



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Game Division**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120 · Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM**APRIL 14, 2023**

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife and Interested Publics

From: Cody McKee, Staff Specialist, Game Division

Title: **Approval for Elk Damage Payment Exceeding \$10,000 – For Possible Action**

Purpose: The Commission will review and approve an assessment of damage occurring on irrigated cropland on the Granite Peak Ranch in White Pine County.

Summary

Persistent use by elk was documented throughout 2022 on several irrigated alfalfa fields comprising the Granite Peak Ranch (GPR) in White Pine County. Despite efforts by the Department to haze, the implementation of special depredation hunts and adequate forage conditions occurring on nearby public land, an estimated 84 elk frequented the properties from April through November. Like 2021, significant monetary loss was incurred due to alfalfa consumption, trampling, and wallowing behavior.

Brief Explanation of Proposed Damage Payment

An assessment of elk damage totaling \$28,346.00 was completed by Department personnel and submitted for reimbursement by Bruce Hubbard, agent for the property. Per NAC 504.421 Section 1 (f), a loss on one site must be limited to \$10,000.00, unless the Commission determines that a claimant may be paid more, and there is sufficient money to pay him or her. The Commission will need to review and approve the assessment of elk damage on the GPR to authorize the Department to process the reimbursement.

As of January 2023, the balance in the Elk Damage Account was \$2,154,657.43. The Department continues to evaluate options to mitigate damage caused by elk to GPR properties, as well as other locations throughout Nevada.

Recommendation

The Department recommends the Commission vote to approve the payment for elk damage on GPR as presented.

ELK DEPREDATION DAMAGE OR LOSS REPORT

Bruce Hubbard- agent
(Name of Claimant)

4272 North High Noon Street Enoch, UT 84721
(Mailing Address)

(435) 681-0557
(Telephone Number)

Granite Peak Ranch
(Location of Damaged Property) White Pine
(County)

Dates damage occurs: From 4/1/2022 To 11/30/2022

When was damage first discovered: 4/3/2022

When was NDOW notified of damage: 4/25/2022

If not within five days of the initial discovery of damage, why?
There was miscommunication about getting the coop agreement signed and delay in informing NDOW.

Date of NDOW investigation 05/17, 06/16, 07/29, 09/09, 10/05

Persons Interviewed None

Description of Investigation:
Daylight count.

Have there been previous reports of damage caused by elk? Yes No
If yes, the date(s): 2021

Has the claimant refused to accept, use or maintain damage prevention materials provided by the Department? Yes No If yes, explain:

Are the damages caused by elk eligible for reimbursement pursuant to any policy of insurance? Yes No

TYPE(S) OF DAMAGE:

Number of elk causing damage 40-140

Check all that apply

Pasture or meadow Standing Crop Stored Crop

Number of acres involved in damage 3,100

If pasture or meadow, was it grazed by livestock? Yes No If so,

Type _____ Number _____

Season of use _____

If stored crop, type? _____ Total acres _____ Acres damaged _____

Other property damage (e.g., fencing) Type of property _____

What measures were taken to protect meadow/crops/property?

Hazing

Calculation of Damage Values

Pasture or meadow					
Avg # elk/month	# of months	% time elk on field/day	AUM elk conversion	Cost of 1 AUM	Damage Value
			2.1		\$0
Standing crop					
Avg # elk/ day	# days	lbs/elk/day consumed	Market value/ton	Damage Value	
85	244	7.1	\$385	\$28,346	
Stored crops					
Amount damaged (tons, bales, lbs)			market value/unit	Damage Value	
				\$0	
Other property damaged					
Amount damaged (units, e.g., feet of fencing)			market value/unit	Damage Value	
				\$0	
TOTAL VALUE					\$28,346

DAMAGE PAYMENT AGREED TO BY CLAIMANT AND NDOW INVESTIGATOR

\$ \$28,346

Date 3/21/2023

I agree the above information is true to the best of my knowledge:

Claimant's Signature

Date

Department Investigator

Date

Supervisor Approval

Date

The Department approves the aforementioned claim for the amount identified:

Deputy Director,
Nevada Department of Wildlife

Date

2022 Granite Peak Elk Observations by NDOW

May 17, 2022

-Daylight count. No elk seen on the north end. Nine cows in the field below the stackyard. Three elk trailing east. Sixteen elk trailing south. Three elk leaving the west pivot.

June 16, 2022

-10 minutes after daylight. Eight cows crossing the road by the stackyard. One cow in the stackyard. Could have been more below the stackyard. On the south end 10 elk were trailing west. Twenty-three bulls trailing on the south end.

July 29, 2022

-Daylight count. Four cows west of the road by the north glassing point. Six more coming out of the field. Went down the road and could see ~30 elk in the fields. Twelve more crossed behind me. Thirty-one elk coming out of the pivot on the west side. Likely missed some calves in the brush. Seven bulls on the NE side.

September 9, 2022

-Daylight count. ~40 elk between the north end and the stackyard. One bull on the north end. Someone is hazing elk in the fields.

October 5, 2022

-Daylight count. Twenty-three elk walking down the powerline road. One bull at the stackyard. 4 elk on the east bench.

July 9-120
July 22-128
July 31- 17 bulls no cows
Aug 14- 129
Aug 25- 85
Sep 7- 98
Sep 12- 114
Sep 21- 57
Sep 29- 44
Oct 6- 47- 47
+ 20- 35
Nov 2- 43
Nov 5- 30 38- 45

April-3 114
April-11 107
April-19 111
April-23 102
April-28 137
May 1-122
May 4-113
May 6-119
May 13-94
May 15- 112
May 20- 88
May 24- 93
May 29- 80
June 4- 102
June 10 107
June 11 118
June 25 122
June 30 97
Jul- 2 119-123

GP 2
Hay Co.