

ELK ZONE MANAGEMENT

Statewide direction and guidance for elk is shown in Tables 6 and 7. However, at the zone level, elk management strategies and priorities may be different because of variation in population dynamics, agricultural considerations, habitat condition, hunter characteristics, and social attitudes. The elk plan revision will provide future zone population management direction based on hunter preferences and current status of elk populations. The IDFG has drafted elk management zone objectives for the next 10 years based on hunter survey findings, recent aerial survey results, current elk population status, and biological potential for herd growth when considering primary limiting factors. As part of IDFG's evaluation, staff considered what factors such as weather, predation, and habitat might limit the ability to maintain or increase elk numbers in each zone. The IDFG also evaluates harvest and hunter trends both at the statewide level and at the zone level. As part of the evaluation process, IDFG developed maps depicting what staff considered to be the most common limiting factors for elk populations. Common limiting factors are Agricultural Impacts (crop and property damage; Fig. 10), Predation (Fig. 11), and Habitat (Fig. 12).

The preceding tables provide specific priorities, performance objectives, and strategies to be implemented at the zone level. Proposals to manage herd populations are based on elk movement and other biological data, similar habitats, and similar management priorities. With 15 years of experience and a deeper understanding of elk zone management, IDFG is proposing to split 1 elk zone into 2 zones, dissolve 1 elk zone and place the GMUs into adjacent zones, and combine 2 zones. The net result will be a total of 28 elk management zones (Fig. 13), as compared to the current 29 zones.

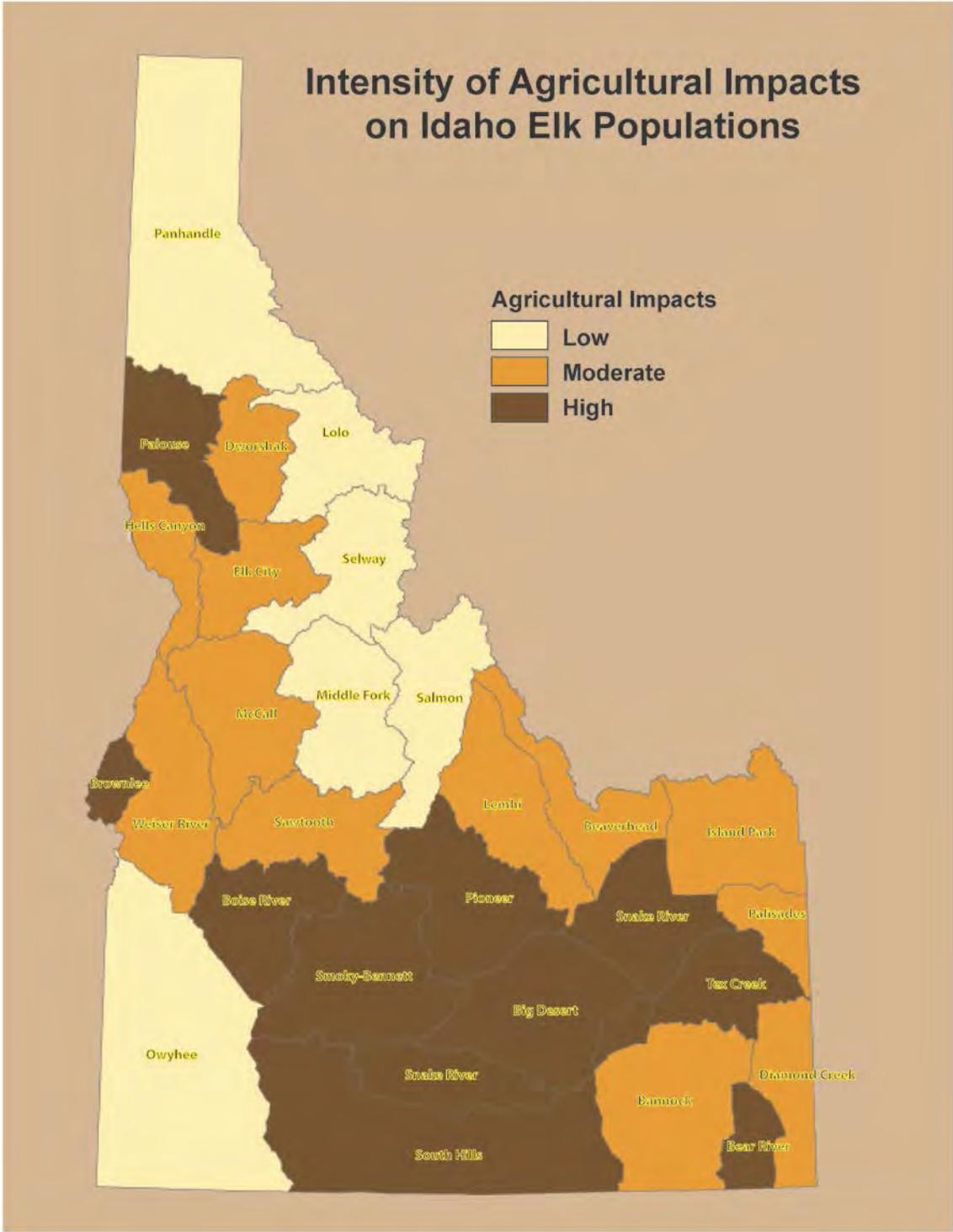


Figure 10. Elk population growth is limited because of damage to crops and property (Agricultural Impacts) in some zones.

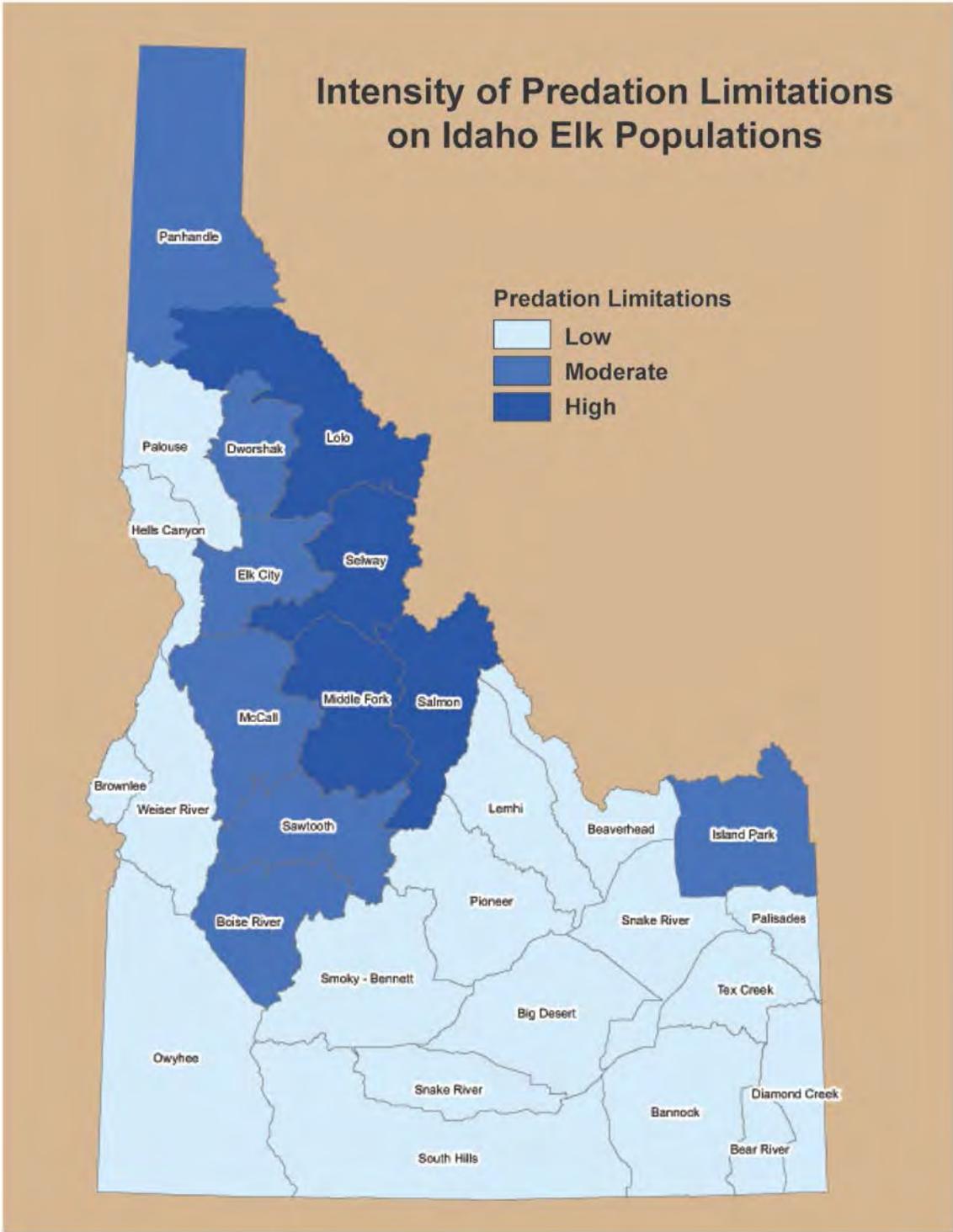


Figure 11. Severity of predation and potential ability to limit elk populations varies across the state.

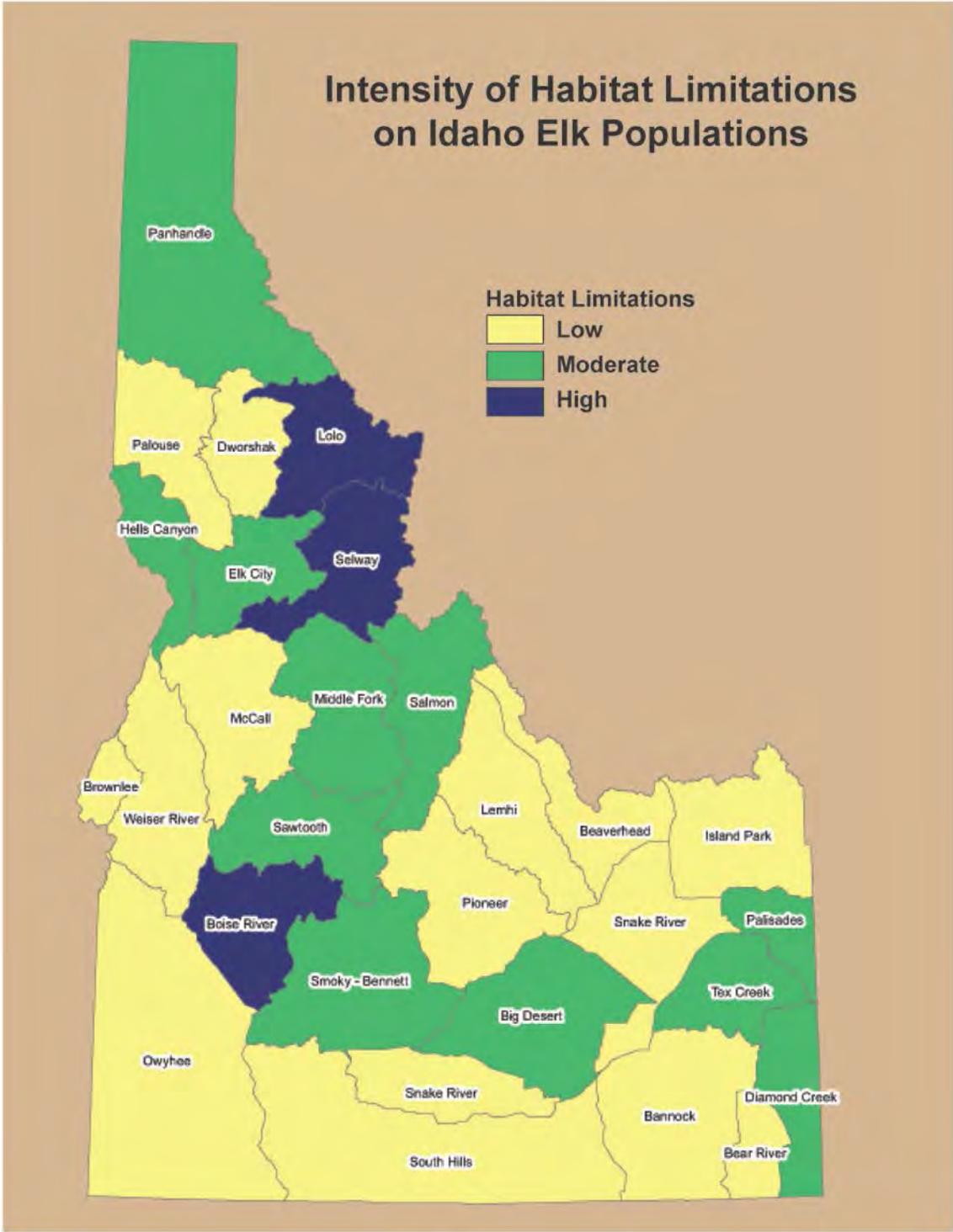


Figure 12. Elk are limited by habitat to varying degrees across zones.

