

2/17/16

To Whom It May Concern,

Jim & Deb Dahlberg , Bonners Ferry, ID partook of the elk depredation hunt in Boundary County. We own a hay farm 5 miles from Bonners Ferry. On 80 acres across the road from our home we hosted 200+ elk regularly. They work the alfalfa over-eating whatever they please. IF my cows were to do this to a neighbor- we would be responsible for the cost of the crop. The elk also dig in to 'soft' fields leaving their tracks on fresh ground that was once a "SMOOTH" hay field. Once again, if our cows were to do this to a neighbor – WE would be held responsible. The elk have also let themselves into the barn. The solution—let's give the farmer some flimsy panels to keep them out....how does THIS work you ask? NOT well.....we have ran a hot wire in conjunction as well as purchased 'gates' to keep the critters from 'feasting'. They have also bent, destroyed OUR heavy panels trying to get into OUR barns. Fences are yet another issue---when OUR cows get out because of elk reoccurrence—guess what---once again WE are paying for damages OUR critters have incurred. With 'this' being said---WHO is compensating 'us' for our loss? We farm 150 acres which includes 1st cutting alfalfa, 2nd cutting alfalfa, timothy as well as an oat crop. It would easily be said that we incurred a 25% loss on a whole.

So,,,,,,we join in and 'allow' a depredation hunt to control the DEER and it was followed re the ELK. WE are 'not' hunters so we gain 'little' from our efforts. As the secretary of the farm, I set the hunt up w the F&G and stayed in contact with 'Lester' who was definitely a postive person re our needs. I send names of hunters that would like to hunt here.....after he sends them depredation info.....I once again take them to the fields to show them the hunting boundaries. The hunters phone.....Are the elk out,,,,,do you see the elk,,,,,,what time shall I hunt,,,,,would you bring the tractor to help,,,,,do you mind if I wash up at your place and and and!! It took A LOT of time and effort on our part once again. So let's look at the results of the hunt. The hunter would show up and within 15 min-normally shoot an elk....'if' the hunter felt like hunting that day! Some would procrastinate leaving the herd standing and no tags issued until a kill was made. After the kill,,,,,,it only took a brief time for the herd to return. As the hunt went on the time frame DID stretch out further-keeping the herd stirred up. Lester McDonald could give you the yield "IF" the hunters bothered to leave that info as they were requested. It's not much fun to turn people....whether you know them or not loose on your property with guns as once a year hunting revs the adrenaline.

PRESENTLY the elk haven't left.....they have moved 1/2 mile south of us—into Pam Abbot Brooker's horse farm. They are enjoying her round bales of hay that are surrounded by the 'wonderful' panels given to her. They have also moved into the adjoining property of Darrel Thiel which is leased by Justin Pluid. They have nosed their way into the barn—enjoying the farmers effort of Justin. Equipt has been moved to slow their efforts and now the farmer has used 'HIS' panels to curtail the effort of the elk. A 'loaded' hay trailer was left in his yard re having pickup issues and guess who helped themselves to the bales?? The elk enjoyed the farmers efforts once again!

I believe it is the responsibility of the Fish & Game to 'control' their wildlife as it is the Farmer's to control theirs. WHY are 'we' having to put so much energy, effort and finances into YOUR responsibility? I would be happy to supply a bill for the damage as well as for the hours we have incurred doing the Fish & Game's job.

Sincerely,

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