

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

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

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