigan’s hunter education courses are offered throughout the year around the state. The online course can be found at Michigan.gov/HunterEducation. For a replacement Michigan hunter education certificate, visit Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety.

What are the rules for a youth hunter 10-16 years old who has a hunter education certificate?

A youth hunter 10-16 years old who has a hunter education certificate must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older while hunting, unless the youth is hunting on land where a parent or guardian regularly lives.

Mentored hunting

What is the Mentored Hunting Program?

The Mentored Hunting Program is a set of rules that establishes the mentored youth license package and the inclusive mentored license package. Complete program details can be found at Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting.

What are the rules for a mentor participating in the Mentored Hunting Program?

A mentor is responsible for the mentored hunter's actions in the field. A mentor must ensure the hunting device (shotgun, rifle, bow, etc.) used by the mentored hunter is properly fitted and appropriately suited for the mentored hunter. A mentor can only carry two hunting devices in the field. To participate as a mentor in the Mentored Hunting Program, you must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Have previous hunting experience.
- Possess a current-year Michigan base license that is not an apprentice license.

What is the mentored youth license?

The mentored youth license is a license package that allows youth hunters 9 years old and younger to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk and fall turkey. The mentored youth license and kill tags will remain valid for the duration of the license year, even if the mentored youth hunter turns 10 years old during the year.

What is the inclusive mentored license?

The inclusive mentored license is a license package that allows individuals with developmental disabilities to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also allows the mentored hunter to purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk and fall turkey.

Who qualifies for the inclusive mentored license?

To qualify for the inclusive mentored license, one of the following must apply:

- The mentored individual is a minor child with a developmental disability and is unable to complete hunter education.
- The mentored individual is an adult with a developmental disability, has a guardian appointed under chapter 6 of the mental health code (1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1600 to 330.1644) and is unable to complete hunter education.

As a mentored hunter, can I purchase an elk receipt?

Yes. If you are a Michigan resident and licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program, you can purchase an elk receipt awarded in the drawing.

Apprentice hunting

What is the Apprentice Hunting Program?

The Apprentice Hunting Program allows a person who does not have a hunter education certificate and is 10 years old or older to hunt during the current hunting seasons with a qualified mentor. An apprentice hunter will need to purchase a base apprentice license to participate. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game, furbearers and waterfowl. Complete program details can be found at Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting.

How many times can I purchase a base apprentice license?

You can purchase a base apprentice license for up to two license years before you must successfully complete a hunter education course and purchase a regular base license.

I am an apprentice hunter. Can I purchase an elk receipt?

Yes. If you are a Michigan resident and licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase an elk receipt awarded in the drawing.

I am an apprentice hunter. Can I hunt by myself?

No. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you must be accompanied by someone 21 years old or older who has a regular, current-year hunting license for the same game you are hunting. If you are an apprentice hunter who is 10-16 years old, your accompanying mentor must be your parent, guardian or someone designated by your parent or guardian who is at least 21 years old. A mentor can accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

Does my accompanying mentor need to have an elk license for the same EMU or season dates as me?

For hunting elk, your accompanying mentor needs a current-year elk license, but it does not have to be for the same EMU or season dates as your elk license. Note: Since there are a limited number of elk licenses, it is recommended that you complete a hunter education course before your hunt period begins.

How close do I need to be to my accompanying mentor during the hunt?

Your accompanying mentor must be able to come to your immediate aid and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

Michigan residents

Do I qualify as a Michigan resident?

To qualify as a Michigan resident, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. Resident status can only be claimed in one state.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

I own land in Michigan but live in a different state. Can I purchase a resident hunting license?

No. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license. You would be considered a nonresident.

Treaty-authorized hunters

Can I hunt with a tribal member?

Yes. You can hunt with a tribal member who is present and actively hunting if you possess a state-issued hunting license for the applicable species and season for which you are hunting. You must follow all applicable state elk hunting regulations.

DNR Sportcard

What is a DNR Sportcard?

A DNR Sportcard serves as a valid form of identification for people without a driver's license. There are no age restrictions or residency requirements for purchase. **A DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card.** A DNR Sportcard with accurate information can be used from year to year.

Base license

What is a base license?

A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is not a kill tag and is valid for hunting small game. Additional licenses are required to hunt and trap other species. Hunters are always encouraged to carry their base license when hunting.

When can I purchase a 2025 base license?

The 2025 base license is currently available for purchase from any license agent, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. A 2025 base license is valid through March 31, 2026.

I was selected for an elk license in the drawing, but cannot purchase my elk receipt. Why not?

