

2018

MICHIGAN ELK DIGEST

Application Period: May 1 - June 1, 2018



**HELP CELEBRATE
100 YEARS WITH AN
ELK LICENSE PLATE**



**LEARN MORE AT
MI.GOV/ELK**

Reminders

- A base license is not required to apply for an elk license.
- **NEW** Mentored Youth Hunters can now apply for a license or chance, see pg. 9

Drawing results posted June 25
Visit mi.gov/elk



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

mi.gov/elk

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.

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) 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 sportfish. 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 mi.gov/nrc.

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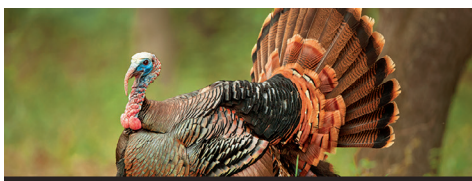
NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunter's convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: mi.gov/dnrlaws

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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THANK YOU HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

for your help protecting Michigan's wild places. Your licenses provide nearly \$40 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl and other game species preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

MICHIGAN
WILDLIFE
COUNCIL

HereForMiOutdoors.org



Stay on top of the latest news from the Michigan DNR!
Visit us at mi.gov/dnr and click on the red envelope to sign up for e-mail updates!

History and Status

Historically, elk were found in northern Michigan but had disappeared by the late 1800's due to unlimited harvest and lack of adequate habitat. Today's elk herd is a result of seven elk brought from the western United States and relocated to Wolverine, Michigan in 1918. The elk herd is a wildlife management success story made possible by the many individuals and organizations who work to maintain a place for this species. 2018 marks a 100 year celebration of elk in Michigan!

The first elk hunts were held in 1964 and 1965 in a response to the growing elk population and the desire to control elk numbers. The hunt was a success but was not immediately continued. The first elk management plan was written soon after in 1975 and was a formal acknowledgement that elk were an important resource to the people of the state and set the stage for increasing elk numbers. Elk hunts were implemented in the 1980s cautiously, testing and refining hunting as a tool to control elk numbers and distribution. The update of the Elk Management Plan in 1984, recognized the importance of elk viewing and made elk hunting the preferred method for controlling elk numbers and distribution. Today, the most recent management plan approved in 2012, has a population goal of 500-900 animals and set a continued focus on:

- Managing a sustainable elk population in balance with habitat
- Use hunting to control elk numbers, herd composition, and distribution
- Enhance the understanding of elk management



