



STATUS OF ELK RESTORATION IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

A presentation in the SFEC & UMN Extension 2020 Forestry Webinar Series

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

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Photo by: David Kenyon, MI DNR

Historically, elk numbered in the thousands across most of Minnesota, but were rapidly extirpated beginning in the 1800s. Today, only 3 small herds of elk exist on a fraction of their historic Minnesota range in the northwest corner of the State. In 2015, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation applied for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to complete a feasibility study exploring the levels of suitable habitat and public support for elk in 3 study areas in northeast Minnesota. Funding was awarded in 2016 for this University led study and final reports were completed in August 2019. Study areas were centered on the Nemadji State Forest in northern Pine County, the Fond du Lac State Forest and Fond du Lac Reservation in Carlton and southern St. Louis County, and the Cloquet Valley State Forest in southern St. Louis County. Support among landowners and the general public for elk varied, but was high in all 3 areas. Habitat analysis indicated all 3 study areas had suitable habitat and could support approximately 1 elk/mi². An update on the status of the project will be provided in the webinar.

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 noon-1pm central time

Location: Watch online or attend a broadcast site

Cost: Free at a broadcast location, \$50 for the entire 2020 webinar series, or \$20 each

Details and registration: z.umn.edu/20web

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