While an application can be purchased prior to obtaining a base license, you must purchase a 2025 base license before you can purchase your elk receipt.

Elk receipt

What is an elk receipt?

Successful elk license applicants must prepay their license fee by purchasing an elk receipt and complete the mandatory elk hunt orientation. An elk receipt is not a license or kill tag and cannot be used to hunt elk. Hunters are not required to carry their elk receipts when hunting. Hunters will receive more information in their hunter packet.

Elk license

What is an elk license?

An elk license is a kill tag that allows an individual to harvest an elk within a designated EMU and hunt period during the elk season. You cannot harvest an elk without the physical kill tag in your possession.

What types of lands can I hunt with an elk license?

An elk license is valid on all public and private lands within the designated EMU. You must have permission from the landowner to hunt on private property.

Can I allow someone else to hunt using my elk license?

No. You cannot use another person's kill tag or allow another person to use your kill tag. It is illegal for hunters to harvest or attempt to harvest an elk unless they have an unused elk hunting license issued in their name for the EMU in which they are hunting.

Can I use the same kill tag on more than one elk?

No. You cannot use a kill tag more than once.

Can I put my kill tag on an elk someone else harvested?

No. You cannot put your kill tag on an elk you did not harvest.

Pure Michigan Hunt

What is the Pure Michigan Hunt?

The Pure Michigan Hunt is a chance at the hunt of a lifetime for three lucky hunters. Winners may purchase one elk (resident only), bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, fall turkey and base hunting license at a total cost of \$3. They may also participate in one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area or have first selection of another hunt choice at any managed waterfowl area if approved by the local area manager. Also, winners will receive a prize

package worth thousands and can choose to transfer their Pure Michigan Hunt opportunities to other individuals. Each PMH license will be valid for the applicable 2026 species hunting season and able to be used in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses will be subject to all 2026 hunting regulations.

How does the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing system work?

Hunters are selected for a Pure Michigan Hunt license package using a random drawing system. In the license drawing, Michigan residents and nonresidents are equally eligible for selection and license purchase. Nonresidents are not eligible to purchase the PMH elk license.

Will the Pure Michigan Hunt affect my elk chances?

No. The purchase of Pure Michigan Hunt licenses will not affect your eligibility to apply for or purchase other hunting licenses and will not affect weighted elk chances you have earned. Individuals who have received an elk license through a prior elk drawing are eligible to apply for the PMH.

When is the application period for the 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing?

The application period is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025.

How many Pure Michigan Hunt applications can I purchase?

You can purchase as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as you wish until Dec. 31, 2025.

When will the 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt winners be announced?

Three lucky hunters will be drawn in January 2026, and the winners will be announced via Facebook video broadcast, with final confirmation by phone. Drawing results will be posted online the week following the video announcement.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing, visit Michigan.gov/PMH.



Identification requirements

What identification do I need to purchase a license?

To purchase a hunting license in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver's license.
- Valid nonresident driver's license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- Michigan DNR Sportcard.

Do I have to carry my hunting license(s) when hunting?

Yes. When hunting, you must carry your applicable hunting license(s) and the identification used to purchase the license(s) and present them upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer.

Where to buy licenses and kill tags

Where can I purchase my elk receipt?

You can purchase your elk receipt from any license agent, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents.

I was selected for an elk license. When can I purchase my elk receipt?

The elk receipt will be available for you to purchase when drawing results become available on June 23.

When will I receive my elk license?

You must purchase your elk receipt and complete the mandatory orientation to receive your elk license. See the Mandatory elk hunt orientation section for more information. You cannot go hunting without the elk license in your possession.

