

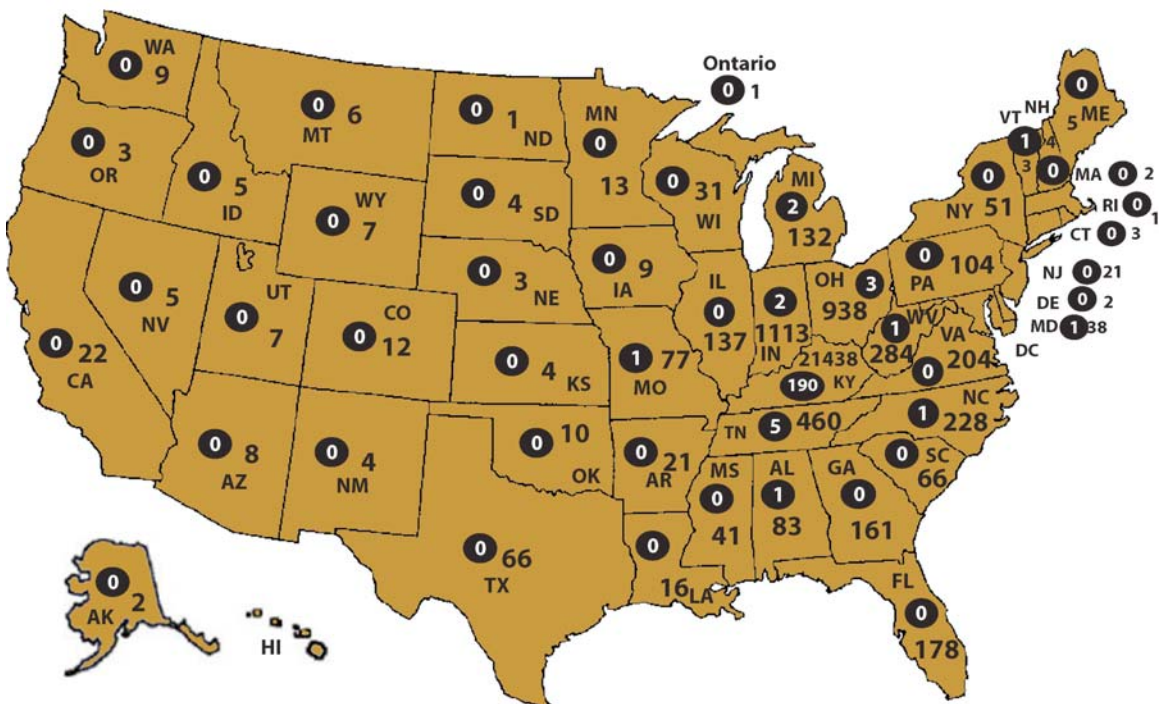
Chapter 3
HISTORY OF ELK HUNTING IN KENTUCKY⁸

Under the management of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky now has the largest elk herd (approximately 6,500) east of the Rocky Mountains. With no predators, excellent food sources and mild winters, the numbers are increasing much quicker than originally projected.

To manage the growth of the herd, Kentucky started a lottery elk hunt in 2001. Applicants pay ten dollars each to have a chance to hunt elk in Kentucky. In 2001, 7,090 people applied in 2001 and 12 elk tags were issued (six bulls and six cows). In 2002, 4,810 people applied and 12 tags were issued. In 2003, 4,858 people applied and again 12 tags were issued. People chosen in the lottery were announced at the Annual Elk Festival held in Hazard. In 2004, 8,733 people applied and in 2005, 16,554 applications were received. Forty tags were issued in 2004 and 100 issued in 2005.

