



**NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
WILDLIFE (NDOW)**

**ELK MANAGEMENT  
ON PRIVATE LANDS**

**ELK DAMAGE/COMPENSATION  
PROGRAM:**

Initiated by the Nevada State Legislature in 1989 through NRS 504.155 and 504.165. In 1990, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners adopted NAC 504.350 through 504.440 to define the program.

**Purpose:** To mitigate and compensate private landowners, primarily agricultural producers, for losses or damage caused by elk. This program allows for cash payments for damage and/or the purchase and construction of protective fencing for crops and haystacks.

**Who is eligible?** “Any landowner” or, with a letter of authorization from a landowner, “any lessee or manager” of private land with an eligible claim of damage by elk is eligible.

**What lands are eligible?** Private lands, especially those used to grow agricultural crops including native meadows and privately maintained improvements on public or private lands qualify for the program.

**What crops, improvements or losses apply.**

Crops, privately maintained improvements which include any structures or facilities such as fences or irrigation equipment, etc. and any site containing an orchard, stack of hay, stored crops and standing crops and losses such as grazing reductions caused by elk apply. Specific crops that qualify under this program include alfalfa, clovers, grass and grain.

Native hay meadows can also be eligible under this program but can also be considered under the Incentive Tag Program depending on NDOW evaluation and the wishes of the landowner. NDOW considers elk herd health to determine eligibility.

A loss from grazing reductions on private or public property must be contingent upon whether a preponderance of the evidence proves the loss was caused solely by elk.

Claims to an insurance company are not eligible for payment under this program. A single damage claim is limited to \$10,000 without Wildlife Commission approval.

**How do I apply?** It is the responsibility of the claimant to notify the NDOW in writing within 5 days of discovery of elk damage.

**When should I apply?** Within 5 days of discovery of elk damage and also inform NDOW when the elk damage ceases.

**How does it work?**

1. The NDOW representative will investigate the damage with the claimant as soon as possible and definitely no later than 10 days following notice of damage and enter

into a Cooperative Agreement (Form 110) with the claimant.

2. An elk depredation damage or loss report (Form 111) will be filled out by the Department investigator in cooperation with the claimant.
3. If the claimant and the Department do not agree on the amount a Local Panel formed pursuant to NAC 504.430 shall be used to determine payment.

**Can I apply for both Incentive and Compensation Programs?** Any single piece of property, i.e. a native hayfield, cannot be considered for both programs in a single year, but a claimant could have property that qualifies for both programs, i.e. NDOW could fence an alfalfa field (Damage/Compensation Program) and the same ranch could have native elk habitats on adjacent private lands that qualify for the Incentive Tag Program.

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