

2/17/16
February 10, 2015

Dear Senator Bair,

My name is Cleve G. Smith and I own an organic wheat farm in southern Idaho. Myself and other farmers in our area have been meeting with the Fish and Game for the past 7 years asking them to cure the problem that the elk are causing or to pay for the damages.

I have farmed 2500 acres in Sublett for 50 years and didn't have elk problems until about 7 years ago. In 2009 we saw 2 elk, then 16, then 40, then 70, then 120, and then 140. They come in on our fall wheat destroying fences and bringing in morning glory seed (a noxious weed) to our organic fields.

Forty years ago we had the right to protect our property, but it seems that has been given to the Fish and Game. They need to either let us take care of the problem, or be responsible for the damages the elk cause.

My loss over the past 7 years is about \$50,915. The Fish and Game provided us with some wire for a credit of about \$840 which leaves a loss of \$50,075. As you can see, the elk have been very costly for us.

I hope this helps with the evaluation ^{of} ~~with~~ the elk problem.

Sincerely,

Cleve G. Smith
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