A Field Level Perspective of Winter Elk Damage and Conflict in western Wyoming
Harsh Winter Conditions
Elk often forced into conflict situations

► Statutory and regulatory damage obligations since 1939 to:
  - Stored Crops
  - Stock Feedlines
  - Improvements “fences, etc.”

► Elk and cattle co-mingling / Brucellosis disease concerns – Zero tolerance requires immediate action (Jan – April)
Damage to Stored Crops

► Short term – difficult to mitigate entirely
Damage to Stored Crops

- Long term – game proof stackyard program
Damage to Improvements

- Fences, wind breaks/shelterbelts, etc.
Damage / Conflict at feedlines

- Hay consumption
- *Elk and cattle co-mingling / brucellosis disease concerns are imminent* - Zero Tolerance
Mitigation Solutions

► Extended hunting seasons in chronic problem areas thru Jan. 31
Elk Hazing
► Available Habitat
Elk Hazing

► Highway Complications
Elk Hazing

- Feedgrounds are often the only anti-conflict location for elk long term
Elk Baiting

- Baiting elk away from conflict to a more desirable location
Emergency Feeding

► Large concentrations of elk in conflict and inability to displace elk out of problem area

► Common in Star Valley and Buffalo Valley

► Farson early 1970’s and 2017
Lethal Take Permits

► Last Resort
Winter Elk Damage and Conflict in western Wyoming

- Frequently prolonged periods of cold and snow
- Limited available winter habitat
- Elk in Conflict
  - Damage to stored crops
  - Damage and brucellosis co-mingling on livestock feedlines
  - Highway concerns
- Short-term - conflict mitigation techniques are labor intensive and expensive and rarely resolve the conflict
- Long-term - feedgrounds have been a useful tool to field managers as a successful solution in mitigating elk damage and conflict
Questions?