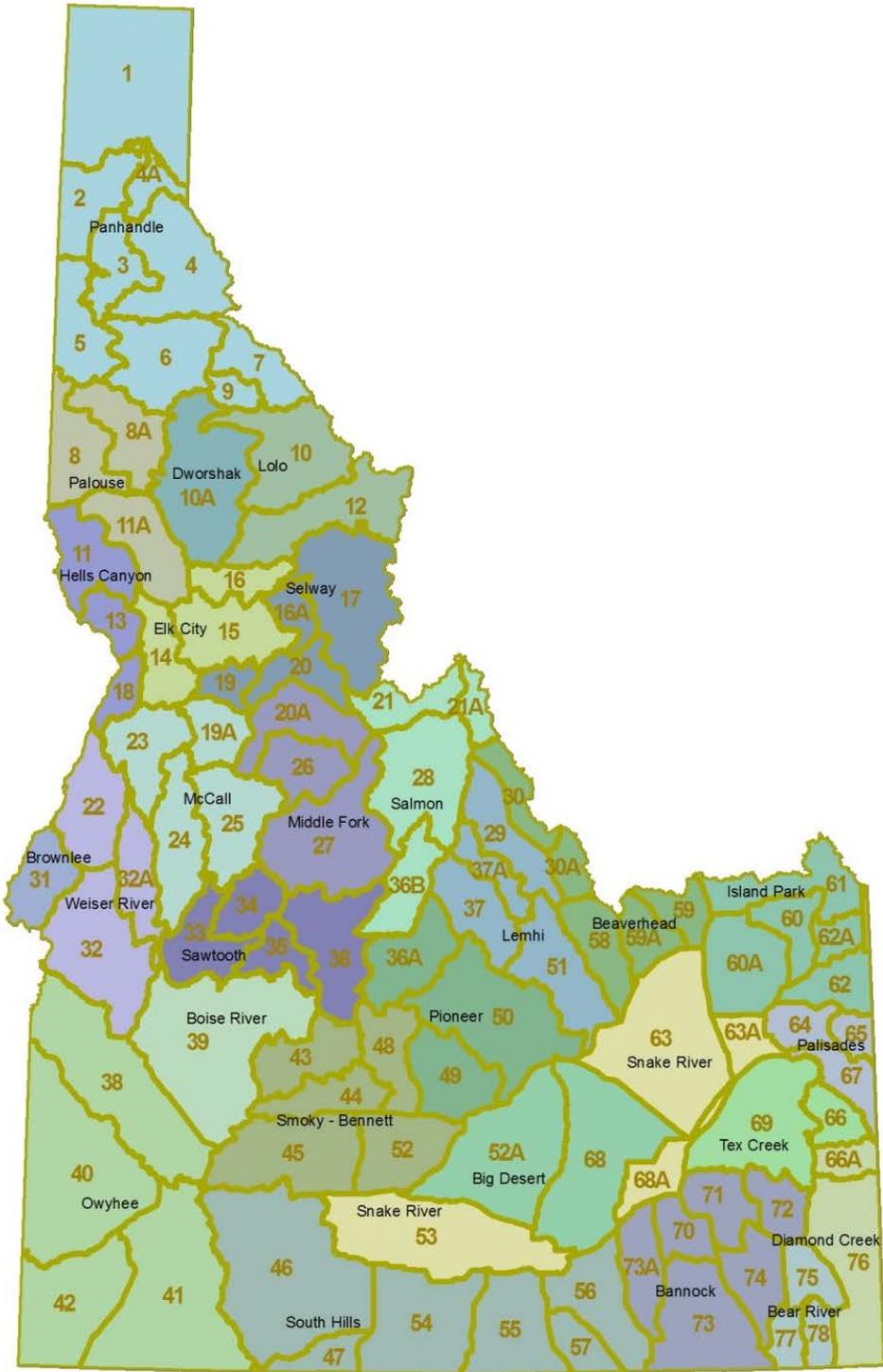


Figure 13. Elk Management Zones for the 2013 Elk Management Plan.



Panhandle Zone

Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Provide general either-sex hunting opportunity where sustainable.

Ten-year population goals for Panhandle Zone units were developed through review of past and current population trends as well as the actual range of change possible due to biological constraints.

Unit 1: Elk harvest has increased 60% over the past 10 years. Calf ratios have remained around 30 calves per 100 calves in recent years, indicating a stable, if not increasing elk population. The 10-year goal is to retain a stable to increasing elk population.

Unit 2, 5: Elk harvest and agricultural depredations have been increasing in Units 2 and 5 over the past 10 years indicating increasing elk populations. Calf ratios in Unit 5 have been above 30 except for the year after the severe winter of 2008-09. The 10-year goal is to stabilize or decrease elk populations depending on the intensity of landowner conflicts.

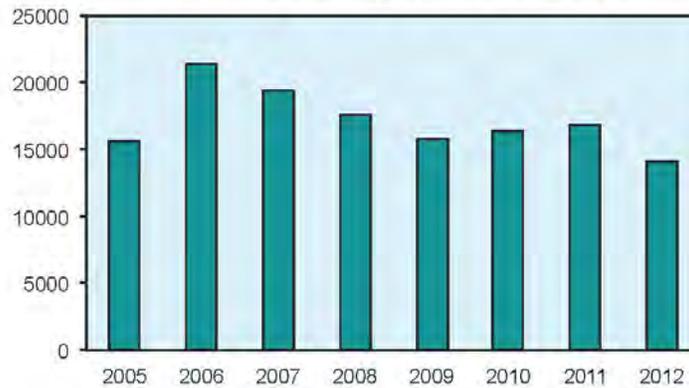
Unit 3, 4, 4A: Unit 4 is part of the Coeur d'Alene Bellwether Area, which is surveyed every few years to monitor changes in population size. The elk population size in Unit 4 more than doubled between 1998 and 2009. We found that calf ratios declined in the past few years in Unit 4; however the total number of elk seen during the surveys in 2012 and 2013 was slightly higher than the previous 10 year average. The calf ratios in Unit 3 have averaged 33 calves per 100 cows from 2010-2013 and did not drop below 20 even after severe winters. Our data indicates that Units 3, 4, and 4A elk populations have remained relatively stable in recent years and the goal is to keep them at or above current population levels.

Unit 6, 7, 9: Most of Unit 7 and the eastern part of Unit 6 are part of the St. Joe Bellwether Area, which is surveyed every few years. The elk population in this area almost doubled between 1998 and 2006, but has since declined dramatically. The 2012 survey showed about one third as many elk as estimated in 2006. IDFG would like to see the elk population in Units 6, 7, and 9 eventually increase by more than the 40% listed in our 10-year goals. However, given the very low calf ratios currently in this population (10-15 calves/100 cows), it is unrealistic to increase elk populations by more than 40% in a 10 year period.

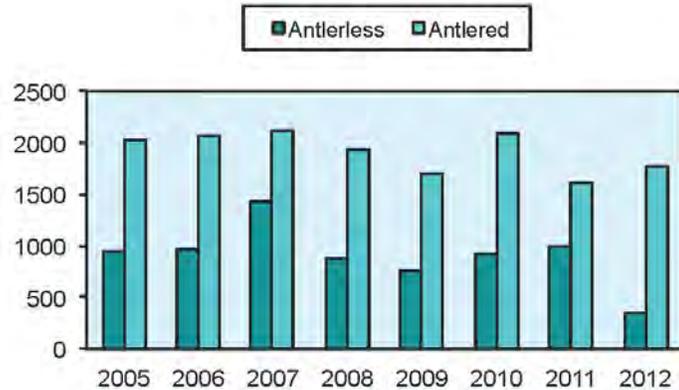
Panhandle Zone 10-Year Population Objectives

Units	Population Trend		2023 Growth Objective
	Current Status	Objectives	
Unit 1	Stable to Increasing	Stable to increase	Up to 25% more elk
Unit 2, 5	Increasing	Stable to decrease depending on human pop. growth/agricultural and depredation issues	Within 10% of existing levels
Unit 3,4,4A	Stable	Stable	Up to 20% more elk
Unit 6, 7, 9	Decreasing	Increase	Up to 40% more elk

Panhandle Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Panhandle Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	7,779	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	58%	Hunters per square mile =	2.03
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.33
		Success Rate =	16%
		%6+ Points =	25%

Panhandle Zone – moderately limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	<p>Increase lion and bear harvest by 20% over the 2011-13 3-year average in GMUs where lion and bear predation is a prominent limiting factor</p> <p>Maintain the rate of human-caused mortality at 32% or greater for wolves where wolf predation is a prominent limiting factor</p>	Where predation is a prominent limiting factor, manage lions, wolves, and black bears near the low densities indicated within those respective species management plans, and manipulate habitat to improve elk escape response through improved body condition and removal of barriers to escape
	Develop a Panhandle Zone Predation Management Plan by November 2013	In crucial situations, reduce densities of lions, wolves, and bears below levels indicated within those respective species management plans, and implement measures for extra-season reduction of predator numbers through predator control actions as determined through a Panhandle Zone Predation Management Plan
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	<p>Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by May 2014. Conduct an interagency meeting by September 2014 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts</p> <p>Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on private corporate ownerships by May 2015. Conduct ≥ 3 meetings with private corporate landowners by September 2015 to explain the project map to promote habitat management</p>	<p>Continue IDFG involvement in all aspects of long-term, landscape-level projects that affect elk habitat on public lands within the Panhandle Zone</p> <p>With an emphasis on summer and transitional range, promote timber harvest, controlled burns, and wildland fire use on public and private corporate lands and focus management efforts in areas that would most benefit elk habitat</p>

Panhandle Zone – moderately limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	efforts alongside	
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>Within the next 10 years, restore 10,000 acres of elk summer or transitional range to early successional habitat including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,000 acres of vegetation treatments through controlled burning and forest stand treatments in the greater Snow Peak area within and cooperatively with St. Joe Ranger District - 1,000 acres of vegetation treatments in the Beaver Creek drainage within and cooperatively with the Coeur d'Alene Ranger District 	<p>Encourage and support USFS, BLM and IDL on all vegetation management projects that benefit elk habitat</p> <p>Encourage, engage, and support larger landowners and private timber companies on vegetation management projects that benefit elk habitat as opportunities allow</p> <p>Conduct prescribed fire, thinning, variable retention, clearcuts, and noxious weed control projects</p> <p>Allow wildland fires to burn where and when possible</p> <p>In post-treatment burned areas, reseed with a desirable grass/forb mix and possible fertilization</p>
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	<p>Increase elk populations up to 40% in GMUs 6, 7, and 9</p> <p>Stabilize or increase elk populations up to 25% in GMU 1</p> <p>Stabilize elk populations with up to 20% more elk in GMUs 3, 4, and 4A</p> <p>Stabilize or decrease elk populations to within 10% of existing levels in GMUs 2 and 5</p>	Provide general either-sex hunting opportunity where sustainable

Panhandle Zone – moderately limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Develop an elk monitoring program that includes modeling or monitoring zone population abundance during the years between aerial surveys	Estimate population growth in all GMUs with cow harvest by 2017	<p>Implement mandatory check for harvested cow elk to acquire data necessary to estimate population growth rate. A voluntary check will be implemented beginning in 2013</p> <p>Radiocollar 10-20 cow elk annually to estimate survival, which will be used to model population growth</p> <p>Examine methods available to estimate population growth in elk populations with bull harvest only</p>



Palouse Zone

Game Management Units 8, 8A, 11A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain bull elk population within proposed objectives;
- Decrease cow elk population within proposed objectives.

The Palouse Zone elk herd is highly productive and has shown substantial growth over the past decade. Habitat conditions are favorable to elk due to timber harvest and high quality agricultural crops.

Elk population growth in the Palouse Zone is limited by social tolerance and agricultural impacts. Addressing these impacts will require the continuation of long elk hunting seasons to maintain dispersed pressure on elk in agricultural areas. Developing mutually acceptable approaches between Fish and Game staff and area landowners to deal with elk depredation problems will also be emphasized.

Elk population objectives represent an increase in cow numbers over the previous elk plan but are lower than current levels. The priority management goal for the zone is to maintain high harvest rates and to address social tolerance issues.

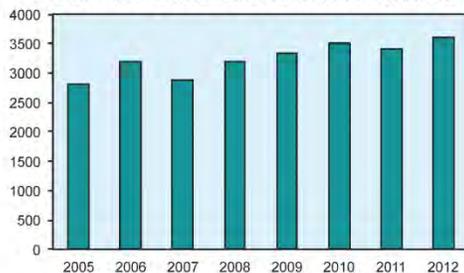
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
1125-1725	115-415	

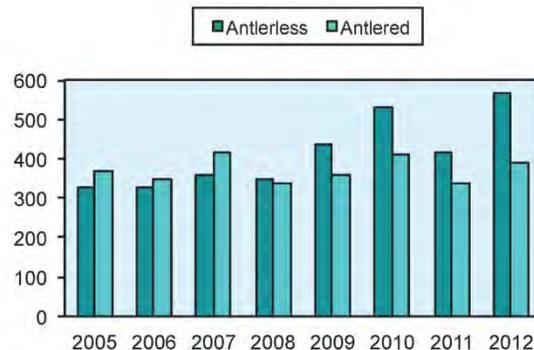
Palouse Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2004				Survey 2 - 2009			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
1814	148	706	2668	2153	411	676	3240
	8*	39*			19*	31*	
*per 100 cows							

Palouse Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Palouse Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,323	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	14%	Hunters per square mile =	1.51
Major Land Type =	Agriculture	Harvest per square mile =	0.38
		Success Rate =	25%
		%6+ Points =	21%

Palouse Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	<p>Each year, secure 1-2 licensed crop adjusters to aid in measuring big game damage</p> <p>Annually review previous year's depredation complaints to identify potential permanent stack yard and fencing opportunities</p>	Secure professionally-licensed crop adjusters to accurately measure big game damage
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by September 2014</p> <p>Conduct an interagency meeting by March 2015 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts</p> <p>Involve private landowners if needed</p>	<p>Convene a regional team who will use the statewide map of seasonal elk habitat to develop and prioritize properties and projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement of elk habitat</p> <p>Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and private landowners to provide long-term conservation measures of important elk habitat</p>



Dworshak Zone

Game Management Unit 10A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

The Dworshak Zone is characterized by mixed land ownership, high road densities and correspondingly high bull elk vulnerability. High open road densities, and corresponding heavy ORV use, provide unique and popular hunting opportunities in the Clearwater Region. In recognition of these factors, this zone will continue to be managed primarily for a high level of hunter opportunity and moderate bull elk quality as has been generally accepted in the past by hunters in the zone.

The Dworshak elk population is moderately limited by predation and agricultural impacts. High road densities also contribute to high predator harvest in this zone. Agricultural impacts are relatively minor on a zone-wide scale and are being addressed through existing depredation strategies.

Elk population objectives for this zone include reduced goals for bull elk in recognition of high bull elk vulnerability and general acceptance of relatively high hunter densities.

