

Feb Elk Workshops - COMBINED

Location	Isu/Adv	Topic	Sub-Topic	Importance	Dots	Comment
Jasper	Issue	Agency Resources	Devoted to elk			Is there too much time and energy diverted to elk, away from flourishing game animals turkey, deer?
Jasper	Issue	Habitat	Alteration	Very Important	2	Changing the forest to include far less trees and to grow a diverse plant life to accommodate elk
Jasper	Issue	Habitat	Hardwood harvesting	Very Important	2	Local concerns about excessive hardwood timbering in Gene Rush WMA
Jasper	Issue	Habitat	Hardwood management	Very Important	2	Concern that burn program is damaging hardwoods and reducing food for animals on Gene Rush WMA
Jasper	Issue	Population	Distribution			High elk count in some areas, low in others
Jasper	Issue	Population	Additional introductions			If more elk are to be introduced into area solve problems with existing numbers first
Jasper	Issue	Private Lands	Competition w/cattle			Competition w/cattle on private land
Jasper	Issue	Regulations	Boxley Valley closure			Issue of Boxley Valley being closed to elk hunt
Jasper	Issue	Regulations	Resident permits			More tags be made available for elk zone residents
Jasper	Issue	Safety	Congestion on Hwy 43	Very Important	3	Congestion on Hwy 43 leading to possible injuries and accidents
Jasper	Issue	Tourism	Elk important	Very Important	4	Elk important to tourism, need more merchandising
Jasper	Issue	Tourism	Business			Elk tourism a big business base, draws folks to viewing areas
Jasper	Advice	Agency Resources	Over-allocated to elk			For the total number of hunters (200,000) too much extended to elk hunting (30-40) rather than all other game animals
Jasper	Advice	Agency Resources	Forest expertise			Employ a forester that is well versed on local forests, not pine forests
Jasper	Advice	Communication	Inter-agency coordination	Very Important	4	AGFC and NPS need to cooperate better on habitat improvement
Jasper	Advice	Habitat	Alteration	Very Important	2	Stop making a fake environment for the elk
Jasper	Advice	Habitat	Additional private habitat			Solicit additional private elk habitat
Jasper	Advice	Habitat	Burning			If burning is needed use cool burn or backing fire
Jasper	Advice	Info/Education	Education and marketing	Very Important	2	Need education and marketing for private landowners
Jasper	Advice	Info/Education	Elk chapter			Revive Newton county elk chapter
Jasper	Advice	Population	Management/research	Very Important	2	Manage and study elk for 5 years before more are introduced
Jasper	Advice	Regulations	Boxley Valley hunt	Very Important	3	Hunt in Boxley Valley will create less negativity from local residents, eg. Cow tags for local disabled U.S. vets
Jasper	Advice	Regulations	Permit allocation	Very Important	3	Give 50% of elk tags to elk zone applicants, other 50% statewide
Jasper	Advice	Regulations	Controlled hunt	Very Important	2	Have a controlled hunt in Boxley Valley
Jasper	Advice	Regulations	Private lands hunting			Give permits, with landowner approval, for areas other than Boxley Valley
Jasper	Advice	Safety	Turnouts	Very Important	2	Maybe AHTD will make some more "legal" turnouts for observation
Jasper	Advice	Tourism	Improved viewing	Very, Very Important	5	Improve viewing areas in Boxley Valley
Jasper	Advice	Tourism	Viewing areas	Very Important	2	Need alternative viewing areas in other habitat types, perhaps in Carver?
Marshall	Issue	Population	Within carrying capacity	Very Important	3	Maintain elk population where it does not exceed the carrying capacity of the land (avoid population issues)
Marshall	Issue	Population	Increase			Increase herd numbers
Marshall	Issue	Population	Distribution			Number of elk in Bear Creek valley
Marshall	Issue	Population	Over population			Over population of elk
Marshall	Issue	Population	Disease			Spread of diseases
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Damages	Very, Very Important	5	Impact to farmers - tearing down fences, impacts to pastures and meadows
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Damages	Very Important	4	Compensation for elk damages
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Destruction	Very Important	3	Destruction of private property
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Property damage			Private property damage
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Compensation			Compensation for habitat use on private land (eg. More permits for landowners)
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Damages			Damages to fences and hay crops
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Land price increase			Tourism from elk hunts causing land prices to increase - hard for local people to buy land reasonably, especially for younger generation getting started
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Compensation			Compensation program for elk damages to farmers
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Compensation			Conservation payment is needed
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Liability			If cattle get lose due to elk damage, is it fair for the farmer to be held liable?
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Wildlife corridors			Set up elk corridors where public property is separated by private land areas. This would help farmers in multiple ways. Hunting is improved, fences saved
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Zoning			When will zones be extended to include all private property?

