

[Elk-in store for big surprise one day](#) May 1, 2019 North Carolina

Elkin Jonesville Tribune

... They had been extinct here since the 1790s. Then in 2001 the National Park Service and partners brought in 25 elk and set them down in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.. has pushed past 200 now ..,

[2001: Elk return to Western North Carolina](#) June 5, 2019 North Carolina, Smoky Mountain News

... there are at least 150 elk around, and probably more ... had been absent from North Carolina since the late 1700s ... 2001, when 25 elk captured from Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area in western Kentucky and Tennessee were released Feb. 2 ... by October 2002 the elk population had grown to nearly 60 animals ..,