

July 19, 1999

Dear Wildlife Board Members,

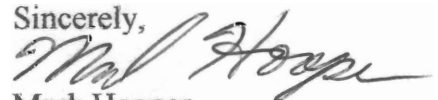
I'd like to ask you to consider this letter in your public comment section of your meeting as I couldn't attend in person.

NDOW is on record numerous times as stating verbally that elk in the Rubies will be controlled by depredation hunts. (Please see the attached copy of my comments at an Elko County Commission Meeting.) In these comments NDOW officials speak of "living up to their word".

The lawyers have a saying. "If it's not written down, it doesn't exist". As people retire and move on, time passes and memories fade. What seems to be a clear understanding now of promises made by NDOW will become shrouded in controversy as time goes on. Let's write up a simple document that solidifies NDOW's verbal position so that 10 years from now we won't be having to argue over who promised what.

Whether or not one agrees that elk should be controlled in the Rubies to protect either stackyards or mule deer is not important. What is important is that a government agency made promises. It is important that people honor their word.

Sincerely,



Mark Hooper