

Holiday Greetings!

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of 2008! I want to take the opportunity to thank you again for your generosity in supporting the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's East Slope Cascades Conservation Initiative (ESCCI). We have a great conservation success to report this year, and hopefully more on the way for 2009.

As you may recall, in my 2007 year end letter I reported we had just finished the huge Department of Natural Resources Land Exchange protecting over 82,000 acres in the Central Cascades. The recording of those numerous deeds took longer than expected, actually finishing in February 2008.



Elk in the Colockum

This past summer, The Elk Foundation was approached by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to assist with a 642-acre acquisition project west of Yakima. The Sanford Meadows property was an in-holding in public lands which provide critical winter range for elk and mule deer on its south-facing slopes. In fact, past WDFW winter flight surveys identified the parcel as having the highest wintering mule deer density anywhere in Washington.



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



The Elk Foundation was instrumental in securing the needed funding and working directly with the landowners who had inherited the Sanford Property. The project had an exceedingly short flow time, because the acquisition funds were to expire at the end of September.

Through a very strong partnership with WDFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, we were able to complete the acquisition with two days to spare. Our success in completing this project protected this critical winter range from development into lots, which would have introduced disturbance to wintering animals over a much larger area.

Within the ESCCI area, The Foundation is continuing work on several other lands projects, and we hope to be able to report additional conservation successes in the future.

With your help, since the Elk Foundation began the ESCCI in 2004, we have permanently protected in excess of **105,000 acres of Washington's Elk Country!** Take a look at the enclosed map showing those successes. Without the support of conservationists like you, we wouldn't be able to protect places like Sanford Meadows.

On behalf of the Elk Foundation, thank you for your support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rance Block

Initiative Program Director, East Slope Cascades Conservation Initiative



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Stemilt Basin Project
4,800 acres

EAST SLOPE CASCADES
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



Legend

- Initiative Boundary
- Stemilt Basin
- Completed Projects

Land Ownership

- Private
- Public Access
- No Public Access

0 5 10
miles