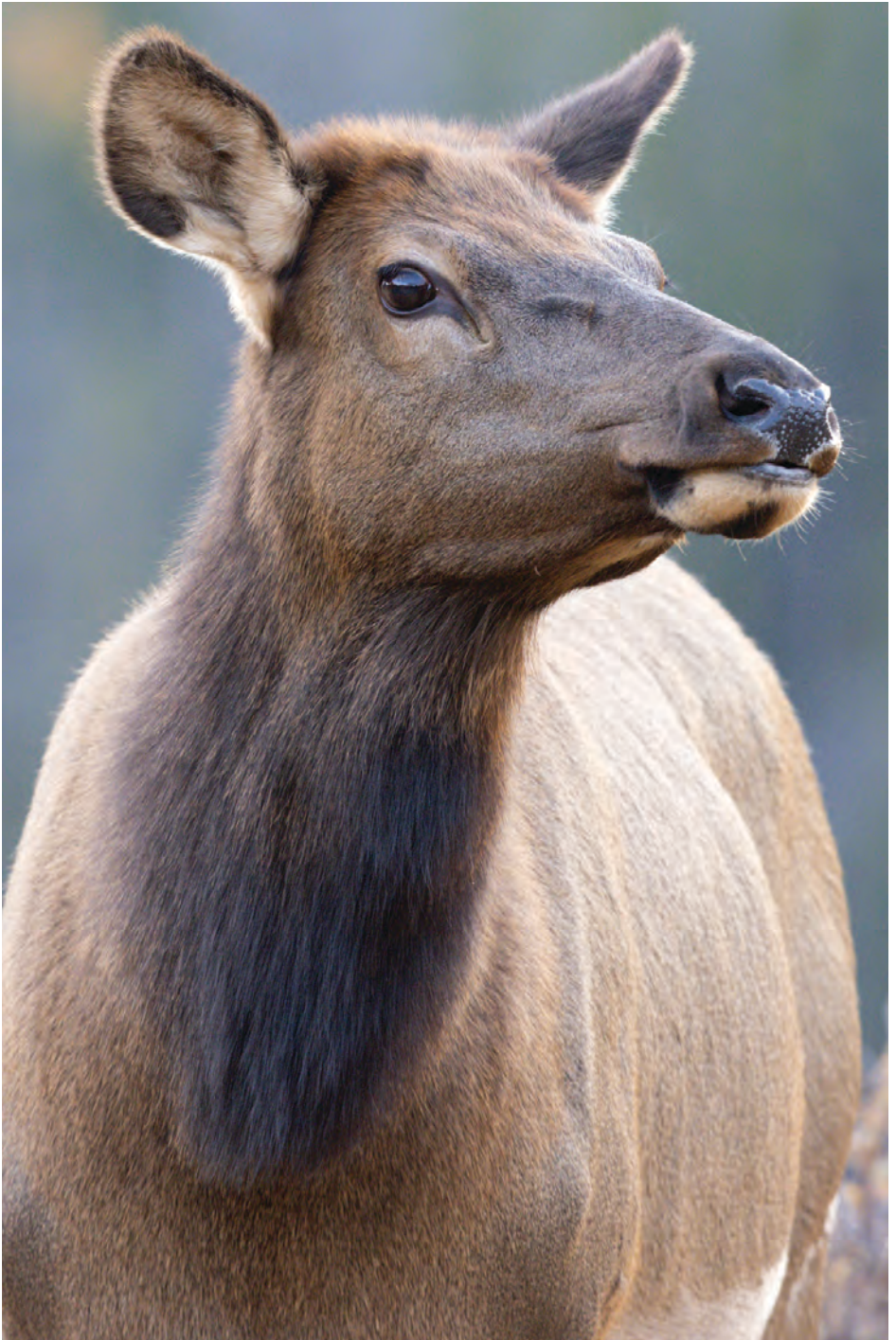
Where can I purchase the inclusive mentored license package?

You can purchase an inclusive mentored license package from any DNR office, online through Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

Lost licenses and kill tags

What do I do if I lost my elk receipt or elk license?

Please contact the DNR Gaylord Customer Service Center at 989-732-3541 for assistance. You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.



Hunting hours

When is it legal for me to hunt elk?

Legal hunting hours for elk (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) for Zone A and B are printed in the table. The hunting hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Time, adjusted for daylight saving time where appropriate.

Zones A and B hunting hours table (2025 ELK ONLY)

Hunting hours listed are one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time). **Zone A includes Alpena and Presque Isle counties. Zone B includes Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda and Otsego counties.**

