



## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

### FILING A DEER/ELK DAMAGE CLAIM

#### Required Documents and Important Timelines When Applying For Deer/Elk Damage Compensation

Deer and elk damage claim eligibility is restricted to “eligible farmers” (as defined in RCW 82.08.855) with commercial crop damage. The claimant is required to provide documentation of gross sales or harvested value of commercial crops produced. Documents must account for a minimum of ten thousand dollars in crop value for the previous tax year. Damage claims of less than one thousand dollars are not eligible for damage compensation.

*A ‘commercial crop’ is a commercially raised horticultural and/or agricultural product and includes the growing or harvested product.*

- The claimant must notify the Department within seventy-two (72) hours of discovery of crop damage and seventy-two (72) hours prior to harvest of the claimed crop.
- A complete written claim must be submitted to the Department within sixty (60) days of when the damage stops.
- Owners may file only one claim per year. Multiple partners in a farming operation are considered one owner. Operations involving multiple partners must designate a “primary grower” to receive payment from the Department.
- The claimant must submit the request for a claim form by contacting Ralf Schreiner, WDFW Wildlife Conflict Program Specialist in writing, by phone or via email. Please provide your full name, mailing and damage addresses, phone number and email address to:

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Wildlife Conflict Section**

**600 Capitol Way North**

**Olympia, WA 98501-1091**

**(360) 902-2490**

**[Ralf.Schreiner@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Ralf.Schreiner@dfw.wa.gov)**

- Damage claim assessment of amount and value of commercial crop loss is the primary responsibility of the claimant. Crop damages must be evaluated by a licensed crop adjuster. The Department will share half of the cost of an evaluation by an authorized and licensed crop adjuster for deer/elk damage with the claimant to pay a maximum of six hundred dollars.

- The claimant must mail the damage claim, including all required documentation, to WDFW Wildlife program. Failure to provide any of the following required information will constitute an incomplete claim, and the claim will not be processed:
  - ✓ Schedule F of form 1040, Form 1120, or other applicable forms filed with the Internal Revenue Service that indicate the claimant's gross sales or harvested value of commercial crops for the previous tax year;
  - ✓ Copy of the insurance policy and payment on the commercial crop where loss is claimed.
  - ✓ Copy of application for other sources of loss compensation and any payment or denial documentation
  - ✓ Assessment method used, consistent with WAC 232-36-120 (Valuation Methods forCrop Damage Assessment);
  - ✓ Written report by a state licensed and federally certified adjustor using approved methodology to assess and determine final crop loss and value;
  - ✓ Proof of ownership of claimed commercial crops or contractual lease of claimed commercial crops;
  - ✓ Documentation indicating average yield on claim crop and parcel, certified yield reports, production reports and certified third-party weight certificates completed at the time weighed for claimed year, and other applicable documents that support yield loss and current market price; and
  - ✓ Declaration signed under penalty of perjury as provided in RCW 9A.72.085.
- The Department or the owner may accept the damage claim assessment provided by the licensed and certified adjustor, or may hire another state licensed and federally certified adjustor of their choosing to conduct a separate assessment of the crop loss amount and value. The cost of this assessment is the responsibility of the requestor.
  - Crop losses greater than \$10,000 or a disagreement between the claimant and the Department over the crop loss value may be settled through an adjudicative proceeding.
  - Owner will be notified by the Department upon completion of the evaluation, and has sixty (60) days to accept or appeal the Department's offer for settlement of the claim or the claim is considered satisfied and not subject to appeal.
  - Final warrant and compensation will be mailed directly to the claimant of the crop.

Thank you

WDFW Wildlife Conflict Program