



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division Report No. 3571
July 2013

Printed by Authority of: P.A. 451 of 1994
Total Number of Copies Printed:30
Cost per Copy:\$1.75
Total Cost:\$52.50
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

2012 MICHIGAN ELK HUNTER SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Elk hunters were contacted after the 2012 hunting season to estimate hunter participation, hunter satisfaction, and elk seen and harvested. The number of available elk licenses was increased 30% compared to 2011, and licenses purchased, the number of individuals that hunted, and elk harvested increased accordingly. In 2012, an estimated 194 hunters spent about 973 days afield. Hunters reported 3,605 elk observations (\bar{x} = 18.5 elk seen /hunter), and they harvested 158 elk. About 81% of hunters harvested an elk in 2012. The average number of days required to harvest an elk was 6.2 days. Hunter success, the average number of days hunted, and elk seen per hunter increased significantly between 2011 and 2012. About 80% of hunters rated their overall hunting experience as very good or good. Nearly 79% of elk hunters (154) had a hunting guide assist with their hunt, and most of these hunters (85%) indicated guides increased the quality of their elk hunt.

INTRODUCTION

Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) were extirpated from Michigan in about 1875 (Murie 1951). The current elk herd was the result of a release of seven animals from various city parks and public institutions in 1918 about three miles southeast of Wolverine (Stephenson 1942). The herd grew steadily with estimates of 300-400 in 1939 (Shapton 1940) and 900 to 1,000 in 1958 (Moran 1973). During 1964-1965, 477 elk were harvested during limited elk hunting seasons to reduce crop damage; however, annual hunting seasons were not initiated until 1984. The objectives of the annual elk hunts were to balance elk numbers and distribution with ecological, economic, and social concerns. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) annually set license quotas for hunts with a goal of



A contribution of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Michigan Project W-147-R

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maintaining an elk population between 500 and 900 animals during the winter in the NLP (Michigan DNR 2012).

A limited number of hunters have been allowed to hunt elk in Michigan each year since 1984. Between 1984 and 2004, applicants for hunts each year had the same probability of being selected for a license (i.e., simple random selection among eligible applicants). In 2005, a random weighted lottery system was adopted, which gave people applying for many years a higher probability of being selected than people applying fewer years, although licensees were selected by region of residence in the same proportion as applications were received. This system was designed to provide some advantage to multi-year applicants while continuing to provide an opportunity to new applicants. This system assigned applicants a chance (opportunity to be selected) each year they had applied. Thus, a person applying in 2010, 2011, and 2012 would have three chances to be selected in the 2012 drawing, while someone only applying in 2012 would have just one chance. Applicants also had the option to purchase a chance only rather than applying for a license, thus increasing the probability of being selected in future drawings.

Two types of elk hunting licenses (Any Elk and Antlerless Only) were allocated among applicants using two separate drawings (one drawing for each license type) in 2012. Only Michigan residents who were at least 10 years of age before or during the hunt period could apply for licenses. The minimum age was reduced from 12 years to 10 years in 2012. When individuals applied for an elk license, they indicated whether they were willing to harvest only an antlered bull elk (male elk) or whether they were willing to harvest either an antlered bull or antlerless elk (female elk or calf). The first drawing (drawing for an Any Elk license) included all applicants. Applicants successful in the Any Elk license drawing could purchase a license entitling them to take either an antlered bull or antlerless elk. The second drawing (Antlerless Only license drawing) allocated antlerless-only elk licenses among applicants that had indicated they were willing to take an antlerless elk. Those successful in the Antlerless Only license drawing could only harvest an antlerless elk. A person issued an antlerless-only elk license was ineligible for an elk license for 10 years, while a person issued an any-elk license was ineligible for any type of elk hunting license during the remainder of their life.

The Pure Michigan Hunt (PMH) was a unique multi-species hunting opportunity offered for the first time in 2010. Individuals could purchase an unlimited number of applications for the PMH. Three individuals were randomly chosen from all applications, and winners received elk, bear, spring turkey, fall turkey, and antlerless deer hunting licenses and could participate in a reserved waterfowl hunt on a managed waterfowl area. The elk hunting licenses were valid for all areas open for hunting elk and during all elk hunting periods. Furthermore, the PMH license holder could hunt any season until their elk harvest tag was filled.

After the drawings for Any Elk and Antlerless Only licenses were conducted, the DNR assigned successful applicants to a hunt period and elk management unit, except elk hunters assigned to hunt in elk management units F or G could also hunt in elk Management Unit X (Figure 1). All successful applicants were required to attend a half-day orientation session the day before the hunt. Upon completion of this training, each successful applicant was issued their elk license along with other pertinent hunt information. In 2012, seven different types of

elk licenses were available, corresponding to the different combinations of type of elk, elk management units, and hunt periods for which applicants could be drawn (Table 1).