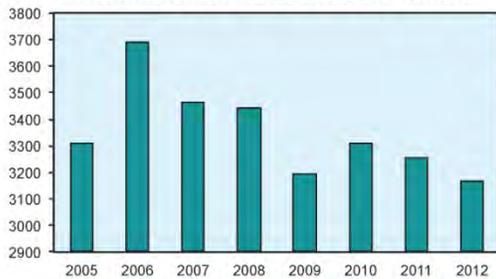
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2900-4300	600-900	350-500

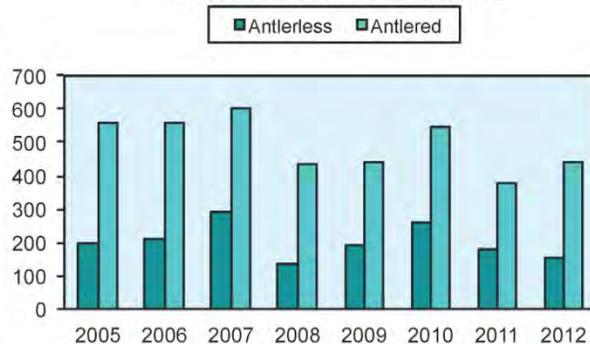
Dworshak Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2007				Survey 2 - 2011			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3236	477	848	4561	4280	315	850	5445
	15*	26*			7*	20*	
*per 100 cows							

Dworshak Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Dworshak Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	1,555	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	49%	Hunters per square mile =	2.09
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.42
		Success Rate =	20%
		%6+ Points =	17%

Dworshak Zone – is moderately limited by predation and agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk populations and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Increase or maintain predator harvest levels	Evaluate current wolf harvest levels relative to elk population performance and adjust efforts and approach accordingly Maintain liberal predator seasons and bag limits Explore opportunities to increase wolf hunter, trapper, and outfitter client effectiveness
	By 2017, evaluate results from a model estimating effects of wolves on elk survival as it applies to this zone	Complete development of elk survival model by Wildlife Research
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by September 2014 Conduct an interagency meeting by March 2015 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts Involve private landowners if needed	Convene a regional team who will use the statewide map of seasonal elk habitats to develop and prioritize properties and projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement of elk habitat Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and private landowners to provide long-term conservation measures of important elk habitat
	Continue to support and/or improve existing habitat management agreements designed to improve or enhance elk habitat	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to update elk habitat plans and support habitat enhancement efforts on key elk winter range surrounding Dworshak Reservoir

Dworshak Zone – is moderately limited by predation and agricultural impacts

Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2014, provide a full-time Biologist to work on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest out of a USFS District Office to improve elk habitat on a landscape level	Collaborate with the USFS to promote well-designed, early-seral-stage habitat improvement projects using information on habitat use and seasonal movements of elk



Lolo Zone

Game Management Units 10, 12

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Increase the zone's elk population.

The Lolo Zone elk population is limited by habitat conditions and predation. Elk numbers in this zone peaked in the late 1980s and have since been on a long-term decline. Lack of early successional stage forest was a primary factor behind the initiation of this decline. Since then, the decline has been severely exacerbated by high elk predation rates by black bears, mountain lions, and most recently wolves. Restoring this elk population will require liberal predator harvest through hunting and trapping seasons, and control actions in addition to improvements in elk habitat at a landscape level.

Short-term goals are to stabilize this elk population and then begin to realize a positive growth rate. Retaining the population objectives from the previous plan as long-term goals (despite the current greatly reduced elk population) represent a desire to ultimately restore this population to levels achieved in the 1990s.

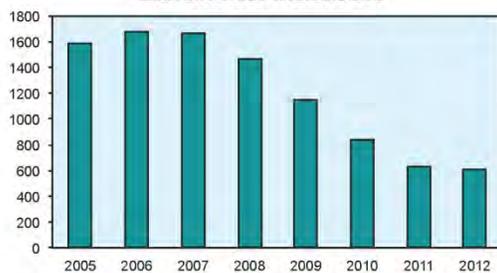
Long-term Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
6100-9100	1300-1900	725-1200

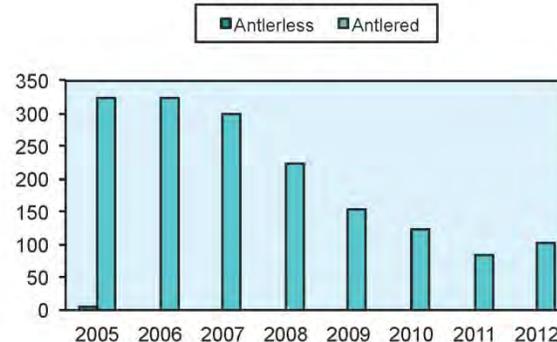
Lolo Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2010			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3254	979	865	5098	1358	594	182	2134
	30*	27*			44*	13*	
*per 100 cows							

**Lolo Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers**



Lolo Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,373	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	97%	Hunters per square mile =	0.29
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.04
		Success Rate =	15%
		%6+ Points =	47%

Lolo Zone – is highly limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Over the next 10 years, improve calf elk recruitment to 25-30:100 Update the Predation Management Plan for the Lolo Zone annually and adapt as needed	Manage wolf population at the specified level in the Predation Management Plan for the Lolo Zone to address wolf predation on elk Evaluate current wolf season structure (harvest level) and removal effects relative to elk population performance and adjust efforts and approach accordingly Continue use of control actions (WS, IDFG personnel) as necessary to manage predators to prescribed level Explore opportunities to increase wolf hunter, trapper, and outfitter client effectiveness Continue to offer long seasons, second tags, reduced-price nonresident tags for black bears and mountain lions
	By 2017, evaluate results from a model estimating effects of wolves on elk survival as it applies to this zone	Complete development of elk survival model by Wildlife Research
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2014, provide a full-time Biologist to work on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest out of a USFS District Office to work with the USFS to improve elk habitat on a landscape level	Collaborate with the USFS to promote well-designed, early-seral-stage habitat improvement projects using information on habitat use and seasonal movements of elk Continue to provide other technical assistance to USFS for habitat improvement projects

Lolo Zone – is highly limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by September 2014 Conduct an interagency meeting by March 2015 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts Involve private landowners if needed	Convene a regional team who will use the statewide map of seasonal elk habitat to develop and prioritize properties and projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement of elk habitat Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and private landowners to provide long-term conservation measures of important elk habitat
	Maintain 20-30% of elk summer range in early successional habitat, and on breaklands, increase early successional habitat to provide forage	Use a combination of variable retention regeneration harvests, commercial, & pre-commercial thinning to meet desired levels Strategically place timber harvests to allow for implementation of landscape-level prescribed and natural fire. Promote diverse shrub/forb response utilizing warm season burns
	Restore or maintain mid-to-low elevation open ponderosa pine communities to provide forage	Identify and treat stands that are at risk from stand replacing fire Utilize variable density thinning, then introduce fire into existing ponderosa pine plantations Design prescribed fire rotation to maintain open grass/forb/shrub understory; allow natural fire



Hells Canyon Zone

Game Management Units 11, 13, 18

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Decrease the cow elk population to proposed objectives to improve calf production;
- Due to declining cow:calf ratios, maintain the bull elk population at proposed objectives.

Recent (2009 and 2013) population surveys indicate that the Hells Canyon Zone elk population is exhibiting signs that it is currently habitat-limited. Calf elk recruitment rates dropped over the last 20 years and cow elk condition observed during the last surveys appeared to be less than optimal. In Unit 11 over the last 20 years, total elk numbers have increased from a low of 453 to a high of 1,564 (+345%). Yet in the 2013 survey, only 176 calves with 1,012 cow elk (17:100) were estimated as compared with 143 calves with 392 cows (37:100) in 1996.

The Hells Canyon elk population is limited by population growth and habitat. In addition to reducing elk densities, habitat conditions, particularly the persistence of noxious weeds, will need to be addressed to insure long-term herd health.

Cow elk population objectives for this zone represent an increase over the previous plan, but a decrease from current status to address higher than desired elk densities that are impacting cow elk condition and calf elk recruitment rates..

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

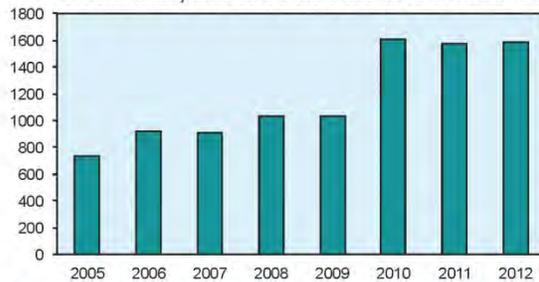
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2000-2900	420-610	240-348

Hells Canyon Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2009				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3642	973	965	5580	3633	1059	781	5473
	27*	26*			29*	21*	

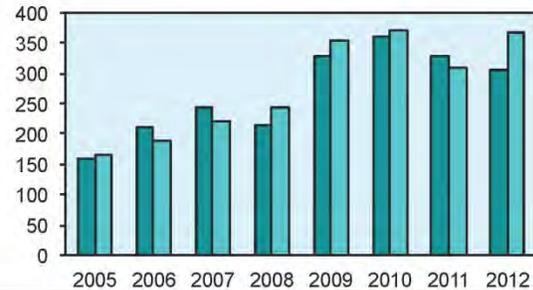
*per 100 cows

Hells Canyon Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Hells Canyon Zone Elk Harvest

■ Antlerless ■ Antlered



Square Miles =	1,389	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	94%	Hunters per square mile =	1.14
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.49
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	43%
		%6+ Points =	43%

Hells Canyon Zone – moderately limited by habitat and existing elk population growth		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are meeting objectives, actively manage elk populations commensurate with habitat capabilities to maximize reproductive performance and overall herd health	Over the next 10 years, decrease cow elk population >20% to proposed population goals to improve calf production (≥ 25 calves:100 cows)	Reduce elk densities through aggressive cow elk harvest regimes to improve productivity
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	Over the next 10 years, maintain bull elk population at proposed population goal of 415-710 bulls	Increase hunting opportunities proportionally among established weapon types where biological conditions warrant If decreased hunting opportunities are warranted, maintain historic controlled any weapon hunt tag levels first and then decrease equally among established weapon types
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Continue to provide IDFG staff on public agency Interdisciplinary Teams, Burn Plan Teams, and other planning efforts regarding elk	Collaborate with the USFS to promote well-designed, early-seral-stage habitat improvement projects using information on habitat use and seasonal movements of elk
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by September 2014 Conduct an interagency meeting by March 2015 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts Involve private landowners as needed	Convene a regional team who will use the statewide map of seasonal elk habitat to develop and prioritize properties and projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement of elk habitat Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and private landowners to provide long-term conservation measures of important elk habitat



Elk City Zone

Game Management Units 14, 15, 16

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

The Elk City Zone was last surveyed in 2008. Although more current survey data is not available, survey results from previous years indicated that the population was stable and within objective ranges.

This zone's elk population is limited by habitat, predation and agricultural impacts. Management direction involves continued coordination with the U.S. Forest Service to improve elk habitat conditions, maintaining liberal predator seasons, and continued responsiveness to depredation concerns.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

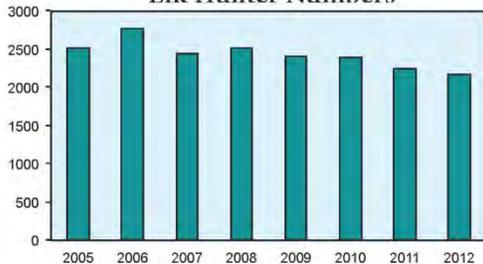
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3150-4650	675-1000	350-575

Elk City Zone Population Surveys

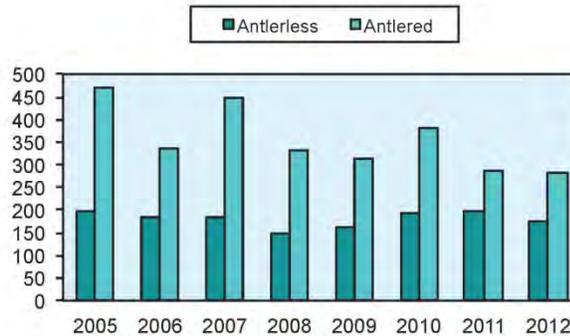
Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2008			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3334	686	904	4924	4264	863	875	6002
	21*	27*			20*	21*	

*per 100 cows

Elk City Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Elk City Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	1,838	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	82%	Hunters per square mile =	1.24
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.28
		Success Rate =	22%
		%6+ Points =	23%

Elk City Zone – is moderately limited by predation, agricultural impacts, and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Increase or maintain predator harvest levels	Maintain liberal predator seasons and bag limits Explore opportunities to increase wolf hunter, trapper, and outfitter client effectiveness
	By 2017, evaluate results from a model estimating effects of wolves on elk survival as it applies to this zone	Complete development of elk survival model by Wildlife Research
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Continue to provide IDFG staff on public agency Interdisciplinary Teams, Burn Plan Teams, and other planning efforts regarding elk	Collaborate with the USFS to promote well-designed, early-seral-stage habitat projects using information on habitat use and seasonal movements of elk Continue to provide technical assistance to USFS, BLM, and IDL for habitat improvement projects regarding elk Consider becoming a Cooperating Agency or completing other agreements to formalize our role with USFS to promote elk habitat projects at a landscape level
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public ownerships by September 2014 Conduct an interagency meeting by March 2015 to explain use of the map to focus habitat management efforts	Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and private landowners to provide long-term conservation measures of important elk habitat Use the statewide map of seasonal elk habitat to assist prioritization of properties and projects for habitat, protections, restoration, and enhancement

Elk City Zone – is moderately limited by predation, agricultural impacts, and habitat

Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	Involve private landowners if needed	
	Annually, restore 2,000 acres of USFS elk summer range to early successional habitat trending toward the natural range of variability	<p>Conduct prescribed fire, thinning, variable retention, and noxious weed control projects</p> <p>Require preventative measures on all forest activities to reduce the spread of noxious weeds</p>
	Maintain 20-30% of elk summer range in early successional habitat	<p>Place emphasis on Vegetation Response in Units 4, 7, 8, and 17</p> <p>Use a combination of variable retention regeneration harvests, commercial, & pre-commercial thinning to meet desired levels</p> <p>Strategically place timber harvests to allow for implementation of landscape-level prescribed and natural fire. Promote diverse shrub/forb response utilizing warm season burns</p>
	Annually, treat 2,000 acres of elk winter range to restore or maintain native bunchgrass and ponderosa pine community on the low-elevation breaklands along the Clearwater River and Salmon River	<p>Evaluate cattle grazing effects on elk range and design grazing practices that benefit elk</p> <p>Strategically place timber harvests to allow for implementation of landscape-level prescribed and natural fire. Promote diverse shrub/forb response utilizing warm season burns</p> <p>Once an area is treated, conduct annual maintenance projects using prescribed fire, thinning, and noxious weed control</p>



Selway Zone

Game Management Units 16A, 17, 19, 20

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Increase elk populations from current levels.

