

NOTICE TO ALL SVEA OWNERS

SVEA BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER ELK FEEDING PROGRAM

September 25, 2009

9:00 a.m. at Sun Valley City Hall

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE MEETING OR SEND YOUR COMMENTS VIA EMAIL

Late this week, your SVEA Board Members will be considering the difficult matter of whether or not to lease to the Wood River Elk Trust, on a one-year trial basis, SVEA Open Space Land for their elk feeding program. We apologize for the late notice but invite your attendance at the meeting, or your written comments.

The following will provide a bit of the history:

During the winter of 2007/08 the long-standing feeding program conducted by Ed Dumke and later taken over by The Community School, came to an end. This resulted in an increased disbursement of approximately 100 head of elk into and around the residential areas of Elkhorn.

At that time, though some Elkhorn owners encouraged the Board of Directors to become involved in an alternative feeding program, the decision was made to take the advice of Idaho Fish & Game and not do so. During the past two winters (2007/08 and 2008/09) private feeding programs were undertaken by various individual owners and groups in different locations throughout Elkhorn. Though the Board received no concerns over the 2007/08 scattered feeding efforts, they did continue to receive complaints over the property damage that was occurring throughout the community by the wandering elk. These damage complaints continued in 2008/09 but were joined by concerns over the feeding activities that were creating new problems; the presence of large predators hunting the elk in close proximity to residential areas.

Because of the predator issue, the Board was then asked to consider implementing a rule prohibiting the feeding of elk by Elkhorn residents within the Association boundaries. They were considering this request when members of the Wood River Elk Trust submitted their arguments on the benefits of a properly conducted feeding program, and their request to lease an area of SVEA Open Space to conduct such a plan. They and their advisors do not agree with IDFG's opinion that the elk will disperse if not fed. Rather, they believe feeding the elk on a ridge-line, away from residential areas, as was done in the past, is the better solution.

The WRET's request was reported at the July 17, 2009 summer meeting/BBQ and in the August newsletter, and has generated a considerable number of communications from owners. In an effort to assist with the decision, the Board composed and submitted a list of specific questions for IDFG. The questions and IDFG's responses are attached for your review.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting or to your reply to this email communication.

Regards,

SVEA Board of Directors