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









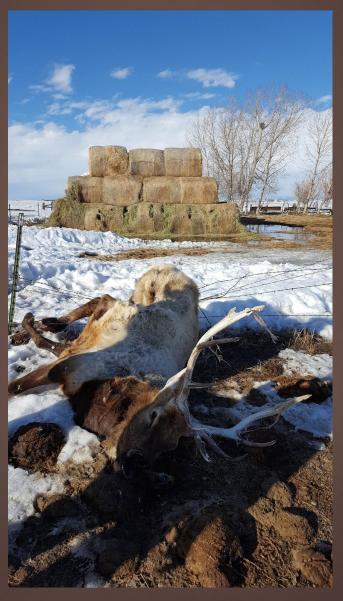
Damage to Stored Crops

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?