The Selway Zone elk population peaked in the mid-1990s and has declined precipitously since then. This decline has been fueled by declining habitat conditions and predation. Noxious weeds are the primary habitat issue in the zone, particularly spotted knapweed on elk winter range. Low calf elk survival rates suggest that predation is likely a factor as well, although predation data specific to this zone is lacking. Addressing these two issues to restore this elk population will require large-scale treatment of noxious weeds to minimize their effects in addition to aggressive predator management.

Short-term management goals involve stabilizing the elk population, followed by steps to realize positive growth rates. Retaining similar population objectives from the previous plan as long-term goals (despite the current greatly reduced elk population) represents a desire to ultimately restore this population to levels achieved in the 1990s. The bull/cow and adult bull/cow ratios have been adjusted to 18 to 24 per 100 and 10 to 14 per 100 respectively during this recovery process to match those prevalent in the zone during the higher population level of the early to mid-1990s.

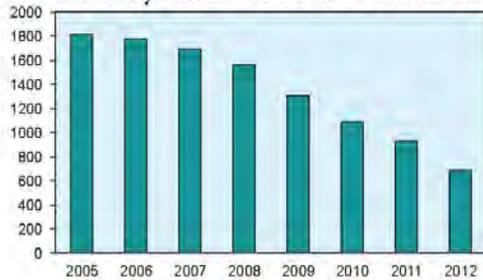
Long-term Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
4900-7300	1050-1550	600-900

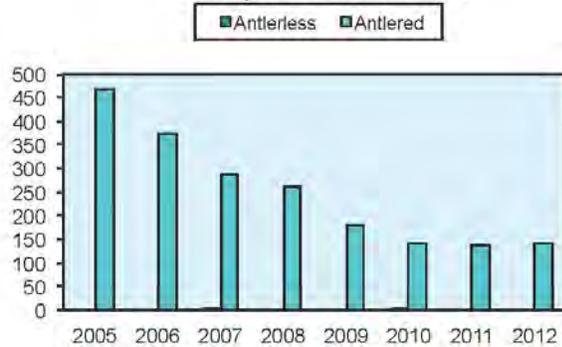
Selway Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2004				Survey 2 - 2007			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
4637	960	976	6573	3381	934	589	4904
	21*	21*			28*	17*	
* per 100 cows							

Selway Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Selway Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,527	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	100%	Hunters per square mile =	0.36
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.06
		Success Rate =	16%
		%6+ Points =	50%

Selway Zone – is highly limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Over the next 10 years, improve calf elk recruitment to 25-30:100 Update the Predation Management Plan for the Selway Zone annually and adapt as needed	Manage wolf population at the specified level in the Predation Management Plan for the Selway Zone to address wolf predation on elk Evaluate current wolf season structure (harvest level) and removal effects relative to elk population performance and adjust efforts and approach accordingly Continue use of control actions (WS, IDFG personnel) as necessary to manage predators to prescribed level Explore opportunities to increase wolf hunter, trapper, and outfitter client effectiveness Continue to offer long seasons, second tags, reduced-price nonresident tags for black bears and mountain lions
	By 2017, evaluate results from a model estimating effects of wolves on elk survival as it applies to this zone	Complete development of elk survival model by Wildlife Research
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7

Selway Zone – is highly limited by predation and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide adequate habitat for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7 Annually, restore 2,000 acres of noxious weed infested grassland to desirable grass/forb community along the main-stem of the Selway drainage	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7 Use biological, chemical, and cultural control of noxious weeds on grasslands below 4,000 feet in elevation In post-treatment grassland areas composed of $\geq 30\%$ noxious weeds, reseed with a desirable grass/forb mix



McCall Zone

Game Management Units 19A, 23, 24, 25

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within current objectives.

Population objectives are set at current levels to maintain a stable population and address agricultural concerns.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

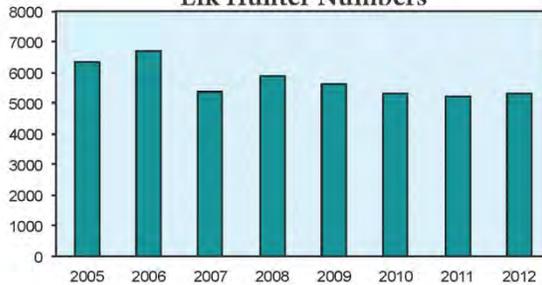
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2500-3700	525-800	300-450

McCall Zone Population Surveys

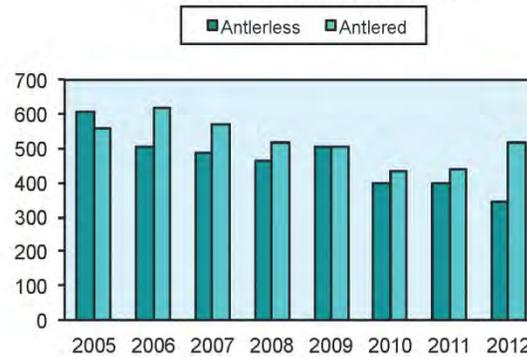
Survey 1 - 2008				Survey 2 - 2010			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
2972	809	677	4458	3292	616	606	4514
	27*	23*			19*	18*	

*per 100 cows

McCall Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



McCall Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,984	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	82%	Hunters per square mile =	1.77
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.28
		Success Rate =	16%
		% 6+ Points =	31%

McCall Zone – is moderately limited by predation and agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Maintain cow elk population between 2,500-3,700 cows in 2 consecutive aerial surveys conducted at 3-year interval	Maintain adequate wolf hunting seasons and liberal bag limits to reduce wolf impacts Implement wolf trapping seasons in unit(s) where increased wolf harvest is warranted Develop and implement Predation Management Plan if zone antlerless population falls below objective, including consideration of professional trappers and aerial removal
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Middle Fork Zone

Game Management Units 20A, 26, 27

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Stabilize/maintain the elk population; long-term objective is to increase elk numbers towards eventual recovery.

The Middle Fork Zone elk population is limited by predation. Elk numbers in this zone were higher in the 1990s and early 2000s and have since declined. Likely the decline has been exacerbated by high elk predation rates. Restoring this elk population will require liberal predator harvest through hunting and trapping seasons, and control actions. Recent fires in this zone could provide a boost of nutrition if habitat response is favorable to elk.

Short-term management goals involve stabilizing the elk population, followed by steps to realize positive growth rates. Retaining similar population objectives from the previous plan as long-term goals (despite the current greatly reduced elk population) represents a desire to ultimately restore this population to levels achieved in the 1990s. The bull/cow and adult bull/cow ratios have been adjusted to 18 to 24/100 and 10 to 14/100 respectively during this recovery process.

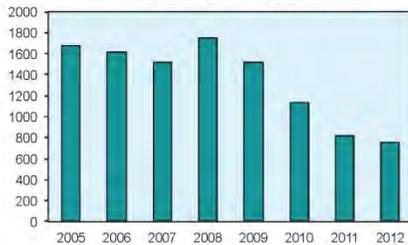
Long-term Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3850-5750	690-1030	390-810

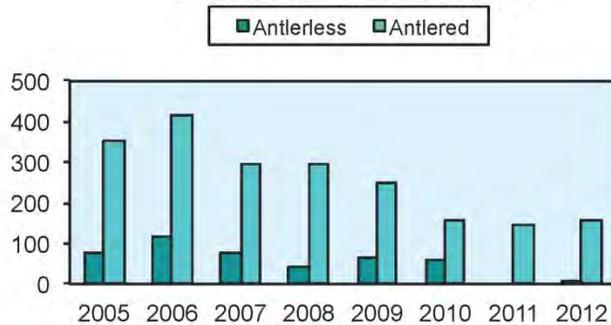
Middle Fork Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2011			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
5137	834	1007	6978	3341	462	420	4223
	16*	20*			14*	13*	
*per 100 cows							

Middle Fork Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Middle Fork Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,885	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	100%	Hunters per square mile =	0.31
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.06
		Success Rate =	19%
		% 6+ Points =	50%

Middle Fork Zone – is highly limited by predation		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Maintain cow elk population between 2,400-3,600 cows in 2 consecutive aerial surveys conducted at 5-year interval Develop Predation Management Plan by 2014	Maintain adequate wolf hunting and trapping seasons and liberal bag limits to reduce wolf impacts Develop and implement Predation Management Plan, including consideration of professional trappers and aerial removal, to address antlerless elk populations that are below objective



Brownlee Zone

Game Management Unit 31

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain bull elk at or above objectives;
- Maintain cow elk populations at current levels.

Population objectives are to maintain elk populations at current levels to address agricultural concerns and provide quality elk hunting opportunities.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

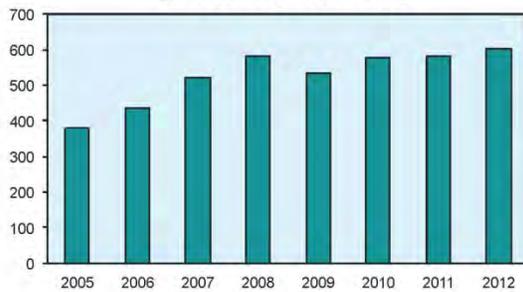
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
550-850	150-200	75-125

Brownlee Zone Population Surveys

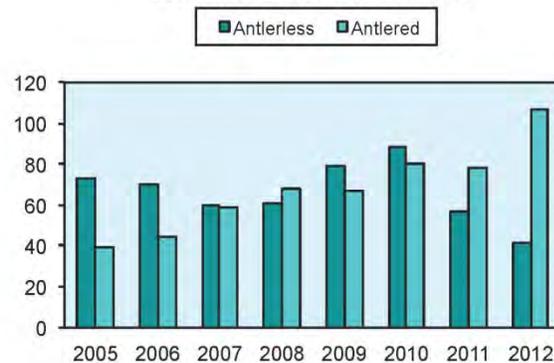
Survey 1 - 2007				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
412	206	159	777	841	333	249	1423
	50*	39*			40*	30*	

*per 100 cows

Brownlee Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Brownlee Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	598	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	50%	Hunters per square mile =	0.98
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.25
	Forest	Success Rate =	26%
		%6+ Points =	57%

Brownlee Zone – is highly limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Weiser River Zone

Game Management Units 22, 32, 32A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Decrease cow elk population within proposed objectives;
- Maintain bull elk population within proposed objectives.

Population objectives for the Weiser River Zone involve reducing overall elk numbers in areas where agricultural concerns are high while continuing to provide a broad range of hunting opportunity.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

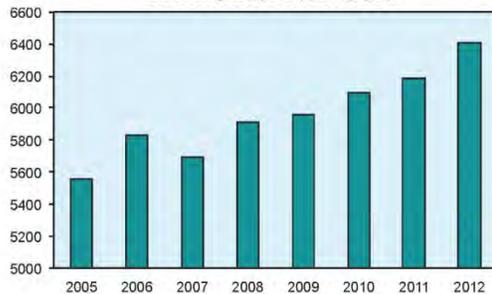
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3300-5000	670-1000	325-500

Weiser River Zone Population Surveys

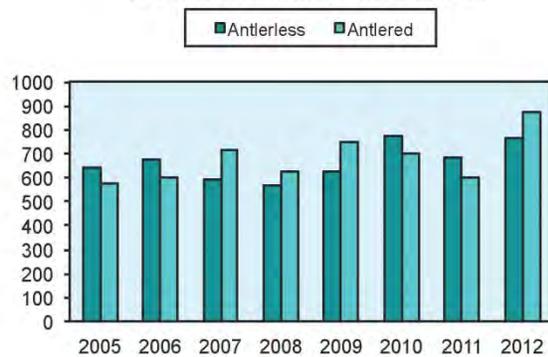
Survey 1 - 2007				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
5372	909	1571	7852	7461	1116	1894	10471
	17*	29*			15*	25*	

*per 100 cows

Weiser River Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Weiser River Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,895	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	51%	Hunters per square mile =	2.15
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.51
	Forest	Success Rate =	24%
		%6+ Points =	24%

Weiser River Zone – is highly limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Sawtooth Zone

Game Management Units 33, 34, 35, 36

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Increase the elk population from current levels.

