

*Your hunt for knowledge ends here.*

# ELK

• THE ULTIMATE UNGULATE •

INFOGRAPHIC BY KELSEY DZINTARS

## *Fast Facts*

### WHO'S WHO

**BULL:** MALE ELK

**COW:** FEMALE ELK

**CALF:** BABY ELK

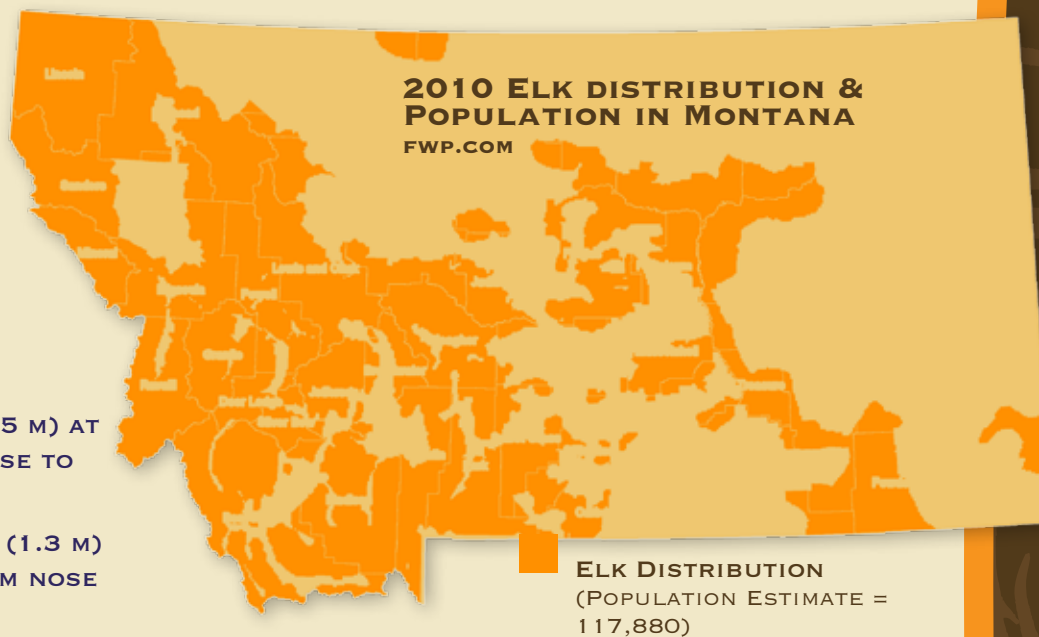
**SPIKE:** YEARLING BULL ELK

### SIZE

**BULL:** 700 POUNDS (315 KG) 5 FEET (1.5 M) AT THE SHOULDER 8 FEET (2.4 M) FROM NOSE TO TAIL

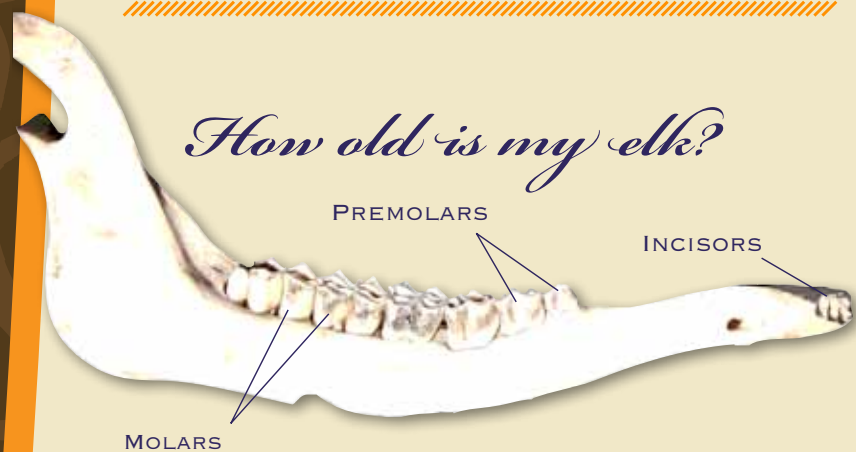
**COW:** 500 POUNDS (225 KG) 4 1/2 FEET (1.3 M) AT THE SHOULDER 6 1/2 FEET (2 M) FROM NOSE TO TAIL

**NEWBORN CALF:** 35 POUNDS (16 KG)



**A SET OF ANTLERS ON A MATURE BULL CAN WEIGH UP TO**

## **40 POUNDS**



*How old is my elk?*

ELK ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO AGE UP THROUGH 3½ YEARS, WHEN THEIR INCISORS ARE STILL DEVELOPING. ELK CHEW FROM SIDE-TO-SIDE AND SLOWLY WEAR DOWN THEIR MOLARS AND PREMOLARS. THE CANINES AND INCISORS BECOME SHORTER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TWO FRONT INCISORS ON AN 8½-YEAR-OLD CAN HAVE AS LITTLE AS ½ INCH OF TOOTH LEFT BEFORE THE GUM LINE.

## *Follow that deer!*

### **ELK IN HISTORY**

NEAR THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS EAST OF CHOTEAU, MONTANA, YOU CAN STAND ON A TRAIL USED BY RED DEER THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THIS TRAIL, WHICH ANTHROPOLOGISTS CALL THE OLD NORTH TRAIL, WAS ALSO USED BY OTHER ANIMALS AND ANCIENT PEOPLE WHO CROSSED THE BERING LAND BRIDGE AS THEY FOLLOWED RED DEER FROM ASIA TO NORTH AMERICA. THE ELK THAT LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA TODAY ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THOSE RED DEER FROM ASIA.

### **FAIL!**

EUROPEAN SETTLERS REDUCED THE NORTH AMERICAN ELK POPULATION FROM **10 MILLION TO LESS THAN 100,000** BY 1900

ELK IN THE WILD HAVE AN AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF

## **8-12 YEARS**

*Thank you to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for providing all this badass knowledge about elk.*

FIND OUT MUCH MORE AT [RMEF.ORG](http://RMEF.ORG)