Hunt period	Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.	Hunt period	Date	Time Zone B a.m.	Time Zone B p.m.
Hunt period 1	Aug. 26	6:21	8:46	Hunt period 1	Aug. 26	6:27	8:52
Hunt period 1	Aug. 27	6:22	8:44	Hunt period 1	Aug. 27	6:28	8:50
Hunt period 1	Aug. 28	6:24	8:42	Hunt period 1	Aug. 28	6:30	8:48
Hunt period 1	Aug. 29	6:25	8:41	Hunt period 1	Aug. 29	6:31	8:47
Hunt period 1	Sept. 12	6:39	8:17	Hunt period 1	Sept. 12	6:45	8:23
Hunt period 1	Sept. 13	6:40	8:15	Hunt period 1	Sept. 13	6:46	8:21
Hunt period 1	Sept. 14	6:41	8:13	Hunt period 1	Sept. 14	6:47	8:19
Hunt period 1	Sept. 15	6:42	8:11	Hunt period 1	Sept. 15	6:48	8:17
Hunt period 1	Sept. 26	6:54	7:52	Hunt period 1	Sept. 26	7:00	7:58
Hunt period 1	Sept. 27	6:55	7:50	Hunt period 1	Sept. 27	7:01	7:56
Hunt period 1	Sept. 28	6:56	7:48	Hunt period 1	Sept. 28	7:02	7:54
Hunt period 1	Sept. 29	6:57	7:47	Hunt period 1	Sept. 29	7:03	7:53
Hunt period 1	Dec. 13	7:23	5:30	Hunt period 1	Dec. 13	7:29	5:36
Hunt period 2	Dec. 14	7:24	5:30	Hunt period 2	Dec. 14	7:30	5:36
Hunt period 2	Dec. 15	7:25	5:31	Hunt period 2	Dec. 15	7:31	5:37
Hunt period 2	Dec. 16	7:25	5:31	Hunt period 2	Dec. 16	7:31	5:37
Hunt period 2	Dec. 17	7:26	5:31	Hunt period 2	Dec. 17	7:32	5:37
Hunt period 2	Dec. 18	7:26	5:32	Hunt period 2	Dec. 18	7:32	5:38
Hunt period 2	Dec. 19	7:27	5:32	Hunt period 2	Dec. 19	7:33	5:38
Hunt period 2	Dec. 20	7:28	5:32	Hunt period 2	Dec. 20	7:34	5:38
Hunt period 2	Dec. 21	7:28	5:33	Hunt period 2	Dec. 21	7:34	5:39

Safety zones

What are the safety zones around buildings when hunting with a firearm?

Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm within a safety zone without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the lawful discharge of firearms for any nonhunting purpose.

DNR-managed lands

Over 4.5 million acres of public lands are managed by the DNR and open to hunting! The Pigeon River Country State Forest covers 109,000 acres and is home to Michigan's elk herd.

Where can I find public hunting lands near me?

You can find places to hunt by visiting Michigan.gov/MiHunt. The interactive DNR map application Mi-HUNT can help you plan your hunting and other outdoor recreation adventures. It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of the lands open to public hunting.

Where can I find the rules for DNR-managed lands?

You can find the DNR-managed land use rules at Michigan.gov/DNRLaws. Please keep in mind that you cannot:

- Cut branches, limbs, trees or other vegetation for shooting lanes on public lands.
- Block any gate, road or trail on public lands.
- Camp on public lands without a permit. Permits are free and are available online at Michigan.gov/Camping or at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.

Local municipalities

Are there any local municipalities with hunting or trapping restrictions?

Yes. Some local municipalities may be closed to hunting, trapping or the discharge of firearms. Please contact the local municipality office or local law enforcement agency to find out about restrictions.

Commercial Forest lands

What are Commercial Forest lands?

Commercial Forest lands are privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program. CF landowners are not required to identify the property as CF, and CF land may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing, hunting or trapping. The landowner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Descriptions of land in the CF program and a GIS map are available on the DNR website at Michigan.gov/CommercialForest. CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at Michigan.gov/MiHunt. Contact the DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900 or visit the Commercial Forest webpage for more information about CF lands.

Can I hunt on Commercial Forest lands?

Yes. Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing, hunting and trapping. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing, hunting or trapping access is at the landowner's discretion. Any activities other than the acts of fishing, hunting and trapping require landowner permission. Leaving anything unattended, other than traps, also requires landowner permission. In addition, hunters may not build structures or construct blinds other than with natural materials found on-site. The use of nails, bolts or tree steps is not allowed. The cutting of shooting lanes or destruction of brush, trees or other vegetation is prohibited. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction.

Rights of way

Can I hunt within a road right of way?

You can hunt within a road right of way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner.

Can I hunt within a railroad right of way?

Railroad rights of way are private property. **Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor.** You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

Trespassing

Do I need permission to hunt on someone's private land?

Yes. Trespassing is unlawful and erodes support for recreational hunting. Written or verbal permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you hunt on any farmlands, connected woodlots, private land or property that is fenced or enclosed. Hunters are required to produce their hunting licenses for landowners upon request.

What if the elk I wounded goes onto private land?

If you wound an elk and it goes onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission from the landowner and would be subject to prosecution for trespassing. All wounded elk must be reported to the DNR as instructed in the hunter orientation. A landowner is not required to give permission or allow removal of an animal.



Are there any types of equipment I cannot use to hunt an elk?

Yes. You cannot use any of the following types of equipment to hunt an elk in Michigan:

- Snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls or deadfalls.
- Spears, slingshots, full automatic firearms, airbows or mechanical devices other than bows, crossbows and firearms.
- Cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets.
- Drugs, poisons, anticoagulants, stupefying substances, smoke, gas or explosives.

