

ELK

Management in Michigan



Goal 1:

Manage for a Sustainable Elk Population in Balance with Habitat

Goal 2:

Use Hunting as the Primary Method to Control Elk Numbers, Herd Composition and Distribution

Goal 3:

Enhance Public Understanding of Elk Management in Michigan



Goal 1 Manage for a Sustainable Elk Population in Balance with Habitat



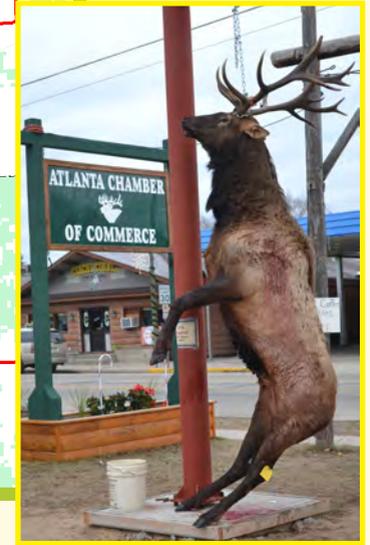
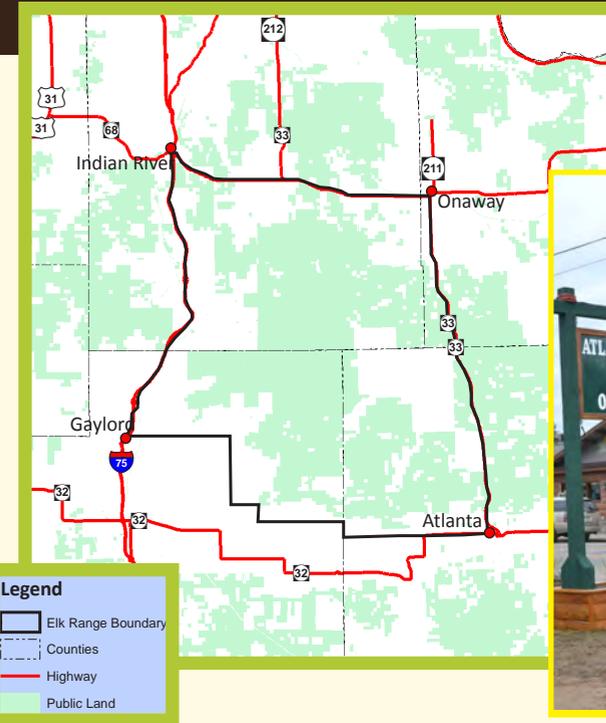
- Focus habitat management efforts within the elk management area where the benefits are greatest and will have the greatest impact.
 - Forests on state-land will be managed to contain roughly 26 percent aspen trees, approximately 1000 acres of wildlife openings, and the total amount of open or upland 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 every other January 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.





Goal 2 Use Hunting as Primary Method to Control Elk Numbers, Herd Composition and Distribution



- Facilitate positive interactions among hunters, the DNR, private landowners and guides
 - Hunting is an effective wildlife management technique for controlling both numbers and distribution of elk. More 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 deal with private landowner concerns with elk in a timely manner that offers the landowner options to address their concern.

Goal 3 Enhance Public Understanding of Elk Management in Michigan



- Coordinate with partners to develop and implement an elk communication strategy to ensure consistent and accurate information is available to the public concerning elk management.
 - Working with conservation partners, the DNR will provide information to facilitate successful viewing, and will designate viewing sites and make their locations known through printed materials and the internet. The DNR will prepare an annual report concerning elk management that will be available to everyone and will relate results of habitat management actions, surveys and hunts and identify potential management opportunities for the future.

For more information on elk or to view the complete management plan visit:
www.michigan.gov/elk



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

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

Visit us on the Web at: www.michigan.gov/dnr

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