Feb Elk Workshops - COMBINED

Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Landowner rights			Rights of private landowners
Marshall	Issue	Private Lands	Competition w/cattle			Competition w/livestock for pasture
Marshall	Issue	Public Lands	Richland Valley	Very, Very Important	5	Leave Richland Valley name alone
Marshall	Issue	Public Lands	Access	Very Important	3	No access to Richland Valley (Cash property). Need a sustainable trail system for hikers, bikers and equine use. This would keep people out of fields and food plots
Marshall	Issue	Public Lands	AGFC lands			Use of AGFC purchased lands
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Youth tags	Very, Very Important	13	More youth tags for county residents
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Tag numbers	Very, Very Important	6	More tags for Searcy county residents
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Permit rules	Very Important	4	Every landowner needs to be given a tag
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Zoning			Expand the elk hunting zones
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Season timing			Elk hunt season should be moved back
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Permit options			Landowners need option on elk tags - give to others or sell it, longer notice ahead of season to be able to sell
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Permit rules			The likelihood of local people being drawn to hunt elk is very small
Marshall	Issue	Regulations	Season timing			Earlier season for private landowners
Marshall	Issue	Tax Base	Revenue loss	Very, Very Important	6	Loss of tax base and revenue for county
Marshall	Issue	Tax Base	Revenue loss			Loss of revenue and tax base secondary to purchase of land for elk
Marshall	Issue	Tax Base	Revenue loss			Taxes were being paid on land purchased by AGFC
Marshall	Issue	Tourism	Wildlife viewing	Very Important	3	Need observation points in areas that public can use to appreciate and view elk. This is also necessary to help attract tourists to area
Marshall	Issue	Tourism	Benefits			Good for tourism
Marshall	Advice	Population	Management/Research			Population should be maintained by herd management (more liberal bag limit, maintain food plots to hold elk in specific areas). Necessary to do more research on population estimates
Marshall	Advice	Population	Expansion			If they want to expand the elk population on private land AGFC should lease the land
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Landowner satisfaction	Very, Very Important	8	Make landowner happy with elk plan
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Conservation payments	Very Important	2	Option of managing for conservation w/substantial payments equivalent to calf crop overall - option of cattle or wildlife
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Compensation			Compensate private landowners for property damage
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Zoning			Add another private land zone in Bear Creek area
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Rental payments			Provide rental payments within the elk local areas to compensate landowners (provided landowners have conducted conservation practices that benefit elk, eg. prescribed burning)
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Compensation			Structure payment system to compensate landowners for damages as a result of elk
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Compensation			Compensate farmers for forage loss and fence damage
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Compensation			Provide low interest loans for farmers
Marshall	Advice	Private Lands	Wildlife corridors			Develop techniques to keep elk out of farms and fences. Wildlife corridors may be such a technique. Many private landowners would be willing to set aside land we believe
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	AGFC lands	Very Important	3	Make AGFC lands more accessible
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	Richland Valley	Very Important	3	In Richland valley (Cash Property) there are many old farm roads and even an old county road that needs to be opened to hikers and equines
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	Access	Very Important	3	Richland Valley should be made more accessible
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	Access			Open Flat Rock Road in order to connect to other areas of Gene Rush WMA and Buffalo NR. This would promote use by hunters, hikers and other multiple use
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	History			Richland Valley is historically rich and colorful. Measures should be taken to preserve what remains of the old pre-Civil War plantations
Marshall	Advice	Public Lands	Habitat improvement			More food plots on public land
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit Allocation	Very, Very Important	6	Issue 50% of tags for residents in the elk zones
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Zoning	Very, Very Important	6	Open more zones where elk are
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Youth tags	Very Important	4	Youth hunt for elk
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit rules	Very Important	3	Handicapped hunt for elk
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit system	Very Important	2	Rexamine the permit system (waive the \$35 fee for landowners, allow to kill either sex)

