



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Certified Mail

Mr. Thomas Zeilman
Law Office of Thomas Zeilamn
P.O. Box 34
Yakima, Washington 98907

JUN 15 2009

Dear Mr. Zeilman:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2009-0041)

You requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), documents regarding any decisions made by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to prohibit hunting or trapping of the Rattlesnake Hills Elk Herd within the Fitzner-Eberhart Arid Lands Ecology Reserve at the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

Your request is granted and two memorandums are enclosed. In addition, you requested all information related to your request. The FOIA requires that an agency conduct a thorough search for documents responsive to a request, not an exhaustive search. We cannot guarantee that you have been provided all information related to your request, as we did not conduct an exhaustive search. A search was conducted, however, by representatives of the agency who are familiar with the subject areas of your request, in locations where responsive documents would most likely be found.

Costs associated with your request are as follows:

Reproduction – 2 pages @ \$.10/page	\$.20
Search time – 3 hours @\$37.80	<u>113.40</u>
Total	\$ 113.60

Your check should be made payable to the U.S. Department of Energy and forwarded to my attention at the above address. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me on (509) 376-6288.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Riehle
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Office of Communications
and External Affairs

OCE:DCR

Enclosure

United States Government

Dana

Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office

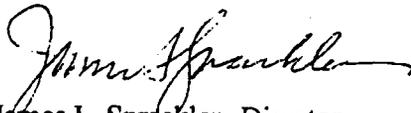
memorandum

DATE: DEC 14 1998
REPLY TO ATTN OF: SAS:LEG/99-SAS-036
SUBJECT: WEAPONS POLICY – ARID LANDS ECOLOGY RESERVE (ALE) CONTROLLED HUNT
TO: James E. Rasmussen, EAP

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 3, 1998. Your memorandum indicated a possible controlled hunt(s) at the ALE, which would involve weapons (both firearms and bows and arrows) as a means to control the elk herd. In your memorandum, you requested that the Safeguards and Security Division revise the no weapons policy for the ALE.

I believe the best approach in this matter would be not to change current policy addressing weapons but to provide a blanket approval authorizing the possession, transport, and use of weapons on ALE for the controlled hunt(s). I would envision that the blanket weapons approval would be for a specific time frame(s), specific geographical area, and would be contingent on compliance with whatever further parameters that your organization or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service feel are appropriate. Please provide me reasonable advance notice of the dates, geographical areas, and other hunting parameters and I will issue a blanket approval for the weapons. I will also assure that all potentially affected law enforcement organizations are advised of this matter.

If you have any further questions, please call me or Alan C. Walker, of my staff, on (509) 376-6016.


James L. Spracklen, Director
Safeguards and Security Division

cc: D. Goeke, USFWS

United States Government

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office**memorandum**

DATE: NOV 03 1998

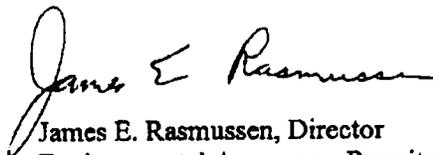
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EAP:DCW/99-EAP-015SUBJECT: REVISE THE NO WEAPONS POLICY FOR HANFORD'S ARID LANDS ECOLOGY
RESERVE (ALE)TO: 
James L. Spracklen, Director
Safeguards and Security Division

It has come to my attention that the landowners adjacent to Hanford's Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE) are being visited by the Rattlesnake Hills elk herd. These ranchers contend that these elk are U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) elk, and that we must control them or eliminate them. They are not RL's elk, but are considered property of the state. We have been watching the number of elk grow over the years and now have about 766 animals. This is about 500 more than what the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has determined to be an optimum number for this area. It has been determined that the best policy for control of this herd, which is outstripping the carrying capacity of the land, would be to have a controlled hunt on ALE and adjacent private lands. To see this action take form, RL would have to remove the weapons exclusion now in place for ALE. Hunting could be considered a significant land use change under the National Environmental Policy Act, and a review may have to be conducted to satisfy this requirement. After these actions are complete, WDFW could implement a hunting season for ALE and adjacent landowners.

This request is being submitted in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), who currently manages ALE for RL. David Goeke, of the USFWS, should soon be submitting his own letter to you requesting that the weapons restriction be dropped for ALE.

Therefore, I am requesting that Safeguards and Security Division revise the no weapons policy for the ALE land area to allow controlled hunting. This would include the use of bows and arrows, as well as appropriate firearms.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.


James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Assurance, Permits
and Policy Division

EAP:DCW