

Elk Hunting in Ontario



The Ontario government is pleased to announce the first elk hunt in the province since the restoration of elk to Ontario in the late 1990s. The restoration of elk is a significant achievement for the province, made possible by the many partners who contributed to bringing elk back to Ontario.

The goal of Ontario's *Elk Management Plan* is to support self-sustaining elk populations in the province that can provide a range of benefits to Ontarians. The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed the following items to support healthy and sustainable elk populations in Ontario, and to create hunting opportunities in the province where self-sustaining elk populations exist:

- Elk Population Objective Setting Guidelines and a specific population objective for the Bancroft-North Hastings area,
- Elk Harvest Management Guidelines and the regulations to support them, and
- Elk Draw System to distribute hunting opportunities to hunters.

ontario.ca/elk

How can you hunt for elk in Ontario?

To hunt elk in Ontario a hunter needs:

A Resident Outdoors Card (hunting version) and an **elk licence tag**, and must either:

- Have been issued a **seal** which specifies the sex of animal that may be harvested and where; **OR**
- Have **applied to the elk draw in a group** with a hunter who has received a seal.

Where and when is there an open season for elk hunting?

- For 2011, Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, and 63A have an open season for hunting elk.
- Although an entire WMU has an open season, the area where an elk licence and seal is valid will be restricted to a smaller portion of the WMU called a Harvest Area. These Harvest Areas are highlighted in the map below. This approach will support effective elk population management. Detailed information on Harvest Area boundaries for elk will be available in the 2011 *Hunting Regulations Summary*.
- The open season for elk is one week long and takes place from the 3rd Monday in September to the following Sunday. In 2011 this is September 19th to September 25th.

Elk Hunting Areas in Ontario



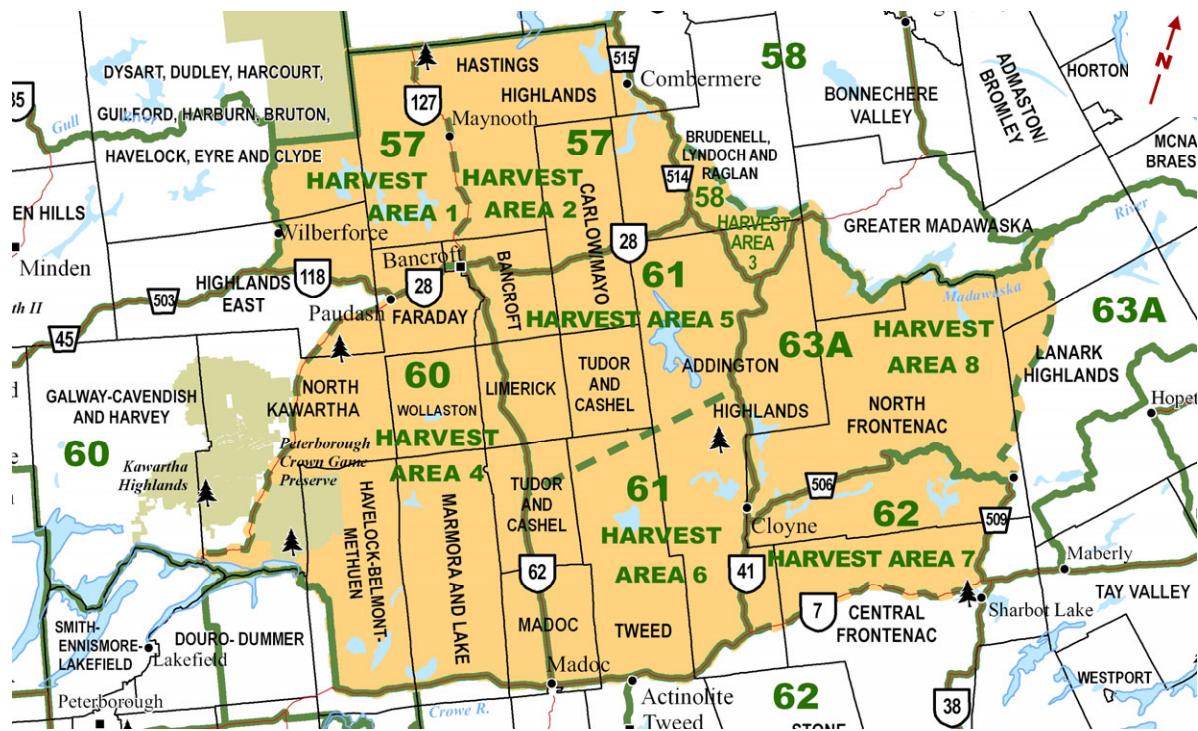
Wildlife Management Unit
(WMU) boundary and number



Harvest Area for elk



Each WMU with an open season contains one or more Harvest Areas. Each elk licence and seal will not be valid for the entire WMU, but only for the Harvest Area specified.