In 2012, the DNR allocated 203 licenses among 35,159 eligible applicants, excluding the PMH drawing (Table 1). Licenses were valid on all land ownership types. Hunters could only harvest one elk, and hunters with an antlerless-only license could not take an elk with antlers. Elk could be harvested with a firearm, crossbow, or archery equipment. Hunters using a crossbow were required to obtain a free crossbow stamp, except hunters with a disability already hunting under a DNR-issued crossbow permit did not need the stamp. Hunters could not use bait (e.g., grain, fruit, vegetables) to attract elk. Successful hunters were required to take their elk to an official checking station within 24 hours of killing an elk.

The NRC and DNR have the authority and responsibility to protect and manage the wildlife resources of the state of Michigan. Harvest surveys are one of the management tools used to accomplish this statutory responsibility. Estimating harvest, hunting effort, and hunter satisfaction are among the primary objectives of these surveys. Estimates derived from harvest surveys, as well as harvest reported by hunters at mandatory checking stations, and other indices, are used to monitor elk populations and establish harvest regulations.

METHODS

Following the 2012 elk hunting season, a questionnaire (Appendix A) was sent to everyone who obtained an elk hunting license for the 2012 hunting season (199 licensees). License buyers receiving the questionnaire were asked to report whether they hunted, number of days spent afield, hunt location, the number of elk seen, whether they harvested an elk, and the type of hunting equipment used. Hunters also reported whether other hunters caused interference during their hunt. Successful hunters were asked to report harvest location, sex of the elk taken, and type of hunting equipment used. Hunters also were asked to report how satisfied they were with the number of elk seen, number of opportunities they had to take an elk, and their overall elk hunting experience.

Although estimating harvest, hunter numbers, and hunting effort were the primary objectives of the harvest survey, this survey also provided an opportunity to collect information about management issues. Questions were added to determine how frequently hunters were assisted by hunting guides and what services were provided by these guides. In addition, hunters were asked about satisfaction with the hunter orientation session and hunting guides.

Estimates were calculated using a stratified random sampling design that included seven strata (Cochran 1977). Hunters were stratified based on their license type and the hunt period and unit for which their license was valid (Table 1). The estimate of the mean number of days required to harvest an elk was calculated using a different ratio for each stratum (i.e., separate ratio estimator). The number of elk registered from each stratum was used as an auxiliary variate to improve the precision of ratio estimates.

A 95% confidence limit (CL) was calculated for each estimate. In theory, the CL can be added and subtracted from the estimate to calculate the 95% confidence interval. The confidence

interval is a measure of the precision associated with the estimate and implies that the true value would be within this interval 95 times out of 100. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include failure of participants to provide answers (nonresponse bias), question wording, and question order. It is very difficult to measure these biases; thus, estimates were not adjusted for these possible biases.

Statistical tests are used routinely to determine the likelihood that the differences among estimates are larger than expected by chance alone. The overlap of 95% confidence intervals was used to determine whether estimates differed. Non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals was equivalent to stating that the difference between the means was larger than would be expected 995 out of 1,000 times, if the study had been repeated (Payton et al. 2003).

Questionnaires were mailed initially during mid-January 2013, and up to two follow-up questionnaires were mailed to nonrespondents. Questionnaires were returned by 166 people, yielding an 83% response rate.

RESULTS

In 2012, 206 licenses (including the Pure Michigan Hunt) were available for purchase, compared to 158 licenses available in 2011 (30% increase). In 2012, 199 elk hunting licenses were purchased (Table 1), a 29% increase from 2011 (154). Most of the people buying a license in 2012 were men (92%), and the average age of the license buyers was 53 years (Figure 2). About 2% of the license buyers (4) were younger than 17 years old. Among the license buyers that hunted elk in 2012, the average number of years they had hunted in Michigan was 38 ± 1 years. In addition, $42 \pm 3\%$ of these hunters had hunted elk (including outside of Michigan) prior to 2012.

Nearly $98 \pm 1\%$ of the license buyers hunted elk (194 hunters, Table 2). These hunters spent 973 days afield ($\bar{x} = 5.0$ days/hunter). Both the number of hunters and their hunting effort increased significantly between 2011 and 2012. Hunter numbers increased by 31% (194 versus 148 hunters) and hunting effort increased by 68% (973 versus 578 days). In addition, the number of days hunted per elk hunter increased significantly between 2011 and 2012 (5.0 versus 3.9 days hunted per hunter).

In 2012, hunters reported 3,605 elk observations ($\bar{x} = 18.5$ elk seen/hunter), and they harvested an estimated 158 elk. (Elk seen does not represent different animals seen because elk could be double counted and reported by multiple hunters.) Both the number of elk seen and elk harvested increased significantly between 2011 and 2012. The number of elk seen by hunters increased by 52% (3,651 versus 2,367 elk seen) and elk harvested increased by 40% (158 versus 113 elk harvested). In addition, the number of elk seen per hunter increased significantly between 2011 and 2012 (18.5 versus 16.0 elk per hunter).

Otsego, Montmorency, and Cheboygan county had the highest number of elk hunters and elk harvested during 2012 (Table 3). The average number of days hunted per harvested elk for all hunts was 6.2 days in 2012 (Table 2), which was significantly more than for 2011 (5.1 days).