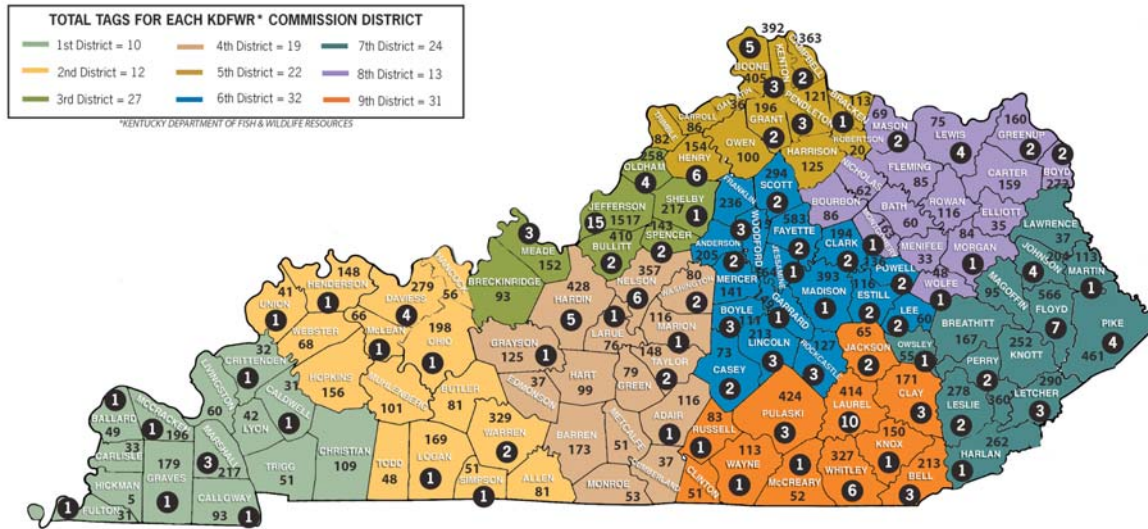
In 2006, 26,051 people paid ten dollars each to be a part of the elk hunting lottery and there were 200 elk tags issued. Below is a map of the states represented in the pool of applicants. Four thousand six hundred and sixteen (4,616) people, representing 18% of those who applied, were from outside Kentucky. In fact, at least one person applied from every state in the Union except Hawaii and two people applied from Canada. Also included on the map is the number of people selected from that particular state (*denoted in the black circles*). A total of eighteen people were selected from outside Kentucky. A larger map is available at the end of this chapter.

**# OF APPLICANTS FOR THE 2006 ELK HUNT LOTTERY
FROM EACH STATE AND # SELECTED.**



A breakdown of the number of people who applied in each county of Kentucky is provided below with a larger map provided at the end of the chapter. At least one person applied from every county in the Commonwealth. Also noted on the map is the number of people actually drawn from each of those counties. A total of 200* people were issued elk tags. One hundred and eighty-two were from Kentucky. For the 2007 Elk Hunt, 300 tags were drawn. *A map of where the 2007 hunters are from is available in Appendix B.*

**Please note: A few additional special tags were issued to property owners providing 5,000 acres or more for the hunt or for special fund raising purposes.*



OF PEOPLE FROM KENTUCKY WHO APPLIED AND # SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2006 KENTUCKY ELK HUNT

Two hundred and eight tags were drawn. One hundred and ninety individuals were from Kentucky. Eighteen were from another state. Thirteen of the tags were never claimed. Five out-of-state hunters and three in-state hunters never purchased their cow tags and all the bull tags were purchased. A total of 179 elk were harvested during the 2006 Elk Hunt for a 92% success rate. One hundred and eleven of them were cows and 69 were bulls.