Hunter orange

Do I need to wear hunter orange while elk hunting with a firearm?

Yes. If you are hunting elk with a firearm, you must wear a cap, hat, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange. The hunter orange garments must be your outermost layer and be visible from all sides. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange.

Do I need to wear hunter orange while elk hunting with archery equipment?

Yes. If you are hunting elk with archery equipment, you must wear a cap, hat, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange. The hunter orange garments must be your outermost layer and be visible from all sides. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange.

Elevated platforms and ground blinds

Can I hunt elk from an elevated platform?

Yes. You can hunt elk from an elevated platform using a bow, crossbow or firearm on public and private lands. A fall arrest system is recommended. Permanent elevated platforms are not allowed on Commercial Forest lands. The use of tree steps, nails, screws, bolts, etc. is also not allowed on Commercial Forest lands.

When can I set up my elevated platform on public lands?

You can place an elevated platform on public land from Aug. 15 through five days after the close of the elk season, or if successful, five days after harvesting an elk.

Can I use a ground blind on public lands during the elk season?

Yes. You can use ground blinds on public lands in the EMU for which you have a license. Ground blinds can be placed on public lands from Aug. 15 through five days after the close of the elk season. If successful in harvesting an elk, ground blinds must be removed within five days of harvest.

What types of ground blinds are legal on public lands?

The following three types of ground blinds are legal on public lands:

Type 1 (portable ground blind): This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt (if you wish to leave your blind out overnight, see

Type 3 below). Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed daily. No identification is required.

Type 2 (dead natural materials ground blind): This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead and natural materials found on the ground in the area of the blind, except that a hunter can add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt. These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction.

Type 3 (constructed ground blind): This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily. Identification is required. Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind. Note: If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on land administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.

Can I use a ground blind on private lands during the elk season?

Yes. You can use a ground blind to hunt elk on private lands during the elk season with the permission of the landowner. Permanent ground blinds are not allowed on Commercial Forest lands.

What information must I tag my elevated platform or ground blind with?

In legible English, you must permanently affix your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number to the elevated platform or Type 3 ground blind if it is placed on public lands.

Can someone else use my elevated platform or ground blind that is on public lands?

Yes. Your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number on an elevated platform or ground blind placed on public lands does not guarantee exclusive use.

Bows, crossbows and firearms

What equipment can I use to hunt an elk?

You can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm per regulations explained in this section. If you are hunting an elk, you can use a firearm legal for hunting deer in Michigan, except you cannot use buckshot to hunt elk.

What equipment can a mentor carry in the field when mentoring?

A mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the mentored hunter must always be within arm's length of the mentor. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the mentored hunter while in the field.

What equipment can a mentored hunter use?

Mentored hunters licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored hunter must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the mentored hunter.

I hunt with archery equipment. Are there any restrictions on which arrows I can use?

Yes. You can only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide.

What are the firearm restrictions I must follow when hunting an elk during an elk season?

If you are elk hunting during an elk season, you must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or a bow. Legal firearms include those that are legal for hunting deer in Michigan and are as follows:

- A shotgun (the use of buckshot to hunt elk is prohibited).
- A rifle of any caliber larger than a .22-caliber rimfire.
- A muzzleloading firearm, including black powder handguns, loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.
- A handgun.

I am hunting elk. What is the shell capacity for shotguns and centerfire rifles?

You cannot hunt elk with a semi-automatic shotgun or semi-automatic rifle that can hold more than six shells in the barrel and magazine combined.

Do I have to use nontoxic ammunition when hunting elk?

While not required by law, it is recommended that you use nontoxic ammunition when hunting elk.

I have a concealed pistol license. Can I carry my pistol while hunting?

Yes. The prohibition on carrying any other type of firearm does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license, or under a specific exception from the CPL requirement.

Transporting bows, crossbows and firearms

How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm when afield outside the legal hunting hours?

Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel and all arrows must be in a quiver when you are afield outside the legal hunting hours.

How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on a motor vehicle?

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a

vehicle on private or public property.

- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on an off-road vehicle?

These rules apply whether your off-road vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured, key-locked, trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

How should I transport my firearm while in or on a boat?

These rules apply when the vessel is under power and until forward motion has ceased. Once the vessel is no longer under power and forward motion has ceased, firearms can be loaded. When carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat, while the vessel is under power or forward motion is occurring:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.



The Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app

Your portal to outdoor recreation



**Access licenses • Report harvests
Regulations in your pocket**

Can I hire a hunting guide for elk hunting?

