

Montana 2020 Elk Counts

Elk are counted in winter or spring by aircraft. It is not possible to count all elk in a hunting district and elk plan objectives are based on "Observed Elk", which may be elk observed on trend areas in some cases. Counting elk is an inexact exercise subject to a multitude of weather and timing variables and elk movements between hunting districts. Therefore, counts in some years may not accurately reflect elk numbers and better counts from previous years are reported. In 2020, several scheduled surveys were unable to be completed due to constraints from the COVID-19 virus.

| Hunting District(s) | Elk Management Unit (EMU) | Elk Plan Objective | Objective Range | Most Recent Elk Count | Year of Count | Status - Over, At or Below Objective |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 100 | PURCELL | 300 | 240-360 | 138 | 2009 | Below |
| 101 | SALISH | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| 102 | SALISH | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| 103 | SALISH | 260 | 208-312 | 230 | 2017 | At |
| 104 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 225 | 180-270 | 128 | 2008 | Below |
| 109, 110 | WHITEFISH | 600 | 480-720 | 452 | 2005 | Below |
| 120 | SALISH | 110 | 88-132 | 125 | 2010 | At |
| 121 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 1,355 | 1,084-1,626 | 1,418 | 2019 | At |
| 122 | SALISH | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| 123 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 365 | 292-438 | 428 | 2019 | At |
| 124 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 130 | 104-156 | 138 | 2008 | At |
| 132, 170 | NORTH SWAN | No numerical objective. The Elk Plan objective is "a small elk population" | | | | |
| 130, 140, 141 | BOB MARSHALL | 150-320 | 150-320 | 102 | 2019 | Below |
| 150, 151 | BOB MARSHALL | 310-500 | 310-500 | 198 | 2019 | Below |
| Region 1 Total | | 3,805-4,165 | 3,136-4,834 | 3,357 | | At |
| 200 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 300 | 240-360 | 266 | 2019 | At |
| 201 | NINEMILE | 600 | 480-720 | 832 | 2019 | Over |
| N Portion of 202 | LOWER CLARK FORK | 350 | 280-420 | 291 | 2019 | At |
| 203 | NINEMILE | 950 | 760-1,140 | 853 | 2019 | At |
| 204 | ROCK CREEK | 600 | 480-720 | 891 | 2019 | Over |
| 210, 211 | ROCK CREEK & SAPPHIRE CREEK | 1,450 | 1,160-1,740 | 2,311 | 2020 | Over |
| 212 | FLINT CK | 400 | 320-480 | 1,200 | 2019 | Over |
| 213 | FLINT CK | 750 | 600-900 | 661 | 2019 | At |
| 214 | SAPPHIRE | 450 | 360-540 | 331 | 2017 | Below |
| 215 | DEER LODGE | 1,400 | 1,120-1,680 | 2,476 | 2020 | Over |
| 216 | ROCK CREEK | 325 | 260-390 | 557 | 2020 | Over |
| 217 | FLINT CK | 600 | 480-720 | 688 | 2020 | At |
| 240 | BITTERROOT | 1,000 | 800-1,200 | 1,010 | 2019 | At |
| 250 | WEST FORK | 1,400 | 1,120-1,680 | 901 | 2019 | Below |
| 260 | BITTERROOT | 50 | 40-60 | 123 | 2019 | Over |
| 261, 262 | ROCK CREEK | 700 | 560-840 | 857 | 2019 | Over |
| 270 | SAPPHIRE | 3,800 | 3,040-4,560 | 4,069 | 2019 | At |
| 280 | BOB MARSHALL | No wintering elk | | | | |
| 281 | BOB MARSHALL | 500-700 | 500-700 | 370 | 2019 | Below |
| W 283 (N. Hills/Evaro) | GARNET | 300 | 240-360 | 146 | 2019 | Below |
| Central 283 (Jumbo) | GARNET | 90 | 72-108 | 89 | 2019 | At |
| E 283 (Gold-Belmont) | GARNET | 300 | 240-360 | 119 | 2019 | Below |
| 282, 285 | BOB MARSHALL | 900-1,100 | 900-1,100 | 643 | 2020 | Under |
| 291 | GARNET | 600 | 480-720 | 762 | 2020 | Over |
| 292 | GARNET | 800 | 640-960 | 691 | 2019 | At |
| 284, 293 | GRANITE BUTTE | 750 | 600-900 | 542 | 2020 | Below |
| 290, 298 | GARNET | 600 | 480-720 | 865 | 2019 | Over |
| Region 2 Total | | 19,965-20,362 | 16,252-24,078 | 22,544 | | At |
| 300 | TENDOY | 800 | 700-900 | 1,112 | 2019 | Over |