Elk population objectives in the Sawtooth Zone remain the same because this population has responded favorably to management actions the last three years. It is anticipated that this herd will continue to increase and ultimately meet objectives. Fish and Game is managing for a robust elk population with general hunt opportunity near a large human population center, while keeping the elk population within the carrying capacity of a limited winter range, and limiting agricultural crop and property damage complaints on private land during winter.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

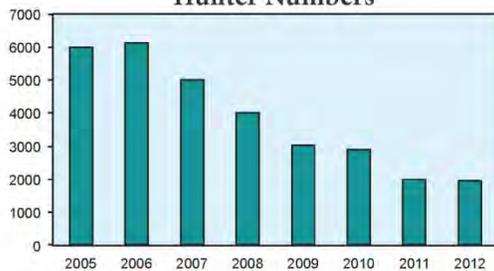
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3000-4500	630-945	360-540

Sawtooth Zone Population Surveys

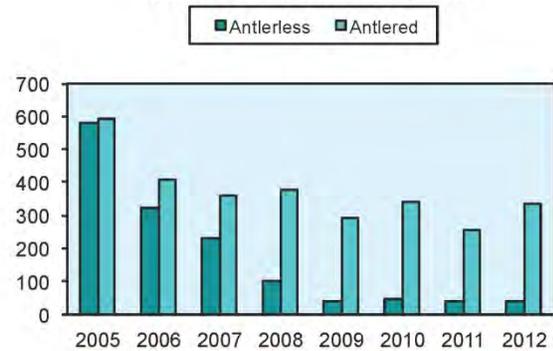
Survey 1 - 2009				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
2696	251	509	3456	2396	324	926	3646
	9*	19*			14*	38*	

*per 100 cows

Sawtooth Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Sawtooth Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,541	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	97%	Hunters per square mile =	0.90
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.14
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	15%
		%6 + Points =	27%

Sawtooth Zone – is moderately limited by predation, habitat, and agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	<p>Over the next 10 years, improve or maintain calf elk survival as measured by winter calf:cow ratios of 30:100</p> <p>Over the next 10 years, improve or maintain natural adult cow annual survival above $\geq 90\%$ (under average winter conditions)</p> <p>Update the Sawtooth Predation Management Plan annually; adapt and implement as needed</p>	<p>Maintain liberal wolf seasons and bag limits</p> <p>Continue developing tools to monitor black bears and mountain lions</p> <p>Implement annual composition counts to monitor cow:calf ratios</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Map the reflective values and trends in habitat quality for the zone using current technology by 2015	Continue to provide other technical assistance to USFS for habitat improvement and travel management projects
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain current low levels of agricultural depredations in Garden Valley (3-4 complaints per year)	<p>Emergency winter feeding when warranted and recommended by advisory board</p> <p>Encourage conservation easements on key winter ranges to reduce the threat of development</p>
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>See Statewide Objectives in Table 7</p> <p>Reduce total acres of rush skeletonweed infestation in the South Fork of the Payette River watershed by 5% annually</p> <p>Improve 1,000 acres of elk calving and</p>	<p>See Statewide Strategies in Table 7</p> <p>Prioritize elk winter range as a target for cooperative integrated weed management efforts</p> <p>Enhance or develop early successional mixed shrub habitat in mixed conifer forest areas</p>

Sawtooth Zone – is moderately limited by predation, habitat, and agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	parturition habitat annually in Grandjean, Deadwood, and Bear Valley	



Boise River Zone

Game Management Unit 39

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

Elk population objectives remain the same due to a stable population and harvest rate. Management direction involves balancing a robust and migratory elk population with general hunt opportunity near a large human population center, while limiting agricultural crop and property damage on private land during winter.

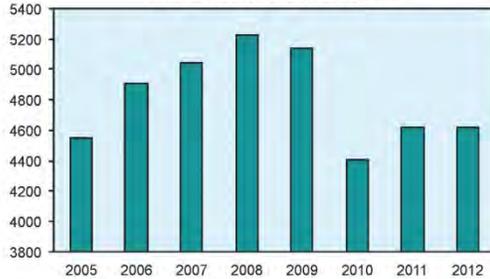
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3200-4800	650-950	375-575

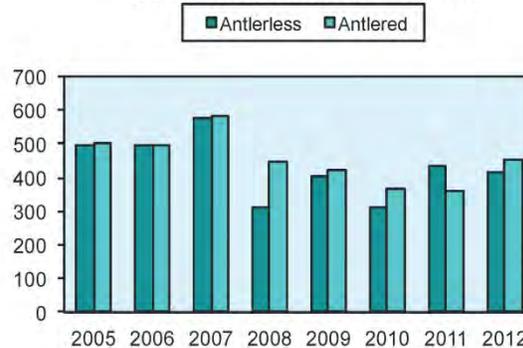
Boise River Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2008				Survey 2 - 2011			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
4216	962	1106	6901	4971	916	1388	7275
	23*	26*			18*	28*	
*per 100 cows							

Boise River Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Boise River Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,444	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	76%	Hunters per square mile =	1.86
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.32
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	17%
		%6+ Points =	22%

Boise River Zone – highly limited by habitat and agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain or improve current levels of landowner support for our programs over the next 5 years	Evaluate strategies which allow landowners to benefit from animals harvested on private land
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>Coordinate with County Planning and Zoning boards to identify and provide 1:1 mitigation for impacts on all approved residential development on elk winter range</p> <p>Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement on private lands by September 2014, and improve 500 acres annually thereafter</p> <p>Develop a map of area priorities for elk habitat improvement projects on public lands by September 2014, and improve or protect 5,000 acres annually thereafter</p> <p>Annually quantify impacts to winter range resulting from residential development activities on private lands adjacent to public land</p> <p>Coordinate with BLM to identify 5,000 acres of land with lower wildlife habitat values that could be used in land exchanges for higher value habitats</p>	<p>Develop off-site habitat improvements, limit total area of impact, provide open space, manage for responsible travel management, include restrictive covenants to minimize disturbance effects, and use conservation easements as mitigation</p> <p>Utilize Farm Bill, non-governmental conservation organizations, and other habitat improvement programs to protect and improve elk habitat on private lands with willing cooperators</p> <p>Restore shrub steppe habitat from annual grassland, protect priority habitat areas from fire with green stripping and fire breaks</p> <p>Improve quality in winter range on additional adjacent public lands by an equivalent amount annually</p> <p>Manage travel on winter ranges to minimize cumulative disturbance impacts</p> <p>Assist conservation organizations to identify and prioritize private lands for conservation easements that will protect and improve elk habitat</p>



Owyhee Zone

Game Management Units 38, 40, 41, 42

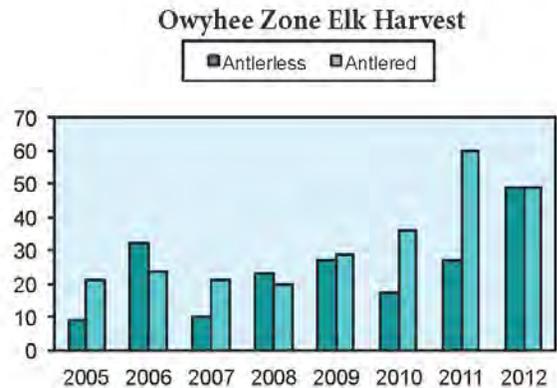
Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Split the Owyhee-South Hills Zone into two zones;
- The new Owyhee Zone would consist of GMUs 38, 40, 41 and 42;
- Maintain or increase the elk population within proposed objectives.

Objectives for the Owyhee Zone elk population are not derived from aerial surveys due to expansive land area, dispersed groups of elk, poorly defined winter range, and difficult winter access. This population is monitored using harvest data, occasional fixed wing flights, and other biological observations. The elk population, and subsequent elk harvest, will be allowed to gradually increase as long as it is socially acceptable and does not impact the mule deer population.

The Owyhee Zone elk population is one of a few where aerial surveys are not conducted because of the large land area and dispersed groups of elk. Elk populations are managed in this zone through harvest data analysis.



Square Miles =	8,003	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	72%	Hunters per square mile	0.03
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile :	0.01
		Success Rate =	35%
		%6+ Points =	84%

Owyhee Zone – is somewhat limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain or improve current levels of landowner support for our programs over the next 5 years	Evaluate strategies which allow landowners to benefit from animals harvested on private land



Smoky-Bennett Zone

Game Management Units 43, 44, 45, 48, 52

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Combine the Smoky Mt. and Bennett Hills Zones;
- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

Radio-collared elk that previously wintered at feed sites in the South Fork Boise River drainage have increasingly wintered in the Bennett Hills Zone over the last five to eight years. These elk have been missed during winter surveys of the Smoky Mountain Zone, making it difficult to ascertain whether the lower numbers that have been observed represent an actual elk decline in the Smoky Mountain Zone or are primarily the result of winter redistribution of elk.

Conversely, it is difficult to determine whether Bennett Hills Zone elk numbers are truly increasing, or are a result of immigration by elk from the Smoky Mountain Zone. Combining these zones will help generate more accurate and comprehensive population estimates. Deployment of additional radio collars will help monitor elk movements away from wintering areas to better determine elk distribution during hunting seasons.

Smoky Mountain Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2009			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
1849	825	703	3377	1560	502	655	2630
	45*	38*			32*	42*	
*per 100 cows							

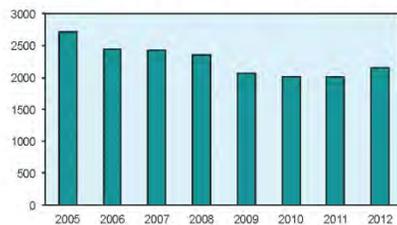
Bennett Hills Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2010				Survey 2 - 2012			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
420	120	177	717	--	--	--	1309
	29*	42*					
*per 100 cows							

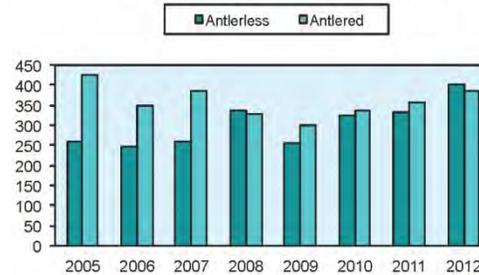
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2000-3000	620-930	400-595

Smoky-Bennett Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Smoky-Bennett Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	3,982	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	72%	Hunters per square mile =	0.21
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.04
	Agriculture	Success Rate =	21%
		%6+ Points =	0%

Smoky-Bennett Zone – highly limited by agricultural impacts and moderately limited by habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
When zones are meeting objectives, actively manage elk populations commensurate with habitat capabilities to maximize reproductive performance and overall herd health	Annually focus antlerless harvest in areas with depredation concerns while minimizing cow harvest in other portions of the zone to increase overall cow numbers	Radiocollar cow elk in depredation areas to better target harvest of these elk when they are not actively impacting agricultural crops Use targeted harvest during depredation issues to remove problem elk
	Eliminate winter feeding in GMU 43 (South Fork Boise River) by 2014	Begin dismantling feeding facilities at Big Smoky, Lightfoot Bar, Big Water, and Featherville
	Continue elk feeding operation at Warm Springs Creek in GMU 48 Eliminate all private elk feed sites by 2017	Continue to feed elk at the Bullwhacker feed site west of Ketchum to reduce elk conflicts with civilization Work with Blaine County Commissioners to develop an ordinance that would prohibit unauthorized elk feeding Annually provide educational materials to Wood River Valley residents regarding potential pitfalls of elk feeding
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	Maintain a bull:cow ratio of 25-29 bulls:100 cows (500-870 bulls) Annually maintain controlled, quality bull hunting opportunity	In the GMU 45 portion of this zone, depredation concerns will take priority over bull management objectives Continue controlled archery and controlled any-weapon hunts
	Maintain a diversity of hunting opportunities for multiple weapon types Maintain general bull hunting opportunity where supportable by bull	Increase hunter access through landowner agreements including, but not limited to, easements, incentive programs, and the Access Yes! program to help meet harvest objectives Increase hunting opportunities proportionally among

Smoky-Bennett Zone – highly limited by agricultural impacts and moderately limited by habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	populations that are meeting or exceeding objectives	<p>established weapon types where biological conditions warrant opportunity increases</p> <p>If decreases in hunting opportunities are warranted, evaluate data and implement decreases as follows:</p> <p>Decrease opportunity based on which weapon types may have the most significant impact on bull populations, as indicated by harvest data</p> <p>Allocate the decrease in hunting opportunity proportionally among the different weapon types</p>
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>See Statewide Objectives in Table 7</p> <p>Annually, restore 2,000 acres of noxious weed infested grasslands to desirable grass/forb communities on elk winter ranges. Focus efforts on foothills north of I-84 from Gooding west to Mayfield</p>	<p>See Statewide Strategies in Table 7</p> <p>Use biological, chemical, and cultural control of noxious weeds on grasslands</p> <p>In post-treatment grassland areas composed of $\geq 30\%$ noxious weeds, reseed with a desirable grass/forb mix</p> <p>Prioritize wildfire rehab efforts in areas that burn critical big game winter range</p>
Develop biological studies to improve population, predator, and habitat management capabilities	<p>By 2016, determine what proportions of elk observed during winter surveys return to different Smoky-Bennett GMUs during hunting season</p> <p>By 2016, identify movement patterns and seasonal habitat use of elk</p>	<p>By 2014, deploy 20-30 satellite radiocollars on cow elk to obtain detailed information on elk movements and seasonal use areas</p>

Smoky-Bennett Zone – highly limited by agricultural impacts and moderately limited by habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	involved in depredations	
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2016, use aerial survey and radiocollar data to update elk habitat and migration corridor maps Reduce highway mortalities by 25%, especially on Hwy 75 in the Big Wood Valley and on Hwy 20 between Timmerman Junction and Fairfield	Provide updated elk habitat and migration corridor maps to federal agencies and planning and zoning commissions for their use during development planning processes Continue the collaborative effort with Blaine County to develop solutions to reduce vehicle-elk collisions on Hwy 75
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



South Hills Zone

Game Management Units 46, 47, 54, 55, 56, 57

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

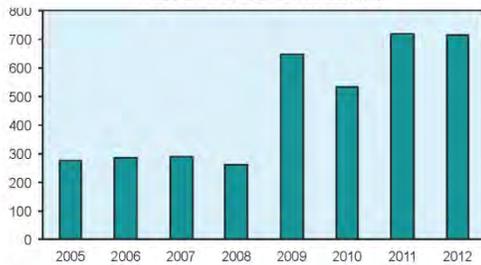
Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Split the Owyhee-South Hills Zone into two zones;
- The new South Hills Zone would consist of units 46, 47, 54, 55, 57 and 56 (from the Bannock Zone);
- Increase the elk population within the zone.