Yes. You can hire a commercial hunting guide for elk hunting in Michigan. A list of licensed commercial hunting guides is available at Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits.

Can I harvest an elk while it's in a body of water?

No. You cannot harvest an elk if it is in a body of water. It is unlawful to chase, pursue, shoot or kill an elk when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other body of water.

Can I set fires to drive out elk?

No. You cannot set fires to drive out game animals, including elk.

Can I push or drive elk with a motor vehicle?

No. You cannot use a vehicle, off-road vehicle or snowmobile to hunt, pursue, worry, kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, worry or kill an elk.

Can I hunt elk while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances?

No. You cannot hunt elk while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

Baiting

Can I use bait while hunting elk during the elk hunting season?

No. You cannot use bait to aid in the taking of an elk during the elk hunting season. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.



WILDLIFE DISEASES

What if I see a sick-looking elk while scouting or hunting?

The DNR encourages you to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including elk, at [Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField](https://www.michigan.gov/EyesInTheField). You should provide information about the location, number and condition of the animals you observed. Contact the DNR Wildlife Health Section at 517-336-5030 if you have any questions.

Can elk contract bovine tuberculosis?

Yes. Bovine tuberculosis is an infectious disease that primarily affects cattle; however, other animals may become infected. Bovine TB has been detected in Michigan elk. Heads from harvested elk must be submitted to the Michigan DNR for mandatory bovine TB testing. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/BovineTB](https://www.michigan.gov/BovineTB).

Can elk contract chronic wasting disease?

Yes. Chronic wasting disease is a contagious, neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose. To date, CWD has not been detected in Michigan elk. Any elk seen acting abnormally should be reported to the Michigan DNR. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/CWD](https://www.michigan.gov/CWD).

INVASIVE SPECIES

What if I see an invasive species while scouting or hunting?

The DNR encourages you to learn how to identify and report invasive species at [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.michigan.gov/MISIN.MSU.edu). For more information on invasive species management or your local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://www.michigan.gov/Invasives).

How can I help stop the spread of invasive species?

Prevention is the best way to manage invasive species! Practice PlayCleanGo by checking yourself and your gear. Arrive clean and remove any plant debris, dirt and mud before leaving your hunting location.

Can I harvest Russian boar?

Yes. Russian boar can be hunted and trapped, year-round, statewide with a valid base license. Russian boar can be taken on public land by anyone possessing a valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license, or on private land with the landowner's permission. You are encouraged to report all Russian boar seen or taken at [Michigan.gov/FeralSwine](https://www.michigan.gov/FeralSwine) or by calling 517-336-1928.

Can I possess invasive plants in Michigan?

No. You cannot move or possess invasive plants. For a complete list of prohibited and restricted species, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://www.michigan.gov/Invasives).

Validating harvest

Can I tag my elk after I take some photos first?

No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving an elk, you must validate your kill tag and securely attach the kill tag to the antler, lower jaw or calcaneal (Achilles) tendon of the elk. You cannot transport or have in your possession an elk unless the validated kill tag is appropriately attached to the elk.

How do I validate my kill tag?

To validate your kill tag, you must notch out the appropriate information as instructed on the kill tag.

How should I tag my harvested elk?

You must securely and permanently attach the entire kill tag to the elk's antler, lower jaw or calcaneal (Achilles) tendon. The best way to attach a kill tag is to lay a strong piece of wire or cord across the back of it (after removing backing), so the tag can be folded in half, and to tape it in place as needed. Tie the wire or cord to the elk's antler, lower jaw or calcaneal (Achilles) tendon in such a manner that the kill tag remains securely attached. Do not stick or wrap the kill tag directly onto the antler, lower jaw or calcaneal (Achilles) tendon of an elk. Make sure the kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection. The kill tag must remain attached until the elk is registered and sealed by DNR personnel. The kill tag will be replaced by an official DNR seal when the elk is registered by DNR personnel.

Transporting game animals

What are the rules for transporting game animals?

You can transport your own and another person's lawfully taken game. You cannot transport or possess an elk unless a validated kill tag is attached to the elk. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of an elk while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.

Elk registration

Do I have to have my elk registered by DNR personnel?

Yes. All harvested elk must be registered and sealed by DNR personnel.

How do I register in my elk?

Within 24 hours of harvest, the elk must be presented for registration as directed by DNR personnel.

Where can I find the age and test results of my registered elk?

The age and test results of your registered elk will be available at Michigan.gov/DNRLab after June 1.

After registration, can the seal be removed from my elk?

