

2/17/16

**From:** Keith Daman [<mailto:damanfarm@cpcinternet.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:02 PM  
**To:** Russ Hendricks  
**Cc:** Bob Smathers  
**Subject:** Elk Depredation

Russ,

I just received (from Bob Smathers) notification of the meeting concerning Elk Depredation problems in the state.

I would like to submit to you for inclusion in the meeting my concerns regarding the problem.

We farm approximately 5500 acres in Benewah County. We have seen over the last 10-15 years a dramatic increase in the elk population in our area. With that population increase we have experienced a significant increase in damage to the crops we raise and in particular damage to our export Timothy hay fields. So much so that I have hired a person to patrol our fields at night with a ATV and a spotlight to "discourage" the elk from eating our crops. We have had pretty good success with this effort, however it is expensive. We begin this effort the last week of March and continue through much of May. It can be a challenge finding someone willing to commit to this nightly effort, fortunately I have been able to get a semi-retired neighbor to do this for me.

It is common for us to see 50 to 100 elk in many of our fields each night when we ride through the fields. I would estimate between 600-800 elk (maybe more) pasture our fields on a regular basis. We have seen as many as 400 in a single field on occasion in the spring of the year. The problem is significant, however we have been working with the personal of Panhandle Region Fish Game to deal with the problem and I am very pleased with their concern and response to the problem. It seems that the controlled hunts and depredation tags are the best way to address the problem while providing sportsmen a good hunting experience. As always there are some things that we could do to improve the efforts to control the population and I will say that the regional personal of IDFG are very open to suggestions concerning the matter.

I do believe that it is important for the legislators to understand that it is an increasing problem that needs to be worked on. I ask for continued support for efforts to address the problems of depredation through-out the state.

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