

Retirement has its rewards. One of them is the ability to travel our wonderful country. On this trip I visited my friend Bob Wilson. Bob is the creator of Moose Creek Estates on US 93 just north of Gibbonsville, ID.

Bob was a sponsor member of The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 2007 and while staying at his house I read his copy of "Bugle". As I read the magazine I realized that Bob's vision of creating unique, low density housing opportunity in the mountains follows the motto of RMEF, "Working for Wildlife".

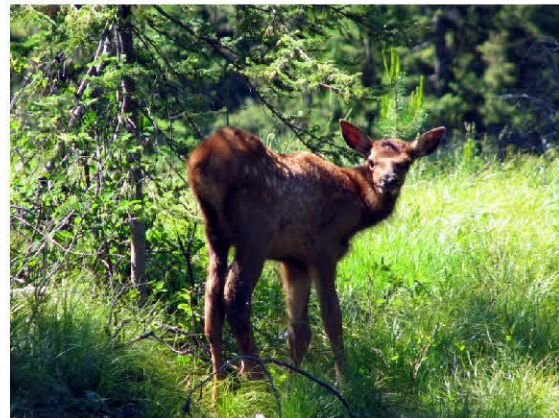


Reading the articles I noted that many of them related to loss of habitat for elk and other wildlife. That struck a cord with me as Bob's property is a two and a half mile valley that starts at the confluence of the North Fork of the Salmon River, the West Fork and Moose Creek. The North Fork of the Salmon River runs through the middle of the property. When he purchased the property in 2000 his vision was to have a deed restricted community that would enhance the environment for native wildlife.

To accomplish this Bob and his project manager, John Goodman, started eliminating knapweed, thistle, and other noxious weeds. In addition, over two thousand dump truck loads of deadfall and other trash that had accumulated

over the many years of mining practices of the day, logging and neglect. Removal of the deadfall and beetle infested trees opened the forest to create aspen groves and a much healthier habitat for wildlife. This reclamation has been ongoing for over eight years.

When Bob and John started the project there were very few deer or elk in evidence because of the poor habitat and lack of feed. Now, there are numerous deer and several bands of elk with twenty to forty or so in each. The property also had at one time up to nine moose. Today, elk use the property to feed and birth their young along the river corridor.



The Moose Creek Estates vision has been one of creating a wildlife sanctuary where people live in harmony with the wildlife, disrupting them as little as possible. Bob and John work closely with many environmental organizations, the U.S. Forestry Department and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

These guys are doing it right, everything from creating elk and deer habitat, to green energy for the homes, to nature trails and bringing salmon back to this section of the river.