**HELP
CELEBRATE**

100 YEARS



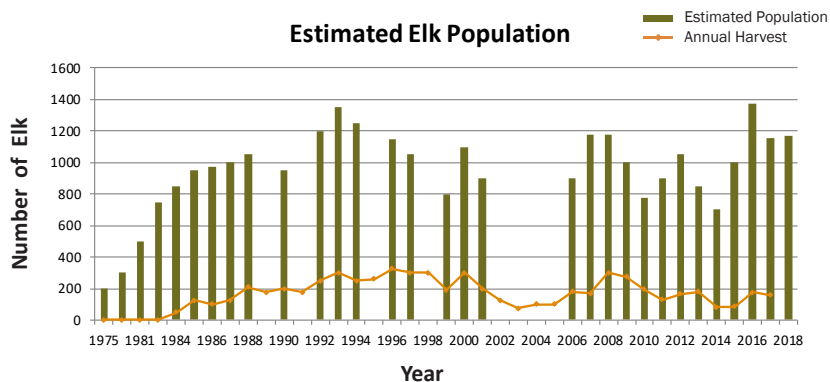
**WITH AN ELK
LICENSE PLATE!**

*Learn more at
mi.gov/elk*

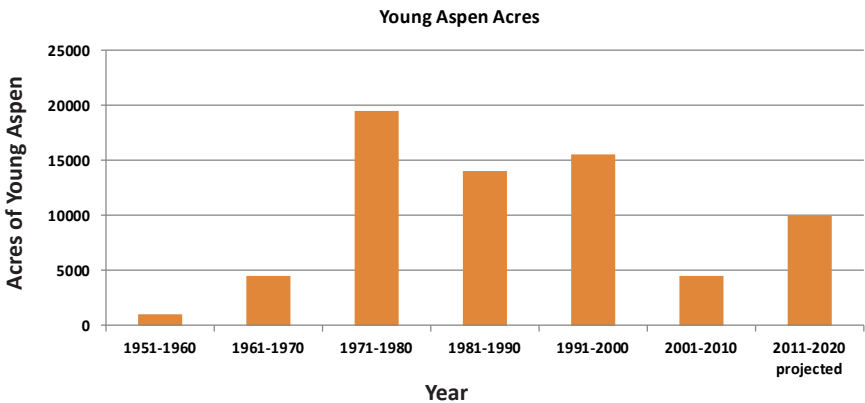
Estimating Elk Population



The manner in which elk populations are monitored has changed significantly through time. From the initial release of seven elk in 1918 until the 1960s, estimates were based on track counts, personal observations of elk groups, and information gathered from hunters and local residents. In the 1960s, elk pellet group surveys were used to determine the size and distribution of the herd. While this technique was useful for determining trends, it wasn't a reliable method for estimating population. From 1975 to 2001, the DNR used a combination air and snowmobile survey. This survey provided a minimum count, and biologists estimated the number of elk missed during the survey based on the conditions. Since 2006, elk populations have been estimated using a fixed-wing airplane, and corrected with a sightability model. This technique uses scientific method and provides population estimates to guide management. The current aerial survey covers over 1,000 square miles and shows the distribution of elk in January. Distribution is also measured in the fall and early winter by reports from hunters seeing and taking elk during the hunt. Biologists compile and assess this information to recommend hunting regulations to the Natural Resources Commission.



In general, elk seasons during August, September, and October target elk outside of the elk management area. December hunt periods are used to manage the overall elk numbers including those in the elk management area. The January hunt is used if the first two earlier season harvests did not meet the management goals. The zone and quota system was designed to focus the harvest in specific areas to address crop damage or forest regeneration issues and also to limit the spread of elk from the elk management area. Elk hunts have occurred annually since 1984.



Elk distribution is affected by food availability and changing land use. Young aspen stands are a preferred habitat because of the food provided and other plants found there. The acreage of young aspen available on state land within the elk range changes over time. The projected increase in young aspen in the next 10 years should reduce the potential for forest regeneration issues if the elk population remains stable. Land use changes can also affect distribution, such as large single owner blocks of private land being divided into smaller ownerships and public land can see changing recreational use.



A large orange ticket graphic for the 'PURE MICHIGAN HUNT'. The ticket is oriented horizontally and features a stylized elk head logo on the left. The text on the ticket includes 'PURE MICHIGAN HUNT', 'ENTER TODAY TO WIN THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME', and 'MI.GOV/PMH'. The year '2018' is printed vertically on both the left and right sides of the ticket.

PURE MICHIGAN HUNT

ENTER TODAY
TO WIN
THE HUNT
OF A
LIFETIME

MI.GOV/PMH

2018

Multi-species hunt and prize package valued at over **\$4,000!**

Each application only \$5

A hunter in camouflage gear and a yellow cap is posing with a large elk. The hunter is smiling and holding up the elk's antlers. The elk is lying on the ground in a field of green vegetation.

PURE MICHIGAN HUNT

Time Zones A & B: Hunting Hours for Elk ONLY

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time). For hunt dates not listed in the table, please consult your local newspaper.

