



Elk Management Hunt in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta

The present day Elk herd in the Cypress Hills originated from a reintroduced herd dating back to 1938. Over the years the herd grew to be of considerable size due to the lack of natural predators. In 1978, the first Elk harvest inside the park took place based on a study conducted.

Aerial surveys are conducted to determine the actual number of Elk in the Cypress Hills. In order to maintain a steady Elk population, a harvest through a limited hunting authorization draw is scheduled for the following fall. There have been years where counted numbers of Elk were below the desired number, and no harvest has taken place.

Elk Hunt Regulations and Procedures

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta is a protected area under the Alberta Provincial Parks Act. Since the park is open to the general public for other activities throughout the hunt, hunters are required to follow special regulations for the safety of the hunter and other park users.

Elk Hunt Check-in Procedures

To participate in the Elk Management Hunt, all drawn hunters require a firearm discharge permit that will be received **AFTER** attending the **mandatory HUNTER INFORMATION BRIEFING**. Please have available **both personal identification and the appropriate Elk License**.

Briefings are held at the Park Administration Office. Hunters are required to attend the briefing that falls on the Monday BEFORE their scheduled four day hunt at either 10:00am or 2:00pm.

The briefing will be conducted by a Park Conservation Officer and will cover such items as park rules and regulations, wildlife regulations, kill retrieval/registration procedures, emergency information, as well as identifying road closures and areas that are permanently closed to hunting within the park. Hunters will be made aware of any weekly restrictions and will be provided with maps and phone numbers.

General Elk Hunting Information

1. Permanent closed areas exist around some campgrounds and the Townsite of Elkwater. Firearms must be unloaded, encased, and out of view when entering a closed area.
2. Off-highway vehicles or horses are not permitted within Cypress Hills Provincial Park for the purpose of the hunt. Horses **MAY** be used for retrieval purposes with prior authorization from a Conservation Officer.
3. Overnight camping and fires are only permitted in designated campgrounds with fire pits provided.
4. Every hunter should carry basic survival equipment as well as a compass or GPS.
5. Any violation of the rules or regulations may result in permits or licenses being revoked and/or prosecution.

Accommodation within the Park

Camping

The following campgrounds are open:

- Elkwater Sites 1-36
- Lakeview (until November 30th)
- Spruce Coulee (Walk in tenting sites)
- Reesor Dock

Self registration is in effect and all open campgrounds are First Come - First Serve.

Elkwater & Lakeview Campgrounds - Power only: \$36.00/night; No services used: \$29.00/night

Spruce Coulee & Reesor Dock - No services: \$21.00/night

Washroom and shower facilities are available at Lakeview Campground.

Vault toilets are available in all open campgrounds.

For further information on camping, contact the Visitor Centre (403) 893-3833.

Accommodation (Hotels/Motels)

Within the Park, the Elkwater Lake Lodge & Resort offers 48 suites, 6 cabins and 11 condominium suites.

Amenities include an indoor salt water pool and hot tub, conference centre, dining room, lounge, and on-site designated relaxation areas.

Phone: (403) 893-3811

Website: <http://www.elkwaterlakelodge.com/>

Information:

Park Administration Office: (403) 893-3777

Visitor Centre: (403) 893-3833

Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 9:30am-5:00pm

Maps of the park available; Gift shop carries topographical maps for sale.

Services:

12-34 Café & Pub/Elkwater Fuel Stop

Licensed café, gas, diesel, propane fuel, and souvenir items.

Phone: (403) 488-2920

Camp Cookhouse & General Store

Licensed restaurant, grocery store, and laundromat (coin operated).

Phone: (403) 893-3930

Buglers Restaurant (lower level of Elkwater Lake Lodge & Resort)

Licensed restaurant

Phone: (403) 893-3811

Laundry Facilities

Coin operated

Located at the Camp Cookhouse & General Store

Open during store hours.

Hunting FAQs

Can I hunt within the Park?

The only hunting that occurs within the Park is through the Elk Management Hunt which occurs through a limited hunting authorization draw.

I am hunting outside the Park. What do I do if I shot an animal and it runs within the Park boundary?

Before entering the Park to retrieve your animal, you must contact a Conservation Officer at (403) 893-HELP (4357).

Am I allowed to use an off -highway vehicle or ATV in the Park?

No. As per Provincial Park regulations, off-highway vehicles are not permitted.

What do I need to do to be able to hunt Elk in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta?

Apply for the special draw license for the Cypress Hills Elk Hunt. If you are successful in your draw, obtain the appropriate license. You are required to attend a Hunter Information Briefing session on the Monday prior to your four day hunt at either 10:00am or 2:00pm at the Park Administration Office. After attending this session, you will be issued a Park firearm discharge permit to allow you to hunt within the Park boundaries.

I am hunting in the Elk Management Hunt. What if the animal I shoot is located a far distance from any road access?

Contact a Conservation Officer for direction at (403) 893-HELP (4357).

Am I allowed to hang my animal in the Park?

No, this is not permitted.

What hunting regulations apply?

Alberta Hunting Regulations are in effect. Visit <http://www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/> for detailed hunting regulation information.

What times of day am I allowed to hunt?

As per Alberta Hunting Regulations, it is unlawful to hunt any wildlife or **discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. Sunrise/sunset tables will be available at the briefing session or online: <http://www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/suntable.html>

How do I obtain information on the land owners surrounding the Park?

Landowner maps are available from the Cypress County office located in Dunmore. (403) 526-2888 or online: <http://www.cypress.ab.ca/content/maps-0>

Where can I get a map of the Park?

Park maps are available at the Visitor Centre open Wednesday-Sunday 9:30am-5:00pm and at the Park Administration Office. Topographical maps are available for sale from the Visitor Centre.

How do I find out where Elk sightings have occurred?

During the briefing session, Conservation Officers will have available maps of kill sites from previous hunts. Throughout the week, access to these maps is available at the Park Administration Office. Conservation Officers may also be able to provide information.

For more information, contact the Visitor Centre at (403) 893-3833.