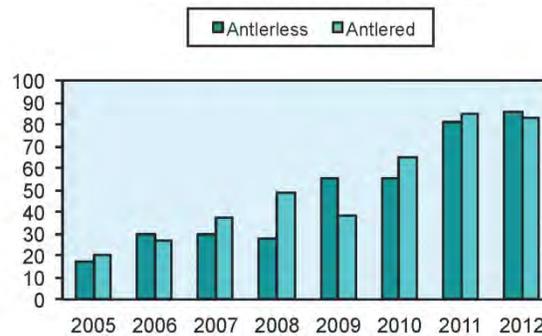
Aerial surveys are not conducted in the South Hills Zone due to the large land area and dispersed wintering elk population. Fish and Game receives annual agricultural crop and property damage within this zone. Management issues (primarily agricultural issues) and hunting opportunity (quality) are similar across the GMUs proposed to be included in this zone. Grouping them will better allow wildlife managers to balance preserving quality hunting opportunities by slowly increasing elk populations while being watchful of and responsive to depredation concerns. Elk populations will be allowed to stabilize or slowly increase to sustain valued high-quality hunting opportunities while maintaining property damage complaints at or below current levels by implementing new and proactive measures for increasing landowner tolerance of elk.

The South Hills Zone elk population is one of a few where aerial surveys are not conducted because of the large land area and small dispersed groups of elk. Elk populations in this zone are managed using harvest data analysis and minimization of elk depredations on agricultural lands.

South Hills Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



South Hills Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,895	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	51%	Hunters per square mile =	2.15
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.51
	Forest	Success Rate =	24%
		%6+ Points =	24%

South Hills Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	By 2014, deploy 20-30 satellite radiocollars on cow elk to obtain detailed information on elk movements and habitat use in relation to road densities and recreation Consider landowner incentives for habitat improvements that benefit elk populations	Become involved with federal agency travel planning and resource management plan revisions to contribute information about elk habitat use and movement patterns and habitat needs Support the Shoshone Basin Habitat and Access Partnership Work with ranchers and other private landowners to protect elk habitat and public access to elk habitat
When zones are meeting objectives, actively manage elk populations commensurate with habitat capabilities to maximize reproductive performance and overall herd health	Manage bull and cow numbers within objectives for trophy harvest and minimizing depredation complaints	Monitor overlapping seasonal habitat use by elk and mule deer Consider increasing elk harvest to reduce elk populations should evidence suggest elk may be competing with mule deer for resources
Develop an elk monitoring program that includes modeling or monitoring zone population abundance during the years between aerial surveys	By 2016, identify movement patterns and seasonal habitat use of elk involved in depredations Annually coordinate with Nevada Division of Wildlife By 2016, incorporate any portions of GMUs 46, 47, or 41 not surveyed by Nevada into the aerial survey rotation	By 2014, deploy 20-30 satellite radiocollars on cow elk to obtain detailed information on elk movements and habitat use Obtain Nevada’s most current survey numbers, identify gaps in survey areas, and develop ways to determine what proportion of elk spend what seasons in Idaho or Nevada Explore use of forward-looking infrared (FLIR) technology to quantify elk in GMUs 46, 47, and 41

South Hills Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	<p>Over the next 10 years, maintain a bull:cow ratio of 30-35 bulls:100 cows (600-1,050 bulls)</p> <p>Provide high quality bull hunting opportunity</p> <p>By 2015, develop harvest-related management objectives for antlered elk to maintain the trophy potential of hunts</p>	<p>Implement mandatory check for bull elk to ensure bulls are meeting quality objectives. A trial voluntary check will be implemented beginning in 2013</p> <p>Continue controlled archery and controlled any weapon hunts</p> <p>Maintain general hunting opportunity where supportable by bull populations that are meeting or exceeding objectives</p> <p>Increase hunting opportunities proportionally among established weapon types where biological conditions warrant opportunity increases</p> <p>If decreases in hunting opportunities are warranted, evaluate data and implement decreases as follows:</p> <p>Decrease opportunity based on which weapon types may have the most significant impact on bull populations, as indicated by harvest data</p> <p>Allocate the decrease in hunting opportunity proportionally among the different weapon types</p> <p>Maintain a diversity of hunting opportunities for multiple weapon types</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Pioneer Zone

Game Management Units 36A, 49, 50

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

Population objectives have been revised to better reflect current elk population levels, increasing agricultural crop and property damage issues, and to balance elk hunting opportunity while minimizing agricultural concerns.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

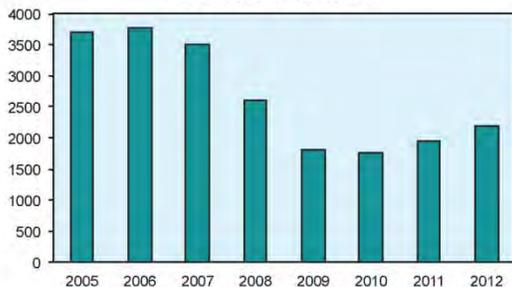
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
3150-5600	1025-1820	630-1120

Pioneer Zone Population Surveys

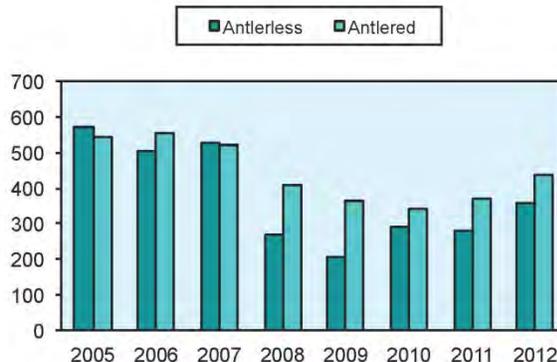
Survey 1 - 2008				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3448	845	1139	5459	5544	2045	2149	9738
	25*	33*			37*	39*	

*per 100 cows

Pioneer Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Pioneer Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	3,202	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	82%	Hunters per square mile =	0.61
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.22
		Success Rate =	35%
		%6+ Points =	45%

Pioneer Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain greenfield hunt structure Provide material to build 10 permanent stack yards over the next 10 years	Implement a variety of hunting season frameworks, including greenfield hunts, to reduce depredation Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Coordinate annually with local non-profit conservation organizations to provide data necessary for directing conservation easements and habitat improvements towards elk habitat	Participate in meetings with non-profit conservation organizations to provide up-to-date information on elk habitat use, movement patterns, and population data to better direct conservation efforts
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	Annually maintain controlled, high quality bull hunting opportunity Over the next 10 years, maintain a bull:cow ratio of 30-35 bulls:100 cows (1,050-1,595 bulls) Annually maintain general season opportunity Maintain controlled cow hunting opportunities within portions of this zone experiencing chronic depredation complaints	Offer bull hunting opportunity as population levels allow Consider expansion of current general archery season if depredation complaints increase and elk populations exceed objectives Implement extra tags, landowner permission hunts, or special weapon hunts with boundaries designed to target areas with chronic depredations Increase hunting opportunities proportionally among established weapon types where biological conditions warrant opportunity increases

Pioneer Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	Maintain opportunities for multiple weapon types	<p>Annually maintain at least 50,000 acres of private land enrolled in the Access Yes! program</p> <p>If decreases in hunting opportunities are warranted, evaluate data and implement decreases as follows:</p> <p>Decrease opportunity based on which weapon types may have the most significant impact on bull populations, as indicated by harvest data</p> <p>Allocate the decrease in hunting opportunity proportionally among the different weapon types</p>
When zones are meeting objectives, actively manage elk populations commensurate with habitat capabilities to maximize reproductive performance and overall herd health	Eliminate all private elk feed sites by 2017	<p>Work to pass a county ordinance that would prohibit unauthorized elk feeding</p> <p>Annually provide educational materials to Wood River Valley residents regarding the potential pitfalls of elk feeding</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	<p>During allotment assessments every 10 years, work with federal land management agencies to determine best long-term utilization rates</p> <p>Plan annual meeting with federal land management agencies to discuss the allocation of grazing resources among wildlife and livestock</p> <p>Reduce highway mortalities, especially on Hwy 75 in the Big Wood Valley by</p>	<p>Cooperate with federal, state, and private land managers and owners to provide suitable winter range, including management of disturbance that could displace elk</p> <p>Engage federal land management agencies regarding drought conditions and emergency drought procedures</p> <p>Continue the collaborative effort with Blaine County to develop solutions to reduce vehicle-elk collisions on Hwy 75</p> <p>Work with vehicle collision database and ITD to</p>

Pioneer Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	25% By 2018, identify and implement strategies to protect important elk linkage corridors	identify important elk movement corridors Provide technical assistance for wildlife fencing and passage to reduce vehicle collisions where elk cross highways



Big Desert Zone

Game Management Units 52A, 68

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

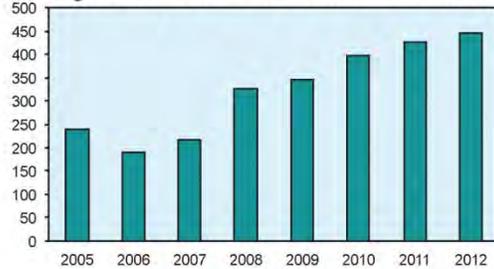
Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Reduce elk populations to lower levels.

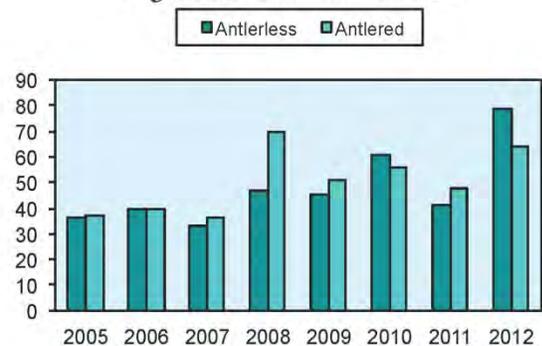
This management direction continues the approach taken in the Big Desert during recent years. As agricultural crop and property damage have increased, so have antlerless tag numbers. Hunts have been designed to help address elk damage to agricultural crops in the times and places where it occurs. Hunter success has remained high in the Big Desert. Where agricultural concerns are now at manageable levels - such as in much of Unit 68 - elk numbers will be maintained at levels which limit agricultural damage yet provide a desirable hunting opportunity and experience. As with other zones limited by agricultural impacts, the overall goal is to strike a balance between being responsive to depredation issues while still providing quality hunting opportunity.

The Big Desert Zone elk population is one of a few where aerial surveys are not conducted because of the large land area and small dispersed groups of elk. Elk populations in this zone are managed using harvest data analysis and minimization of elk depredations on agricultural lands.

Big Desert Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Big Desert Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	3,553	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	80%	Hunters per square mile =	0.12
Major Land Type =	Range	Harvest per square mile =	0.03
	Agriculture	Success Rate =	28%
		%6+ Points =	62%

Big Desert Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	<p>See Statewide Objectives in Table 7</p> <p>Map and determine status of all water developments by 2015</p> <p>Relocate/upgrade water developments (if needed) by 2016</p> <p>Contact all land managers to keep water developments operational through hot/dry months by 2015</p> <p>Work with land managers to restore 1,000 acres of wildfire impacted habitat per year with native plant communities (seedings/plantings)</p> <p>Other objectives should dove-tail with those for Snake River Zone</p>	<p>See Statewide Strategies in Table 7</p> <p>Assure water developments are tracked and maintained</p> <p>Assure that existing water developments are optimally placed to supplement native habitat and reduce agricultural conflicts</p> <p>Assure existing water developments continue to provide water through hot/dry months regardless of ownership or livestock presence</p> <p>Improve habitat impacted by wildfire</p>

Big Desert Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Provide a diversity of hunting opportunity, including socially desirable and biologically sustainable levels of antlerless and mature bull opportunity	<p>Annually maintain general season opportunity</p> <p>Maintain controlled cow hunting opportunities within portions of this zone experiencing chronic depredation complaints</p> <p>Maintain controlled, quality bull hunting opportunity in the portions of this zone less affected by depredation concerns</p>	<p>Consider expansion of current archery season if depredation complaints increase</p> <p>Implement extra tags, landowner permission hunts, or special weapon hunts with boundaries designed to target areas with chronic depredations</p>



Snake River Zone

Game Management Units 53, 63, 63A, 68A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

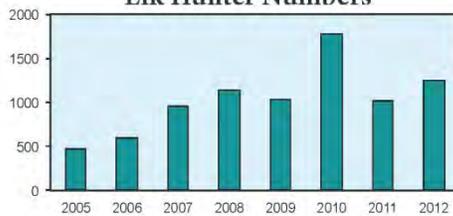
Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Decrease elk populations within the zone.

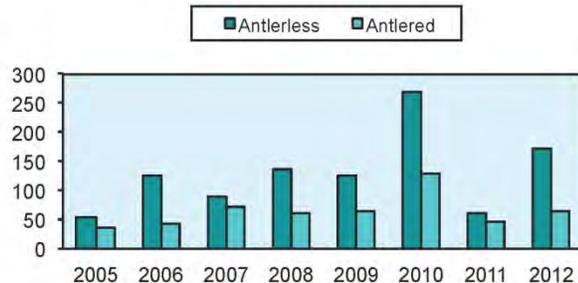
Management direction in the Snake River Zone involves decreasing the current elk population. The zone is dominated by agricultural lands and small communities that are not compatible with large numbers of resident elk. It is proposed to continue managing for minimal elk numbers by using long, liberal hunting seasons and prompt responses to crop and property damage on agricultural lands.

The Snake River Zone elk population is one of a few where aerial surveys are not conducted because of the large land area and small dispersed groups of elk. Elk populations in this zone are managed using harvest data analysis and minimization of elk depredations on agricultural lands.

Snake River Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Snake River Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	13,739	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	71%	Hunters per square mile =	0.05
Major Land Type =	Desert	Harvest per square mile =	0.01
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	25%
		%6+ Points =	85%

Snake River Zone – is highly limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Provide annual elk hunting opportunities	Annually maintain general season opportunity	Consider expansion of current short-range weapons season if depredation complaints increase
When zones are meeting objectives, actively manage elk populations commensurate with habitat capabilities to maximize reproductive performance and overall herd health	Focus increased harvest in areas with chronic depredation concerns	Implement extra tags, landowner permission hunts, or special weapon hunts with boundaries designed to target areas with chronic depredations



Bannock Zone

Game Management Units 56, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

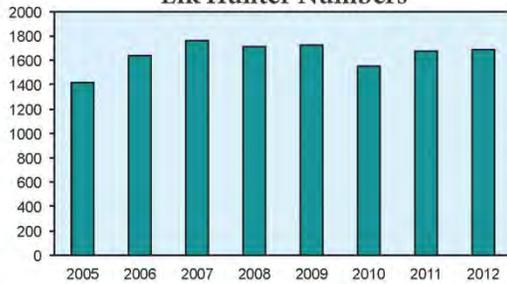
Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the current elk population level;
- Remove unit 56; add it to the new South Hills Zone.

