

Elk Management in Michigan

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources logo]

[Graphic: Large bull elk near pine tree]

Our Goals:

Manage a sustainable elk population in balance with habitat.

Hunt to control elk numbers, herd composition and distribution.

Enhance the public understanding of elk management in Michigan.

Contents

Manage	3
Focus habitat management efforts within the elk management area where the benefits are greatest and will have the greatest impact.....	3
Monitor elk numbers, distribution and habitat	3
Monitor elk herd health.....	3
Hunting.....	3
Encourage relationships between hunters, the DNR, private landowners, and hunting guides.	3
Enhance.....	4
Develop and implement an elk communication strategy to ensure consistent and accurate information.	4

Manage

Manage a sustainable Elk Population in Balance with habitat

Focus habitat management efforts within the elk management area where the benefits are greatest and will have the greatest impact.

[Graphic: stacked logs]

[Graphic: Large machine removing logs from a forest]

Focus habitat management efforts within the elk management area where the benefits are greatest and will have the greatest impact.

Forests on state-land will be managed to contain roughly 26 percent aspen trees, approximately 1000 acres of wildlife openings, and the total amount of open or upland brush acres will increase to 6-7 percent. Private landowners within the elk range will be offered information and assistance to help them meet both DNR and landowner needs.

Monitor elk numbers, distribution and habitat

Aerial surveys will be performed to determine elk numbers and distribution. The population will be maintained within the goal range of 500-900 elk so that crop damage, disease concerns and forest regeneration are minimized and recreational opportunities are maximized.

Monitor elk herd health

Testing of all hunter-killed elk for bovine tuberculosis is mandatory. Disease monitoring in elk will continue at the current level and will be evaluated annually and modified as necessary to maintain effectiveness.

[Graphic: face of bull elk]

[Graphic: Mixed forest]

Hunting

Hunting is the Primary Method to Control Elk Numbers, Herd Composition and Distribution.

Encourage relationships between hunters, the DNR, private landowners, and hunting guides.

Hunting is an effective wildlife management technique for controlling both numbers and distribution of elk. Positive interaction among hunters, DNR staff, guides and private landowners will result in an elk hunt that addresses private landowner concerns, is more successful as a management tool and is more enjoyable for the hunter. The DNR will assist with private landowner concerns with elk in a timely manner that offers the landowner options to address their concern.

[Graphic: Map of Michigan showing current elk range for assistance call 517-284-9453]

[Graphic: Complex map of elk viewing areas in the northeastern part of Michigan's lower peninsula for assistance call 517-284-9453]

Enhance

Enhance Public Understanding of Elk Management in Michigan

Develop and implement an elk communication strategy to ensure consistent and accurate information.

Working with conservation partners, the DNR will provide information for elk viewing and ways to incorporate elk management into an education setting. An annual update about elk management will be available to relate results of habitat management, surveys, hunting information.

[Graphic: "Elk University" logo]

[Graphic: Image of Michigan's Elk viewing guide brochure]

For more information on elk or to view the complete management plan visit:

mi.gov/elk

[Graphic: bull elk near tree]

[Graphic: bull elk grazing]

[Graphic: bull elk face]

[Graphic: bull elk near stand of trees]

[Graphic: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation logo]

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a proud supporter of elk management in Michigan.

rmef.org

Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline: 1-800-292-7800

Visit us online at mi.gov/dnr

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[Graphic: illustration of elk antlers]

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[Graphic: recycle symbol]