

ELK RUTTING SEASON September 1 - October 15

Stay Alert - Stay Safe!
Elk are rutting here!

Stay Alert - Stay Safe
During the fall rut
Living with Elk

Anything that gets too close or comes between a male and the females may be attacked.



Recognizing the danger signs:

- Antlers lowered towards you
- Appears agitated
- Thrashing Bushes
- Pawing at the ground
- Charging

How do we move elk?

- The elk are “hazed” away by waving flagged sticks, using BB guns, noise makers and shoeing sounds.
- Male elk are formidable creatures. Rather than move them directly it is often safer to move the females and the males will follow.

How do I avoid an elk encounter?

- Stay 30 meters away from all elk;
- Never stand between a male and the females, you may be attacked;
- Never park your vehicle between a male and the females, your vehicle may be attacked and damaged;
- Watch ahead for elk and detour by walking around on the uphill side;
- Keep children within arms reach and always keep dogs on a leash;
- Travel in groups and carry a walking stick, pepper spray or umbrella.

What should I do if I can't avoid an elk encounter?

- Act dominant if an elk gets too close;
- Seek protection behind a tree or vehicle;
- Raise your arms or flap a jacket to make yourself appear larger;
- Maintain eye contact and move away;
- Contact encounters are rare - if knocked down get up and move away. **Do not play dead!**

Tips for elk viewing

When viewing or photographing wildlife:

- Give them plenty of room and watch for danger signs;
- Do not entice wildlife with food or by simulating animal calls;
- Photograph the animal in its natural environment or use a telephoto lens rather than moving closer to the animal;
- Never put people (especially children) at risk by posing them with wildlife;
- Do not stalk, pursue or follow wildlife into the bush.



During the rut males become very aggressive. **Stay Alert and Stay Safe** by giving the elk the space they need — 30 meters or more.

ELK CALVING SEASON May 15 - June 30

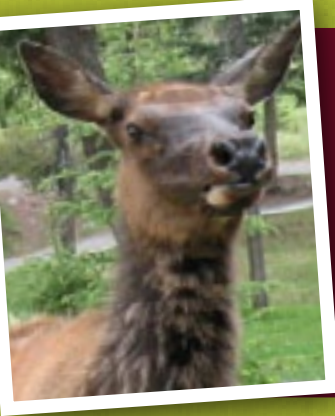
Stay Alert - Stay Safe! Elk are calving here!



Protective mothers will aggressively protect their newborns by kicking and charging at people.

Recognizing the danger signs:

- Eyes stare directly at you
- Flattened ears
- Raised rump hair
- Curled lips
- Teeth grinding
- Following or circling
- Charging or kicking



Why are they here?

They are calving here to **avoid predators** like wolves, bears and cougars that usually stay out of busy people places like townsites, campgrounds and lodges.

Is this normal?

No. These elk are “habituated”. They have lost their fear of people which can lead to dangerous encounters.

How do we move elk?

A **newborn calf** is picked up and carried away. Its mother follows and they are reunited in a safe location.

Adult elk are “hazed” away by waving flagged sticks, using BB guns, noise makers and shooping sounds.

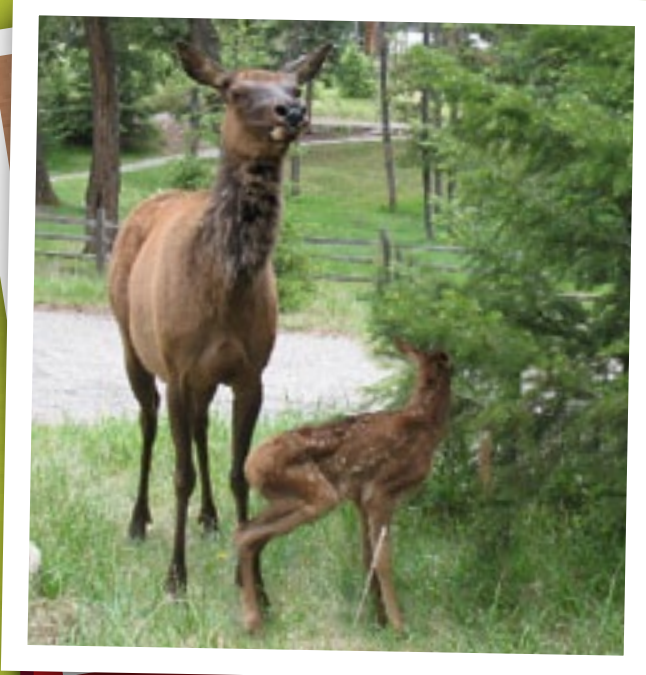
***See reverse side for wildlife viewing details**



A newborn stashed in the bushes.



During the spring calving season Living with Elk



Female elk instinctively protect their newborns. **Stay Alert and Stay Safe** by avoiding female elk and calves.

What should I do if I can't avoid an elk encounter?

- Act dominant if an elk gets too close;
- Seek protection behind a tree or vehicle;
- Raise your arms or flap a jacket to make yourself appear larger;
- Maintain eye contact and move away;
- Contact encounters are rare - if knocked down get up and move away. **Do not play dead!**

How do I avoid an elk encounter?

- Stay 30 meters away from all elk;
- Avoid lone female elk, they separate from the herd for calving and may have calves nearby;
- Avoid lone calves, they will have a protective mother nearby;
- Walk on open roads rather than forest trails to avoid stumbling upon female elk or calves;
- Keep children within arms reach and always keep dogs on a leash;
- Travel in groups and carry a walking stick, pepper spray or umbrella.



Report all elk encounters to the campground staff or phone 780-852-6155

