

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Yellowstone Wildlife Health Program - Brucellosis Meetings 2009

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 6/1/2009 - 7/1/2010
Funding Amount: \$5,875

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: John Varley, Big Sky Institute, 107 AJM Johnson Hall, Montana State
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Meeting Facilitator: Scott Bischke, through Big Sky Institute, Montana State
University

Project Abstract:

The Federal and State Records of Decision in December 2000 for the Long-Term Interagency Bison Management Plan for Montana and Yellowstone National Park (IBMP) were the result of extensive deliberation and legal proceedings that yielded an unprecedented agreement amongst federal-state agencies (National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks). Under the IBMP, these agencies harness their respective skills and operational resources to work cooperatively within an adaptive management framework to conserve a wild, free-ranging, bison population while concurrently protecting against transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle. Partner agencies are committed to the adaptive management framework of the IBMP. In keeping with this commitment, the partners have scheduled multiple working meetings during July - August, 2009. These meetings will be open to the public with agendas designed so that partner agencies can effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office: assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008); and considering prevailing conditions, develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Product: During July 1 through August 31, 2009, Mr. Bischke will contact and work with each of the five agency principal representatives, and key delegated agency staff, to develop meeting agendas, facilitate meetings; and submit a final report for each meeting by July 31, and August 31, respectively for approval by Dr. Glenn Plumb, Yellowstone National Park, including a copy the final meeting agenda, reports submitted by agency staff, facilitator meeting notes, summary of post-meeting de-briefing, and recommendations for facilitation/management of future IBMP meetings

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

List of Products:

- 1) 1st Meeting Facilitation - July 2009
- 2) 1st Meeting Report - July 31, 2009
- 3) 2nd Meeting Facilitation - August 2009
- 4) 2nd Meeting Report - August 31, 2009

Keywords: Meeting facilitation, Brucellosis, Bison, Yellowstone Wildlife Health Program, Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky Institute, Montana State University