About 29% of the elk hunters hunted on private lands only in 2012, 29% hunted on public lands only, and 40% hunted on both private and public lands (Table 4). Elk hunters spent 245 days afield on private land only, 306 days hunting on public land only, and 421 days hunting on both private and public lands (Table 5). Of the estimated 158 elk harvested in 2012, 53% of these elk (84) were taken on private land. About 46% of harvested elk (72) were taken on public land (Table 6).

Of the elk harvested, 38% were antlered bulls (60) and 62% were antlerless cows or calves (98; Table 7). Overall, 81% of hunters harvested an elk in 2012 (Table 2). Hunter success ranged from 62-100% among the hunt periods (Table 2). Hunter success increased significantly between 2011 and 2012 (81% versus 76%).

All hunters used firearms while hunting elk, and about 1% of hunters also used archery equipment (compound, recurve, or long bows). All elk taken in 2012 were harvested with a firearm. Moving the harvested elk from the kill site to a vehicle was accomplished by $43 \pm 4\%$ of the hunters themselves. While $55 \pm 4\%$ of the hunters received assistance from a hunting companion; $70 \pm 3\%$ of the hunters had assistance from a hunting guide; $15 \pm 3\%$ of the hunters had assistance from a landowner; and $13 \pm 2\%$ of the hunters received assistance from a DNR employee. Many successful hunters ($53 \pm 2\%$) registered their elk at a registration station, but nearly $47 \pm 2\%$ of elk were registered in the field by a DNR employee.

About 66% of elk hunters rated the number of elk seen during the 2012 hunting season as very good or good, and 20% rated elk seen as poor or very poor (Table 8). The proportion of hunters with a favorable opinion about the number of elk seen in 2012 increased significantly between 2012 and 2011 (66% versus 54%). About 57% of hunters rated the number of chances they had to take an elk during the 2012 hunting season as very good or good, and 23% rated their chances as poor or very poor (Table 9). The proportion of hunters with a favorable opinion about their chances to take an elk in 2012 was not different from the proportion reported in 2011 (57% versus 57%).

About 80% of hunters rated their hunting experiences as very good or good, and 10% rated their hunting experiences as poor or very poor (Table 10). The proportion of hunters with a favorable opinion about their hunting experiences in 2012 was not significantly different from the proportion reported in 2011 (80% versus 82%).

Hunter satisfaction was affected by many factors such as hunting success and whether hunting activities were completed without interference (Figure 3). In 2012, 8% of the hunters reported that interference was a major problem, while 30% experienced minor levels of interference (Table 11). The proportion of hunters that reported that interference was a major problem in 2012 was not significantly different than the proportion reported in 2011 (8% versus 6%). Among hunters reporting interference (major and minor interference combined) in 2012, the most common source of interference was another elk hunter ($79 \pm 4\%$), while $21 \pm 4\%$ of interfered hunters reported interference from other types of hunters.

Nearly 79% of elk hunters (154) had a hunting guide assist with their hunt (Table 12). Most hunters using a guide ($63 \pm 4\%$) reported their guide was always with them when they were hunting elk. Another $14 \pm 3\%$ of hunters with guides indicated their guide was present 75-99%

of the time while hunting, and $5 \pm 2\%$ of hunters reported their guide accompanied them 50-74% of the time. In contrast, about $16 \pm 3\%$ of hunters using guides reported their guide was with them in the field less than 50% of the time.

Among the hunters using a hunting guide, 81% of hunters (124) paid for the services provided by a guide. Hunters using guides most frequently (82%) paid between \$101 and \$1,000 for the guide services. Hunting guides most frequently selected the hunt area (88%), provided hunting advice (86%), and helped remove elk from the field (71%, Table 13).

The ability to provide a hunt area having elk (96%) and providing an area with a good chance of taking an elk (93%) were among the most important services wanted by hunters that had used a guide (Table 14). In addition, hunters using guides wanted their guide to use ethical hunting methods (90%). Having a guide with access to private lands was also important to most hunters (67%). Guide services such as providing hunting equipment (e.g., off-road vehicles), lodging, and food were generally not important factors for most hunters using a guide.

Overall, most hunters using a guide indicated that their guide had either greatly increased ($65 \pm 4\%$) or had increased ($20 \pm 3\%$) the quality of their elk hunt. In contrast, $10 \pm 3\%$ were neutral with their guide's service, and only $4 \pm 1\%$ of hunters indicated that their guide had decreased or greatly decreased the quality of their hunt.

Most hunters using a guide were satisfied by their guides' ability to provide a hunting area having elk (90%) and to provide an area where they had a chance to harvest an elk (90%, Table 15). In addition, most hunters (91%) indicated that their hunting guide used ethical hunting methods.

Most hunters indicated they were satisfied by the content of the DNR orientation session (89%, Table 16). Furthermore, most hunters ($\geq 79\%$) were satisfied by the facilities where the session occurred, the session length, and the handouts provided at the session.

