**Local Agricultural Landowner Survey** Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Huron-North Shore Elk Advisory Committee**

**Goals:**

* Assess nuisance activity of Elk and other wildlife
* Determine methods used to deal with nuisance Elk activity (and other wildlife) and assess their effectiveness
* Determine the number and composition of Elk harvested within the past two years
* Determine if Elk activity has changed after one or more Elk have been harvested

**A. BACKGROUND**

* Where is your property located? Provide Township ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* How large is your property (or properties)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **acres**
* Do you have a farm? (if YES, answer question on next line, **YES NO**

if NO, go to Part B, question #1)

* My farm’s primary function is: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**B. ELK OBSERVATIONS**

1. **Have you ever observed Elk on your property?** **YES NO**

***If YES***… *proceed to question #2*

***if NO***would you willingly participate in keeping a record of future Elk **YES NO**

sightings on your land even if you haven’t seen Elk in the past? (*proceed to #5)*

1. **During which season and frequency have you observed Elk on your property?**
2. **Which season have you seen Elk on your property (circle all that apply) and what is a typical number seen at any given time?**

*winter --- typical number of Elk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*spring --- typical number of Elk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*summer --- typical number of Elk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*autumn --- typical number of Elk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. **Have you noticed a change in the number of Elk seen recently (2015-16) when compared to the period between 2011 and 2014 (circle one response)?**

*large decline small decline no change small increase large increase*

1. **How do you feel about having Elk on your property?**

*dislike neutral enjoy*

1. **Would you willingly participate in keeping a record of future Elk sightings on YES NO your property?**

**C. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, CROPS, AND/OR LIVESTOCK BY NUISANCE ELK OR**

 **OTHER WILDLIFE**

1. Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property? **YES NO**

*If YES, proceed to question #4a (if NO, proceed to question #5)*

* 1. **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property recently (2015-16)?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops. grain crops, silage, garden, other) and the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn).
	2. **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with Elk on your property between ca. 2011 and 2014?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops. grain crops, silage, garden, other) and the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn).
	3. **Have you noticed a change in the frequency of nuisance Elk activity occurring over the past year (2015-16) when compared to the period between 2011 and 2014 (circle one response)?**

*large decline small decline no change small increase large increase*

1. Have you experienced any nuisance issues with wildlife other than Elkon  **YES NO**

your property?

*If YES, proceed to question #5a (if NO, proceed to question #6)*

1. **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with other wildlife on your property recently (2015-16)?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops. grain crops, silage, garden, other), the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn), and the wildlife involved, if known (e.g., deer, coyote, sandhill crane, raccoon, etc.).
2. **Have you experienced any nuisance issues with other wildlife on your property between ca. 2011 and 2014?** If yes, please indicate the type of nuisance issues that occurred (e.g., livestock injury or death, fences, hay crops. grain crops, silage, garden, other), the time of year they occurred in (winter, spring, summer, autumn), and the wildlife involved, if known (e.g., deer, coyote, sandhill crane, raccoon, etc.).
3. Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about nuisance ELK or **YES NO** other nuisance wildlife?

*If YES, proceed to question #6a (if NO, proceed to question #7)*

1. Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about nuisance ELK? **YES NO**

If yes, please indicate how long ago you last called and describe the nature of the nuisance complaint reported.

1. Have you ever called MNRF with a complaint about other nuisance wildlife? **YES NO**

If yes, please indicate how long ago you last called and describe the nature of the nuisance complaint reported.

1. **How many hours of labour would you estimate that you have spent due to Elk damage and at what cost?**

Question is not applicable

Hours spent to repair damage \_\_\_\_\_\_

Hours spent to prevent damage \_\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of damage (annual) \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you received any compensation for Elk damage? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

**If yes, circle those that apply: gov’t compensation or private insurance policy**

1. Do you have insurance to protect against wildlife damage? **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

**D. SOLUTIONS TO NUISANCE ELK ACTIVITY**

1. Are you aware of the Policy for Protecting Agricultural Property from Elk **YES NO** (for individuals seeking authorization from the MNRF to harass or kill Elk)?
2. What solutions to Elk nuisances would you recommend?
3. Have harassment methods or aversion tactics been utilized to **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE** deter nuisance Elk activity on your property?
* If yes, please describe harassment methods used and if they worked to solve nuisance problems.
1. Would you allow licensed hunters on your property to hunt Elk if a **YES NO** regulated hunting season was established?
2. Have you contacted members of the Aboriginal or Métis **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE** community to remove nuisance Elk from your property?
3. If yes, how many have been removed? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
4. If yes, do you know the approximate sex and age of the Elk removed?
5. If one or more Elk have been legally harvested on your property **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE** (by members of the Aboriginal or Métis community), did other

Elk stay and did nuisance Elk activity continue?

Explain.

1. Other than removal of Elk, how can your situation be improved to help you co-exist with the Elk?

**Explain OR if question is not applicable, then check box and continue to question #17**

1. If elk are currently present in your Township, what population size do you feel could be acceptable?

**Tolerable population size of elk: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments:**

**E. PROPERTY VALUE**

1. In your opinion, has your farm been devalued due to the **YES NO NOT APPLICABLE**

presence of the Elk?

If YES, in what way has the farm been devalued?

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Your completed survey can be returned by the following methods.

**By mail to:**

Robert Routledge

Professor, Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies

Sault College, 443 Northern Ave.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4J3

**Scanned document by email to:**

robert.routledge@saultcollege.ca

**By phone:**

705-759-2554 ext. 2474 to arrange for pick up

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