Zone A Counties

Alpena
Presque Isle

Zone B Counties

Antrim
Charlevoix
Cheboygan
Crawford
Emmet
Montmorency
Oscoda
Otsego

2018/2019	Date	Time Zone A		Time Zone B	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Hunt Period 1 Aug. 28 - Aug. 31 Sept. 14 - Sept. 17 Sept. 28 - Oct. 1	Aug. 28	6:21	8:47	6:25	8:52
	Aug. 29	6:23	8:45	6:26	8:50
	Aug. 30	6:24	8:43	6:27	8:48
	Aug. 31	6:25	8:41	6:28	8:46
	Sept. 14	6:42	8:15	6:46	8:20
	Sept. 15	6:43	8:13	6:47	8:18
	Sept. 16	6:44	8:11	6:48	8:16
	Sept. 17	6:45	8:10	6:49	8:14
	Sept. 28	6:59	7:49	7:03	7:53
	Sept. 29	7:00	7:47	7:04	7:51
	Sept. 30	7:01	7:45	7:06	7:49
	Oct. 1	7:02	7:43	7:07	7:47
Hunt Period 2 Dec. 15 - Dec. 23	Dec. 15	7:35	5:22	7:42	5:24
	Dec. 16	7:36	5:23	7:42	5:24
	Dec. 17	7:37	5:23	7:43	5:25
	Dec. 18	7:37	5:23	7:44	5:25
	Dec. 19	7:38	5:24	7:44	5:26
	Dec. 20	7:38	5:24	7:45	5:26
	Dec. 21	7:39	5:25	7:45	5:27
	Dec. 22	7:39	5:25	7:46	5:27
	Dec. 23	7:40	5:26	7:46	5:28
Hunt Period 3 Jan. 16 - Jan. 19 <i>(If Needed)</i>	Jan. 16	7:37	5:50	7:43	5:52
	Jan. 17	7:36	5:51	7:42	5:53
	Jan. 18	7:36	5:52	7:42	5:54
	Jan. 19	7:35	5:53	7:41	5:56
Zones are hunting hour time zones NOT elk hunting areas. See pg. 10 for the counties within your assigned elk management unit. Hunt Times are only for elk hunting and not to be used for other species.					

2018 Elk Drawing and Weighted Lottery System

Hunters are selected for an elk hunting license using a random weighted drawing system that began in 2003. The pool of applicants is often 100 times greater than the number of licenses issued and only Michigan residents are eligible to apply to hunt. In each license drawing, those who are not selected receive one additional chance for future drawings. Only one additional chance will be awarded in a given year. Chances are reset to zero for all successful applicants, including those who choose not to purchase their license. In addition, those who purchase an elk license are subject to an ineligibility period for future drawings, during which time they are not eligible to apply for an elk license or chance, as explained on page 11.

An applicant's total number of entries in a given drawing is equal to his or her current application plus any additional chances earned in previous drawings. For example, a person who applies with three chances (earned in previous drawings) will have a total of four entries in the current drawing.

The weighted drawing system provides some advantage to hunters who apply consistently year after year while still offering an opportunity to all applicants, including those applying for the first time. However, there is no guarantee that every hunter will eventually draw an elk license regardless of the number of chances he or she earns.

The elk drawing system also ensures that the percentage of hunters selected from a given region (Upper Peninsula, Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP), and Southern Lower Peninsula) equals the percentage of individuals who applied from that region. For example, if 30 percent of all applicants reside in the NLP, 30 percent of selected hunters will be NLP residents.

Applicants may apply for an elk license, or for a chance only.

- **Chances are tracked by customer ID.** To ensure that all of 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-WILD (9453) before the application deadline to ensure your chances are combined under your current ID.
- **You must apply at least once every five years to retain your chances.** Elk chances are reset to zero for applicants who do not apply for five consecutive years. Chances reset under the previous three-year rule will not be restored.
- **Check your total chances at mi.gov/elk.**

How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

Eligibility

You must meet all of the following qualifications to be eligible to apply for an elk license or chance:

1. Be a Michigan resident - this includes qualified military personnel and full-time students attending a Michigan college or university who reside in the state during the school year.

2. Be eligible to purchase an elk hunting license for the current season. Be licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program or be 10 years of age or older by Aug. 28. Note: You must be at least 14 years of age to hunt with a firearm on public land.
3. Be licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program (see pg. 14), be hunter safety-certified, or an apprentice hunter (see page 14).
4. Have one of the following forms of customer identification:
 - Valid Michigan driver's license
 - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
 - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at mdnr-elicense.com).

Applying for a Hunt

The DNR issues two types of elk hunting licenses:

- (1) Any-elk — valid for taking either a bull or an antlerless elk;
- (2) Antlerless-only — valid for taking an antlerless elk only.

