



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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AN OPEN LETTER TO WYOMING SPORTSMEN

To Wyoming Sportsmen and Hunters,

Recently, we the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) published an article regarding brucellosis. In that piece ran some information regarding the Wyoming feed grounds that was not accurate and not representative of RMEF. I can only apologize to all and state for the record that RMEF does not have an issue with the Wyoming elk feeding grounds currently in operation. We feel strongly that the state of Wyoming and its residents, especially sportsmen, hunters and landowners along with the Wyoming Game & Fish should set policy relative to these feed grounds.

There is a case for supplemental winter feeding of elk in western Wyoming and that it is essential today because of threats to elk from greatly increased predator populations and historic loss of elk habitat. The Wyoming Department of Game and Fish estimates that a substantial portion of the Jackson Hole elk herd would perish if supplemental feeding of elk in the vicinity were halted. We cannot allow this to happen.

WDFG is now seeing increases of brucellosis in up to 35% of elk in the Cody area and there are no feeding grounds anywhere near there. Something else is obviously going on before our eyes. The current test and removal program in effect at some of the feed grounds is having some positive results. In addition the feeding grounds are serving an essential purpose of keeping elk away from ranchers' cattle and hay during the winter.

Once again, RMEF is retracting any words or language that gives the perception that we do not stand in support of the Wyoming hunting community and the Wyoming Game & Fish relative to how the Wyoming elk feeding grounds are being managed and utilized. I will also repeat that we apologize for the lack of judgment on our end of this issue. I learned long ago to admit one's mistakes and be man enough to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

M. David Allen
President & CEO
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation