

IDAHO SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.idahoscac.org

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- *Backcountry H&A*
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- *Pheasants Forever*
- *Rocky Mountain Elk Found.*
- *ID Chapters SCI*
- *SE ID Mule Deer Found.*
- *Snake River Cutthroats*

In Idaho, there are currently 76 known facilities that hold captive elk, deer or other cervidae. These facilities sell captive animals for meat, hides, and horns. Some of the facilities provide animals to other high-fence "shooter" operations. ISCAC is opposed to the operation of any captive elk, deer, or other cervidae facilities in Idaho for biological and economic reasons.

Economic Issues: It is estimated that the cervidae facilities in Idaho provide less than \$10 million annually in taxable revenue. On the other hand, hunters in Idaho provide over \$171 million in annual taxable revenue from elk hunting alone. It does not make economic sense to allow an industry that provides less than \$10 million in local revenue to our rural economy to jeopardize the almost \$200 million in taxable revenue generated by our wild elk and deer. Sportsmen have borne, and are continuing to bear, the lion's share of the substantial costs involved in protecting Idaho's wildlife resource from the adverse affects of these captive facilities. Such facilities do not have the right to unilaterally impose these costs on Idaho's sportsmen. The right to use one's private property in a certain way is limited when that use adversely affects the public interest and the state's resources.

Biological Issues: Captive cervidae can come into contact with wild elk, deer and moose, and can escape, potentially resulting in devastating consequences, including:

- Introducing and transmitting diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease, tuberculosis, and brucellosis to Idaho's wild elk, deer and moose;
- Jeopardizing the genetic purity of Idaho's elk, deer and moose herds by introducing non-native strains of animals such as red stag and sika deer brought to Idaho; and
- Disrupting traditional migratory routes by placing captive cervid facilities in critical winter range areas.

These threats are real, as evidenced by recent events in Eastern Idaho and surrounding states.

Therefore:

ISCAC believes it to be in the best interest of the citizens of Idaho to ban captive cervidae facilities to protect our wild elk, deer and moose. ISCAC supports legislation that mandates the phase out of all current captive cervidae operations in Idaho.

Contact ISCAC for more information.