

PROGRESS REPORT

Task Agreement: Technical Assistance to the National Park Service Wildlife Health Team; J2340070017

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H2380040001 (WASO)

Period of Report: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

Investigator: Dr. Terry Spraker
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Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
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Accomplishments:

In support of the National Park Service (NPS) Wildlife Health Team (WHT), the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL) employed three Research Associates, one with a veterinary technician emphasis, one with a wildlife technician emphasis, and one with a wildlife/veterinary technician emphasis. In addition, one Student Hourly employee worked during the 2008 fiscal year.

Research Associate – Veterinary Technician

Accomplishments during the report period have included the following:

- Maintained drug inventory records for the WHT.
- Coordinated and monitored drug inventories and records for NPS parks receiving WHT support.
- Tracked and coordinated tissue and diagnostic sample submissions on behalf of the WHT and NPS units to the CSUVDL and helped enter data into an Access database.
- Organized and maintained the WHT lab area and equipment.
- Maintained serum and tissue banks for NPS parks receiving WHT support.
- Assisted Wind Cave National Park in collecting serum from bison for malignant catarrhal fever monitoring, serum archiving, and bison calf blood draws for genetic testing.
- Assisted in updating the National Park Service sample submission shipping instructions.
- Prepared for Rocky Mountain National Park elk reproductive vaccine and CWD study, assisted in captures, assisted in sample processing of samples collected, assisted with necropsies of CWD positive study elk, and submitted samples for testing and for participating researchers.

Research Associate – Wildlife Technician

Accomplishments during the report period have included the following:

- Ongoing design, revision, and population of sample submission and diagnostic results database.
- Maintain a Geographic Information Systems mapping project of nationwide CWD occurrences.
- Provided Geographic Information Systems support for Shenandoah National Park's CWD Surveillance Environmental Assessment.
- Preparations of radio collars, data sheets, and field supplies for elk study at Rocky Mountain National Park to field test a CWD sampling technique and a fertility control agent.
- Spent approximately 2.5 months in the field assisting with elk captures for above-noted elk study.
- Ongoing mortality monitoring for above-noted elk study.
- Designed database for monitoring herd-associations of elk in above-noted study.
- Assisted with wildlife field anesthesia training class at Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Completed All Terrain Vehicle safety training course.
- Assisted with dusting of prairie dog burrows in order to slow the advance of plague in black-footed ferret reintroduction areas at Badlands and Wind Cave National Parks.
- Attended National Park Service / University of Wyoming wildlife disease class.
- Coordinated and prepared ungulate teeth samples from many NPS units for cementum/aging analysis.
- Designed NPS Ungulate Management poster for Society for Conservation Biology conference.

Research Associate – Wildlife/Veterinary Technician

Accomplishments during the report period have included the following:

- Completed All Terrain Vehicle safety training course.
- Assisted with dusting of prairie dog burrows in order to slow the advance of plague in black-footed ferret reintroduction areas at Badlands and Wind Cave National Parks.
- Assisted Wind Cave National Park staff with black footed ferret captures.
- Assisted with tissue and diagnostic sample submissions on behalf of the WHT and NPS units to the CSUVDL.
- Created and maintained a Geographic Information Systems mapping project of zoonotic disease distributions nationwide.

Student Hourly – Biological Technician

Accomplishments during the report period have included the following:

- Completed a shipping class “6.2 Dangerous Goods Compliance Training” through Saf-T-Pak Inc.
- Assisted with preparation for an NPS WHT Wildlife Field Anesthesia Class.
- Attended the NPS WHT Wildlife Field Anesthesia Class.
- Assisted with an elk study at Rocky Mountain National Park to field test a CWD sampling technique and a fertility control agent.
- Researched wild horse behavior in support of a feral horse study plan for Theodore Roosevelt National Park.