

Contact Information

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Tribal Elk Hunting Additional Regulations and Annual Supplement *Giiwasedaa Mazina'igan* **2025 - 2026**

Adopted 10/15/2025 by Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council
Resolution #25-1015-219

General Tribal Elk Hunting Regulations

The regulations in this handbook are for elk hunting. Hunters must abide by all other Tribal regulations. In the event of a conflict between this handbook and other Tribal regulations, these regulations control.

Drawing for Elk Permits

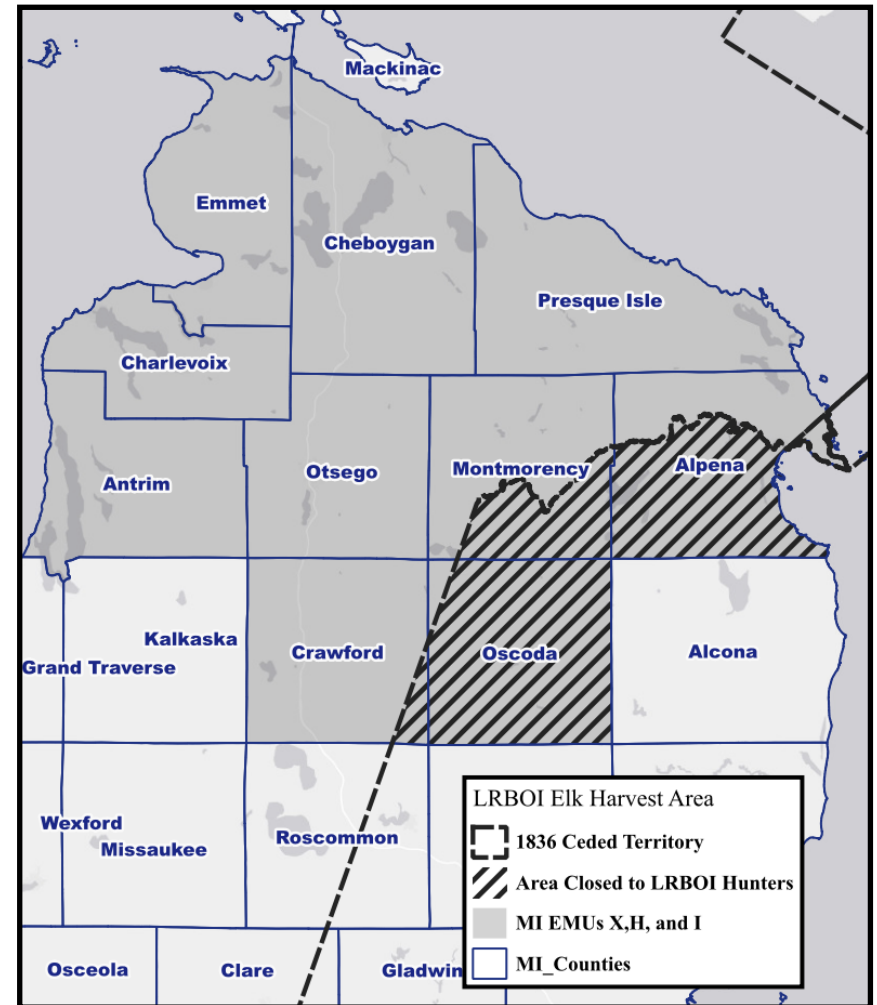
There will be one drawing for elk permits. Entries are limited to one per eligible Tribal Member. Tribal Members who are of age (per General Hunting Regulations¹), and who have not won an elk lottery within the **last three (3) years** prior are eligible to enter by submitting an application to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBO) Natural Resources Department (NRD). Each drawing entry will receive equal weight.

The drawing will be conducted by the LRBOI Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The NRD will provide to the NRC a list of all applicants, and the NRC will certify that only eligible applicants are entered into the elk drawing. In addition to the available elk permits, the NRC will draw a list of alternate hunters so that if a winner is unable to take his or her permit, alternate hunters will be contacted in the order in which they were drawn.

All applicants whose names are drawn and alternate hunters who are offered a permit will be considered “winners” for purposes of a **three (3) year waiting** period before resubmitting for the Elk drawing. Applicants whose names were drawn but who could not use the permit because of an intervening medical issue, or a bona fide emergency can appeal to the LRBOI Tribal Courts to be excused from the waiting period.

Tribal Elk Hunt Orientation

The NRD will contact successful applicants to confirm they are able to accept the permit and to inform them of the time and location of the **mandatory in-person elk orientation**. Successful applicants will receive their elk transport tags upon completion of the orientation. The orientation will cover hunting rules, hunters safety, elk behavior, carcass handling, marksmanship, and carcass registration.



¹ LRBOI Hunting, Trapping, and Gathering Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Territory. Tribal Council Resolution #22-0824-153

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours are one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset, local time. Tribal Members hunting elk may not shoot a firearm, crossbow, or bow outside of these hours.

Total Available Elk Permits

The Tribes of the 1836 Treaty of Washington are collectively allocated elk tags each year in accordance with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. The NRD will coordinate with the other Tribes to determine the proportion of those elk permits available to LRBOI elk hunters.

2025-2026 LRBOI Permits:

Any Elk: one (1), Antlerless: four (4).