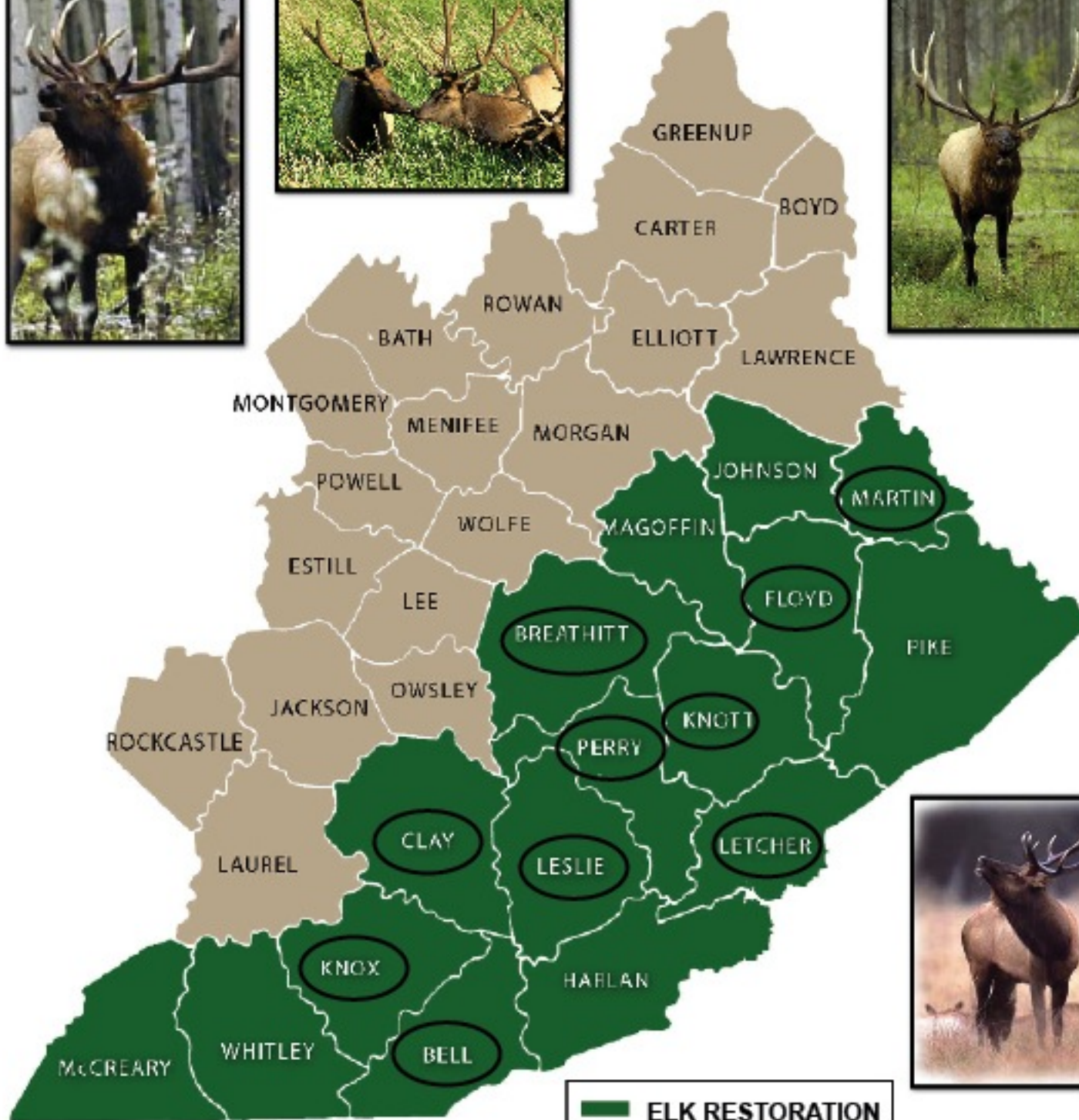
Through a joint effort between the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Western Kentucky University and We Make Things Happen Corporation, a survey instrument was developed to determine the economic impact of the hunt by the hunters themselves.



In February, each of the hunters who were drawn in the lottery was sent a questionnaire. The survey included questions such as how many visits did the hunter make to Southeast Kentucky for the hunt and how much they spent on gas, food, lodging and other expenditures related to the hunt. The hunters were also asked about their experience and what could be done to improve the hunts in the future.



STUDY OF ELK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING POTENTIAL FOR KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY ELK HUNTER SURVEY



 **ELK RESTORATION**
 **STUDY AREA**



ELK SURVEY TEAM | P.O. Box 51153 | Bowling Green, KY 42102 | 270.781.6858
email: elkhunt@trailsrus.com | www.trailsrus.com

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KENTUCKY ELK HUNTER SURVEY

Question 1.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Question 2.

Did you hunt elk in Kentucky in 2006? ____ Yes (skip to question 4). ____ No (go to question 3).

Question 3.

What was the primary reason you did not hunt elk in Kentucky in 2006? _____

Question 4.

Have you ever hunted elk before? ____ Yes ____ No

If Yes, where did you hunt? _____ (State)

Question 5.

Have you ever seen an elk before you were drawn for this hunt? ____ Yes ____ No

If you did not hunt elk in Kentucky in 2006, do not complete the remainder of this survey, but please send us the survey with questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 completed.

BEFORE ACTUALLY GOING OUT ON THE HUNT . . .

A. What is the total number of trips you took to the hunting area primarily to scout for elk before the actual hunt dates?
_____ Trips (if none, enter "0"). If you answered "0", go to the section "THE ELK HUNT."

B. How far did you travel for each scouting trip? _____ Miles

C. How many people did you bring with you while scouting? _____ (If none, enter 0)

D. How many total nights did you stay in southeastern Kentucky as part of scouting for elk? _____ Nights (If none, enter 0)

E. Where did you stay? (Check appropriate boxes.)

Hotel/Motel (other than a State Park) _____ (If none, enter 0).

