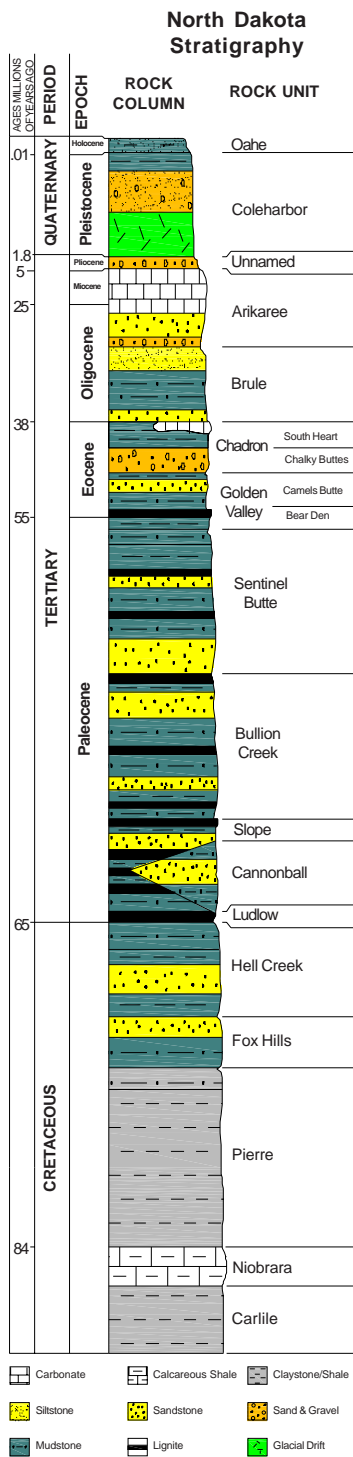


Cervis elaphus



Common Name:
North American elk, wapiti

Classification:
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Family: Cervidae

Description:
Cervis elaphus, North America elk, lives in North Dakota today but was much more abundant in the past. Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark recorded huge herds of elk in North Dakota. They are large animals, the males are up to about 8 feet long and weight on average about 700 pounds. They can live in a variety of habitats including forests and badlands. They are both browsers and grazers. Elk fossils are not common in North Dakota but antlers have been found in Holocene sediments.



Elk (*Cervus*). Painting by, and courtesy of, Vern Erickson.



Locations where fossils have been found