ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS

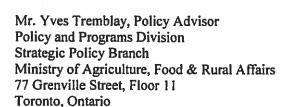
P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

OFAH FILE: 339/400/794

April 11, 2011



FAX # (416) 326-9892



Dear Mr. Tremblay:

Subject:

M5S 1B3

Proposed Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Strategy, EBR Registry #011-2677

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), its 100,000 members, subscribers, and supporters, and 670 member clubs, thank you for providing us with this EBR Registry opportunity to submit our comments on the proposed Agriculture-Wildlife Strategy.

We agree there is a need to update and expand the current program, and support the general approach of the proposed strategy, including increased livestock and compensation eligibility, an enhanced emphasis on extension information, workshops, best management practices, and improved tools for conflict prevention and management. However, we strongly recommend that eligibility not be expanded to include farmed deer or elk, for reasons that are explained in our specific comments.

Below are our specific comments following the format of the discussion paper:

Proposed Strategy Details

- 1) Improve Awareness and Information Resources for Producers
 - · Overall "good."
 - We agree with proposed workshops for producers on best management practices, including workshops promoting most effective hunting and trapping methods, and means of contacting hunters/trappers who can help.
- 2) Proposed Program/Tools
 - a) Tools for Wildlife Management
 - Overall "good."
 - We agree, wholeheartedly, with the recognition of the importance of managing wildlife populations (within optimal sustainable limits), to prevent and manage agriculture-wildlife conflicts through the application of appropriate hunting seasons and quotas. (Please note and consider adding the italicized wording optimal management is the provincial wildlife conservation goal managing populations at sustainable levels for the greatest overall public benefit, including preventing and reducing agriculture-wildlife conflict.)

....2

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

Mr. Yves Tremblay April 11, 2011 Page Three

- ii) Proposed Compensation
- It has been clear that compensation schedules have not been updated for many years, and it is only reasonable that they be updated. (This is outside the OFAH mandate.)
- 3) Great Collaboration Between the OMAFRA, the MNR and Stakeholders
 - We would welcome opportunities to participate within an agriculture-wildlife conflict working group on matters relating to wildlife population management and wildlife-agriculture conflict prevention and management.
 - We would also welcome opportunities to collaborate with the OMAFRA and Ontario Stewardship Councils regarding outreach and predator management workshops.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Conservation.

Ed Reid

Senior Wildlife Biologist

ER/jb

cc: Bette Jean Crews, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Robin Horwath, Ontario Fur Managers Federation

Deb Stetson, Manager, MNR Wildlife Policy Section

OFAH Board of Directors

OFAH Agriculture Liaison Advisory Committee

Mike Reader, OFAH Executive Director

Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Manager

Dr. Terry Quinney, OFAH Provincial Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services

Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager, Government Affairs & Policy

Dawn Sucee, OFAH Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Matt DeMille, OFAH Land Use Specialist