When requested by hunters, DNR has opened gates to provide access for hunters to retrieve their elk from state land. Hunters were asked whether the DNR should continue to provide this service. Most hunters ($96 \pm 1\%$) indicated the DNR should continue to provide this service. None of the elk hunters disagreed with providing this service, and $3 \pm 1\%$ of hunters were not sure about continuing this service.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank all the elk hunters that provided information. Sheree Kershaw and Theresa Riebow completed data entry. The figure of elk management units and the area open to hunting was prepared by Marshall Strong. Sarah Cummins, Russ Mason, Cheryl Nelson, Doug Reeves, and Brent Rudolph reviewed a previous version of this report.

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2012 Elk Management Units Aug.-Sept. Hunt



2012 Elk Management Units Dec. Hunt



Figure 1. Elk management units open to hunting in Michigan, 2012

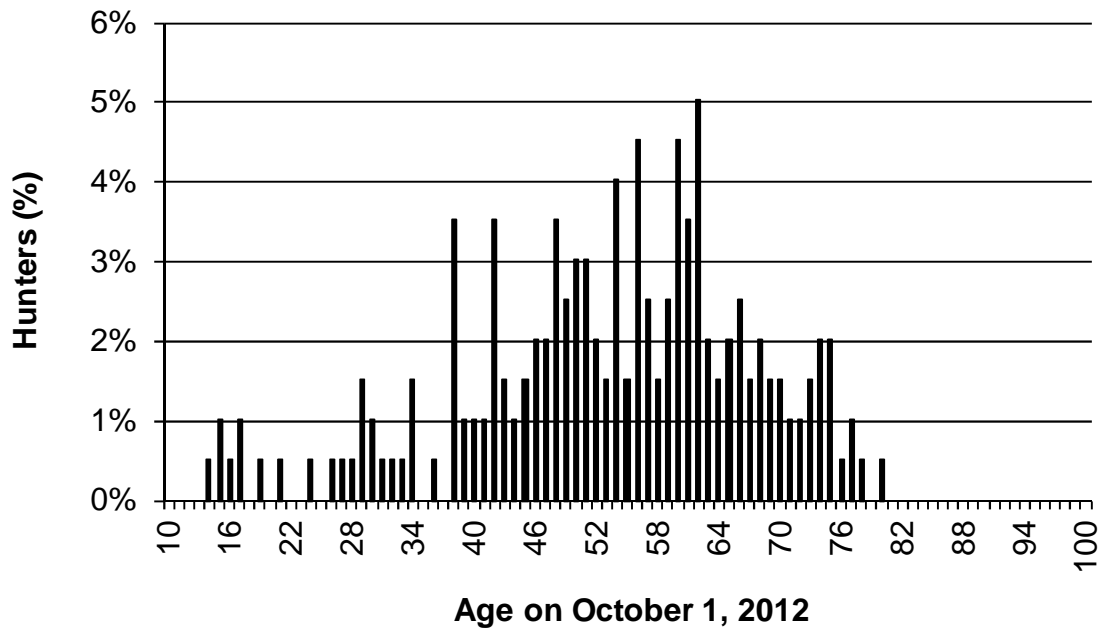


Figure 2. Age of people that purchased an elk hunting license in Michigan for the 2012 hunting season ($\bar{x} = 53$ years). Licenses were purchased by 199 people.



Figure 3. Estimated hunter satisfaction, hunting success, and level of hunter interference in Michigan's management units during the 2012 elk hunting season. Satisfaction measures the proportion of hunters rating their hunting experiences as very good or good. Interference was the proportion of hunters that reported major interference. Error bars represent the 95% confidence limit.

Table 1. Number of people purchasing hunting licenses for the 2012 Michigan elk hunting seasons, summarized by license.

License	Elk type ^a	Management unit ^b	Hunt dates	License quota	Licenses sold ^c
1101	Any elk	L	Aug. 28-31, Sep. 14-17, & Sep. 28-Oct.1	30	30
1201	Any elk	F	Dec. 8-16	10	9
1202	Any elk	G	Dec. 8-16	20	20
2101	Antlerless elk	L	Aug. 28-31, Sep. 14-17, & Sep. 28-Oct.1	70	69
2201	Antlerless elk	F	Dec. 8-16	30	29
2202	Antlerless elk	G	Dec. 8-16	40	39
2012	Pure Michigan Hunt ^d	All	All dates	3	3

^aHunters selected for an Any Elk license or Pure Michigan Hunt could harvest either an antlered bull elk or an antlerless elk. Hunters selected for an Antlerless Elk license could harvest an antlerless elk only.

^bSee Figure 1 for location of management units.

^cFewer licenses were sold than the number available because some successful applicants failed to purchase a license.

^dPure Michigan Hunt licenses were valid in all seasons and areas open for hunting elk.