The seal should remain attached to the elk until:

- The carcass is processed or butchered for consumption by an individual for his or her use.
- The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a commercial processor. If the head or hide is returned to the person submitting the animal to the commercial processor, the seal should accompany the head or hide.
- The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a licensed taxidermist.

Handling and processing game meat

Should I be concerned about lead in game meat?

Ammunition used to shoot wildlife, including traditional lead birdshot or rounds containing lead bullets, may fragment, leaving particles remaining in game meat, even after processing. Some of these lead particles may be too small to be seen or felt when processing game. Being exposed to any lead can be a serious issue for developing bodies and nervous systems, so those most at risk of health effects from eating wild game meat that contains lead are young children and women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

- **Use lead-free ammunition:** Opt for shotgun shells with nontoxic shot and nontoxic rifle bullets. If nontoxic ammunition is unavailable, avoid rapidly expanding bullets that tend to fragment.
- **Aim carefully:** Avoid shooting through large bones, like the front shoulder, as bullets passing through these bones are more likely to fragment. Aim for areas with softer tissue to minimize lead fragmentation.
- **Trim around wound channels:** Cut away the meat around the wound channel to remove lead fragments that may have entered the meat.
- **Select cuts wisely:** Ground meat often contains more lead fragments than other cuts of meat. Choose different cuts to reduce lead exposure.
- **Avoid acidic cooking ingredients:** Refrain from using vinegar or wine when cooking wild game shot with lead ammunition, as acids can increase lead absorption in the body.

How should I handle and process game meat?

Keep yourself and others healthy by taking care of your harvested meat. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends proper food safety practices when handling game meat, as well as any other meat or poultry. When field-dressing elk from the bovine TB areas in the northeastern Lower Peninsula, remember to wear a mask and gloves (such as latex gloves) to protect yourself.

Buying and selling game animals

Can I buy or sell game animals?

You cannot buy or sell game animals, dead or alive, except as provided by Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3, available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLaws).



REPORT ALL POACHING

What is the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact?

Michigan is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement where participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you may lose your privileges in the other 45 participating states as well. And, if your license is revoked in any of those states, it also may be revoked in Michigan.

What are the penalties for elk hunting violations?

The fine for an illegally harvested elk is \$5,000 per animal, with jail time between five and 90 days. Additional fines are added if the illegally harvested elk was an antlered elk. An antlered elk with eight to 10 points will include an additional \$250 fine per point. An antlered elk with 11 or more points will include an additional \$500 fine per point. Revocation of licenses will be for the current year. The first offense includes an additional 15 years of license revocation. A second offense will result in license revocation for life.

How do I report suspected poaching?

If you witness a natural resource violation or have information on the illegal killing of elk in Michigan, report it immediately. You can do this by texting or calling 800-292-7800. Phone lines are open 24/7. You may remain anonymous.

REPORT ALL POACHING



Report poaching immediately.

Tipsters may remain anonymous.

Tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward.

**CALL OR TEXT
1-800-292-7800**

Accompany - to go along with another individual under circumstances that allow one to come to the immediate aid of the other individual while staying within a distance from the other individual that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communication.

Advanced illness - a medical condition defined by the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 [MCL - 333.5653]. An advanced illness must be diagnosed and certified by a physician.

Antlered elk - an elk with at least one visible antler.

Antlerless elk - an elk with no visible antlers.

Apprentice hunter - a person 10 years old or older without a hunter education certificate who is licensed under the apprentice program.

Bag limit - the number of animals that may be taken and possessed as determined by the DNR.

Bait - a substance composed of grains, fruits, vegetables or other food placed to lure or entice elk. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

Bow - a device for propelling an arrow from a string drawn, held and released by hand if the force used to hold the string in the drawn position is provided by the archer's muscles.

Bull elk - a male elk.

Buy/sell - an exchange or attempt or offer to exchange for money, barter or anything of value.

Calf elk - an elk less than 1 year old.

Chase - to follow animals with dogs or other wild or domestic animals trained for that purpose.

Cow elk - a female elk.

Crossbow - a weapon consisting of a bow, with a draw weight of 100 pounds or more, mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire an arrow, bolt or quarrel by the release of a bow string controlled by a mechanical or electric trigger with a working safety.

Developmental disability - a severe, chronic condition as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 16 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a.

Elevated platform - any horizontal surface, constructed or manufactured by a person, that increases the field of vision of a person using it beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground. Elevated platforms include scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device that is used to assist in climbing a tree.

Elk management unit (EMU) - a geographical area, as defined in the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order, used to set elk hunting regulations.

