

# Michigan's Elk Viewing Guide

[mi.gov/elk](http://mi.gov/elk)

[Graphic: State of Michigan framing a picture of a bull elk.]

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.]

## Elk Viewing

The most **popular time** to view elk is during the breeding season in **September & October** when they are feeding in **open grassy areas** and bulls are bugling. Summer observations are difficult due to leaf cover and viewing is limited. The best times to view elk are at **dawn & dusk**. Elk should be appreciated at a **distance** and individuals should not try to approach the animal. Most viewing locations may be accessed by **roads**; however, some may require a **hike**. The official viewing locations are marked although elk may not always be present. Elk can be found in many areas of the elk range.

[Graphic: A bull elk walks through the woods near an elk viewing area sign.]

## Elk Viewing Map

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.]

[Graphic: Complex map of elk viewing locations.]

## Spot us by GPS (Viewing Locations by Latitude North and Longitude West)

Location 1 (by road): 45.185438° by -84.590372°

Location 2 (by road): 45.163343° by -84.499068°

Location 3 (by hiking): 45.26595° by -84.476635°

Location 4 (by road): 45.227167° by -84.387321°

Location 5 (by hiking): 45.219453° by -84.395627°

Location 6 (by road): 45.157258° by -84.41319°

Location 7 (by hiking): 45.149517° by -84.415166°

Location 8 (by road): 45.111883° by -84.377355°

Location 9 (by hiking): 45.09745° by -84.40406°

Location 10 (by road): 45.067578° by -84.349172°

Location 11 (by road): 45.12638° by -84.32985°

Location 12 (by road): 45.093220° by -84.316455°

Location 13 (by road): 45.058282° by -84.181061°

## Quick Facts

Weight – 350 to 900 pounds

Height – 4 to 5 feet at the shoulder

Winter Coat – Head, neck and legs are dark brown, while the sides and backs are much lighter

Summer Coat – Deep and red-brown

Antlers – Grow annually on male elk up to 40 pounds in weight

Food – Grass, forbs, shrubs, fruits, and trees

Young – Calves born late May early June, 25-30 pounds

Breeding – Late September to early October

Goal Population – 500 to 900 elk

## Management

Elk are primarily grazers and browsers. They prefer a landscape with open young habitat. The DNR manages state land by cutting old timber to create forests, by planting food plots, and by using prescribed burning.

[Graphic: Aerial image of a prescribed burn in progress.]

## Hunting

Elk hunting is frequently called the hunt of a lifetime for many Michigan residents. Elk hunting is the primary tool used to maintain the balance between elk numbers and habitat, while also addressing crop damage concerns. Elk hunting has occurred annually since 1984. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people apply for a chance to hunt elk every year. The number of licenses issued generally ranges from 100-400 and depends on the current population and condition of the habitat.

## Enhancing

Through an important partnership effort with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the DNR is working to improve elk viewing areas and elk viewing education as well as materials and programs.

[Graphic: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Logo]