1. From table below, select your desired application type.

Application Type	
Bull or Antlerless	Eligible for any-elk license; if not selected, applicant is then eligible for an antlerless-only elk license
Bull Only	Eligible for any-elk license only, allowing harvest of a bull elk
Chance Only	Do not want to hunt this year, but want a chance for future use

2. Purchase your elk application type at any license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at mdnr-elicense.com. (It is unlawful to apply more than once.) It costs \$5 to apply. **A base license is not required for purchase of an elk application. Mentored Youths must be licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program to apply.**

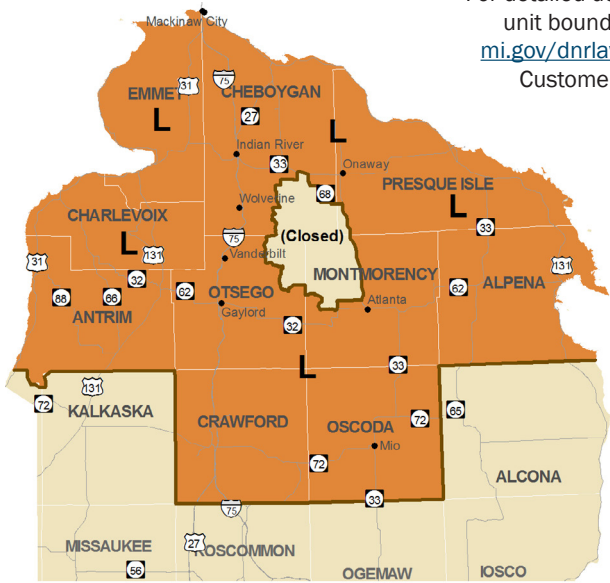
IMPORTANT:

You are responsible for submitting a valid application and obtaining a DNR receipt that states your correct customer ID and application type. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible. Check the receipt for accuracy and retain as proof that you applied. **Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline.** Applicants who submit an invalid application will be ineligible for the drawing.

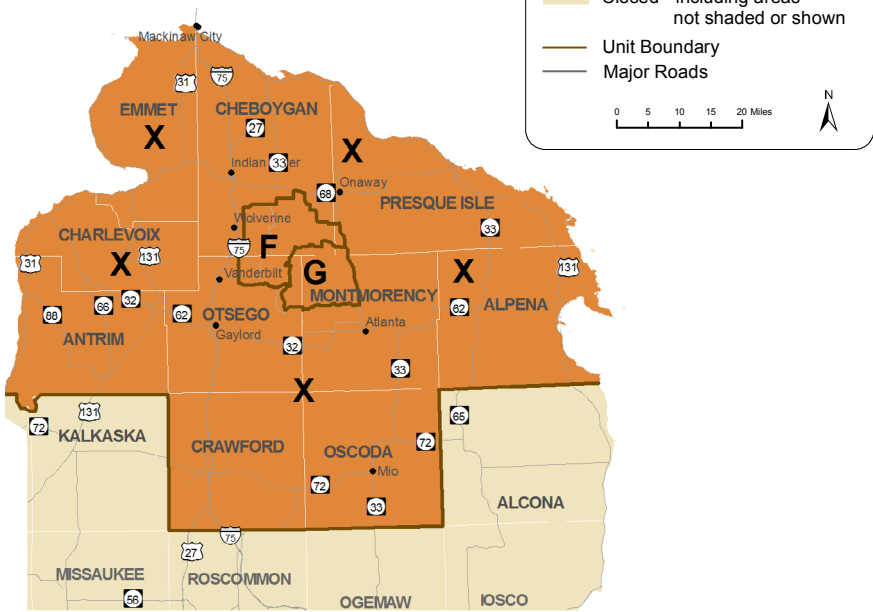
- For application assistance, call 517-284-WILD (9453).
- You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online.
- **Drawings results will be posted at mi.gov/elk on June 25.**

2018 Elk Management Units
August and September Hunts

For detailed descriptions of elk hunt unit boundaries, go online to mi.gov/dnr/laws or contact a DNR Customer Service Center.



December Hunt





Successful Applicants

Successful elk drawing applicants will be mailed detailed information about their hunt, including assigned hunt period, elk management unit, and type of license (any-elk or antlerless-only). Be sure your mailing address is kept up-to-date with the Secretary of State. Hunt assignments cannot be changed. Successful applicants must attend a mandatory hunt orientation class the day before their scheduled hunt (see page 12).

