



Elk

- **Biology**
 - **NEWBORN CALF:**
 - 35 pounds (16 kg)
 - **COW:**
 - 500 pounds (225 kg) (Tule elk: 300 lbs., Roosevelt's elk: 600 lbs.)
 - 4 1/2 feet (1.3 m) at the shoulder
 - 6 1/2 feet (2 m) from nose to tail
 - **BULL:**
 - 700 pounds (315 kg) (Tule elk: 400 lbs., Roosevelt's elk: 900 lbs.)
 - 5 feet (1.5 m) at the shoulder
 - 8 feet (2.4 m) from nose to tail
 - **DIET**
 - GRASS AND HERBS WINTER = TREE BARK AND SOME TWIGS
 - **IVORIES**
 - An elk's top two canine teeth are called ivories
 - Scientists believe ivories are remnants of saber-like tusks that ancestral species of elk used in combat
 - Most hunters save ivories as a memento of the hunt
- **BODY POSTURE OF NOTE**
 - When alarmed, elk raise their heads high, open their eyes wide, move stiffly and rotate their ears to listen
 - If a harem cow wanders, a bull stretches his neck out low, tips up his nose, tilts his antlers back and circles her
 - Elk threaten each other by curling back their upper lip, grinding their teeth and hissing softly
 - Agitated elk hold their heads high, lay their ears back and flare their nostrils, and sometimes even punch with their front hooves

ELK RANGE AND HABITAT

• RANGE

- Prior to European settlement, more than 10 million elk roamed nearly all of the United States and parts of Canada
- Today, about one million elk live in the western United States, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, and from Ontario west in Canada

• HABITAT

- Food, water, shelter and space are essential to elk survival
- Elk live in a variety of habitats, from rainforests to alpine meadows and dry desert valleys to hardwood forests

Habitat map

- Sub Species:
- - Rocky Mountain Elk
- - Roosevelt Elk
- - Eastern Elk
- - Thule Elk





Elk communication

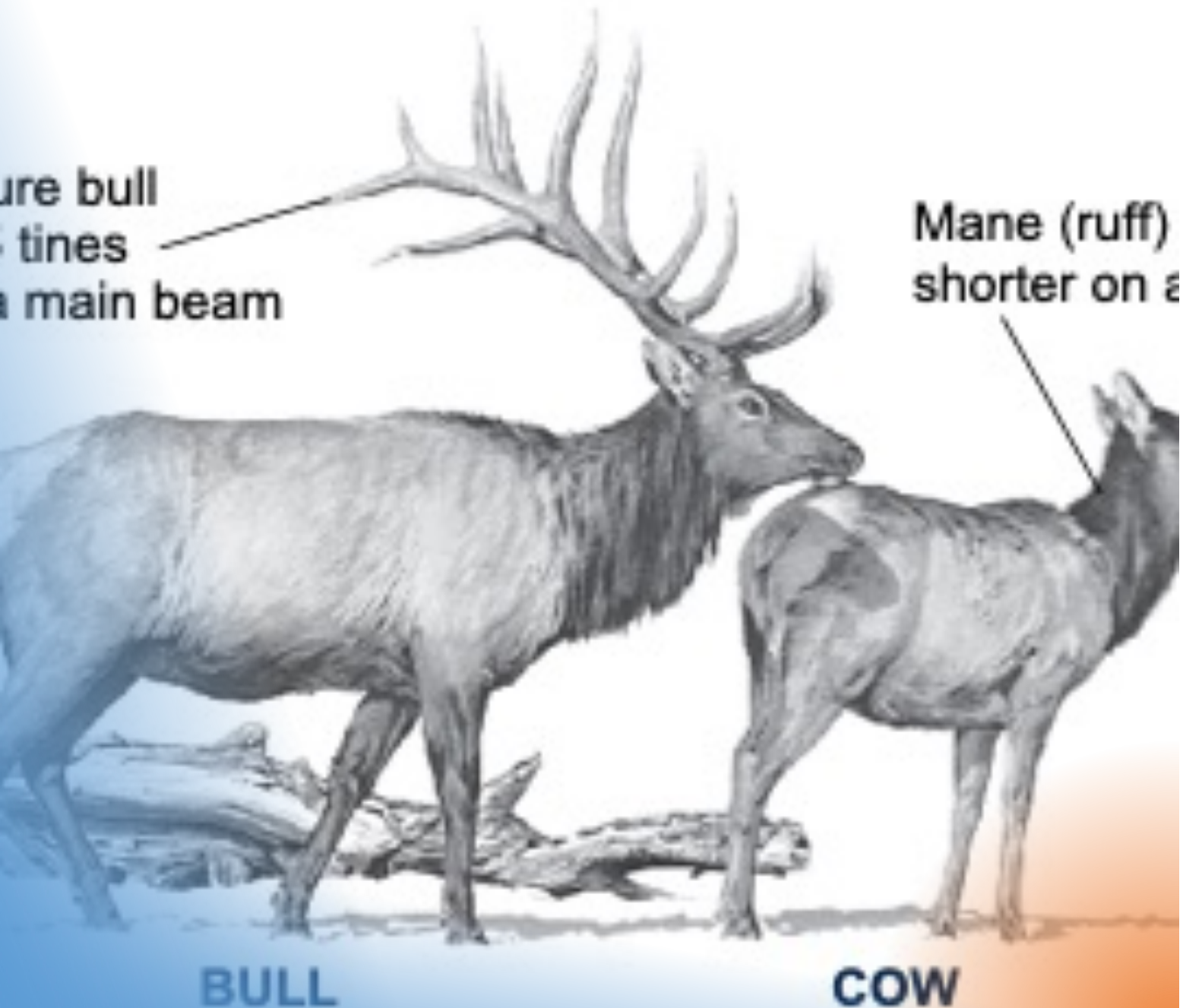
VOCALIZATIONS

- Elk are among the noisiest ungulates, communicating danger quickly and identifying each other by sound.
- **High-pitched squeal:** Newborn to its mother, who recognizes her calf by its voice.
- **Bark:** Warning of danger.
- **Chirps, mews and miscellaneous squeals:** General conversation among the group.
- **Bugling** (bellow escalating to squealing whistle ending with grunt): Bull advertising his fitness to cows, warning other bulls to stay away, or announcing his readiness to fight.



Elk Hunting considerations

- Elk breed in the fall
- Bulls gather cows and calves into small groups called harems
- Bulls wallow in mud to coat themselves with urine “perfume” to attract cows
- They also bugle and rub trees, shrubs and the ground with their antlers to attract cows and intimidate other bulls
- Bulls aggressively guard their harems from other bulls
- Sometimes, bulls wage violent battles for a harem, occasionally even fighting to the death



Elk Hunting considerations

- Seasons
 - DIFFERENT BASED ON REGION
 - Archery - Sept. 7 - Oct. 20
 - Rifle - Oct. 26 - Dec. 1
 - Shoulder - Aug. 15 - Feb. 15,
 - Muzzleloader - Dec. 14 - 22
- Tag Types
 - A Tag (Buck or ether sex)
 - B Tag (Doe Fawn)



Packing out an Elk

- Bull
 - Bone in = 350 lbs
 - Off the Bone = 250 lbs
- Cow
 - Bone in = 250 lbs
 - Off the Bone = 150 lbs
- Head
 - 39 lbs

Best Advice is bone out meat
and make 5 trips out with close
to 53 lbs per trip