

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

### PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE ZONE WILDLIFE PROGRAM Kootenay Boundary 2010



(Elk overgrazing forage crops)

The **"Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program"** (PAZWP), has been developed out of a recognition by the B.C. government that agricultural zones throughout the province are subject to special objectives and hold special opportunities for hunters. PAZWP helps coordinate crop damage prevention, mitigation and compensation strategies, by increasing hunting opportunities in lower elevation agricultural/winter range zones and promoting stable and healthy hunter-landowner relationships.

"Special hunt zones" are delineated because of concerns with elk depredation on agriculture crops, rangeland condition and/or forage availability on important winter range for wild ungulates.

PAZWP came about because the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) required assurance from Ministry of Environment (MOE) that it would engage in the

development and implementation of crop damage mitigation strategies. MOE's support allowed MAL to initiate a crop damage compensation program known as the *Agriculture Wildlife Program*. The program has already resulted in solutions and considerable goodwill towards 'wildlife' in agricultural communities.

PAZWP *"Agriculture/Wildlife Specialists"* from MOE work with MAL's *"Resource Stewardship Agrologists"* to increase hunting opportunities in agriculture zones, where appropriate, to reduce crop depredation. One strategy to help mitigate crop damage is through liberalizing hunting regulations. The new General Open Seasons (GOS) for elk are expected to help promote stable healthy hunter - landowner relationships over time.

PAZWP also encourages private land stewardship and in the future, additional management options may be considered, such as a "special management zone" hunting license system and private land access incentives. PAZWP supports the Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program. The Agriculture Research and Development Corporation (ARDCorp) has published the "Planning for Biodiversity: A Guide for BC Farmers and Ranchers" that provides on-farm environmental stewardship information through the EFP program.

"Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committees" (RAWCs) are being established where ungulate and bear damage to standing crops is most severe, and there is a need to promote discussion among stakeholders and develop ideas for reducing conflict between agriculture and wildlife.

In 2010, three PAZWP *"Agriculture/Wildlife Specialists"* have been located across the province in regional MOE offices to establish these RAWCs and initiate conversations between hunters and landowners. These individuals are a provincial resource and the PAZWP team will be asked to lead, or provide assistance, in the development of management solutions throughout the province.

The PAZWP Acting Manager is from MOE - ESD - Fish and Wildlife, **"Wildlife & Private Land Stewardship Program"** and located in Kamloops.

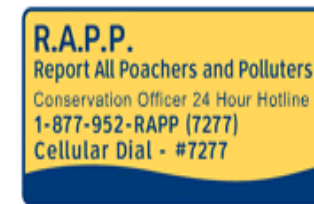
*Agriculture /Wildlife Specialists* are located in:

- Nelson MOE for the Kootenay Boundary (250-354-6353).
- Williams Lake MOE for the Cariboo Thompson Okanagan (250-398-4258).
- Fort Saint John MOE for the Peace (250-787-3369).



(Elk damage to hay bales)

To book an appointment or a presentation about the PAZWP program in the Kootenay Boundary area for your organization's next meeting, please contact the MOE's Kootenay Boundary reception at 250-354-6333 or email: [anne.reichert@gov.bc.ca](mailto:anne.reichert@gov.bc.ca)



#### Resources:

MOE Kootenay PAZWP webpage  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/wld/pazwp.html>

MOE Kootenay Elk Management Plan  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/emp/emp.htm>

MOE Kootenay Region Wildlife webpage  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/wld/wld.html>  
(expanding 'Wildlife' in the left hand panel brings you to the PAZWP link)

BC MOE Hunting & Trapping Regulations  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/>

BC MOE Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis  
[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/UrbanUngulates.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/UrbanUngulates.html)

#### Related Links:

MAL Agriculture Wildlife Program  
<http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/awp/index.htm>

ARDCorp Agriculture Environment Initiatives  
[http://www.ardcorp.ca/index.php?page\\_id=13](http://www.ardcorp.ca/index.php?page_id=13)

*PHOTOS of Agriculture/Wildlife Conflict and Aversive Conditioning research trials (over)*



T. Szkodrupa



B.C. Ministry of Environment

**“Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Increasingly Human-Dominated Landscapes: Information, aversive conditioning, and deterrents as tools for managing human-wildlife conflict in coyotes, elk, bears and birds”, 2010, C. Cassady St. Clair, University of Alberta, FORREX on line webinar series gave examples:**



Courtesy of C. Cassady St. Clair



D. Thornton



D. Thornton



Courtesy of C. Cassady St. Clair



Courtesy of C. Cassady St. Clair  
Elsabe Kloppers, M.Sc. research, **Example 1:** Use of Aversive Conditioning to increase wariness in urban elk, 2005, Ecology & Society, v.10, #1



Courtesy of C. Cassady St. Clair



Courtesy of C. Cassady St. Clair  
Holger Spaedtke, M.Sc. research, **Example 2:** Use of Aversive Conditioning to protect grassland and re-establish migration in elk, unpublished results demonstrated that Elk use declines with Aversive Conditioning

**B.C. Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis**, 2010. Hesse, G. BC MoE - Each community has different attitudes towards deer!



J. Hesse



J. Hesse



D. Thornton