

Having trouble viewing this e-mail?

October 8, 2010

Click [here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)



The Stouffer Report: *Reintroducing Elk Is Not a Good Idea*

There is an effort underway to reintroduce elk to Missouri. While this may sound like a good idea, some folks have concerns.

On October 4, the [Missouri Department of Conservation](#) (MDC) finished its [elk restoration plan](#). The [Missouri Conservation Commission](#) will take up the proposal at its next meeting. The MDC has been taking public input on this idea for some time now, and plans to continue to do so.

You may remember, this plan was proposed around 10 years ago. At the time, the [Missouri Farm Bureau](#) came out in opposition to the plan. They, again, have stepped forward to caution the state against allowing elk to be allowed back into Missouri.

And, the reasons for the concern are the same. Landowners will be the ones to suffer the most. Elk carry a lot of diseases that are easily transmitted to livestock. They can destroy crops, trees, fields, fences and block roads. Elk would also have an effect on you. Deer can be a traffic hazard this time of year, but at least they move

-  Home
-  Recent Topics
-  Local News
-  Visit the Capitol
-  My Legislation
-  About Me
-  Podcasts

quickly. Elk just stand there. Since they are much larger animals than deer, you cannot just “drive around” them.

The MDC’s plan is to reintroduce elk in Carter, Shannon and Reynolds counties — in south central Missouri. I am not sold on the idea of bringing in any wild species that have been removed from our state for nearly 150 years. Any animal is smart enough to know where food is and what climate is suitable for survival. Elk may have inhabited this state once upon a time, but they have since moved west. Bringing some back, to “test the waters,” is not the best thing that can be done.

Again, you still have time to voice your opinion. A lot of folks have expressed their thoughts on this to the MDC. Hopefully they have heard these words and will opt against reintroducing elk. You can either call your local MDC office:

- ✓ Carroll and Chariton County: 816-271-3100
- ✓ Clay County: 816-655-6250
- ✓ Cooper, Howard and Saline County: 573-884-6861
- ✓ Lafayette County: 660-530-5500
- ✓ Macon County: 660-785-2420

Or, go online: <http://mdc.mo.gov/contact-us/elk-restoration-comments>. Landowners have enough concerns without more restrictions and illnesses to worry about.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

