

**2012 Clam Lake and Black River Elk Management Plan  
Public Input Survey – Summary of Results  
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**Overview**

The responses to the elk reintroduction survey provided the DNR and our many partners in elk restoration with an understanding of the public’s awareness of and experience with Wisconsin’s wild elk herd, and the level of support for further establishment of wild elk herds in the Clam Lake area and Black River State Forest.

The following is a summary of responses of those who chose to fill out the survey, and is not necessarily an indication of, or intended to portray, the overall knowledge or support for elk by all citizens of the state.

**Total surveys completed**

2,775 (online)

**Survey Questions**

1. Have you ever viewed elk in the wild (not at a zoo, hunting preserve or game farm)? **Check all that apply.**

	Frequency	Percent
No	736	26.65
Yes, I've viewed Wisconsin's wild elk herd	258	9.34
Yes, I've viewed wild elk outside Wisconsin	1,390	50.33
Both yeses	378	13.69

Frequency Missing = 13

2. Prior to reading this survey, were you aware that Wisconsin has a wild elk herd in the Clam Lake area? **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
No	335	12.07
I knew Wisconsin had a wild elk herd but did not know where	319	11.5
Yes, I knew Wisconsin had a wild elk herd in the Clam Lake area	2,121	76.43

Frequency Missing = 0

3. Have you ever traveled to Clam Lake to look for elk?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	781	36.87
No	1,337	63.13

Frequency Missing = 3

- 3a.** How far did you travel one-way to look for elk (miles)? *Average: 145.79 miles*

	Frequency	Percent
0	5	0.68
1-20	65	8.86
21-50	154	20.98
51-100	151	20.57
101-200	188	25.61
201-300	117	15.94
300+	54	7.36

Frequency Missing = 47

**3b.** Approximately how much, if anything, did you spend on your last trip to look for elk in Wisconsin? (Consider any equipment, food, lodging, gasoline.) Please just provide your best estimate. *Average: \$162.99*

	Frequency	Percent
\$0	39	5.45
\$1-25	124	17.32
\$26-50	117	16.34
\$51-100	118	16.48
\$101-200	141	19.69
\$201-300	82	11.45
\$300+	95	13.27

Frequency Missing = 65

4. If the elk herd in the *Clam Lake area* was increased, how likely would you be to visit the area to view elk *within 1 year* of elk being reintroduced? Please check your likelihood of viewing elk in the area. **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
Very likely	819	30.27
Fairly likely	898	33.19
Fairly unlikely	568	20.99
Very unlikely	421	15.56

Frequency Missing = 69

5. If a new herd was introduced to the *Black River State Forest*, how likely would you be to visit the area to view elk *within 1 year* of elk being reintroduced? Please check your likelihood of viewing elk in the area. **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
Very likely	1,046	38.7
Fairly likely	734	27.16
Fairly unlikely	479	17.72
Very unlikely	444	16.43

Frequency Missing = 72

6. Rather than thinking about restoring elk to a specific area in Wisconsin, in general, how strongly do you support or oppose just the idea of restoring elk to the state? **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly support	2,020	74.7
Moderately support	301	11.13
Neither support nor oppose	104	3.85
Moderately oppose	81	3
Strongly oppose	198	7.32

Frequency Missing = 71

7. Your support or opposition to restoring elk to Wisconsin may be influenced by some of the following considerations. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statement as they relate to reintroducing a wild elk herd to Wisconsin. **Check one for each statement.**

**Part 1. Potential benefits of an elk reintroduction.**

Reintroducing elk will bring tourists to the elk area.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	1,186	44.99
Probably agree	913	34.64
Unsure	240	9.1
Probably disagree	186	7.06
Definitely disagree	111	4.21

Frequency Missing = 139

Reintroducing elk will create jobs in the elk area.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	570	21.74
Probably agree	777	29.63
Unsure	780	29.75
Probably disagree	305	11.63
Definitely disagree	190	7.25

Frequency Missing = 153

I want the chance to see elk in Wisconsin's wild.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	1,893	72.06
Probably agree	404	15.38
Unsure	95	3.62
Probably disagree	95	3.62
Definitely disagree	140	5.33

Frequency Missing = 148

I like the idea of restoring a species that once lived in Wisconsin.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	2,011	76.46
Probably agree	306	11.63
Unsure	96	3.65
Probably disagree	84	3.19
Definitely disagree	133	5.06

Frequency Missing = 145

## Part 2. Potential damage from elk.

I am concerned about the potential for elk to introduce wildlife diseases.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	225	8.57
Probably agree	315	12
Unsure	527	20.07
Probably disagree	901	34.31
Definitely disagree	658	25.06

Frequency Missing = 149

I am concerned that reintroduced elk could possibly contract a wildlife disease (such as CWD).