Feb Elk Workshops - COMBINED

Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Transferable tags			Keep tags transferable
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Landowners			Allow landowners to hunt same season as tag holders
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit Allocation			Keep issuing tags in Zone 4
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Private land zoning			On private lands extend hunting zones similar to deer
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Private land permits			Hunters drawing permits should be required to hunt where the landowner granted permission, not the entire
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit rules			Freedom to sell elk tag on a fall season
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit rules			More private land permits
Marshall	Advice	Regulations	Permit rules			Free permits for landowners
Marshall	Advice	Tax Base	Revenue loss	Very Important	4	Pay property taxes on purchased land based on historical use
Marshall	Advice	Tax Base	Economic impact	Very Important	2	Commission a private consulting firm to evaluate the economic impact to various N. Arkansas communities
Marshall	Advice	Tax Base	Restitution			Develop a mathematical model to restore tax base. Restitution should be paid back to the county to restore tax base
Marshall	Advice	Tourism	Equestrian trails			Back-Country Horsemen Of America is available for advice training and volunteer help on any trails that include equines
Ponca	Issue	Communication	Inter-agency	Very, Very Important	5	Lack of communication between 3 agencies (AHTD, AGFC, NPS) involved in Boxley and Ponca
Ponca	Issue	Communication	W/residents	Very Important	4	There was no elk hearing in Boxley Valley
Ponca	Issue	Communication	Mixed opinions			Community is split - for and against elk
Ponca	Issue	Communication	Misunderstanding			Misunderstanding between landowners, NPS and tourists
Ponca	Issue	Communication	Perceptions			No perceived benefits or incentives for residents to tolerate elk
Ponca	Issue	Habitat	At capacity	Very Important	2	Left alone any cow herd would overgraze resource, we believe elk herd is approaching this now in Boxley Valley
Ponca	Issue	Habitat	Changing behavior			Are you (AGFC) changing the natural way elk feed by your management practices?
Ponca	Issue	Hunting	Opportunity			Hunting opportunity and license revenue
Ponca	Issue	Hunting	Non-residents			Most hunters are not local persons
Ponca	Issue	Info/Education	Elk centers			Elk information centers and museum
Ponca	Issue	Population	Distribution	Very Important	3	Not enough elk or not evenly distributed
Ponca	Issue	Population	Increased reproduction			Elk are increasing significantly in Boxley Valley, seeing more little ones
Ponca	Issue	Population	Cultural environment			Elk must also be kept in balance with cultural environment
Ponca	Issue	Population	Herd health			Health of elk herd is important
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Nuisance	Very, Very Important	8	Elk break fences, raid gardens, compete with livestock, prevent planting new pasture crops, cause traffic hazards along with tourists, destroy fruit trees and pine/walnut seedlings, destroy understory flora, transfer disease to livestock, known to kill ho
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Garden, orchards	Very Important	2	Property destruction (garden, orchards, flowers), Zone B
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Fences, minerals	Very Important	2	Elk tear up fences and eat all they want of cow minerals costing \$24 per 50lb. Bag
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Destruction			Like the elk but don't like the destruction, Zone B
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Grazing competition			25-40 elk come out in pasture that is being held for our cows, cows must compete for stockpiled grass with elk
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Zoo or agriculture			Is the Boxley Valley to be managed as a drive-through zoo or an agricultural use zone?
Ponca	Issue	Private Lands	Livestock problems			Problems with livestock, fences and grazing lands
Ponca	Issue	Regulations	Permit numbers	Very, Very Important	7	Not enough public land permits go to local residents
Ponca	Issue	Regulations	Permit strategy	Very Important	2	Gave out cow tags Zone B (no cows)
Ponca	Issue	Regulations	Protected status			Within Boxley Valley residents can hunt and fish all game except elk, why is that?
Ponca	Issue	Regulations	Private lands hunt			Maintain private lands hunt as incentive for Newton county landowners
Ponca	Issue	Safety	Highway parking	Very Important	2	Elk on highway are nuisance, but not as much as tourists who park in the middle of road
Ponca	Issue	Safety	Speed	Very Important	2	Traffic needs to be slowed down, Boxley to Ponca
Ponca	Issue	Safety	Elk removal			Removal of dead elk a problem
Ponca	Issue	Tourism	County revenue			Tourist revenue important to county
Ponca	Issue	Tourism	State revenue			Tourist revenue important to state
Ponca	Issue	Tourism	Employment			Added employment within county
Ponca	Issue	Tourism	Viewing, photography			Wildlife viewing and photography opportunities
Ponca	Issue	Tourism	Public relations			Positive public relations for the state