How many elk seals are available each year?



- The elk seal quota for each Harvest Area is determined as part of the harvest planning process each year that a hunt takes place.
- The quota depends on the number of animals that can be sustainably harvested as well as on estimated hunter success.
- The quota for each Harvest Area will appear in the annual *Hunting Regulations Summary*.

How can hunters apply for an elk seal and licence?

Make sure to check the annual *Hunting Regulations Summary* or visit ontario.ca/hunting for important dates and details about applying to the elk draw.

Step 1 Submit an application to the elk draw

- Each hunter pays an application fee to enter the draw. You can apply as an individual or as a group of up to four hunters on one application. You will only need to purchase a licence if you (or a member of your group) are successful in the draw. On your application, you may:
 - Indicate two choices for WMU and Harvest Area. The animal type (i.e. bull or cow) will be randomly assigned.
 - Include up to three additional group members (see modified party hunting information on Page 4). Only apply once – if you are listed as a member of a group on an application, do not submit a separate application for yourself.

Step 2 The random draw takes place

- If drawn, you will be notified of your success and be able to purchase an elk licence. Successful applicants will be assigned an elk seal for an area (i.e. one of the WMU/Harvest Area choices you indicated on your application) and for an animal type (i.e. bull or cow).
- Any members of a successful applicant's group will also be notified and be able to purchase an elk licence.
- As an applicant successfully drawn for a seal you are not eligible to receive another elk seal for the next five years.

Step 3 Purchase your licence and seal

- If you are a successful applicant you are able to purchase an elk licence and will receive a seal.
- If you are part of a group with a successful applicant, you are also able to purchase an elk licence, but will not receive a seal. Only one seal is issued per group.
- Under certain circumstances, elk seals may be transferred to another group member if the seal recipient is unable to hunt.

Step 4 Get ready for the elk hunting season...

Make sure you are aware of the regulations that apply to elk hunting. Elk hunting regulations are described on the next page.

What you need to know about hunting elk in Ontario...

Information about elk hunting regulations:

- All classes of firearms are permitted when hunting elk (i.e. bows, rifles, shotguns and muzzleloading guns).
The same firearm restrictions that apply for moose hunting also apply to elk hunting (e.g. minimum draw weights, broadheads only, minimum shot size, centre-fire rifles only, etc.)
- The use of dogs is not permitted when hunting elk.
- Party hunting rules are modified when elk hunting. See information below.
- Reporting is mandatory for each person who receives an elk seal.
Hunters are also asked to register harvested elk at a voluntary check station for the collection of biological samples. Information about the location of check stations will be distributed with each seal.
- Written landowner permission is required in order to hunt elk on private land.
- Elk hunters are required to wear hunter orange.

Information about Modified Party Hunting for elk:

- Party hunting for elk is limited to a maximum of four hunters: the seal holder and up to three group members who apply to the draw together. This limit does not include Apprentice Hunters.
Hunters who apply to the draw together as a group are the only individuals able to party hunt with an applicant who is issued a seal. If you apply individually you will not be able to party hunt.
- Multiple elk hunting parties may not hunt cooperatively.
- After the draw, any individuals in a group with a successful applicant are able to purchase an elk licence.
A seal is only issued to the successful applicant but can be attached to an elk harvested by any licensed member of the group. If a group member is unable to hunt, the group will not be permitted to select a replacement member.
- Apart from the differences outlined above, all other party hunting rules apply to modified party hunting for elk.

Please check the annual *Hunting Regulations Summary* or visit ontario.ca/hunting for information about:

- Elk hunting regulations, and
- Important dates and details about applying to the elk draw and purchasing an elk licence.

