

Local Agricultural Landowner Survey (September, 2017 update)
Lake Huron-North Shore Elk Advisory Committee

The Lake Huron – North Shore Elk Advisory Committee (LHNS EAC) was established in early 2015 to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Sault Ste. Marie District, with a population objective setting exercise for the regional elk herd. This committee advises the MNRF on planning for the elk herd in this area and ensures that MNRF’s approach to managing the elk herd is reflective of the broad spectrum of interests. The LHNS EAC consists of members representing a broad spectrum of interests from the following areas:

- Indigenous Communities
- Academia
- Agriculture
- Anglers and Hunters
- General Public
- Local Citizen’s Committee
- Municipalities
- Naturalists
- Elk Restoration Committee
- Tourism Industry
- Trappers

Goals of the Local Agricultural Landowner Survey:

- Assess nuisance activity of Elk and other wildlife
- Determine methods used to deal with nuisance Elk activity (and other wildlife) and assess their effectiveness
- Determine the number and composition of Elk harvested within the past two years
- Determine if Elk activity has changed after mitigation steps were taken

Your completed survey can be returned by the following methods.

By mail to:
Rob Routledge
Professor, Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies
Sault College, 443 Northern Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4J3

Scanned document by email to:
robert.routledge@saultcollege.ca

By phone:
705-759-2554 ext. 2474 to arrange for pick up

Date (M/D/Y): _____

A. BACKGROUND

A.1 Did you fill out this survey in 2016? **YES NO**

A.2 Where is your property located? Provide Township ONLY: _____

A.3 How large is your property (or properties)? _____ **acres**

A.4 Do you have a farm? (if YES, answer question on next line, **YES NO**
if NO, go to Part B below)

My farm's primary function is: _____

B. ELK OBSERVATIONS

1. **Have you ever observed Elk on your property?** **YES NO**
If YES ... proceed to question #2

if NO would you willingly participate in keeping a record of future Elk sightings on your land even if you haven't seen Elk in the past? **YES NO**
(proceed to #5)

2. **During which season and frequency have you observed Elk on your property?**

a) **Which season have you seen Elk on your property (circle all that apply) and what is a typical number seen at any given time?**

winter --- typical number of Elk _____

spring --- typical number of Elk _____

summer --- typical number of Elk _____

autumn --- typical number of Elk _____

b) **Have you noticed a change in the number of Elk seen recently (2017-) when compared to the period between 2013 and 2016 (circle one response)?**

large decline small decline no change small increase large increase

c) **How do you feel about having Elk on your property?**

dislike neutral enjoy

3. **Would you participate in keeping a record of future Elk sightings on your property?** **YES NO**

C. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, CROPS, AND/OR LIVESTOCK BY NUISANCE ELK OR OTHER WILDLIFE

4. Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property? **YES NO**

If YES, proceed to question #4a (if NO, proceed to question #5)

a) Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property recently (2017-)?

If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops, grain crops, silage, garden, other) and the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn).

b) Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property between ca. 2013 and 2016?

If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops, grain crops, silage, garden, other) and the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn).

c) Have you noticed a change in the frequency of nuisance Elk activity occurring over the past year (2017-) when compared to the period between 2013 and 2016 (circle one response)?

large decline small decline no change small increase large increase

5. Have you experienced any nuisance issues with wildlife other than Elk on your property? **YES** **NO**

If YES, proceed to question #5a (if NO, proceed to question #6)

- a) **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with other wildlife on your property recently (2017-)?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops, grain crops, silage, garden, other), the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn), and the wildlife involved, if known (e.g., deer, coyote, sandhill crane, raccoon, etc.).
- b) **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with other wildlife on your property between ca. 2013 and 2016?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops, grain crops, silage, garden, other), the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn), and the wildlife involved, if known (e.g., deer, coyote, sandhill crane, raccoon, etc.).

6. Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about nuisance ELK or other nuisance wildlife? **YES NO**

If YES, proceed to question #6a (if NO, proceed to question #7)

a) Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about nuisance ELK? **YES NO**

If yes, please indicate how long ago you last called and describe the nature of the nuisance complaint reported.

b) Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about other nuisance wildlife? **YES NO**

If yes, please indicate how long ago you last called and describe the nature of the nuisance complaint reported.

7. **How many hours of labour would you estimate that you have spent due to Elk damage and at what cost?**

Question is not applicable

Hours spent to repair damage _____

Hours spent to prevent damage _____

Estimated cost of damage (annual) _____

8. Have you received any compensation for Elk damage? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

If yes, circle those that apply: gov't compensation or private insurance policy

9. Do you have insurance to protect against wildlife damage? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

D. SOLUTIONS TO NUISANCE ELK ACTIVITY

10. Are you aware of the Policy for Protecting Agricultural Property from Elk (for individuals seeking authorization from the MNR to harass or kill Elk)? **YES NO**

11. What solutions to Elk nuisances would you recommend?

12. a) Have harassment methods or aversion tactics been utilized to deter nuisance Elk activity on your property? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

- If yes, please describe harassment methods or aversion tactics used and if they worked to solve nuisance problems.

12. b) Would you be interested in participating in aversion trials? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

- If yes, please contact Rob Routledge through contact info, page 1.

13. Would you allow licensed hunters on your property to hunt Elk if a regulated hunting season was established? **YES NO**

14. Have you contacted members of the Indigenous community to remove nuisance Elk from your property? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

a) If yes, how many have been removed? _____

b) If yes, do you know the approximate sex and age of the Elk removed?

15. If one or more Elk have been legally harvested on your property (by members of the Indigenous community), did other Elk stay and did nuisance Elk activity continue? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

Explain.

16. Other than removal of Elk, how can your situation be improved to help you co-exist with the Elk?
Explain OR if question is not applicable, then check box and continue to question #17

17. If elk are currently present in your Township, what population size do you feel could be acceptable?

Tolerable population size of elk: _____

Comments:

E. PROPERTY VALUE

18. In your opinion, has your farm been devalued due to the presence of the Elk? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

If YES, in what way has the farm been devalued?