

## 2012 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report

Leslie McInenly, Big Game Program Leader

Joel Huener, Wildlife Area Manager

Christine Reisz, Area Wildlife Manager

### Introduction

A limited number of licenses are offered to Minnesota residents to hunt elk. In 2012, there were three established zones; 1) Zone 10 near Grygla, Minnesota, 2) Zone 20 - Kittson County Central and 3) Zone 30 - Kittson County Northeast (Figures 1 and 2). In 2012, there were three regular season hunts (September 15-23; December 1-9; December 15-23). Hunts were held during the first season in all zones, during the second season in zones 10 and 20, and during the third season only in zone 20. 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 2012, unsuccessful hunters from the September and December seasons were authorized to hunt in a special January 12-20, 2013, antlerless-only extended season in the Kittson County zone to help meet population objectives.

### 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 23 licenses were available and 1127 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 2012, a total of 8 elk were harvested in the zones (Table 2). Long-term elk harvest for the zones is depicted in Table 3 on pages 3 and 4.

Table 1. License allocation and application numbers for three elk hunting zones, 2012.

Zone	Either-Sex	Antlerless	Bull-only	Total	Total Applicants
10 – Grygla	2	3	0	5	471
20 – Kittson Central	3	13	0	16	442
30 – Kittson NE	0	0	2	2	214
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1127</b>

Table 2. Distribution of the 2012 Minnesota elk harvest. License allocation totals represent the actual number sold, not the number authorized through rule.

### Grygla Hunt Zone (10)

Season	Either-Sex Licenses	Antlerless Licenses	Bulls taken	Antlerless taken	Total elk taken
September 15 - 23	2	0	1 (5x5)	0	1
December 1 - 9	0	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### Kittson County Central Hunt Zone (20)

Season	Either-Sex Licenses	Antlerless Licenses	Bulls taken	Antlerless taken	Total elk taken
September 15 - 23	1	5	3 (2 bulls*, 1calf)	1	4
December 1 - 9	1	4	0	0	0
December 15 - 23	1	4	0	0	0
January 12-20 (extended season)	0	11**	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

\* One sub-legal spike bull was illegally harvested and subsequently confiscated. One 8x8 bull was also harvested.

\*\* Hunters/parties with unfilled tags from Zone 20 were invited back for a special extended season hunt. Six parties hunted during the period from January 12-15; five parties hunted during the period from January 17-20. One cow was harvested in each of the extended season periods.

### Kittson County Northeast Hunt Zone (30)

Season	Bull-only Licenses	Bulls taken	Total elk taken
September 15 - 23	2	1 (6x6)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 3. Grygla and Kittson County elk harvests, 1987-2012.

<b>Grygla</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Bulls (or Either-Sex)</b>		<b>Antlerless</b>	
	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
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
2012	2	1	3	0
Total	28	19	66	39

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

<b>Kittson County (Combined)</b>				
<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 <sup>a</sup>	4	5
2010	1	1	3	3
2011	2	3 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>c</sup>	4
2012	5	4 <sup>d</sup>	13	3
Total	21	18	38	25

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

<sup>b</sup> One bull was a male calf and was legally tagged as an antlerless animal.

<sup>c</sup> Three 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.

<sup>d</sup> One bull was a sub-legal spike and was confiscated.

Figure 1. Grygla Hunt Zone.

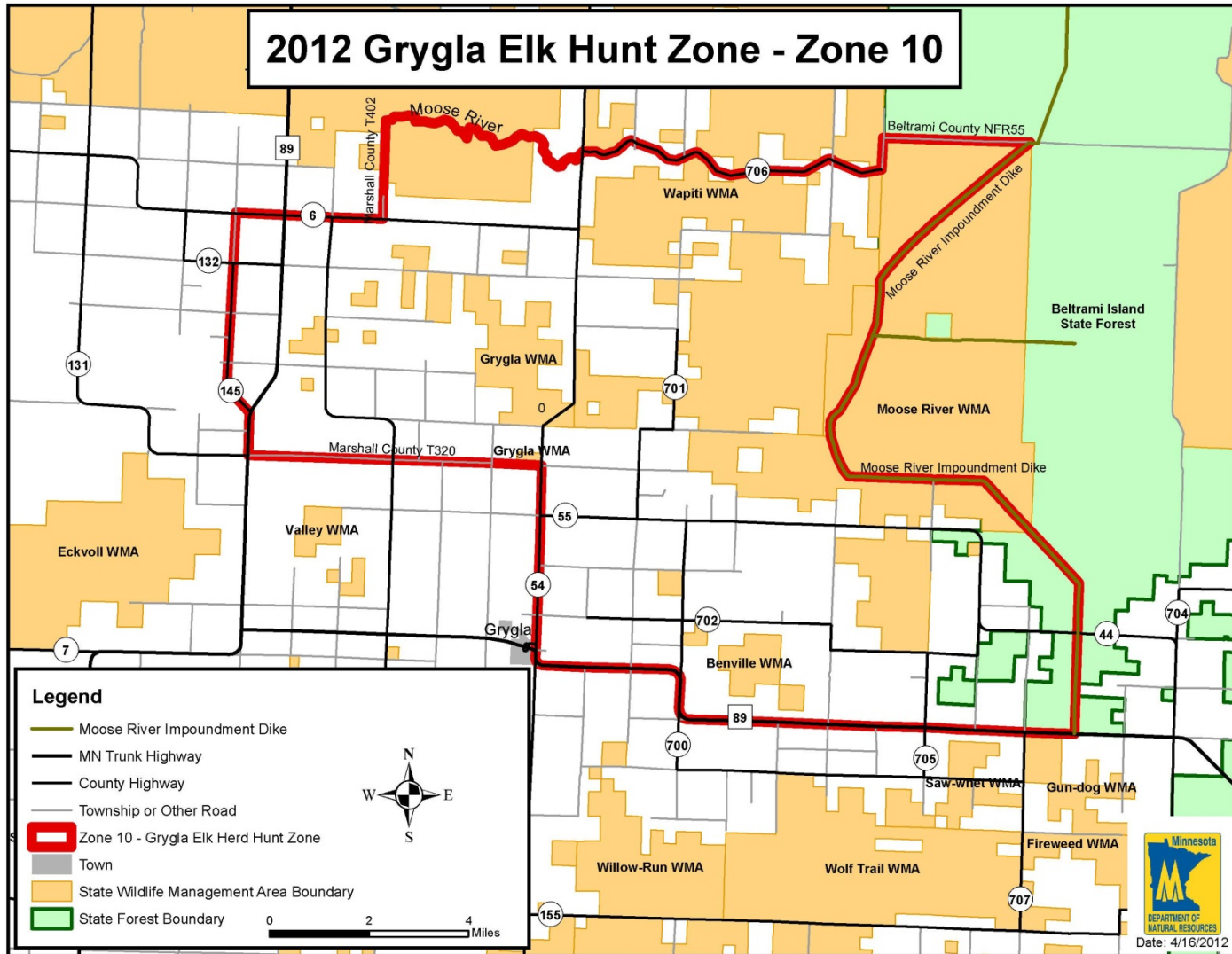


Figure 2. Kittson County Hunt Zones.