Name of Hotel/Motel _____ City _____

State Park (If none, enter 0). Name of Park _____

Camping. Name of campground _____ (If none, enter 0)

Private Home _____ Other _____ (If none, enter 0)

F. While on your scouting trips, what was the total spent by your group on meals? \$ _____

G. How much did you spend on gasoline or diesel while on the scouting trip(s)? \$ _____

H. Did you buy new hunting supplies just for scouting? ____ Yes ____ No

If YES, how much did you spend? \$ _____

THE ELK HUNT . . . (How much did you spend for the actual elk hunt, include everyone in your party.)

A. Food, drink and refreshments? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in Southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____

B. Lodging at motels, cabins, lodges or campgrounds, etc.? \$ _____
- How much of this was spent in Southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____

Where did you stay?

Hotel/Motel (other than a State Park) Name _____ (If none, enter 0)

State Park, Name _____ (If none, enter 0)

Camping. Name of Campground _____ (If none, enter 0)

Private home _____ Other _____ (If none, enter 0)

- C. The round trip cost for transportation? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- D. Did you use a guide? ____ Yes ____ No
- Guide fees, pack trip or package fees? \$ _____ (If none, enter 0)
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- E. Where did you hunt? ____ Private Lands ____ Public Lands
- F. Public land use or access fees? \$ _____ (If none, enter 0)
- G. Private land use or access fees? (Do not include leases) \$ _____ (If none, enter 0)
- H. Were you assisted by KDFWR biologists or conservation agents during your hunt? ____ Yes ____ No
- I. Were you successful in getting an elk? ____ Yes ____ No

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES . . . (How much did you or others spend on items purchased for the 2006 hunt.)

- A. Guns/Firearms? \$ _____ How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- B. Bows, arrows, or other archery equipment? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- C. Telescopic Sights? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- D. Game Calls? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- E. Ammunition? \$ _____ How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- F. Equipment rental such as boats, hunting or camping equipment, etc.? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- G. Any other purchases (such as cases and carriers for equipment or game, hunting knives, etc.)? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- If so, what were these purchases? _____

- H. Camping Equipment (such as sleeping bags, packs, duffel bags, tents, etc.) \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- I. Binoculars, field glasses, telescopes, etc.? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- J. Special hunting clothing, foul weather gear, boots, waders, etc.? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____

Elk Survey Team consists of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, We Make Things Happen Corporation and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). Survey form to be returned by May 1, 2007 to: ELK SURVEY, P.O. Box 51153, Bowling Green, KY 42102

OTHER COSTS . . . (How much did you or others spend on items purchased for the 2006 hunt.)

- A. Processing and taxidermy costs? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- B. Books and magazines devoted to elk hunting? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- C. Dues or contributions to national, state or local organizations? \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____
- D. Any other purchases? Please list _____

_____ \$ _____
- How much of this amount was spent in southeastern Kentucky? \$ _____



FINAL SET OF QUESTIONS . . .

- A. Will you apply for an elk tag next year? ____ Yes ____ No
- B. Will you make another trip to your hunting area in the future just to see elk? ____ Yes ____ No
- C. Will you make another trip to southeastern Kentucky just to visit the region and not necessarily to see elk?
____ Yes ____ No If Yes, what would bring you back to the region? _____

- D. Would you recommend that your hunting friends apply for a Kentucky Elk Tag? ____ Yes ____ No
- E. After you were drawn, you received a care package from the Rock Mountain Elk Foundation and the KY Department of Fish & Wildlife. Did you find the package useful? ____ Yes ____ No
- F. What additional information or materials should we include in the packages in the future? _____

- G. Were you a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation before you were drawn for an elk tag? ____ Yes ____ No
- H. Did you join the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation after you received the package? ____ Yes ____ No
- I. What recommendations would you make to KDFWR to improve the quality of the elk hunt in the future? _____

