



In February 2008, the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission implemented a policy to limit archery elk and antelope permits in 31 hunting districts in areas where there are currently limited entry rifle permits. The FWP Commission's stated goal for these limitations was to address "**access concerns**," in other words their decision was designed to intentionally de-value hunting access on private property by limiting the number of non-resident hunters in these districts. This wasn't a decision based on biology and it ran contrary to a majority of the public's comment, both from resident sportsmen and landowners.

The FWP Commission has very openly stated that they believe the unlimited archery permits have encouraged leasing and sale of private land for hunting. The FWP's new policy in these 31 districts has taken away the certainty of a guaranteed license so that sportsmen will not be willing to contract with the private landowner for access. **This ultimately devalues your land by restricting its recreational opportunities.** The new permit limits specifically target non-residents, but resident hunters may also be limited. Elk populations are either at or above management objectives in most of the hunting districts affected. This action has nothing to do with biological wildlife management and is strictly aimed at landowners who choose to outfit or lease their property.

## **WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE LANDOWNER:**

- 1) Once fully implemented, less than 10% of the permits allowed each year will be available to non-residents, and resident hunters may also be limited. Archery hunting is a recreational sport and recreation adds value to your property. In severely restricting the opportunity to archery elk hunt on private property, the FWP Commission has effectively decreased the actual value of your property.
- 2) These restrictions are being implemented in the face of an over-abundance of elk and antelope; herds that have been grown largely at the expense of the private landowner.

## **WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE SMALL BUSINESS OWNER:**

- 1) The non-resident hunter is our high dollar, low impact tourist. You are being denied the opportunity to serve this high dollar tourist, despite abundant elk and antelope numbers.
- 2) It is anticipated that 1200 to 1500 archery hunters will be eliminated from these areas within the next two years, creating a potential loss of millions of dollars of revenue to our communities.

## **WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE SPORTSMAN:**

- 1) You are being limited in your hunting opportunity when you have little impact on harvest quotas, in the face of an over-abundance of elk and antelope.
- 2) When FWP attempts to force access onto private land, the landowner/sportsman relationship will suffer.
- 3) The recreation value of private property has created an incentive for landowners to improve wildlife habitat, which is a direct result of the healthy animal herds we have today. Take away that incentive and wildlife numbers will decrease, limiting your hunting opportunities.