2018 Elk Seasons and License Quotas

Hunt Period	Season Dates	Elk Management Units (Public and Private Land)	Any-Elk License Quota	Antlerless-Only License Quota
1	Aug. 28 - Aug. 31 Sept. 14-17 Sept. 28 - Oct. 1	L	30	70
2	Dec. 15-23	F, G, X	30	70
3	Jan. 16-19, 2019	This hunt period will be held only if additional harvest is needed to achieve population management goals after hunt periods 1 and 2.		

Ineligibility Periods for Elk License Recipients

Those who are issued an elk license are subject to an ineligibility period for future elk drawings. This ineligibility period does not apply to Pure Michigan Hunt winners.

- **A person issued an antlerless-only elk license is ineligible to apply for, obtain, or purchase an elk license or chance for 10 years.** For example, those issued an antlerless-only license in 2012 are ineligible from 2013 through 2022.
- **A person issued an any-elk license is ineligible to apply for, obtain, or purchase a future elk license for the remainder of his or her life.**

License Purchase

If you are selected in the drawing, you may purchase your elk receipt online at mdnr-elastic.com or from any license agent.

- **Hunters may purchase their elk receipt only after they have obtained a base license for the year. This does not apply to a hunter with a mentored youth license.**
- Hunters must purchase their elk receipt prior to the elk hunt orientation class (see below) and bring it to the class. Elk hunting licenses will be issued upon completion of the class.
- Make sure the information on your receipt is accurate.
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred. However, successful applicants may transfer their drawing success to an unsuccessful youth applicant or any person with an advanced illness. See the “Elk Hunt Transfer Program” on page 13 for more information.

When hunting, you must carry your elk license and present upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

Required Licenses by Title and Age	Cost			
	Mentored Youth Age: Up to 9	Junior Age: 10-16	Resident Age: 17+	Senior Age: 65+
Application for License Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Base License	N/A Mentored Youth License \$7.50	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$5.00
Elk Receipt	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

Mandatory Elk Hunt Orientation Class

Successful applicants must attend a half-day training session near the elk hunt area on the day before their scheduled hunt. The location of the sessions will be provided to successful applicants. The training session will cover hunter safety, elk behavior, marksmanship, carcass handling, hunting rules and regulations, hunting tips, and recommended hunt locations. Following the session, hunters will be issued their licenses, along with materials and information to help their efforts afield.

Hunting for Michigan elk is challenging. Temperatures range from -20 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Many people walk for long periods over multiple days before having an opportunity to take an elk. Once taken, moving an animal roughly four times the size of a white-tailed deer can be difficult. Preseason scouting is important, as is good marksmanship and knowledge of the animal. Preparation for the hunt will increase the enjoyment of the elk hunting experience.

Elk Hunt Transfer Program

Successful elk drawing applicants may transfer their drawing success to an eligible person they know, or donate anonymously to individuals on the DNR transfer waiting list. Eligible individuals include:

- Youth hunters, age 16 and younger, who applied for an elk license and were unsuccessful in the current-year license drawing.
- Any person who has been diagnosed with an advanced illness*. An application for a license in the current-year 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 mi.gov/hunttransfers.

Eligible individuals can also register for the DNR transfer waiting list to receive a donated elk hunt. Visit mi.gov/hunttransfers for details and registration. Those interested must register online by **July 10**.

Elk chances are reset to zero for transfer recipients. Recipients are also ineligible for a future elk license per the timeframes noted on page 11.

How to Request a Hunt Transfer

Successful applicants who wish to transfer their drawing success must submit a transfer request form. Forms are available at mi.gov/hunttransfers. If a hunt recipient is not named on the form, the hunt will be offered to the next person on the DNR hunt waiting list.

Elk chances are reset to zero for all successful applicants, but those who transfer their drawing success remain eligible for a future elk license.

It is unlawful for an individual to receive a fee, other consideration, or service of value, either directly or indirectly, for transferring drawing success to another person, or assisting and/or guiding that person in the hunt that has been transferred.

