



# Domesticated Elk Update

NRAE INTERIM COMMITTEE | October 19, 2022

Chair Stratton and committee staff met with representatives from the Utah State Elk Breeders Association, the North American Elk Breeders Association, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. The goal of this workgroup is to identify different concerns and perspectives surrounding the issue of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the state's domestic and wild elk populations and discuss potential fixes.

The workgroup identified three main areas of focus in addressing this issue: The importation of elk for breeding and hunting, the management of elk imported into the state, and the domesticated elk program itself.

Regarding importation, the workgroup discussed the option of opening importations from East of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian while also recognizing the requirements that must be in place to adequately protect wildlife from threats such as the meningeal worm. Another possible solution discussed was limiting the importation of elk from Canada to bulls that would be required to be hunted and harvested in the same year.

Concerning domesticated elk management, the workgroup discussed our tracking and monitoring capabilities, implementing more aggressive vaccine practices, and continuing research to identify CWD in living elk.

To address issues related to the current domesticated elk program, the workgroup discussed conducting a comprehensive review that would examine current regulations, due process in exposure cases, testing and vaccination requirements, and study group recommendations.

Our next steps include continued meetings with stakeholders, including the Domesticated Elk Advisory Council.