Feb Elk Workshops - COMBINED

Ponca	Issue	Tourism	Potential			Tourism good but could be better
Ponca	Advice	Communication	Agencies/residents	Very Important	2	AGFC, AHTD, NPS and Boxley residents must coordinate and communicate with each other to solve management problems
Ponca	Advice	Hunting	Elk carcass removal			Remove sick or dead elk promptly, they smell!!! Don't leave carcass after taking horns
Ponca	Advice	Info/Education	Children and adults	Very, Very Important	5	Education about elk for young children to adults
Ponca	Advice	Population	Off private lands	Very Important	4	Move all elk to AGFC-owned lands
Ponca	Advice	Population	Reduce bull population	Very Important	3	Decrease innapropriate numbers of elk in Boxley Valley by trapping or harvesting
Ponca	Advice	Population	Reduce	Very Important	2	Reduce elk population in Boxley/Ponca area
Ponca	Advice	Private Lands	Compensation	Very, Very Important	7	Compensate landowners for damage caused by elk
Ponca	Advice	Private Lands	Incentives or compensation	Very Important	2	Incentive or compensation for landowners who do or don't want elk on their property
Ponca	Advice	Private Lands	Tresspass			Boxley Valley tourists need more respect for private property - climbing fences, trespassing
Ponca	Advice	Private Lands	Other state management			Look at other states that have elk problems arising from private land impacts
Ponca	Advice	Regulations	Landowner permits	Very, Very Important	7	Issue landowner permits in Boxley/Ponca area
Ponca	Advice	Regulations	More bull tags	Very Important	3	More bull tags in Zone B, less or no cow tags
Ponca	Advice	Regulations	Season recommendation	Very Important	3	Have two seasons in Zone B/ early fall and December. Early season needs to be before the rut and early season in Zone A and 1. The bulls leave our area by mid-September and return in late November or early
Ponca	Advice	Regulations	No permit charge	Very Important	2	Don't charge property owners for permit or application fee
Ponca	Advice	Safety	Traffic	Very, Very Important	7	Find solutions for traffic problems - signs, lower speed limits, wider shoulders, tougher enforcement for improper parking
Ponca	Advice	Safety	Speed			Decrease speed limit in Boxley Valley for safety of residents and tourists
Ponca	Advice	Safety	Stopping in ROW			Impose penalty for stopping in undesignated areas along highway
Little Rock	Issue	Population	Growth			Is there support for growing the BNR population
Little Rock	Issue	Population	Herd expansion	Very Important	2	Expand herd to the Ouachitas
Little Rock	Issue	Regulations	Hunting			More hunting opportunity
Little Rock	Issue	Tourism	Viewing	Very Important	2	More viewing opportunities
Little Rock	Issue	Habitat	Management	Very Important	2	How to better manage habitat - native vs non-native grasses, herbicides, fertilizers, use of fire, size of forest openings, cost effectiveness analysis, utilize volunteers
Little Rock	Issue	Private Lands	Nuisance			How to reduce landowner problems
Little Rock	Issue	Population	Herd health			Relocation and transportation of elk - disease issues, CWD, etc.
Little Rock	Issue	Regulations	High fence operations			High fence operations
Little Rock	Advice	Population	Growth			Expand BNR population as much as habitat will allow
Little Rock	Advice	Info/Education	Improve	Very Important	2	More education and awareness
Little Rock	Advice	Population	Herd expansion	Very Important	2	Open communication w/Ouachita NF to explore elk stocking opportunities
Little Rock	Advice	Private Lands	Nuisance			Validate and document elk nuisance complaints, w/public access to nuisance information
Little Rock	Advice	Habitat	Management	Very Important	2	Utilize all tools and methods available for habitat management - maximize all resources
Little Rock	Advice	Regulations	High fence operations	Very Important	2	Eliminate high fence operations