



ELK VIEWING

ELK IN ARKANSAS

Eastern elk were found in forests throughout Arkansas until the 1840s but became extinct due to habitat loss, over hunting, and competition for resources. In 1981, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission introduced 112 Rocky Mountain elk to Buffalo National River. Today, over 500 elk call Arkansas home. With over 100 of those in Boxley Valley, it has become a popular elk viewing spot in the fall!!

PARKING

Boxley Valley Historic District is a popular place for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding in October and November, which can lead to heavy traffic and full parking lots. We encourage visitors to arrive in the morning and to have a back up plan if a parking lot is full. Use these maps to find parking lots and designated roadside parking areas for elk viewing. Remember that parking or stopping on a state highway is prohibited unless wildlife is actively crossing the road. Please respect nearby private property and do not block driveways or cross fences.

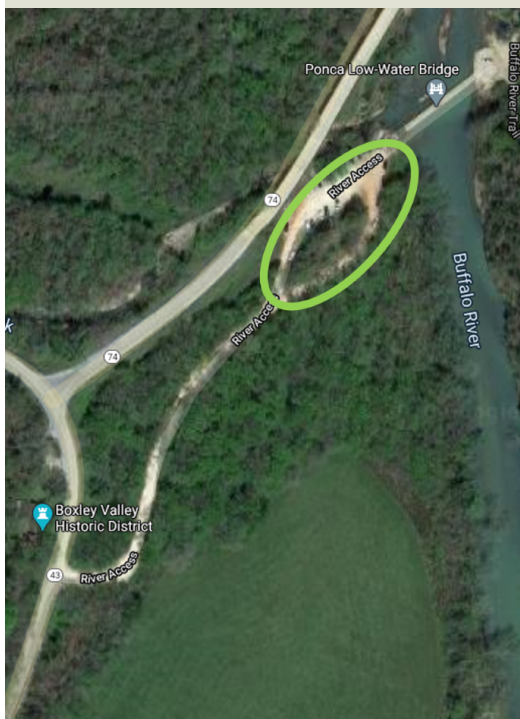
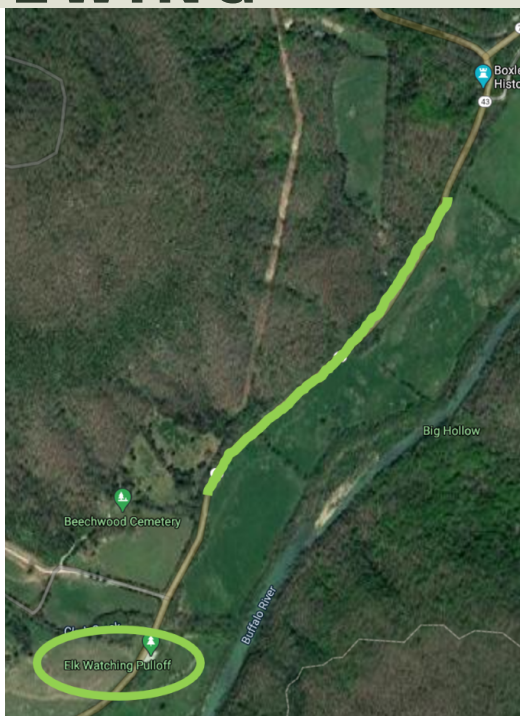




Photo by Justin Smith

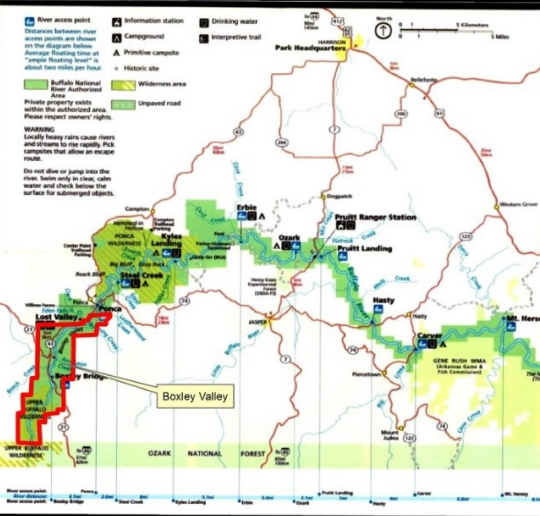


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RESPECT WILDLIFE

Remember to keep a safe distance of at least 25 yards from elk! Use the rule of thumb for an easy way to see if you are giving an elk enough space. Stick your arm out straight and do a thumbs up, then close one of your eyes. Does your thumb cover the elk? If yes, you're at safe distance. If not, back up and give the elk some space! Do not feed the elk.

ELK FACTS

- You may hear bull elk bugling or see them using their antlers to spar with one another. These behaviors are displays of fitness and dominance and can help bulls attract a mate.
- Bull elk grow new antlers every spring. They are covered in velvet, which peels off in late summer when the antlers finish growing. Fully grown antlers can weigh up to 40 pounds!
- A full grown bull elk can weigh up to 700 pounds and a cow up to 500 pounds.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We encourage visitors to practice social distancing while visiting by staying 6 feet apart from those outside of your group.