* Advanced Illness is a medical condition that must be diagnosed and certified by a physician. Advanced Illness is defined by the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 [MCL - 333.5653]. See www.legislature.mi.gov.



Educators!

The next round of Elk University begins fall 2018!

Get elk education in your high school
visit mi.gov/dnr and click on education and safety

Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program

The MYH program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species, and also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk, and fall turkey. Mentors are limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow, and crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the youth hunter must be within arm’s length of the mentor at all times. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field.

Apprentice Hunting License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice’s parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian.

“Accompanied by” requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. For hunting elk, the accompanying hunter needs a 2018 elk hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same management unit or season dates as the apprentice. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

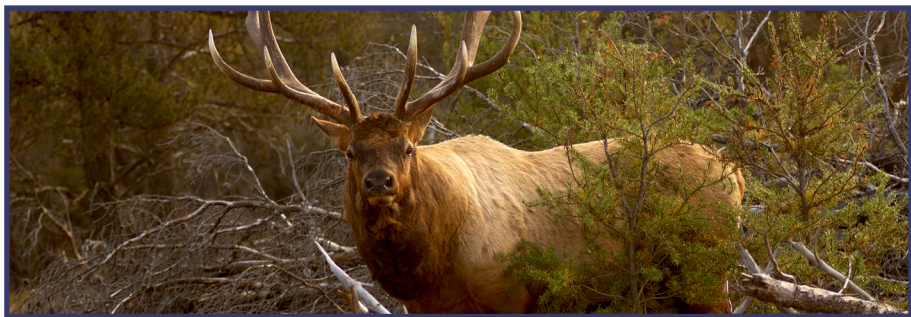
Elevated Platforms

It is legal to hunt elk, during legal hunting hours, from a raised platform, tree stands, or ground blinds on public lands from August 15 through five days after the close of the elk season for which the individual is licensed, or if successful, five days after harvesting an elk. The name and address, Michigan driver’s license, or DNR sportcard number must be affixed to the elevated platform, tree stand, or ground blind in legible English that can be easily read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts; however, a “T” bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer can be used.

Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is illegal to use any item that penetrates through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree.

Equipment Used to Take Elk

All firearms, crossbows, and bows that are legal for hunting deer in Michigan are also legal for elk hunting, except the use of buckshot is not allowed. Please refer to the current year Hunting and Trapping Digest for specifications.



Precaution about Lead in Wild Game

Elk that are shot with rifle bullets containing lead, particularly copper-jacketed and hollow-point bullets, can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt. Lead can be harmful to humans and wildlife, even in very low amounts. If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure from lead fragments, call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 and/or look through the information on the DNR website at mi.gov/wdm. You may also contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942 or visit mi.gov/mdhhs.

Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands must receive written authorization from the DNR. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit mi.gov/statelandpermission. Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any National Forest office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023 or, Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Support Sportsmen Against Hunger

The Department of Natural Resources encourages hunters to support the effort to provide processed wild game meat to local families in need. You can help in one of two simple ways. First, tell your license agent that you would like to make a cash donation when you purchase your hunting license. Second, consider donating a portion of your processed game (donations can be accepted only if the processing is done by a licensed processor). For more information, call 517-853-3663 or go online to sportsmenagainsthunger.org.

Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online.

Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga CSC

427 US-41 North
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. US-2
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

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

Escanaba CSC

6833 US-2 41 & 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 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

PO Box 287
W11569 US 2E.
Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

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

Norway Field Office

520 W. US-Hwy 2
Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

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

Roscommon CSC

I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie Field Office

PO Box 798
2001 Ashmun
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6161

Traverse City CSC

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

Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/michigandnr

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife

Hunter Education: mi.gov/huntereducation

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting and Trapping: mi.gov/hunting

Pure Michigan Hunt: mi.gov/puremichiganhunt

DNR Digests and Guides: mi.gov/dnrdigests

Mi-HUNT: mi.gov/mihunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: mi.gov/wetlandwonders

Invasive Species: mi.gov/invasivespecies

Shooting Ranges: mi.gov/shootingranges

Emerging Diseases: mi.gov/emergingdiseases

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan Street

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

517-284-WILD (9453)

Contact hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.