

4. Perhaps of more importance is the fact that for every mother cow, an expense, almost all locally, is incurred by every rancher. In other words, each and every cow represents about \$350 cycled through the local economy in one form or another. Again, for 200,000 cows this represents \$70,400,000 spent locally annually. The lost 60,000 cows represents a present annual loss of \$21,120,000 to the local economy. **IN SOME FORM THIS IMPACTS EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN OF ELKO COUNTY. THUS IT IS A COUNTY MATTER, NOT JUST THE PROBLEM OF A FEW LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.**

5. The wildlife we know of today in Elko County is totally a product of the livestock industry. Three factors support this statement. First, historically there was no wildlife in Elko County prior to the arrival of livestock. Secondly, livestock overuse in the 1875-1915 era changed the vegetation to a cover much more attractive to wildlife, especially deer. Third, the development of water sources and irrigated fields has also greatly enhanced wildlife habitat, especially winter habitat. Elimination of the livestock industry would ultimately place wildlife right back into the situation that existed prior to 1850 - no habitat, although it would probably take some period of time for that cycle to complete itself. However, there is fairly good documentation that this trend is in fact happening today. Deer numbers are decreasing more dramatically than our knowledge of population dynamics would suggest. The only conclusion that I can come to is that we are starting to loose deer habitat. It is interesting to note that a number of range scientists both at the University of Nevada, as well as the Agriculture Research Service, have come to the exact same conclusion.

As many as 20,000 deer tags (bucks only/rifle) have been issued in Elko County in the 1960-1970 era. In 1994 the number of buck tags issued had dropped to 5,660. According to the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the average money spent per buck hunter per trip is \$415. Not all of that would be spent in Elko County, but perhaps half of it would be. Therefore, its safe to say that every hunter hunting in Elko County spends at least \$200 in Elko County. The decline in deer hunting has resulted in essentially 15,000 less deer tags being issued in Elko County. Thus the decreasing deer hunt has resulted in a loss of monies spent in Elko County of up to \$3,000,000 annually. Some of this loss has partially been offset by other tags, mainly elk and sheep, however, that income would be minor in relation to the money lost from deer hunting.