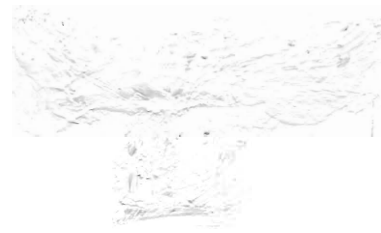


AFFIDAVIT OF LARRY L. SCHUTTE



STATE OF NEVADA        )  
                              )  SS:  
COUNTY OF ELKO        )

I, LARRY L. SCHUTTE, being duly sworn, declare and say the following:

1.     That I, Larry L. Schutte, am a resident of the State of Nevada, County of Elko.
2.     That I was born in Del Norte, Colorado on Oct. 5 1954. I have been associated with ranching all my life.
3.     That my mailing address is HC 67 Box 2039, Wells NV 89835.
4.     That I, Larry L. Schutte, am over the age of eighteen years, and am of sound mind and faculty at the giving of this affidavit.
5.     That professionally, I have worked on ranches, have managed ranches, have owned and run my own cattle, and now have the Big Springs Ranch leased in the Goshute Valley.
6.     That the following is a summary of my experiences as they relate to Elk and the effects they have on range improvements.

I leased the Big Springs Ranch in 1993. My wife Toni and I moved here in May of that year. The Big Springs Ranch is located not too far from Pilot Peek where the elk were first planted. To this time, most of the elk problem has been on the Gamble Ranch, but they are beginning to move into this area.

There is not a lot of elk on the Pequops. Not yet anyway. The first year I was here, in 1994 there were 18 head of elk that wintered just south of interstate 80. During 1996 there were about 80 head on the north Pequops, north of the interstate. They made a wallow of Ralph Spring - rooted up part of the pipeline that fed one of the troughs.

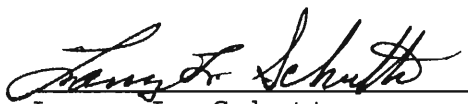
The cow elk are as bad as the bulls that way. I've seen the cows with mud up over their backs. They did so much rooting at West Spring, they actually filled one of the water troughs three quarters full of mud - even before cattle were turned into the area.

Two years ago, in 1997, I only identified eight cow elk and two bulls running here south of the freeway, but even with that few animals, they have about destroyed Long Canyon Spring. At least it appears that it was the elk that rooted up the 50 gallon drum that served as the spring box there. I don't know of any other animal that could have done it. The elk certainly did a lot of wallowing there. They made a mud hole of the whole area.

Elk are hard on fences too. I've watched them go through fences. The first one to hit the fence will take out the top one of two wires and then the others follow. And they don't necessarily always cross in the same place either - before long the whole fence is practically down. Up at Independence Meadows - at the northern end of Independence Valley, the elk have trashed the fence. Someone's always over there trying to keep the fence up.

This year it appears that there are about twice the number of elk on the north Pequops as there was a year ago.

I hereby affirm that the statements made herein are true and correct under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States.

Signed this 26th day of January, 1999,   
Larry L. Schutte