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	236	8.97
Probably agree	491	18.66
Unsure	610	23.19
Probably disagree	793	30.14
Definitely disagree	501	19.04

Frequency Missing = 144

I am concerned about possible damage to commercial crops (pasture, grain, vegetables, fruits) by elk.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	196	7.46
Probably agree	384	14.62
Unsure	404	15.38
Probably disagree	963	36.67
Definitely disagree	679	25.86

Frequency Missing = 149

I am concerned about possible damage to tree farms by elk.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	157	6
Probably agree	315	12.04
Unsure	452	17.27
Probably disagree	947	36.19
Definitely disagree	746	28.51

Frequency Missing = 158

I am concerned about possible damage to timber production by elk.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	129	4.96
Probably agree	202	7.76
Unsure	370	14.22
Probably disagree	935	35.93
Definitely disagree	966	37.13

Frequency Missing = 173

Wild elk would compete for habitat (food, shelter) with other wildlife.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	302	11.54
Probably agree	692	26.43
Unsure	381	14.55
Probably disagree	660	25.21
Definitely disagree	583	22.27

Frequency Missing = 157

### Part 3. Potential impact of elk on recreations.

I am concerned about possibly hitting an elk with my car.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	206	7.85
Probably agree	427	16.27
Unsure	247	9.41
Probably disagree	891	33.96
Definitely disagree	853	32.51

Frequency Missing = 151

I am concerned that ATV riding would be limited in the elk area.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	186	7.11
Probably agree	289	11.05
Unsure	357	13.65
Probably disagree	680	26.00
Definitely disagree	1,103	42.18

Frequency Missing = 160

I am concerned that snowmobiling would be limited in the elk area.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	192	7.38
Probably agree	272	10.45
Unsure	369	14.18
Probably disagree	676	25.97
Definitely disagree	1,094	42.03

Frequency Missing = 172

I am concerned that elk might reduce the number of deer in the area.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	161	6.15
Probably agree	253	9.67
Unsure	453	17.32
Probably disagree	780	29.82
Definitely disagree	969	37.04

Frequency Missing = 159

Having elk in the wild might interfere with my outdoor activities.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	95	3.63
Probably agree	85	3.25
Unsure	167	6.38
Probably disagree	449	17.15
Definitely disagree	1,822	69.60

Frequency Missing = 157

#### Part 4. Expenses of reintroducing elk.

I think Wisconsin DNR has more important problems to deal with than restoring elk.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	372	14.16
Probably agree	304	11.57
Unsure	446	16.98
Probably disagree	767	29.20
Definitely disagree	738	28.09

Frequency Missing = 148

Management of a wild elk herd would draw money away from other wildlife management programs.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	323	12.31
Probably agree	433	16.50
Unsure	547	20.85
Probably disagree	722	27.52
Definitely disagree	599	22.83

Frequency Missing = 151

I think restoring elk would be too costly.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	266	10.14
Probably agree	127	4.84
Unsure	499	19.02
Probably disagree	716	27.29
Definitely disagree	1,016	38.72

Frequency Missing = 151

Restoring elk would be a good use of the state's money.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	949	36.36
Probably agree	774	29.66
Unsure	366	14.02
Probably disagree	179	6.86
Definitely disagree	342	13.10

Frequency Missing = 165

I am concerned that poachers will probably kill most of the elk.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	138	5.27
Probably agree	326	12.44
Unsure	575	21.95
Probably disagree	896	34.20
Definitely disagree	685	26.15

Frequency Missing = 155

I think additional law enforcement will be needed to protect elk from poachers.

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely agree	265	10.10
Probably agree	650	24.76
Unsure	586	22.32
Probably disagree	677	25.79
Definitely disagree	447	17.03

Frequency Missing = 150

8. Have you ever hunted elk in another state or in Canada?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	840	31.96
No	1,788	68.04

Frequency Missing = 147

9. How would you describe yourself relative to hunting? **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
I am a current hunter	2,136	81.22
I am a former hunter but am not opposed to it	199	7.57
I've never hunted but am not opposed to it	265	10.08
I'm opposed to hunting	30	1.14

Frequency Missing = 145

10. Do you believe the presence of a wild elk herd has the potential for interfering with any types of hunting?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	467	17.64
No	2,180	82.36

Frequency Missing = 128

11. Do you intent to apply for a Wisconsin elk hunting permit when a season is established? **Check one.**

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely yes	1,162	44.56
Probably yes	453	17.37
Unsure	293	11.23
Probably no	277	10.62
Definitely no	423	16.22

Frequency Missing = 167

12. From the list of activities below, please check all the activities that you have participated in **during the past 5 years within 25 miles** of Clam Lake or the Black River State Forest.

