

## 2011 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report

Erik Thorson, Acting Big Game Program Coordinator

Joel Huener, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager

Christine Reisz, Acting Area Wildlife Supervisor

### Introduction

A limited number of licenses are offered to Minnesota residents to hunt elk. In 2011, there were 2 established zones; 1) near Grygla, Minnesota, and 2) Kittson County (Figures 1 and 2). Within those 2 zones, there were two regular hunts in each. The early hunt is structured so that it falls within the breeding season when bull elk are most vulnerable and elk can be located by vocalizations. The late season is primarily used as a mechanism to harvest antlerless elk because patterns are more predictable, elk are in larger groups, and snow cover, when present, can aid in locating and tracking animals. In 2011, unsuccessful hunters from the September and December seasons were authorized to hunt in a special January 14-22, 2012 antlerless-only extended season in the Kittson County zone.

### 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 13 licenses were available and 687 individuals or parties 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 2011, a total of 9 elk were harvested in the both zones (Table 2). Long-term elk harvest for the 2 zones is depicted in Table 3 on pages 3 and 4.

Table 1. License allocation and applications numbers for 2 Minnesota elk hunting zones, 2011.

Zone	Either-Sex	Antlerless	Total	Total Applicants
10 – Grygla	3	2	5	433
20 – Kittson County	2	6	8	254
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>687</b>

Table 2. Distribution of the 2011 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 17 - 25	2	0	1 (6x7)	0	1
December 3 - 11	1	2	1 (7x8)	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

### Kittson County Hunt Zone

Season	Either-Sex Licenses	Antlerless Licenses	Bulls taken	Antlerless taken	Total elk taken
September 17 – 25	1	3	1 (7x7)	2	3
December 3- 11	1	3	1 (6x7)	0	1
January 14-22 (extended season)	0	5*	1 (calf)	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

\*7 hunters were invited back for a special extended season hunt, 4 with unfilled tags from previous Kittson County hunts and 3 were hunters with unfilled tags from September & December from the Grygla hunt zone, however only 5 parties actually participated in this hunt, of which two were from Grygla and three were from Kittson County.

Table 3. Grygla and Kittson County elk harvests, 1987-2011.

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
2011	3	2	2	0
Total	26	17	63	39

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

**Kittson County (Combined)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bulls (or Either-Sex)</b>		<b>Antlerless</b>	
	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2008	1	1	10	10
2009	12	9*	4	5
2010	1	1	3	3
2011	2	3**	8***	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14*</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>

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

\*\*One bull was a male calf and was legally tagged as an antlerless animal.

\*\*\*3 unsuccessful hunters from the Grygla zone were invited to participate in the January extended season in Kittson County, however only 2 participated and were included in the number of antlerless permits issued.

Figure 1. Grygla Hunt Zone.

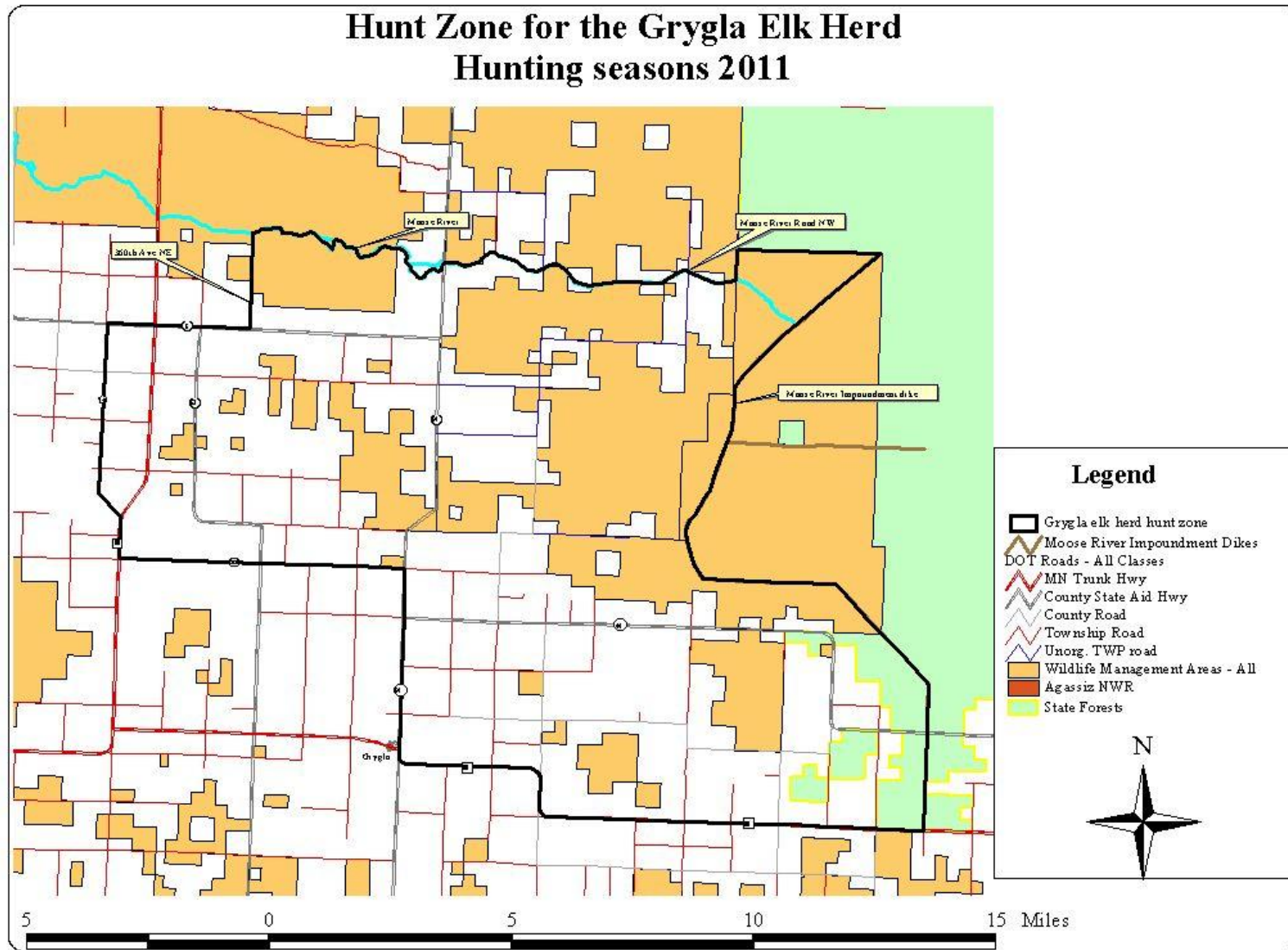


Figure 2. Kittson County Hunt Zone.