- J. Other comments, suggestions, ideas? _____

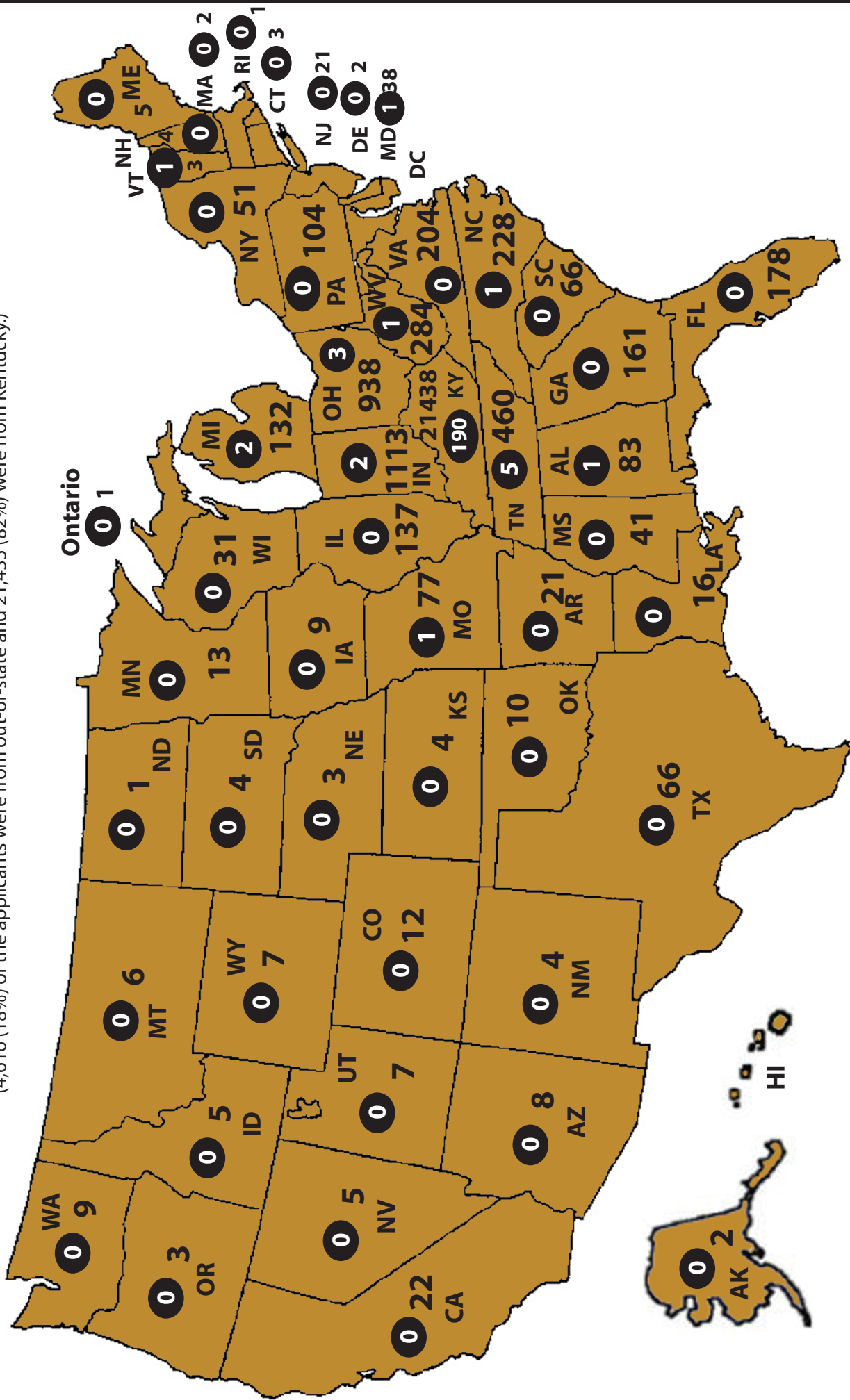
Thank you so much for completing this questionnaire. If you have questions, please call (270) 792-5300 or email: elkhunt@trailsrus.com

Please return completed Survey by MAY 1, 2007 to:
ELK SURVEY, P.O. Box 51153, Bowling Green, KY 42102



KENTUCKY ELK HUNT 2006

As noted, 26,051 individuals registered for the 2006 Kentucky Elk Hunt Lottery from every state in the Union except Hawaii and the District of Columbia. (4,616 (18%) of the applicants were from out-of-state and 21,435 (82%) were from Kentucky.)



A total of 208 tags were drawn, 190 were individuals living in Kentucky and 18 were from another state.

179 Elk Harvested. 13 Tags Were Never Claimed.

(111 Cows Harvested; 5 Hunters (cow tags) that were never identified; 5 out-of-state cow hunters who did not buy their tags and 3 in-state hunters who did not buy their cow tags. All bull tags were paid for. (*4 were actually antlerless bulls)

