

2010 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report

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Introduction

A limited number of licenses are offered to Minnesota residents to hunt elk. Currently, there are 2 established zones; 1) Kittson County, and 2) near Grygla, Minnesota (Figures 1 and 2). Within those 2 zones, there were 2 hunts each. The early hunt is structured so that it falls within the breeding season when bull elk are most vulnerable. The late season is used as a mechanism to harvest antlerless elk because patterns are more predictable and elk are in larger groups.

Methods

All elk hunters are required to attend a mandatory orientation and if successful, they must register their animal through the local DNR office. Kill locations are mapped and various data are collected, including age/sex as well as biological samples for disease testing and other monitoring projects.

Results

A total of 11 licenses were available and 871 individuals applied for the opportunity to hunt elk (Table 1). As the number of either-sex licenses is limited, DNR receives an application for the area only. After winners are selected, the time period and license type is distributed through a second random drawing. In 2010, a total of 8 elk were harvested in the both zones (Table 2). Long-term elk harvest for the 2 zones is depicted in Table 3.

Table 1. License allocation and applications numbers for 2 Minnesota elk hunting zones, 2010.

Zone	Either-Sex	Antlerless	Total	Total Applicants
10 – Grygla	2	5	7	644
20 – Kittson	1	3	4	227
Total	3	8	11	871

Table 2. Distribution of the 2010 Minnesota elk harvest. License allocation totals represent the actual number sold, not the number authorized through rule.

Grygla Hunt Zone

Season	Either-Sex Licenses	Antlerless Licenses	Bulls taken	Antlerless taken	Total elk taken
September 18 - 26	2	0	1 (6x7)	N/A	1
December 4 - 12	0	5	N/A	3	3
Total	2	5	1	3	4

Kittson Hunt Zone

Season	Either-Sex Licenses	Antlerless Licenses	Bulls taken	Antlerless taken	Total elk taken
September 18 - 26	1	1	1 (6x6)	1	2
December 4 - 12	0	2	N/A	2	2
Total	1	3	1	3	4

Table 3. Grygla and Kittson County elk harvests, 1987-2010.

Year	Grygla			
	Bulls (or Either-Sex)		Antlerless	
	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest
1987	2	1	2	1
1996	2	2	7 (1 alternate)	6
1997	5 (2 alternate)	1	5 (2 alternate)	2
1998	4 (2 alternate)	2	0	0
2004	1	1	4	2
2005	1	0	4	0
2006	2	2	6	2
2007	0	0	6	6
2008	2	2	10	6
2009	2	3*	12	11
2010	2	1	5	3
Total	23	15	61	39

*One bull was a sub-legal spike and was legally tagged as an antlerless animal.

Year	Kittson County (Combined)			
	Bulls (or Either-Sex)		Antlerless	
	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest
2008	1	1	10	10
2009	12	9*	4	5
2010	1	1	3	3
Total	14	11*	17	18

*One additional bull (6x7) was wounded but not retrieved in 2009. It was found dead later and is counted in the total.

Figure 1. Kittson Hunt Zone.

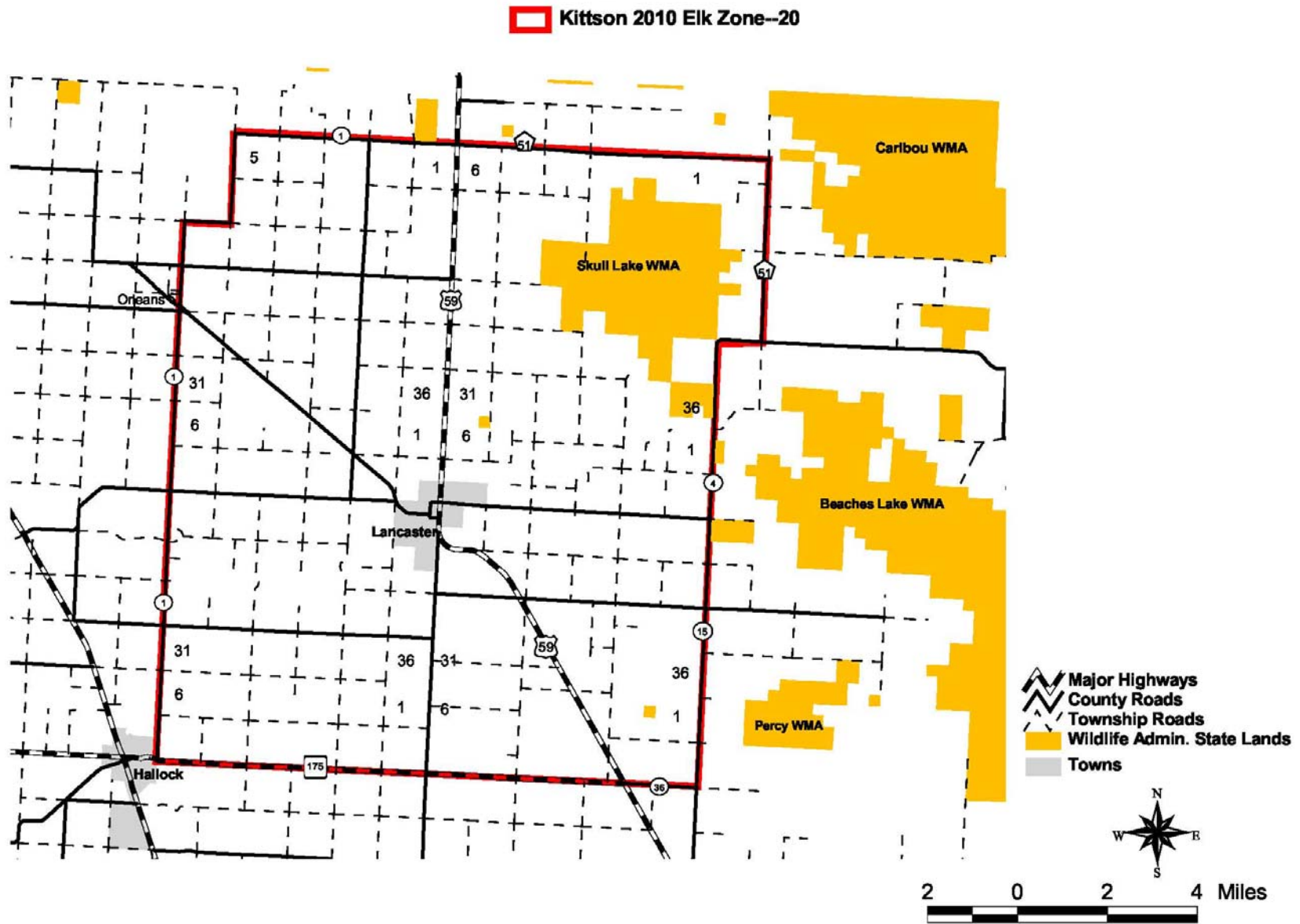


Figure 2. Grygla Hunt Zone.