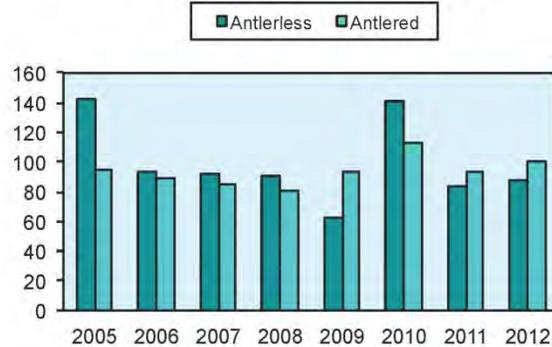
The Bannock zone will continue with the management direction and approaches used since the last elk management plan was developed. The goal is to maintain elk populations, hunter opportunity and hunter success similar to current levels. Elk in the Bannock zone consist of relatively small dispersed populations, which in the past have created agricultural crop and property damage concerns due to the mix of agricultural lands, range lands and forest habitat. Maintaining elk populations at levels which limit agricultural impacts through the use of relatively long seasons, with a diversity of opportunity will continue to be used to provide a balance between agricultural impact concerns and hunter desires for increased elk numbers.

The Bannock Zone elk population is one of a few where aerial surveys are not conducted because of the large land area and small dispersed groups of elk. Elk populations are managed in this zone through harvest data analysis of antlerless and percent 6-point bulls.

**Bannock Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers**



Bannock Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	3,742	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	32%	Hunters per square mile =	0.44
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.06
	Agriculture	Success Rate =	13%
		%6+ Points =	57%

Bannock Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2018, develop strategies identifying specific needs and actions for movement corridors	Work with state and federal agencies to improve movement corridors across highways to facilitate better dispersal onto seasonal ranges
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Bear River Zone

Game Management Units 75, 77, 78

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

The management direction in the Bear River zone involves maintaining elk populations at current levels during the life of this plan. This zone currently has agricultural crop and property damage concerns and winter range limitations, which must be balanced with elk population goals and hunter opportunity. Efforts will continue to address agricultural impacts and increase landowner tolerance for elk. Maintaining populations and providing a diversity of hunting opportunity will continue to be the direction for this zone.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

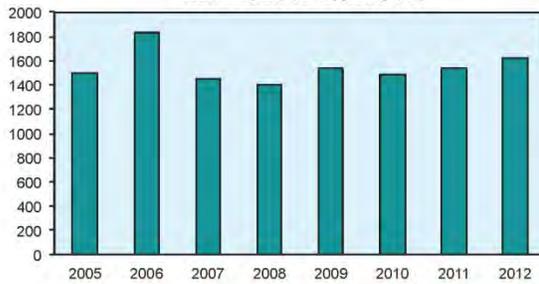
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
400-700	84-147	48-84

Bear River Zone Population Surveys

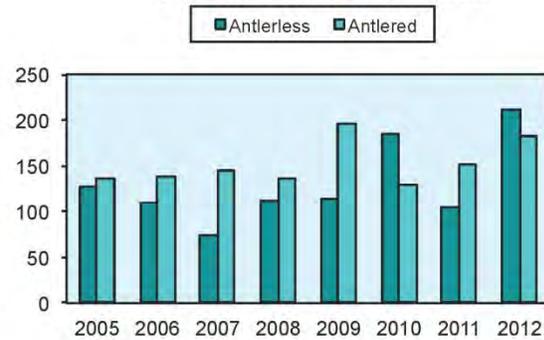
Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2010			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
379	91	91	561	606	98	205	909
	24*	24*			16*	34*	

*per 100 cows

Bear River Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Bear River Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	887	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	52%	Hunters per square mile =	1.75
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.36
		Success Rate =	21%
		%6+ Points =	30%

Bear River Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	By 2022, reduce depredation and baiting-feeding operations by 15%	Expand the lure crop program to keep elk in acceptable areas Provide permanent stack yard fencing to protect haystacks
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7



Diamond Creek Zone

Game Management Units 66A, 76

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain bull elk within proposed objectives;
- Increase cow elk numbers to meet proposed objective.

The goal for the Diamond Creek Zone is to increase elk numbers beyond current population estimates. While landowners in this zone experience agricultural crop and property damage, increasing and diversifying proactive measures to address these concerns should allow for an increase in elk numbers. This zone's proposed management direction involves continuing to provide quality hunts, with general hunting opportunity for archery and controlled rifle hunting opportunity.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

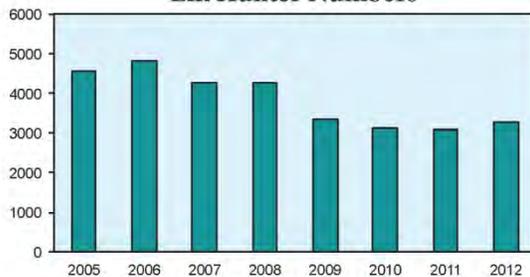
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
1500-2200	488-715	315-462

Diamond Creek Zone Population Surveys

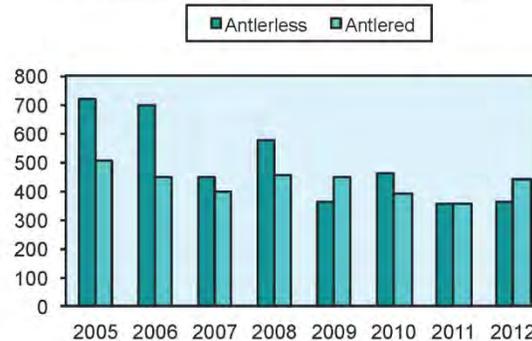
Survey 1 - 2009				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
1205	478	285	2220	1218	583	534	2352
	40*	24*			48*	44*	

*per 100 cows

Diamond Creek Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Diamond Creek Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	1,659	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	60%	Hunters per square mile =	1.90
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.48
		Success Rate =	25%
		%6+ Points =	42%

Diamond Creek Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural and habitat concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	By 2022, reduce depredation and baiting-feeding operations by 15%	Expand the lure crop program to keep elk in acceptable areas Provide permanent stack yard fencing to protect haystacks
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2018, identify and implement strategies to protect important elk linkage corridors	Improve movement corridors across highways to facilitate better dispersal between seasonal ranges – Rocky Point, Georgetown Summit Continue to work with ITD on wildlife fencing and passages as well as improved signage
Minimize the influence of disease as a limiting factor in elk populations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Recommend or support projects that would treat and/or improve an average >1,000 acres of summer-fall-winter habitat annually Promote awareness of impacts to elk calving habitat from phosphate mining and transmission line construction Cooperate with USFS to assure Elk Valley Marsh grazing management optimizes potential habitat benefits for elk and other wildlife Develop a map of seasonal habitat use with priorities for elk habitat	Work with private landowners, mining companies, power companies and public land managers to restore or mitigate disturbed and degraded areas to improve elk habitat Provide technical expertise through East Idaho Aspen Working Group to improve aspen habitat Work with conservation organizations, elected officials, and land managers to provide long-term conservation measures

Diamond Creek Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural and habitat concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	improvement projects by 2016 Purchase Walker property (760a) and BLM parcel (80a) associated with Georgetown Summit WMA Reseed 20a of Georgetown Summit WMA IDL lease to forage mix by 2020	



Beaverhead Zone

Game Management Units 30, 30A, 58, 59, 59A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

Proposed population objectives for the Beaverhead Zone provide a necessary balance between hunter opportunity, hunter success and crop/property damage concerns on agricultural lands.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

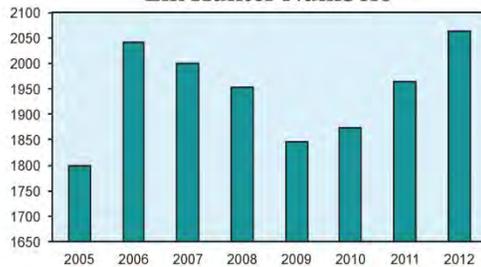
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2050-3075	555-830	330-485

Beaverhead Zone Population Surveys

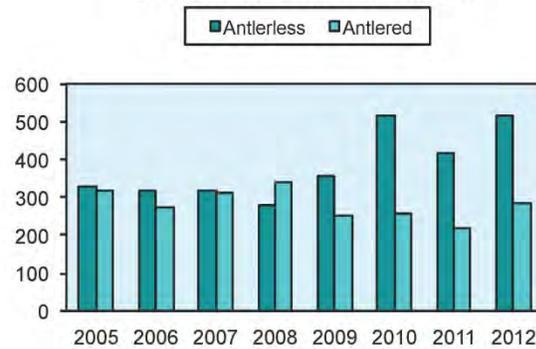
Survey 1 - 2005				Survey 2 - 2009			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
2467	706	797	3970	3257	862	1333	5452
	29*	32*			26*	41*	

*per 100 cows

Beaverhead Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Beaverhead Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,037	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	85%	Hunters per square mile =	0.97
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.36
	Forest	Success Rate =	38%
		%6 Points=	42%

Beaverhead Zone – moderately limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	<p>Acquire budget enhancements by FY16 to provide an additional \$10,000 for stack yard material</p> <p>Provide material to build 10 permanent stack yards over the next 10 years</p> <p>Maintain greenfield hunt structure as well as trying at least 1 landowner permission hunt</p>	<p>Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks</p> <p>Use hunting as the primary tool to manage agricultural depredations</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	<p>During allotment assessments every 10 years, work with federal land management agencies to determine best long-term utilization rates</p> <p>Plan annual meetings with federal land management agencies to discuss the allocation of grazing resources among wildlife and livestock</p>	<p>Cooperate with federal, state, and private land managers and owners to provide suitable winter range, including management of disturbance that could displace elk</p> <p>Engage federal land management agencies regarding drought conditions and emergency drought procedures</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Coordinate with the Salmon-Challis National Forest and BLM on all potential summer range elk habitat enhancement projects (technical assistance and funding)	Continue to provide technical assistance to USFS and BLM and consider becoming a Cooperating Agency to formalize our role with our federal partners



Island Park Zone

Game Management Units 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Add unit 62 from the dissolved Teton zone;
- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

The Island Park Zone will now include unit 62 from the dissolved Teton Zone. The unit 62 elk herd is small and shares part of its range with some current Island Park Zone elk. The addition of the unit 62 elk herd will allow better management of the entire Island Park Zone elk population, while providing better hunter opportunity.

Proposed population objectives for the Island Park Zone balance hunter opportunity and hunter success with crop and property damage on agricultural lands.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

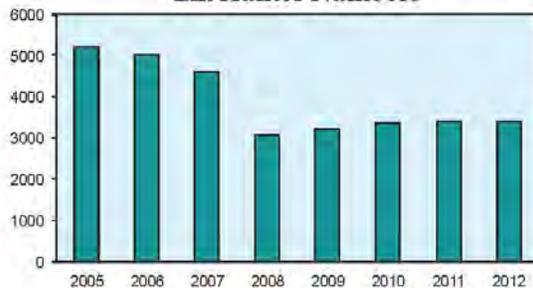
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
1200-1800	400-575	250-375

Island Park Zone Population Surveys

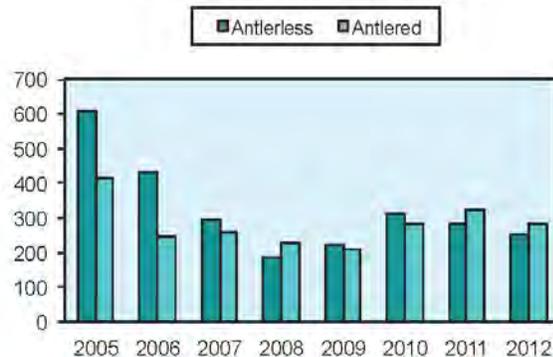
Survey 1 - 2006				Survey 2 - 2010			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
1069	315	364	1748	1476	313	722	2512
	29*	34*			21*	49*	

*per 100 cows

Island Park Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Island Park Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,886	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	63%	Hunters per square mile =	1.18
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.20
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	17%
		%6+ Points =	26%

Island Park Zone – moderately limited by agricultural impacts and predation		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Acquire budget enhancements by FY16 to provide an additional \$10,000 for stack yard material	Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks
Minimize the influence of disease as a limiting factor in elk populations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	Maintain or improve calf:cow ratios ≥ 30 calves:100 cows Maintain or improve natural adult cow annual mortality at $<10\%$	Maintain liberal black bear and mountain lion hunting opportunities Maintain wolf season length and harvest quotas Maintain wolf trapping opportunity



Palisades Zone

Game Management Units 64, 65, 67

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Add unit 65 from the dissolved Teton Zone;
- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

The Palisades Zone will now include unit 65 from the dissolved Teton Zone. The unit 65 elk herd is small and shares part of its range with some current Palisades Zone elk. The addition of the unit 65 elk herd will allow better management of the entire Palisades Zone elk population, while providing better hunter opportunity.