Elk Season Dates

The LRBOI elk harvest period shall take place in a single, uninterrupted season. The season starting date shall precede the closure of the State of Michigan (State) final elk season by a number of days equal to the total days open to State elk hunters. The season will end fifteen (15) days following the closure of the State final elk season.

2025-2026 LRBOI Elk Season:

December 1, 2025 - January 5, 2026

Areas Open to Hunting

Hunters may take elk in all the portions of the 1836 Ceded Territory that fall within State Elk Management Units X, H, and I. LRBOI hunters may hunt on public lands, Tribal lands, and private lands with prior permission from the landowner. Hunters may not use motorized vehicles in areas of public lands designated as “non-motorized”.

If the NRD is unable to make contact with a successful applicant via the information provided on the elk permit application, the permit will be offered to the next alternate hunter.

Possession and Transportation

A legal and current Tribal Identification Card and elk transport tag is required to take, transport and possess elk. Upon harvest, the permit holder must immediately fill out the transport tag and attach it to the elk. Transport tags may be suspended, revoked, or re-issued to a alternate hunter by the NRD Wildlife Division Manager, NRC, LRBOI Law Enforcement, or LRBOI Tribal Courts.

Lawfully taken elk may be transported within or outside of the 1836 Ceded Territory providing the Tribal member has a legal and current Tribal Identification in their possession and the transport tag has been attached to the carcass.

Shots Fired Record

If a shot is taken at an elk, hunters must make reasonable effort to recover the elk or determine if it was missed. Hunters must then **immediately notify** LRBOI Law Enforcement, the NRD, or the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (MDNR) Law Enforcement. The hunter should record details of the shot including time, location, elk behavior, whether blood was seen, and approximate distance to provide to NRD Staff or Law Enforcement.

Before the hunter is allowed to pursue another elk, LRBOI Law Enforcement, MDNR Law Enforcement, or the NRD must notify them that they are permitted to do so. If a determination cannot be made with the information given, an in-field check may be required or the **hunters transport tag may be temporarily or permanently invalidated.**

Registration and Testing

After a successful elk harvest, **hunters must immediately notify** the NRD or LRBOI Law Enforcement. Hunters may field dress and/or quarter carcass prior to notifying LRBOI. Harvested elk must be affixed with a registration seal before meat can be processed. The transport tag must remain attached to the elk until registration seal is attached. Elk may be registered by LRBOI or MDNR.

State Registration: LRBOI hunters may register their elk at MDNR check stations. Note that elk taken to a MDNR check station must be registered within **24 hours** of harvest and all parts of the animal must be present.

LRBOI Registration: Elk registered by the NRD or LRBOI Law Enforcement must be registered within **three (3) business days** of the harvest, unless otherwise stipulated by the NRD. Only the elk head and hide are required to be present for LRBOI registration.

Note: Availability of NRD Staff and LRBOI Law Enforcement may be limited between the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Disease Testing

Hunters may submit their elk head to the MDNR for disease testing. This is mandatory for State hunters, but is optional for LRBOI hunters. Heads submitted for testing will not be returned.

Hunting Techniques

- Elk hunters with firearms are required to wear a minimum of one square foot of hunters' orange that is visible from all sides.
- Elk hunters may hunt from a tree or portable raised platform.
- All raised platforms and ground blinds constructed from non-native, processed materials and placed on public or Tribal lands must have the user's name and Tribal identification number permanently affixed in legible English. Letters should be a minimum of 2 inches high.
- Raised hunting platforms and ground blinds of any material that are erected or used on public or tribal land may not be attached to a tree by nails, screws or bolts that penetrates through the bark of a tree, except for a "t" bolt or similar device supplied from the manufacturer and recommended for safety.
- All portable blinds must be removed from public and Tribal lands by March 1.

- Man-made pit blinds are prohibited on public and Tribal lands.
- Tribal hunters are not allowed to bait elk. It is unlawful to take elk over bait.
- It is unlawful to hunt elk with a dog.
- It is unlawful to pursue or shoot a swimming elk.

Weapons and Ammunition Allowed

Tribal Members may use any of the following weapons and ammunition for an elk hunt:

- Center-fire rifle of .243 caliber or larger.
- All muzzle-loaders shall be .50 caliber or larger .
- 12-gauge shotgun or larger, using slugs.
- Conventional (smokeless powder) handguns of .357 caliber or larger, with straight walled cartridges only (single or multiple shot, but cannot exceed maximum capacity of 9 rounds in the magazine and barrel combined).
- Conventional (smokeless powder) handguns of .243 center-fire caliber or larger bottleneck cartridges (single or multiple shot, but cannot exceed maximum capacity of 9 rounds in the magazine and barrel combined).
- Soft point or expanding bullets.
- Bows with a minimum pull of 55 pounds.
- Crossbows with a minimum pull of 100 pounds.
- Arrows with a minimum of a one inch cutting surface broad heads.

Concealed Weapons

Tribal Members may carry handguns with a valid concealed pistol license (CPL). Transportation of handguns carried under a CPL must be in accordance with the terms of the CPL.

Weapons and Ammunition Prohibited

Tribal Members **may not** use:

- Fully automatic firearms (possession during elk hunt also prohibited).
- Shotguns or center-fired rifles capable of holding more than 6 shells or cartridges in both chambers or magazine combined.
- Cartridges containing either tracer or exploding bullets.
- Devices known or used to silence firearms unless the hunter meets all federal compliance requirements for use of a suppressor.
- Firearms not specifically listed on page 5 of this booklet.