Firearm - any weapon which will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

Game animal - any species of wildlife designated by the Legislature or the Natural Resources Commission as game under Section 40110 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, goose, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, woodchuck and woodcock.

Ground blind - a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising a person for the purpose of harvesting an animal.

Hunt or hunting - to pursue, capture, shoot, kill, chase, follow, harass, harm, rob or trap a wild animal, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

Hunter education/safety - a certification course used to train hunters on understanding wildlife management, wildlife identification, ethics, laws and regulations, and firearms safety and handling.

Hunter orange - the highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange that includes blaze orange, flame orange and fluorescent blaze orange.

Identification - a driver license issued by Michigan, another state or a Canadian province as accepted by the DNR, a State of Michigan identification card issued by the Secretary of State or a Sportcard issued by the DNR.

Kill tag - a license that is affixed to a harvested bear, bobcat, deer, elk, fisher, marten, otter or turkey.

License - a document or a tag, stamp, plastic card or other device that may include a stamp or a tag that authorizes the licensee to hunt, fish, trap or possess wild animals or aquatic species and other identification required by the DNR.

Mentor - a person at least 21 years old who has a valid license to hunt and previous hunting experience and is participating in the Mentored Hunting Program.

Nonresident - a person who is not a resident of Michigan.

Poaching - the illegal shooting, trapping or taking of game, fish or other natural resources from private or public property.

Protected wildlife - bear cubs, bear sows accompanied by cubs, cougars, eagles, flying squirrels, hawks, lynx, moose, nongame birds (except starlings, house sparrows and feral pigeons), owls, spruce grouse and wolverines. Protected wildlife cannot be taken at any time.

Residence - a permanent building serving as a temporary or permanent home. Residence may include a cottage, cabin or mobile home, but does not include a structure designed primarily for taking game, a tree blind, a tent, a recreational or other vehicle, or a camper.

Resident - a person who resides in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state; a student who is enrolled in a full-time course at a college or university within this state and who resides in the state during the school year; a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States and officially stationed in this state; or a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States who, at the time of enlistment was a resident of this state and has maintained his or her residence in this state for purposes of obtaining a driver license or voter registration, or both.

Safety zone - all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation.

Season dates - the legal dates that may be hunted or trapped.

Take - to hunt with any weapon, dog, raptor or other wild or domestic animal trained for that purpose; kill; chase; follow; harass; harm; pursue; shoot; rob; trap; capture or collect animals, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

Transport - to carry or ship animals within this state or to points outside this state.

Uncocked bow - a bow that is not in the drawn position.

Uncocked crossbow - a crossbow that is not in the cocked position.

Unloaded bow - a bow that does not have an arrow nocked.

Unloaded crossbow - a crossbow that does not have a bolt in the flight groove.

Unloaded firearm - a firearm that does not have ammunition in the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine when the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine is part of or attached to the firearm. Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems. The ball and powder can remain in the barrel.

Wild animal - a mammal, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian or crustacean of a wild nature indigenous to this state or introduced to this state by the DNR or a species determined by the DNR to be of public benefit.

Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer service center (CSC) hours of operation can be found at Michigan.gov/ContactDNR.

Baraga CSC

427 U.S. 41 N.
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City CSC

3580 State Park Drive
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac CSC

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Crystal Falls Field Office

1420 W. U.S. 2
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

1801 Atwater St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-396-6890

Escanaba CSC

6833 U.S. 2, U.S. 41 and M-35
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-786-2351

Gaylord CSC

1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Lansing CSC

4166 Legacy Parkway
Lansing, MI 48911
517-284-4720

Marquette CSC

1990 U.S. 41 S.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

P.O. Box 287
W11569 U.S. 2 E.
Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Norway Field Office

520 W. U.S. 2
Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

621 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon CSC

I-75 and M-18 S.
8717 N. Roscommon Road
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie CSC

4131 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6161

Traverse City CSC

2122 S. M-37
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-922-5280

Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/MichiganDNR

Follow us on X at Twitter.com/MichiganDNR

Follow us on Instagram at Instagram.com/MichiganDNR

Direct DNR website URLs:

DNR hunting regulations: Michigan.gov/DNRRegs

Wildlife diseases: Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease

Hunter education: Michigan.gov/HunterEducation

Hunting: Michigan.gov/Hunting

Invasive species: Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies

Mi-HUNT: Michigan.gov/MiHunt

Pure Michigan Hunt: Michigan.gov/PMH

Shooting ranges: Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges

Trapping/fur harvesting: Michigan.gov/Trapping

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan St.

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

517-284-9453

Contact hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.