

2/17/16

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to voice my opinion concerning the size of the elk herds in the Leadore area and the damage they do to crops and fences on a yearly basis. Beginning in August, we have elk coming into our fields every year. This past fall we counted thirty three bulls and spikes in one herd, along with many cow elk coming in to our irrigated fields all at one time. It is not uncommon to see multiple groups of 50 to 75 elk daily. They run through fences, damage crops by bedding down, and eat free choice from our crops.

Last fall the ranges had more grass left on them than normal, but still the elk came down in larger than average numbers. I can only attribute this to the herds becoming too large or predators (wolves) forcing them out of the mountains.

In years past, we were in the access yes program, but due to the changes in the program made by Fish and Game we felt it was a program we could no longer participate in. The landowner no longer had the right to limit the number of hunters on any given day. Also archery and rifle hunting were allowed to run concurrently during the green field hunts, posing a hazard to hunters.

I also feel very strongly that we as landowners should be able to sell or use our landowner permits as we see fit. Landowners have the expense of feeding the elk and standing the costs of repairs for damage caused by wildlife. We should be able to sell landowner permits to help offset some of these expenses.

Sincerely,



Kurt Bird

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