

Appendix H - Elk Bring Economic Opportunity

APPENDIX H

Elk Hunting

Another Economic Benefit of Releasing Elk into the Buckhorn Area

A 2009 study* of Kentucky Elk Hunters revealed the following statistics:

- 76% of Kentucky Elk Hunters scout the area on average 2.34 days before their actual hunt, spending on average \$365.91 on food, gas, lodging and new equipment. If one extrapolates this out to the anticipated 1000 elk hunters in 2013, the economic impact in Southeast Kentucky due to scouting will be \$278,091.60. Note that 54% of these hunters will spend multiple nights in a hotel/motel in close proximity to where they will be hunting which could put "heads in beds" at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park.
- Kentucky Elk Hunters spend on average \$547.64 on food, lodging, transportation, guide services and land leasing which would extrapolate out to \$547,640.00 spend in Southeast Kentucky during the actual elk hunt.
- The average hunter spent an additional \$638.17 on equipment, supplies, taxidermy, and processing which would extrapolate out to \$638,170.00.

Totaling all of these numbers together, the anticipated amount that will be spent by Kentucky Elk Hunters during the 2013/2014 hunting season will be \$1,463,901.60 with a large percentage of these dollars being spent in Southeast Kentucky. By moving elk to the proposed site, the Buckhorn region has an opportunity for a portion of these funds to be spent in their area.



Cow elk taken in 2006 Hunt



A hunter scouting for elk

The numbers reflected above does not include the \$10 paid by nearly 35,000 people to enter the lottery nor the \$300 each of the out-of-state hunters selected paid to purchase their elk tag which generates additional funds used by Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) for the elk restoration program. Nor do the figures reflect the

number of people associated with the hunt such as KDFWR, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) officials, nor the numerous private guides who assisted with the hunt and were in the area the entire time, nor the increase numbers of media staying in the area and other visitors who came specifically to assist with the hunt.

*Spencer, D.L & Spencer, S.S. (2009), *Economic Impact of Kentucky Elk Hunt 2008/2009*, Bowling Green, KY.