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| 301, 309 | GALLATIN/MADISON | 500 | 400-600 | 495 | 2020 | At |
| 302 | TENDOY | 625 | 550-700 | 1,295 | 2019 | Over |
| 310 | GALLATIN/MADISON | 1,500 | 1,200-1,800 | 636 | 2019 | Below |
| 311 | GALLATIN/MADISON | 2,500 | 2,000-3,000 | 2,219 | 2020 | At |
| 312 | BRIDGER | 600 | 480-720 | 1,574 | 2020 | Over |
| 313 | NORTHERN YELLOWSTONE | 4,000 | 3,000-5,000 | 5,738 | 2018 | Over |
| 314 | GALLATIN/MADISON | 3,000 | 2,400-3,600 | 3,704 | 2019 | Over |
| 315 | CRAZY MOUNTAINS | 1,000 | 800-1,200 | 1,085 | 2018 | At |
| 316 | NORTHERN YELLOWSTONE | No wintering elk | | | | |
| 317 | ABSAROKA | 900 | 720-1,080 | 1,414 | 2019 | Over |
| 318 | DEER LODGE | 500 | 400-600 | 562 | 2019 | At |
| 319 | FLEECER | 955 | 812-1,100 | 1,048 | 2020 | At |
| 320, 333 | TOBACCO ROOT | 1,000 | 800-1,200 | 1,427 | 2020 | Over |
| 321 | SAPPHIRE | No wintering elk | | | | |
| 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 330 | GRAVELLY | 8,000 | 6,400-9,600 | 10,600 | 2020 | Over |
| 328 | TENDOY | 625 | 550-700 | 796 | 2019 | Over |
| 329 | PIONEER | 830 | 760-900 | 1,112 | 2019 | Over |
| 331 | PIONEER | 1,290 | 1,180-1,400 | 753 | 2019 | Below |
| 332 | PIONEER | 830 | 760-900 | 742 | 2019 | Below |
| 334 | SAPPHIRE | No wintering elk | | | | |
| 335 | DEER LODGE | 600 | 480-720 | 780 | 2018 | Over |
| 339, 343 | GRANITE BUTTE | 1,400 | 1,120-1,680 | 1,957 | 2020 | Over |
| 340 | HIGHLAND | 1,000 | 850-1,150 | 1,224 | 2019 | Over |
| 350, 370 | HIGHLAND | 600 | 510-690 | 799 | 2019 | Over |
| 341 | FLEECER | 525 | 438-600 | 444 | 2020 | At |
| N 360 | GALLATIN-MADISON | 1,200 | 960-1,440 | 1,524 | 2020 | Over |
| S 360, 362 | GALLATIN-MADISON | 3,500 | 2,800-4,200 | 4,449 | 2020 | Over |
| 361 | GALLATIN-MADISON | No stated objective. | | | | |
| 380 | ELKHORN | 2,000 | 1,700-2,300 | 2,416 | 2020 | Over |
| 388 | GRANITE BUTTE | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| 390 | BRIDGER | 900 | 720-1,080 | 1,803 | 2019 | Over |
| 391 | BRIDGER | 975 | 780-1,170 | 1,539 | 2018 | Over |
| 392 | WEST BIG BELT | 400 | 320-480 | 289 | 2018 | Below |
| 393 | BRIDGER | 1,500 | 1,200-1,800 | 3,038 | 2018 | Over |
| Region 3 Total | | 44,055 | 35,940-52,390 | 56,574 | | Over |
| 400, 403, 404, 405, 406, 419, 444, 471 | GOLDEN TRIANGLE | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| 401 | SWEETGRASS HILLS | 350 | 280-420 | 515 | 2020 | Over |
| 410 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 2,000-2,300 | 2,000-2,300 | 3,253 | 2020 | Over |
| W 411, 511 | SNOWY | 400 | 320-480 | 762 | 2020 | Over |
| E 411, 530 | SNOWY | 400 | 320-480 | 6,624 | 2019 | Over |
| 412 | SNOWY | 300 | 240-360 | 617 | 2020 | Over |
| 413 | LITTLE BELT | 500 | 400-600 | 438 | 2020 | At |
| 415 | BOB MARSHALL | 200 | 160-240 | 247 | 2020 | Over |
| 416 | LITTLE BELT | 475 | 380-570 | 1,549 | 2020 | Over |
| 417 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 375 | 350-400 | 1,970 | 2019 | Over |
| 418 | LITTLE BELT | 150 | 120-180 | 295 | 2020 | Over |
| 420, 448 | LITTLE BELT | 1,200 | 960-1,440 | 1,001 | 2020 | At |
| 421, 423 | BIRDTAIL | 500 | 400-600 | 698 | 2020 | Over |
| 422 | BOB MARSHALL | 500 | 450-550 | 1,088 | 2020 | Over |
| 424, 425, 442 | BOB MARSHALL | 2,500 | 2,250-2,750 | 2,278 | 2020 | At |
| 426 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 75 | 75-75 | 367 | 2020 | Over |
| 432 | LITTLE BELT | 325 | 260-390 | 540 | 2020 | Over |