Table 2. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, hunter success, hunting effort, and mean days hunted during the 2012 Michigan elk hunting season, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit ^a	Hunters		Harvest		Hunter success		Hunting effort		Days hunted per hunter (\bar{x})		Days hunted per harvested elk (\bar{x})	
	No.	95% CL ^b	No.	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b	Days	95% CL ^b	Days	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^b
1101 – L	30	0	29	1	96	4	167	18	5.6	0.6	5.8	0.9
1201 – F	9	0	9	0	100	0	25	4	2.8	0.5	2.8	0.5
1202 – G	19	1	19	1	100	0	46	4	2.4	0.2	2.4	0.2
2101 – L	67	1	41	3	62	5	437	29	6.6	0.4	10.6	1.1
2201 – F	29	0	20	3	70	9	140	21	4.8	0.7	6.9	1.9
2202 – G	38	1	37	1	97	3	138	18	3.6	0.5	3.8	0.5
2012 – All	3	0	3	0	100	0	21	14	7.0	4.5	7.0	4.5
All hunts ^c	194	2	158	4	81	2	973	46	5.0	0.2	6.2	0.4

^aEither an antlered bull elk or an antlerless elk could be taken in hunts 1101-1202 and 2012, while only antlerless elk could be taken in hunts 2101-2202.

^b95% confidence limits.

^cColumn totals may not equal totals for all hunts because of rounding error.

Table 2 (continued). Estimated number of elk seen, average number of elk seen per hunter, hunter satisfaction, and proportion of hunters reporting interference while hunting during the 2012 Michigan elk hunting season, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Elk seen ^a		Elk seen per hunter (\bar{x})		Hunter satisfaction ^b		Interfered hunters ^c	
	No.	95% CL ^d	No.	95% CL ^d	%	95% CL ^d	%	95% CL ^d
1101 – L	252	43	8.4	1.4	87	7	13	7
1201 – F	147	21	16.4	2.3	88	8	0	0
1202 – G	331	39	17.5	2.0	94	4	0	0
2101 – L	742	83	11.1	1.2	69	4	14	3
2201 – F	741	104	25.6	3.6	74	8	9	5
2202 – G	1,347	169	35.6	4.4	90	4	0	0
2012 – All	45	31	15.0	10.2	100	0	0	0
All hunts ^e	3,605	226	18.5	1.1	80	2	8	2

^aElk seen does not represent different animals seen because elk could be double counted and reported by multiple hunters.

^bSatisfaction measures the proportion of hunters rating their hunting experiences as very good or good.

^cInterference was the proportion of hunters that reported major interference.

^d95% confidence limits.

^eColumn totals may not equal totals for all hunts because of rounding error.

Table 3. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, hunter success, and hunting effort during the 2012 Michigan elk hunting season, summarized by county.

County	Hunters		Harvest		Hunter success		Hunting effort	
	No. ^a	95% CL ^b	No. ^c	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b	Days ^c	95% CL ^b
Alpena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlevoix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheboygan	58	6	29	4	50	6	235	29
Crawford	2	1	0	0	0	0	13	8
Emmet	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Montmorency	84	6	57	5	68	4	291	27
Oscoda	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	3
Otsego	84	6	60	6	71	5	357	33
Presque Isle	18	4	6	2	32	10	51	15
Unknown	14	3	6	2	42	11	19	9

^aColumn totals may not equal totals for all hunts because hunters could hunt in multiple counties.

^b95% confidence limits.

^cColumn totals may not equal totals for all hunts because of rounding error.

Table 3 (continued). Estimated hunter satisfaction, hunt interference, elk seen, and average number of elk seen per hunter during the 2012 Michigan elk hunting season, summarized by county.

County	Hunter satisfaction ^{a,b}		Interfered Hunters ^{a,c}		Elk seen ^{a,d}		Elk seen per hunter (\bar{x})	
	%	95% CL ^e	%	95% CL ^e	No.	95% CL ^e	No.	95% CL ^e
Alpena ^f	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Antrim ^f	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Charlevoix ^f	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Cheboygan	71	5	12	4	797	138	13.8	2.0
Crawford	49	27	0	0	2	2	1.0	0.5
Emmet	100	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Montmorency	89	3	6	2	1,460	157	17.4	1.7
Oscoda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Otsego	84	4	9	3	1,122	166	13.4	1.7
Presque Isle	75	8	7	6	113	33	6.1	1.4
Unknown	66	11	17	9	110	58	7.7	3.6

^aColumn totals may not equal totals for all hunts because of rounding error.

^bSatisfaction measures the proportion of hunters rating their hunting experiences as very good or good.

^cInterference was the proportion of hunters that reported major interference.

^dElk seen does not represent different animals seen because elk could be double counted and reported by multiple hunters.

^e95% confidence limits.

^fNo hunters reported hunting elk in this county.

