

2/17/16

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From: Cole Smith [mailto:cl.smith06@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Senator Steve Bair <sbair@senate.idaho.gov>
Subject: Elk depradation

Dear Senator Bair,

After we spoke last week at the FB meetings in Boise I have been thinking what to include in this email. I want you to know that the Dept of Fish and Game have done a lot down here to help us. We feel that they could do more by allowing us to sell our landowners tag to help compensate for our losses. Also maybe some relaxing on the rules for the amount of acres per tag on a case by case bases. I know that might be difficult but I think it could be done. We only qualify for one tag but when we have 300-400 elk in our feeders every night, we feel that more then one tag is appropriate. As Jason Beck for the F&G can attest to we have always been willing to let the public hunt on our property to help control the problem. Here is a list of some of the losses we have had.

- 1-1 1/2 ton dairy hay per day during winter months
- 1/2-1 hour per day repairing fence to keep cows in destroyed be elk
- \$3000 per year in fencing supplies to keep up with repairs + time lost due to the elk

This has been an issue for the last 10 years but really bad the last 3. In the summers we don't have as bad of an issue but they still do go through fences all the time. We've talked over the point that we would like to be heard is that we would like the ability to get more if possible and be able to sell these tags to compensate for the loss. If we were able to do that we feel that could be willing to just deal with this ourselves and not have to call the F&G to help. We would still be willing to allow the public to hunt on our place and always will cause we know that we have to work with everyone.

If you and the F&G would like I have more ideas on plans on how to accomplish this. Feel free to call or have them call. 208-847-5207.

Thanks,

Cole Smith & Drue Smith

Sent from my iPad