



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

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MEMORANDUM:

February 23, 2022

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

From: Cody McKee, Wildlife Staff Specialist, Game Division *CM*

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

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

Summary:

In June 2021, Department personnel were notified of substantial elk use occurring on several irrigated alfalfa fields comprising the Granite Peak Ranch (GPR) in White Pine County. Despite efforts by the Department and the claimant to minimize damage, over 100 elk frequented the fields through the remainder of 2021. Due to alfalfa consumption, trampling, and wallowing behavior, significant monetary loss was incurred.

An assessment of elk damage totaling \$19,170 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, 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 approve the payment for elk damage on GPR so the Department can process the reimbursement.

As of December 2021, the account balance for Elk Damage was \$1,984,900. While sufficient funding exists to fully reimburse the claimant, the Department is implementing a new Antlerless Elk Depredation Hunt for the upcoming Big Game Hunting Season to further discourage elk from visiting GPR.

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 White Pine County
(Location of Damaged Property) (County)

Dates damage occurs: From 6/5/2021 To 12/4/2021

When was damage first discovered: June 5th

When was NDOW notified of damage: Late June

If not within five days of the initial discovery of damage, why?
Agent does not live in the immediate area and is unfamiliar with the program.

Date of NDOW investigation 7/14/2021

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): _____

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 65-140

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	
100	180	7.1	\$300	\$19,170	
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					\$19,170

DAMAGE PAYMENT AGREED TO BY CLAIMANT AND NDOW INVESTIGATOR

\$ \$19,170 _____

Date 2/8/2022

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

2021 Granite Peak Ranch Elk Observations

7-14-21

Daylight count. 12 bulls moving east out of fields. Worked closer to the powerline road and saw 23 more bulls behind the original bulls. 4 bulls on the south end of the fields. 2 cows heading east out of the south end. 18 cows at the stackyard. Probably missed some elk in the topography. 3 calves seen in the fields, but tall hay probably hid some calves. 62 total elk.

8-3-2021

Daylight count. 94 cows/calves on fields. 20 bulls on the east (UT) bench. 19 bulls going of south end of the fields. Cows still on the property at 6:00 am. 133 total elk.

8-9-2021

Daylight count with Bruce. The big cow group of 90+ coming off fields to west. Didn't get a great count because hitting fences. No other elk seen, but glassing was difficult with smoke.

9-9-2021

Daylight count. 1 bull in the stackyard. 18 bulls on the south end. 2 bulls on the Utah bench. At least 60-70 cows/calves in the middle, but difficult to count because Bruce and others are hazing. 6 more elk on north end that I missed early. 96 total elk.

10-4-2021

Daylight count. 27 below stackyard. 53 west of road at stackyard. 15 on pivot west of house. 25 on the middle of the main fields. 3 bulls on south end. 123 total elk.

10-11-2021

Afternoon count while doing landowner deer count. 99 elk bedded below stackyard on fields. 17 south of the house. 116 total elk.

11-3-2021

Daylight count. Didn't glass the north end much because 2 hunters were parked there. 8 bulls in pivot west of road. The big cow group was on south end. Hard to count because Bruce was hazing but looked like 90+ elk. 17 bulls on far south end. 115 total elk.

12-21-2021

Talked to Bruce. He said most elk left on 12/4.