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| 441 | BOB MARSHALL | 500 | 400-600 | 602 | 2020 | Over |
| 445, 455 | DEVIL'S KITCHEN | 2,500 | 2,000-3,000 | 4,032 | 2020 | Over |
| 446 | EAST BIG BELT | 950 | 760-1,140 | 2,182 | 2020 | Over |
| 447 | HIGHWOOD | 700 | 560-840 | 1,321 | 2020 | Over |
| 449, 452 | CASTLE MOUNTAIN | 600 | 480-720 | 1,151 | 2020 | Over |
| 450 | TETON | 87 | 75-100 | 513 | 2020 | Over |
| 451 | BRIDGER | 275 | 220-330 | 469 | 2020 | Over |
| 454 | LITTLE BELT | 250 | 200-300 | 180 | 2020 | Below |
| Region 4 Total | | 16,263 | 13,660-18,865 | 32,692 | | Over |
| 500 | MID-YELLOWSTONE | 60 | 48-72 | 270 | 2018 | Over |
| 502, 510 | MID-YELLOWSTONE | 60 | 48-72 | 164 | 2019 | Over |
| 511 | SNOWY | Counted with W 411 - see above | | | | |
| 520 | ABSAROKA | 1,050 | 840-1,260 | 879 | 2020 | At |
| 530 | SNOWY | Counted with E 411 - see above | | | | |
| 540 | LITTLE BELT | 600 | 480-720 | 1,950 | 2020 | Over |
| 560 | ABSAROKA | 700 | 560-840 | 1,872 | 2019 | Over |
| 570 | MID-YELLOWSTONE | 100 | 80-120 | 690 | 2020 | Over |
| 575 | MID-YELLOWSTONE | 225 | 180-270 | 1,185 | 2020 | Over |
| 580 | CRAZY MOUNTAINS | 975 | 780-1,170 | 4,649 | 2020 | Over |
| 590 Bull Mtns | BULL MOUNTAINS | 750 | 600-900 | 2,690 | 2019 | Over |
| 590 Pine Ridge | BULL MOUNTAINS | 300 | 240-360 | 353 | 2018 | At |
| Region 5 Total | | 4,820 | 3,856-5,784 | 14,702 | | Over |
| 600, 611, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652, 670 | HI LINE | Elk Plan Objective is "As low as possible" | | No surveys are flown | | |
| 620, 621, 622 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 1,400-1,650 | 1,400-1,650 | 1,662 | 2018 | Over |
| 630, 631, 632 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 300-350 | 300-350 | 632 | 2018 | Over |
| 680, 690 | BEARS PAW | 250 | 225-275 | 647 | 2018 | Over |
| Region 6 Total | | 1,950-2,500 | 1,925-2,275 | 2,941 | | Over |
| 700, 701 | MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS | 200-300 | 200-300 | 1,237 | 2020 | Over |
| 702, 704, 705 | CUSTER FOREST | 500 | 400-600 | 2,104 | 2020 | Over |
| 703 | HI LINE | No stated objective, no wintering elk or no survey flown. | | | | |
| Region 7 Total | | 700-800 | 600-900 | 3,341 | | Over |
| STATE TOTAL | | 92,138 | | 136,151 | | Over |