



POLICY FOR PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY FROM ELK

Executive Summary

Ontario's *Elk Management Plan* was released in June 2010 following public and stakeholder consultation. The *Plan* includes a number of objectives and strategic actions to guide management decisions that support sustainable and healthy elk populations, including objectives and strategies aimed at specifically addressing human-elk conflicts.

Ontario's overall policy position related to addressing conflict with wildlife, as a public resource, is to enable landowners with the tools and information to prevent and mitigate conflict and associated damage. The *Strategy for Preventing and Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Ontario* provides overarching policy direction to address human-wildlife conflict in Ontario.

Consistent with this broad provincial approach, the *Elk Management Plan* acknowledges the need for tools to help address the impact of human-elk conflicts. In response to this need, the government amended Subsection 31(3) of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA)* in 2010 to add American elk to the list of species that can be harassed, captured or killed in accordance with authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The *Policy for Protecting Agricultural Property from Elk* provides direction for issuance of authorizations to harass or kill elk that are causing or are about to cause damage to agricultural property. It outlines the process and prerequisites for obtaining an authorization, including qualifying criteria for applicants, agents and general eligibility requirements. The policy also outlines the conditions of use for authorizations, including equipment, timing of use, reporting requirements, etc.