Table 4. Estimated number and proportion of hunters hunting on private and public lands during the 2012 elk hunting season, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Land type															
	Private land only				Public land only				Both private and public lands				Unknown land			
	95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a		95% CL ^a	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
1101 – L	10	3	35	10	7	2	22	8	13	3	43	10	0	0	0	0
1201 – F	3	1	38	12	3	1	38	12	2	1	25	11	0	0	0	0
1202 – G	9	1	47	8	4	1	24	7	4	1	24	7	1	1	6	4
2101 – L	22	3	33	4	13	2	19	4	32	3	48	5	0	0	0	0
2201 – F	1	1	4	4	13	3	43	9	14	3	48	9	1	1	4	4
2202 – G	11	3	29	7	16	3	42	7	10	3	26	7	1	1	3	3
2012 – All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
All hunts	57	5	29	3	55	6	29	3	57	6	40	3	4	2	2	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 5. Estimated number of days of hunting effort on private and public lands during the 2012 Michigan elk hunting season, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Land type							
	Private lands		Public lands		Both private and public lands		Unknown	
	Days	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	51	13	50	18	67	20	0	0
1201 – F	6	2	11	5	8	3	0	0
1202 – G	19	4	12	3	13	4	1	1
2101 – L	118	19	84	18	235	32	0	0
2201 – F	9	4	72	21	59	17	0	0
2202 – G	39	10	63	17	35	11	0	0
2012 – All	3	3	14	15	5	5	0	0
All hunts	245	26	306	40	421	43	1	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 6. Land type when elk were harvested during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Land type											
	Private land				Public land				Unknown			
	%	95% CL ^a	Total	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	Total	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	Total	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	64	10	18	3	36	10	10	3	0	0	0	0
1201 – F	50	12	5	1	50	12	5	1	0	0	0	0
1202 – G	65	7	12	1	29	7	6	1	6	4	1	1
2101 – L	58	6	24	3	42	6	17	3	0	0	0	0
2201 – F	25	10	5	2	75	10	15	3	0	0	0	0
2202 – G	47	8	17	3	53	8	20	3	0	0	0	0
2012 – All	100	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All hunts	53	3	84	6	46	3	72	6	1	0	1	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 7. Proportion and number of elk harvested by type of animal during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit ^a	Type of elk harvested							
	Antlered bull elk				Antlerless elk			
	%	95% CL ^b	No.	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b	No.	95% CL ^b
1101 – L	100	0	29	1	0	0	0	0
1201 – F	100	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
1202 – G	100	0	19	1	0	0	0	0
2101 – L	0	0	0	0	100	0	41	3
2201 – F	0	0	0	0	100	0	20	3
2202 – G	0	0	0	0	100	0	37	1
2012 – All	100	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
All hunts	38	1	60	1	62	1	98	4

^aEither an antlered bull elk or an antlerless elk could be taken in hunts 1101-1202 and 2012, while only antlerless elk could be taken in hunts 2101-2202.

^b95% confidence limits.

Table 8. Hunters' level of satisfaction with the number of elk seen during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Satisfaction level							
	Very good/good		Neutral		Poor/very poor		No answer or not applicable	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	61	10	17	8	22	8	0	0
1201 – F	88	8	0	0	0	0	13	8
1202 – G	88	5	6	4	6	4	0	0
2101 – L	40	5	21	4	36	5	3	2
2201 – F	70	9	13	6	17	7	0	0
2202 – G	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012 – All	50	57	0	0	50	57	0	0
All hunts	66	3	12	2	20	2	2	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 9. Hunters' level of satisfaction with their opportunities to harvest an elk during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Satisfaction level							
	Very good/good		Neutral		Poor/very poor		No answer or not applicable	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	57	10	17	8	22	8	4	4
1201 – F	88	8	0	0	0	0	13	8
1202 – G	88	5	6	4	6	4	0	0
2101 – L	33	4	19	4	41	5	7	2
2201 – F	48	9	17	7	26	8	9	5
2202 – G	87	5	10	4	3	3	0	0
2012 – All	50	57	50	57	0	0	0	0
All hunts	57	2	15	2	23	2	5	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 10. Hunters' level of satisfaction with their overall hunting experience during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Satisfaction level							
	Very good/good		Neutral		Poor/very poor		No answer or not applicable	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	87	7	13	7	0	0	0	0
1201 – F	88	8	0	0	0	0	13	8
1202 – G	94	4	6	4	0	0	0	0
2101 – L	69	4	9	3	19	4	3	2
2201 – F	74	8	0	0	17	7	9	5
2202 – G	90	4	3	3	6	4	0	0
2012 – All	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All hunts	80	2	6	2	10	2	3	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 11. Proportion of hunters reporting interference from other people during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan, summarized by license type and unit.

License – Unit	Level of interference							
	Major problem		Minor problem		No problem		No answer	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
1101 – L	13	7	30	9	52	10	4	4
1201 – F	0	0	50	12	50	12	0	0
1202 – G	0	0	35	7	65	7	0	0
2101 – L	14	3	28	4	59	5	0	0
2201 – F	9	5	22	8	70	9	0	0
2202 – G	0	0	35	7	61	7	3	3
2012 – All	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0
All hunts ^b	8	2	30	3	61	3	1	1

^a95% confidence limits.

