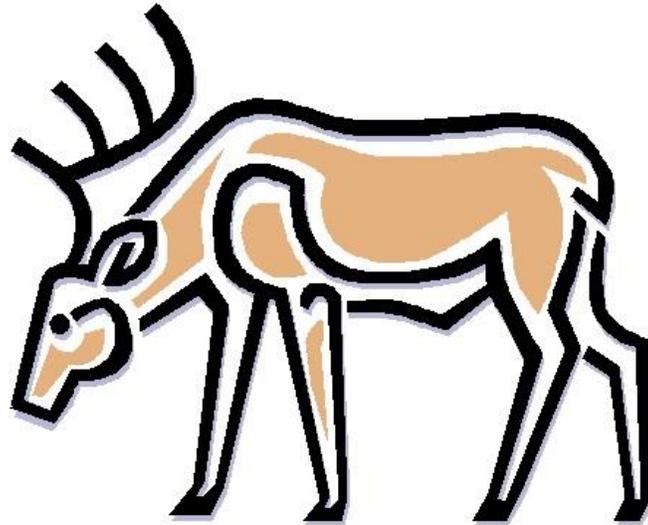


## A few great places to spot Roosevelt elk near Forks\*



**Across the street from the Visitor Information Center at the Forks Municipal Airport**

**On Bogachiel Way between Russell Road and Valley View Lane**

**On Division Street, just past Miller Tree Inn, in the pasture to the right**

**On Calawah Way, near the Mormon Church**

**On the Upper Hoh Road and in the Hoh Rain Forest**

**On Hwy 101 at the curve in Sappho, between mileposts 202 & 203**

**Prairies and lowlands in open pastures early in the morning and along river banks**

Adults grow to around 6–10 ft (1.8–3 m) in length and stand 2.5–5 ft (0.75–1.5 m) tall at the shoulder. Elk bulls generally weigh between 700 and 1100 lb (300–500 kg) while cows weigh 575–625 lb (260–285 kg). From late spring to early fall, Roosevelt Elk feed on herbaceous plants such as grasses and sedges. During winter months, they feed on woody plants including highbush cranberry, elderberry, and Devil's Club. Roosevelt Elk are also known to eat blueberry, mushrooms, and salmonberry.

The **Roosevelt elk**, named in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, is the largest of the four surviving subspecies of elk in North America. They live in the rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. The desire to protect the elk was one of the primary driving forces behind the establishment of the Mount Olympus National Monument (later Olympic National Park) in 1909.

Prompted by the reports of Lt. Joseph O'Neil of the U.S. Army, most of the region's forested land was set aside as the Olympic Forest Reserve in 1897 by President Grover Cleveland. President Theodore Roosevelt, moved primarily to protect a large herd of rain forest elk found only in the Northwest, designated a portion of the forest land the Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909. It was described as “the slopes of Mount Olympus and the adjacent summits of the Olympic Mountains ... embrace ... numerous glaciers, and ... the summer range and breeding grounds of the Olympic Elk ... a species peculiar to these mountains and rapidly decreasing in numbers” (Proc. No. 869). President Wilson reduced the size of the monument from its original 610,000 to 300,000 acres. The Forest Service, under the Cleator Plan of 1930, proposed to manage the monument as a primitive road-less area to preserve the wilderness qualities “so that immense territories of the mountain fastness would be left untrammelled.” The National Monument became part of the National Park Service in 1933. In 1938 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation creating Olympic National Park, which was enlarged in 1953 to include a strip of rugged coast. Remains of early homesteads and historic structures from initial protection efforts and depression-era government employment programs also allow visitors a glimpse into the past. <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/profileOlympic.htm>

**\*These are wild animals so please keep a safe distance and do not approach them.**