Gun/muzzleloader deer hunting

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	307	11.06
Black River State Forest	406	14.63
Both	43	1.55
No	2,019	72.76

Bow deer hunting

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	238	8.58
Black River State Forest	349	12.58
Both	56	2.02
No	2,132	76.83

Bear hunting with dogs

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	121	4.36
Black River State Forest	57	2.05
Both	10	0.36
No	2,587	93.23

Bear hunting without dogs

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	64	2.31
Black River State Forest	13	0.47
Both	6	0.22
No	2,692	97.01

Predator hunting (coyote, fox, bobcat)

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	96	3.46
Black River State Forest	188	6.77
Both	19	0.68
No	2,472	89.08

Small game hunting

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	239	8.61
Black River State Forest	318	11.46
Both	57	2.05
No	2,161	77.87

### Upland bird hunting

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	267	9.62
Black River State Forest	238	8.58
Both	65	2.34
No	2,205	79.46

### Waterfowl hunting

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	85	3.06
Black River State Forest	108	3.89
Both	17	0.61
No	2,565	92.43

### Snowmobiling

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	161	5.80
Black River State Forest	110	3.96
Both	44	1.59
No	2,460	88.65

### ATV riding

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	229	8.25
Black River State Forest	271	9.77
Both	70	2.52
No	2,205	79.46

### Horseback riding

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	25	0.90
Black River State Forest	48	1.73
Both	6	0.22
No	2,696	97.15

### Cross-country skiing

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	100	3.60
Black River State Forest	81	2.92
Both	31	1.12
No	2,563	92.36

### Snow-shoeing

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	170	6.13
Black River State Forest	136	4.90
Both	36	1.30
No	2,433	87.68

### Birdwatching/Photography

	Frequency	Percent
Clam Lake	198	7.14
Black River State Forest	202	7.28
Both	100	3.60
No	2,275	81.98

These last questions will help us compare your answers to those of other respondents.

#### 13. Are you a Wisconsin resident?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2464	93.83
No	162	6.17

Frequency Missing = 149

#### 14. Do you currently live or own a vacation home within 25 miles of Clam Lake or the Black River State Forest?

	Frequency	Percent
No	1,923	78.78
Yes, within 25 miles of Clam Lake	183	7.50
Yes, within 25 miles of the Black River State Forest	330	13.52
Both yeses	5	0.20

Frequency Missing = 23

15. In which Wisconsin county is your primary residence?

County	Frequency	Percent
Adams	8	0.36
Ashland	19	0.85
Barron	42	1.89
Bayfield	22	0.99
Brown	47	2.11
Buffalo	4	0.18
Burnett	11	0.49
Calumet	19	0.85
Chippewa	33	1.48
Clark	32	1.44
Columbia	20	0.9
Crawford	6	0.27
Dane	184	8.28
Dodge	39	1.75
Door	4	0.18
Douglas	22	0.99
Dunn	28	1.26
Eau Claire	58	2.61
Florence	2	0.09
Fond du Lac	25	1.12
Forest	5	0.22
Grant	15	0.67
Green	9	0.4
Green Lake	11	0.49
Iowa	15	0.67
Iron	6	0.27
Jackson	159	7.15
Jefferson	36	1.62
Juneau	23	1.03
Kenosha	31	1.39
Kewaunee	9	0.4
La Crosse	59	2.65
Lafayette	2	0.09
Langlade	15	0.67
Lincoln	25	1.12

County	Frequency	Percent
Manitowoc	15	0.67
Marathon	56	2.52
Marinette	18	0.81
Marquette	12	0.54
Milwaukee	83	3.73
Monroe	50	2.25
Oconto	23	1.03
Oneida	47	2.11
Outagamie	61	2.74
Ozaukee	26	1.17
Pepin	5	0.22
Pierce	10	0.45
Polk	32	1.44
Portage	30	1.35
Price	17	0.76
Racine	40	1.8
Richland	11	0.49
Rock	39	1.75
Rusk	12	0.54
St. Croix	38	1.71
Sauk	33	1.48
Shawano	15	0.67
Sheboygan	26	1.17
Taylor	8	0.36
Trempealeau	43	1.93
Vernon	13	0.58
Walworth	17	0.76
Washburn	23	1.03
Washington	53	2.38
Waukesha	100	4.5
Waupaca	14	0.63
Waushara	14	0.63
Winnebago	55	2.47
Wood	47	2.11

Frequency missing = 241

16. Have you owned or worked for a deer/elk farm in Wisconsin during the past 5 years?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	36	1.41
No	2,523	98.59

Frequency Missing = 216

17. What is your age? *Average: 44.67*

	Frequency	Percent
< 20	96	96
20-29	384	480
30-39	520	1000
40-49	520	1520
50-59	556	2076
60-69	358	2434
70+	118	2552

Frequency Missing = 223