

2/17/16

elk deprecation

Robert Piva <piva2@custertel.net>
To fjwhitt@yahoo.com

Today at 8:48 PM

James,

Following is the information you requested:

We have had approximately 200 elk on our Challis ranch private property since early Oct. consuming valuable and important fall pasture. Whenever we tried to haze the elk off our private property they would immediately return to avoid the waiting riverbottom hunters on our eastern borders and hunters on our western borders waiting for the elk to leave our private property. Our ranch lies in the center of round valley with subdivisions, homes, livestock, employees and grandkids all in gunshot range. It is too dangerous to allow hunting on our private property. Starting in February, we have had at least 100 head of elk breaking into a large stackyard of round baled first and second crop hay. They started breaking into our stack yard after being hazed and chased by Idaho Fish and Game employees to remove elk from our adjoining neighbor to the northwest. I called our local fish and game commissioner two months ago, before the elk started breaking into our hay stacks. He relayed my call to the Idaho Fish and Game, but it was a considerable time before I got a return call. We are in the middle of calving with no time to construct elk fences even if we had the materials. We are trying to move the hay from the damaged stackyard as fast as we can but with so many damaged bales it is very difficult. We chase the elk off daily but they just come back each night. We estimate that the elk have consumed or destroyed approximately 100 ton of round baled hay. The huge herds of elk and associated disease risks to our cattle and the devastating damage to our crops and stored hay are becoming commonplace. They do not belong on our private property. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game appears to be totally unconcerned. Attempted bandaids fixes to major property damage is in my opinion negligence if not criminal on the part of the IDF&G. If I allowed my livestock to continuously destroy fences, crops and stored hay of my neighbors I would be faced with immediate lawsuits. Is the Idaho Department of Fish and Game immune to accepting responsibility for their management mandate? They will simply blame the elk in the valley on a heavy snow year. These problems started long before snowfall and long before this year. Never in my lifetime have I seen wildlife damage like I have seen the last couple of years. I believe the only way to prompt the IDF&G into action is to make the cost of doing nothing more than the cost of solving the problem.

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