^bRow totals may equal more than 100% because rounding error.

Table 12. Proportion and number of hunters using guides and amount paid for guide services during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan.

Item	Elk hunters			
	%	95% CL ^a	Number	95% CL ^a
Used a guide	79	3	154	5
Paid for guide ^b	81	3	124	6
Amount paid for guide ^b				
\$1-100	6	2	7	2
\$101-500	22	3	28	4
\$501-1,000	60	4	75	6
\$1,001-2,000	8	2	10	3
\$2,001-3,000	1	1	1	1
More than \$3,000	0	0	0	0
Unknown	3	1	4	2

^a95% confidence limits.

^bEstimates for hunters that reported using a hunting guide.

Table 13. Proportion and number of hunters reporting various services from hunting guides during the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan.

Service provided by guide	Elk hunters ^a			
	%	95% CL ^b	Number	95% CL ^b
Hunting advice	86	3	132	6
Food	15	2	22	4
Lodging	15	3	23	4
Equipment	22	3	34	5
Selected hunt area	88	3	135	6
Removed elk from field	71	3	109	6
Delivered elk to meat processor	16	3	25	4
Processed meat	1	1	1	1

^aEstimates for hunters that reported using a hunting guide.

^b95% confidence limits.

Table 14. Proportion of elk hunters indicating various services were important when selecting an elk hunting guide in Michigan, 2012.

Service provided by guide	Level of importance									
	Very important		Somewhat important		Not important		Not sure		No answer	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
Access to area with elk	96	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	1
Area with good chance of taking elk	93	2	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	1
Access to private lands	67	3	19	3	8	2	4	1	2	1
Food during hunt	7	2	2	1	81	3	3	1	6	2
Lodging	7	2	9	2	76	3	2	1	5	2
Equipment	34	3	27	3	32	3	2	1	5	1
Process elk	19	3	24	3	49	4	2	1	5	2
Ethical hunter	90	2	3	1	2	1	0	0	5	1

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 15. Proportion of elk hunters satisfied with their hunting guide's ability to provide various services during their 2012 elk hunt in Michigan.

Service provided by guide	Satisfaction level									
	Satisfied		Neutral		Dissatisfied		Not applicable		No answer	
	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a
Area with good chance to see an elk	90	2	5	1	4	2	0	0	2	1
Area with good chance to take an elk	90	2	6	2	3	2	0	0	1	1
Food	19	3	15	2	2	1	57	4	8	2
Lodging	20	3	13	2	2	1	56	4	8	2
Equipment (e.g., horses, ORV, etc.)	54	3	13	2	1	1	29	3	3	1
Process elk	32	3	9	2	2	1	51	4	6	2
Ethical hunting methods	91	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	5	2

^a95% confidence limits.

Table 16. Hunters' level of satisfaction with the hunter orientation session held before the 2012 elk hunting season in Michigan.

Session item	Satisfaction level ^a							
	Satisfied		Neutral		Dissatisfied		No answer	
	%	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b	%	95% CL ^b
Session content	89	2	6	1	5	1	0	0
Facilities	87	2	7	2	5	2	1	0
Session length	79	3	13	2	7	2	1	1
Usefulness of handouts	82	2	7	2	8	1	3	1

^aRow totals may equal more than 100% because of rounding error.

^b95% confidence limits.

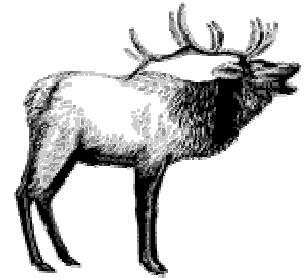
Appendix A

2012 Michigan Elk Harvest Questionnaire



2012 MICHIGAN ELK HUNTING SURVEY

This information is requested under authority of Part 435, 1994 PA 451, M.C.L. 324.43539.



Our survey provides you with a unique opportunity to directly affect the management of elk in Michigan. It is important that you complete this questionnaire even if you did not hunt or harvest an elk in Michigan this past year.

General Hunting Questions

1. About how many years have you hunted in Michigan? _____ Years
2. About how many years have you hunted elk prior to 2012 (including outside of Michigan)? _____ Years

Elk Hunter Orientation Program Questions

3. How satisfied were you with the elk hunter orientation session?

(Select one answer for each item listed below.)

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
a. Session Content.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Facilities.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Length of session.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Usefulness of handouts (informational flyers, maps, etc.).	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>

Elk Hunting Questions

4. Did you hunt elk in Michigan during the 2012 season?

¹ ☐ Yes ² ☐ No, you are done with the survey.

5. Please report the number of days for each county that you hunted elk and the number of elk seen during your hunt period in the following table.

