

# Appendix I - Cost to Trap & Transport Elk

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## APPENDIX I Cost to Trap and Transport Elk

According to Dr. Brunjes, Deer and Elk Coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), it costs a minimum of \$5,404 to trap and move 15 elk if KDFWR is not trapping for another state.

### Breakdown:

*Assume 3 weeks to pre-bait and trap (after 3 weeks, the elk most often have moved out of the area). Using current mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.47 per mile. Assume average hourly wage of \$20 for staff.*

### Trap set-up:

\$480 - 24 manhours to dismantle and move trap to site (6 people, 4 hrs)

\$480 - 24 manhours to assemble trap on site (6 people, 4 hrs)

\$141 - Mileage for 3 vehicles (minimum needed for hauling trailer and transporting staff, 100 miles round-trip from storage site to trap site)

### Trapping (20 days)

\$342 - Bait = 20 bales alfalfa hay (\$6 per bale), 15 bags whole corn (\$10 per 50# bag), and 6 bottles of salt syrup deer lure (aka "Buck Jam", \$12 bottle)

\$940 - average round trip to check a trap (traps have to be checked daily) has been 100 miles

\$1,000 - 1 person needed for trap checking/rebaiting (average 2.5 manhours per day for 20 days)

\$1,400 - 3 trucks (100 miles), 6 people (\$20/hr x 3.5 hrs) needed to load elk when caught.

*Assume 3 capture events.*

### Trap removal

\$480 - 24 manhours to dismantle and move trap back to storage (6 people, 4 hrs)

\$141 - Mileage for 3 vehicles (minimum needed for hauling trailer and transporting staff.

*Note: It takes 6 people to handle a trap.*

Total = \$5,404 to trap and move 15 elk\*

*\*Note: Fifteen (15) has been found to be the minimum group size for creating a new herd. Groups of less than 15 have a tendency to wander off looking for other elk.*

### Another Option in which the cost incurred would be paid by another state:

As part of KDFWR's standard agreement with VA (and other states) for elk relocation, they are required to absorb the cost of trapping and holding elk for movement within Kentucky. In practical terms, this has meant any elk above and beyond the 50 captured prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> health work up (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Feb) are shipped to a pre-determined site within KY. Elk captured after that 1<sup>st</sup> work up cannot be held in the elk pen, and so must be moved immediately to the release site.



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In simpler terms, 15 elk need to be caught and moved by KDFWR before Feb to an area that has no elk already. ArchCoal reclamation site\* in the Buckhorn area would qualify as such an area.

- Additional animals captured as nuisance abatement could be added after the work up.
- For animals trapped and held until the 1<sup>st</sup> work up there would be NO cost to us or to Parks.
- For animals added after the 1<sup>st</sup> workup, from a nuisance situation which Kentucky may or may not have, but if we do, moving them to Buckhorn would be a win-win. KDFWR would use bait supplied by VA and beyond that, fuel and manpower would be the only costs.

*\*The Director of Permitting & Regulatory Affairs of Arch Coal has been contacted and expressed an interest on the part of Arch Coal Inc. to allow elk to be relocated onto their reclamation site.*

For more information on trapping & transporting elk, contact:

Kristina J. Brunjes, Ph.D., Deer & Elk Program Coordinator  
Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
800-858-1549  
[tina.brunjes@ky.gov](mailto:tina.brunjes@ky.gov)