



ALBERTA
FORESTRY, PARKS AND TOURISM

AR-819

Office of the Minister

APR 25 2023

Sebastien Durtrisac
Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Sebastien Durtrisac:

My colleague, Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, forwarded your recent letter regarding Landowner Special License (LSL) hunting tags. As Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

Amendments to the Wildlife Regulations to restructure the eligibility criteria for an LSL, including the potential change to allow for landowners to receive tags without having been previously unsuccessful in a regular draw, would require broad public engagement. We will bring this issue for engagement at a provincial scale to assess concerns for all stakeholders this may affect. While the current system is generally effective and well supported by users, there are limitations that preclude creating conditions on special licences specific to landowners.

My ministry is exploring options to support agricultural producers experiencing ungulate depredation, including increasing hunting opportunities and strategies to harvest in Wildlife Management Units where conflict is high, relaxing restrictions on the number and type of elk licences held by an individual, increasing the diversity of programs and potential municipal partnership opportunities under the Ungulate Damage Prevention Program to reflect the diversity of stored livestock crops and storage systems, and exploring alternate strategies and regulations to decrease elk populations on a sub-regional basis.

Ministry staff will continue working with agricultural producers to explore options and develop effective tools to meet the combined goals of sound wildlife management and allocation and the needs of landowners.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,

Todd Loewen
Minister

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Matt Besko, Director, Hunting and Fishing Branch, Forestry, Parks and Tourism