Proposed population objectives for the Palisades Zone balance hunter opportunity and hunter success with crop and property damage on agricultural lands.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

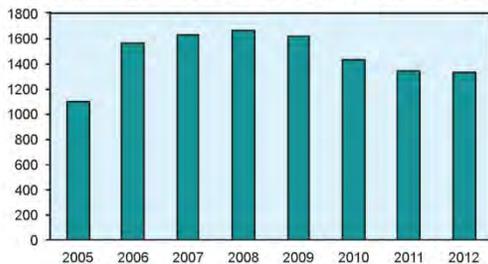
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
400-600	125-200	75-125

Palisades Zone Population Surveys

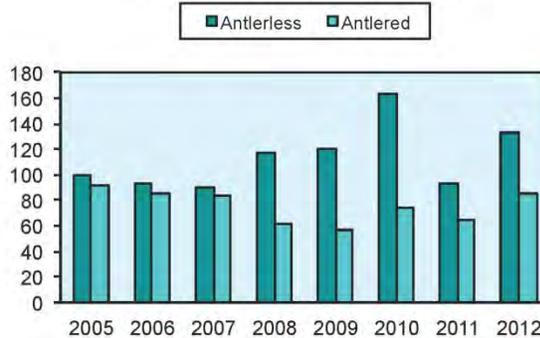
Survey 1 - 2004				Survey 2 - 2009			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
375	214	99	688	461	195	141	797
	57*	26*			42*	31*	

*per 100 cows

Palisades Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Palisades Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	771	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	52%	Hunters per square mile =	1.77
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.27
	Agriculture	Success Rate =	15%
		%6+ Points =	48%

Palisades Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural impacts and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Acquire budget enhancements by FY16 to provide an additional \$10,000 for stack yard material	Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks
Minimize the influence of disease as a limiting factor in elk populations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Improve habitat on public and private lands for elk population to meet population goals	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
	Annually, actively manage at least 2,400 acres of aspen or aspen/conifer mix habitat on USFS land to maintain or improve elk summer range	Conduct prescribed fire, thinning, or other active forest management techniques to maintain aspen age diversity and reduce conifer encroachment Manage beneficial wildfires that will diversify or rejuvenate aspen habitats or reduce conifer encroachment
	Annually, restore 1,000 acres of USFS elk winter or transitional range to early successional habitat	Conduct prescribed fire, thinning, or other active management techniques to set back succession in mature conifer, mountain mahogany, and mountain shrub stands below 7,500 ft. elevation
	Annually, improve at least 150 acres of elk winter range habitat on private lands on Pine Creek Bench	Utilize Farm Bill programs, or other conservation funding sources, to convert stands of sod-forming grasses to stands of a beneficial grass/forb/shrub mix
	Cooperate with BLM on improving elk winter range habitat on their conservation easements and fee-title acquisitions on Pine Creek Bench	Provide technical assistance, funding, and labor (where feasible) to convert stands of sod-forming grasses to stands of a beneficial grass/forb/shrub mix

Palisades Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural impacts and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	Annually, improve 400 acres of elk winter forage on private lands from Hwy 33 south to Hwy 31, within four miles of the west side of the Teton River	Utilize Farm Bill programs, or other conservation funding sources, to plant fall annual crops on irrigated land-used for grain production Utilize Farm Bill programs, or other conservation funding sources, to convert stands of sod-forming grasses to stands of a beneficial grass/forb/shrub mix
	Annually, improve 400 acres of elk winter forage on private lands adjacent to the Big Hole Mountains between Milk Creek and Moody Creek	Utilize Farm Bill programs, or other conservation funding sources, to convert stands of sod-forming grasses to stands of a beneficial grass/forb/shrub mix
Protect key elk habitats that are necessary to meet or exceed statewide objectives	Conserve a corridor of habitat that connects USFS lands to the existing BLM, IDFG, and Teton Regional Land Trust conservation easements and BLM lands on Pine Creek Bench west of Hwy 31	Utilize fee-title acquisitions or conservation easements to conserve property
	Annually, conserve at least 400 acres of elk winter range between Palisades Creek and Hwy 31 (exclusive of the protected corridor on Pine Creek Bench)	Utilize fee-title acquisitions or conservation easements to conserve property
	Annually, conserve at least 200 acres of elk winter range on the west side of the Teton River between Hwy 33 and Hwy 31	Utilize fee-title acquisitions or conservation easements to conserve property

Palisades Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural impacts and habitat		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
	Annually, conserve at least 200 acres of elk winter range adjacent to the Big Hole Mountains between Milk Creek and Moody Creek	Utilize fee-title acquisitions or conservation easements to conserve property
	Annually, improve the security cover of at least 800 acres of elk winter range between Moody Creek to Milk Creek	Work with private landowners, public land managers, and county officials to manage access on elk winter range by either road/area closures and/or posting of private property during critical winter months
	Annually, improve the security cover of at least 100 acres of elk winter range on the west side of the Teton River between Hwy 33 and Hwy 31	Work with private landowners, public land managers, and county officials to manage access on elk winter range by either road/area closures and/or posting of private property during critical winter months
	Improve the security cover of elk summer and transition habitats in the Big Hole Mountains by adhering to road density guidelines outlined in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Plan	Work with USFS to remove and rehabilitate illegal roads and trails on public land Work with the IDL to remove and rehabilitate roads created on State lands for timber harvest
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	During allotment assessments every 10 years, work with federal land management agencies to determine best long-term utilization rates Plan annual meeting with federal land management agencies to discuss the allocation of grazing resources among wildlife and livestock	Cooperate with federal, state, and private land managers and owners to provide suitable winter range, including management of disturbance that could displace elk Engage federal land management agencies regarding drought conditions and emergency drought procedures



Tex Creek Zone

Game Management Units 66, 69

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain elk populations within proposed objectives.

Proposed elk population objectives for the Tex Creek Zone provide a necessary balance between hunter opportunity, hunter success and crop/property damage concerns on agricultural lands.

Proposed Zone Population Objectives

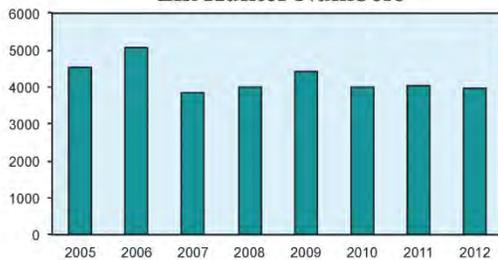
Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
2000-3000	425-625	250-350

Tex Creek Zone Population Surveys

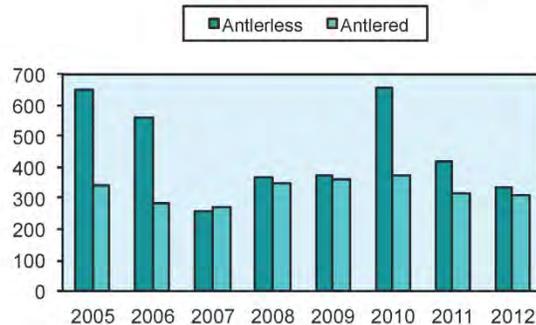
Survey 1 - 2010				Survey 2 - 2013			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
2277	577	974	3831	2214	583	1088	3885
	25*	43*			26*	49*	

*per 100 cows

Tex Creek Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Tex Creek Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	1,796	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	36%	Hunters per square mile =	2.23
Major Land Type =	Agriculture	Harvest per square mile =	0.45
	Rangeland	Success Rate =	20%
	Forest	%6+ Points =	28%

Tex Creek Zone – is highly limited by agricultural concerns		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Acquire budget enhancements by FY16 to provide an additional \$10,000 for stack yard material	Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks
Minimize the influence of disease as a limiting factor in elk populations	See Statewide Objectives in Table 7	See Statewide Strategies in Table 7
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	<p>During allotment assessments every 10 years, work with federal land management agencies to determine best long-term utilization rates</p> <p>Plan annual meeting with federal land management agencies to discuss the allocation of grazing resources among wildlife and livestock</p>	<p>Cooperate with federal, state, and private land managers and owners to provide suitable winter range, including management of disturbance that could displace elk</p> <p>Engage federal land management agencies regarding drought conditions and emergency drought procedures</p>



Salmon Zone

Game Management Units 21, 21A, 28, 36B

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain cow elk population within proposed objectives;
- Increase bull elk population to meet proposed objectives.

Population objectives for the Salmon Zone are designed to allow the elk population to increase from current levels to reach biological carrying capacity while not exceeding social carrying capacity.

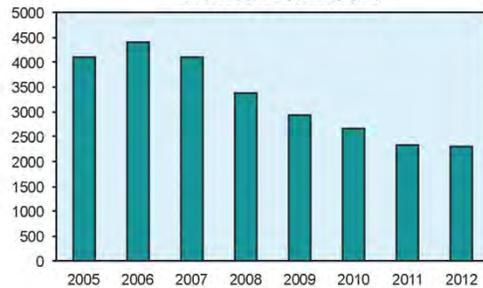
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
4850-7400	1020-1560	585-885

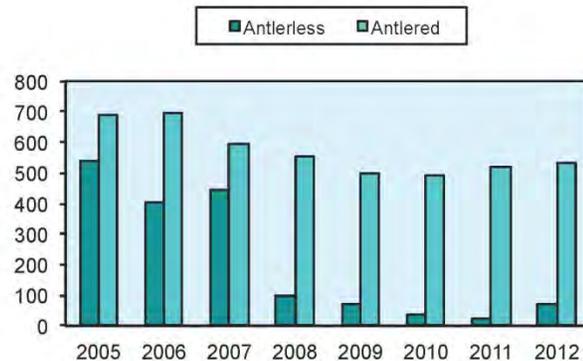
Salmon Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2008				Survey 2 - 2010			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
6182	884	1333	10611	5628	606	1432	7666
	14*	22*			11*	25*	
*per 100 cows							

Salmon Zone Elk Hunter Numbers



Salmon Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,651	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	95%	Hunters per square mile =	0.92
Major Land Type =	Forest	Harvest per square mile =	0.21
		Success Rate =	23%
		%6+ Points =	22%

Salmon Zone – is highly limited by predation and moderately limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain or expand greenfield hunt structure for selected units based on relationship to cow elk objectives	Implement a variety of hunting season frameworks, including greenfield hunts, to reduce depredation
When zones are below objectives, aggressively manage elk and predator populations, and improve habitat capabilities	<p>Maintain or increase wolf hunting seasons and bag limits to achieve wolf harvest limit</p> <p>Maintain adequate wolf trapping seasons and bag limits to achieve wolf harvest limit</p> <p>Maintain cow elk population between 4,850-7,400 cows in 2 consecutive aerial surveys conducted at 5-year interval; or estimated lower cow elk population based on modeled population performance</p>	<p>Maintain adequate wolf hunting seasons and liberal bag limits to reduce impacts of wolves</p> <p>Implement wolf trapping seasons in unit(s) where increased wolf harvest is warranted</p> <p>Develop and implement a Predation Management Plan if zone antlerless elk population falls below objective, including consideration of professional trappers and aerial removal</p>
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	Continue coordination and funding for local weed management programs (Lemhi Co. cooperative weed management)	Support and provide funding for invasive weed control
Improve key summer, winter, and transitional habitats on public and private lands that provide for elk populations to meet statewide objectives	Participate in and support (technical assistance and funding) the local Aspen Working Group to maintain or improve ≥ 200 acres of aspen per year in GMUs 21A, 28, and 36B	Promote well designed forest management projects that closely resemble natural disturbance

Salmon Zone – is highly limited by predation and moderately limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2018 identify and implement strategies to protect important elk linkage corridors	<p>Work with vehicle collision database and ITD to identify important elk movement corridors</p> <p>Provide technical assistance for wildlife fencing and passage to reduce vehicle collisions where elk cross highways</p>



Lemhi Zone

Game Management Units 29, 37, 37A, 51

Population Objectives • Current Status • Harvest Information

Proposed 10-year Management Direction:

- Maintain the elk population within proposed objectives.

Population objectives are designed bring elk populations within social carrying capacity near existing levels.

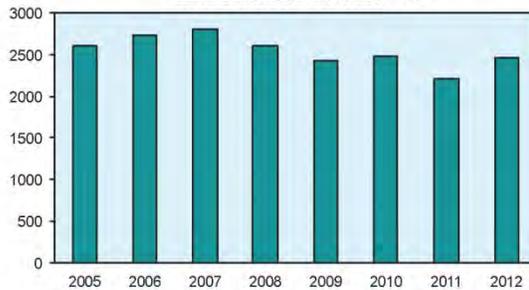
Proposed Zone Population Objectives

Objective		
Cows	Bulls	Adult Bulls
1850-2950	600-960	370-590

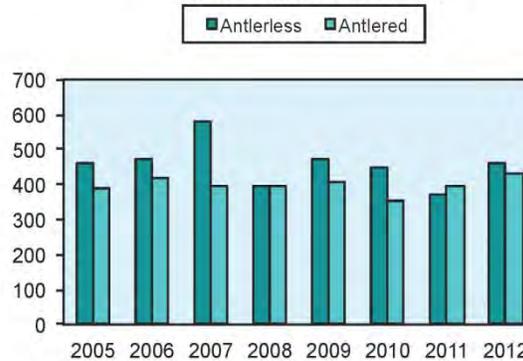
Lemhi Zone Population Surveys

Survey 1 - 2007				Survey 2 - 2011			
Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Total
3262	1442	1201	5905	2753	1005	1206	4964
	44*	37*			37*	44*	
*per 100 cows							

Lemhi Zone
Elk Hunter Numbers



Lemhi Zone Elk Harvest



Square Miles =	2,703	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	89%	Hunters per square mile =	0.88
Major Land Type =	Rangeland	Harvest per square mile =	0.30
	Forest	Success Rate =	34%
		%6+ Points =	40%

Lemhi Zone – is moderately limited by agricultural impacts		
Management Direction	Performance Objective	Strategy
Implement proactive measures to reduce and minimize elk depredations	Maintain greenfield hunt structure and possibly extend it until September 30 in GMU 29	Use hunting as the primary tool to manage depredation levels Implement a variety of hunting season frameworks, including greenfield hunts, to reduce depredation
	Provide material to build 10 permanent stack yards over the next 10 years	Provide permanent stack yard fencing to landowners to protect hay stacks
	Identify whether any landowners in GMUs 37 or 37A will entertain use agreements for elk	Implement long-term continued use agreements with willing landowners, including securing wintering habitat on private rangeland in GMUs 37 and 37A Cooperate with Federal land managers to assure range conditions provide adequate forage for elk in areas prone to depredations Fence off agricultural fields with chronic complaints
Increase IDFG involvement in long- and short-term land-use planning efforts by providing information, analysis, and recommendations to improve and preserve elk habitats	By 2018, identify and implement strategies to protect important elk linkage corridors	Work with vehicle collision database and ITD to identify important elk movement corridors Provide technical assistance for wildlife fencing and passage to reduce vehicle collisions where elk cross highways