Elk Reduction in Progress

Elk living in Grand Teton National Park are part of the Jackson herd, one of the largest elk herds in North America.

The herd occupies parts of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, and the Teton and Gros Ventre wilderness areas.

This migratory herd has a long management history. Supplemental feeding began in the early 1900s—allowing for a large elk population with low natural mortality. Today, feeding occurs on the National Elk Refuge and three state-operated feedgrounds increasing the need for active management across the herd’s range.

Due to the herd’s unusual circumstances, Congress authorized an elk reduction program as part of the 1950 legislation establishing Grand Teton National Park.

The program occurs most years during the fall in hunt areas east of the Snake River (see map). The National Park Service in partnership with the State of Wyoming oversees and regulates the reduction program.

Every year the park and Wyoming Game and Fish Department collect biological data that guide decisions surrounding the reduction. The program goal is to help support elk management objectives while minimizing its effect on other park resources and the visiting public.

The program runs mid-October through mid-December.

The park’s legislation allows elk hunting only. No other hunting is permitted.

Hunt areas remain open to visitors. Please wear orange or other bright colors if you plan to venture off the road in hunt areas.

For more information, please call 307-739-3399.