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Telephone
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April 11, 1985

William A. Molini
Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022

RE: HOWARD - ELK

Dear Mr. Molini:

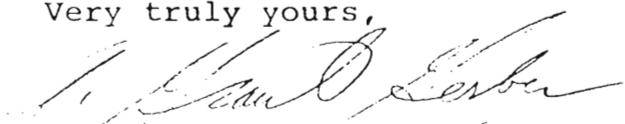
On behalf of my clients, the ranchers surrounding the Jarbidge Wilderness, I would like to thank you for honoring your commitment and withdrawing the proposal to plant elk in the Jarbidge Mountains. Your commitment to withdraw consideration of the proposal until, and if, the locally affected livestock interest can concur with such an effort is welcomed. At this time it can be definitely stated that the livestock interests are absolutely opposed and it is also expected that this position will not change in the foreseeable future.

We feel that it is a mistake for you to continue indicating that this is a reintroduction or reestablishment of elk, especially in view of the statements that you made on March 29, 1985, that there was "no substantial evidence that there was a native population" in the Jarbidge Mountains. In preparing for the hearing before the Public Lands Committee we have developed substantial evidence showing that there were no elk native to the Jarbidge area. In fact the evidence seems to indicate that there are more transients through the area now that the elk populations have increased above any previous historic proportions in Idaho.

My clients have indicated that they are looking forward to a return to normalcy and cooperation.

A point that has been brought up by many of my clients, and that we discussed in the meeting on Friday, March 29, 1985 was the need to determine the amount of forage on private lands used by the wildlife. The Department of Wildlife and other agencies have done a lot of studies showing the available forage on federal lands and the impact of livestock and wildlife on that forage, which in some cases has generated unfair articles such as the Ranger Rick article. Because the State and Federal agencies ignore the significant contribution of private lands to wildlife the general public is unaware of this significant contribution.

Very truly yours,


A. GRANT GERBER

AGG/dss

Mr. Kent Howard
P.O. Box 1627
Elko, Nevada 89801

March 12, 1987

Mr. Willy Molini
Nevada Division of Wildlife
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, NV 89520

Dear Mr. Molini:

By your latest proposal to introduce elk into the Jarbidge Wilderness you have widened the already wide credibility gap between NDOW and the ranchers of the area. You not only told us, but later wrote a letter saying that you would not make this proposal until you have the approval of the land owners. You also admitted that day that not one land owner had agreed to this plan.

Most of the area ranchers are exceptionally good operators and have spend many years in time and investment to build and improve the rangeland resources. Many of the permittees have had their livestock numbers cut down to improve the range. Nearly all have suffered hay losses during hard winters from deer without much complaint or any remuneration.

Before elk are introduced in to the area we must have certain guarantees:

1. Ranchers will be paid for any loss of hay on private land.
2. They will be paid for any loss of grazing rights on federal land due to elk.
3. Any elk that cause problems will be eliminated if the livestock operator does not elect to take cash remuneration.
4. Any fences torn down by elk on federal land or private land will be replaced or repaired by the responsible agency.
5. If any elk stay on the Idaho side of the State line during the summer and a become resident herd, they must be eliminated.

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I personally do not trust NDOW to be the judge of where or how much depredation payment should be. Therefore, a committee made up of ranchers and sportsmen must be in place to investigate and judge all complaints from private land owners or permittees.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent Howard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kent Howard

KH:lr