COUNTY HUNTED	NUMBER OF DAYS HUNTED IN SEASON	TYPE OF LAND (Record land ownership type where hunting occurred)	NUMBER OF ELK SEEN
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private ² <input type="checkbox"/> Public ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private ² <input type="checkbox"/> Public ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private ² <input type="checkbox"/> Public ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private ² <input type="checkbox"/> Public ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private ² <input type="checkbox"/> Public ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both	

6. Did you hunt with a firearm, crossbow, or bow during the 2012 elk season?
(select all that apply)

¹ ☐ Firearm ² ☐ Crossbow ³ ☐ Bow (recurve, compound, or long bow)

7. Did you take an elk and put your kill tag on the elk? (If no, please skip to question 9)

¹ ☐ Yes ² ☐ No, skip to #9

8. If your harvest tag was put on a elk, please answer the following:

- a. What was the type of elk taken?

¹ ☐ Antlered bull ² ☐ Antlerless elk (e.g., cow or calf)

- b. In what county was it harvested? (Please write in the county name)

- c. On what type of land was the elk harvested?

¹ ☐ Private ² ☐ Public ³ ☐ Not sure

- d. What device was used to harvest your elk?

¹ ☐ Firearm ² ☐ Crossbow ³ ☐ Bow (recurve, compound, or long bow)

- e. Who helped move your elk from the kill site to a vehicle? (Select all that apply)

¹ ☐ Myself ² ☐ Hunting companions ³ ☐ Guide ⁴ ☐ DNR employee ⁵ ☐ Landowner

- f. Where did you register your elk?

¹ ☐ In the field by DNR employee ² ☐ At DNR registration station

9. While you were elk hunting, how much did interference from other people affect your hunt?

¹ ☐ Major problem ² ☐ Minor problem ³ ☐ Not a problem, skip to #11

10. If you experienced interference, what was the source of the interference?

(Select all that apply)

¹ ☐ Other elk hunters ² ☐ Other hunters, not including elk hunters ³ ☐ DNR employees

⁴ ☐ Other (Please specify _____)

11. How would you rate the following for your 2012 elk hunting season:

(Select one choice per item.)

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Not Applicable
a. Number of elk you saw.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Number of opportunities you had to take an elk.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Your overall elk hunting experience.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>

Questions Regarding Elk Hunter Preferences for Regulations

12. When requested by hunters, the DNR has opened gates to provide access for hunters to retrieve their elk from state land. Do you agree or disagree the DNR should continue to provide this service? (select one)

¹ ☐ Strongly Agree ² ☐ Agree ³ ☐ Not Sure ⁴ ☐ Disagree ⁵ ☐ Strongly Disagree

Elk Hunting Guide Questions

13. Did you have a guide help you during a portion or your entire elk hunt? ¹ ☐ Yes ² ☐ No, you are done with the survey.

14. Did you pay the guide for their help? ¹ ☐ Yes ² ☐ No, skip to #16

15. What did you pay your hunting guide for their help?

¹ ☐ \$1-100 ² ☐ \$101-500 ³ ☐ \$501-1,000 ⁴ ☐ \$1,001-2,000
⁵ ☐ \$2,001-3,000 ⁶ ☐ More than \$3,000 ⁷ ☐ Other (please specify: _____)

16. If you used a hunting guide, please indicate what services were provided by the guide? (Select all that apply)

¹ ☐ Hunting advice ² ☐ Food ³ ☐ Lodging ⁴ ☐ Equipment
⁵ ☐ Selected hunt area ⁶ ☐ Removed the killed elk from field ⁷ ☐ Delivered elk to meat processor ⁸ ☐ Processed meat
⁹ ☐ Other (Please specify _____)

17. What percentage of your time did the guide accompany you while elk hunting?

1 ☐ 0% 2 ☐ 1-24% 3 ☐ 25-49% 4 ☐ 50-74% 5 ☐ 75-99% 6 ☐ 100%

18. How important to you are each of the following when selecting a hunting guide for elk in Michigan?

(Select one answer for each item listed below.)

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all Important	Not sure
a. Guide has access to hunt area with good chance of seeing elk.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Guide has access to hunt area with good chance of taking an elk.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Guide provided access to private land.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Guide provides food during hunt.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Guide provides lodging during hunt.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
f. Guide provides equipment for hunt (horses, off-road vehicles).	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
g. Guide helps process the harvested animal.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
h. Guide uses legal and ethical hunting methods.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
i. Other (please specify: _____)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>

19. How satisfied were you with your guide's ability to provide the following services during your elk hunt in Michigan?

(Select one answer for each item listed below.)

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
a. Guide provided a hunt area with good chance of seeing elk.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Guide provided a hunt area with good chance of taking an elk.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Guide provided food during hunt.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Guide provided lodging during hunt.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Guide provided equipment for hunt (horses, off-road vehicles).	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
f. Guide helped process the harvested animal.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
g. Guide used legal and ethical hunting methods.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other (please specify: _____)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>

20. Overall, did the guide increase or decrease the quality of your elk hunt? (Select one.)

1 ☐ Greatly increased 2 ☐ Increased 3 ☐ Neutral 4 ☐ Decreased 5 ☐ Greatly decreased

Please return questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Thank you for your help!

www.michigan.gov/dnr