

ELK MANAGEMENT IN AREAS WITH BRUCELLOSIS – 2013 WORK PLAN

NOTE: Due to timing, the 2013 annual work plan is here generally assembled by FWP. In future years local working groups that can be identified will develop and submit a work plan for public review and FWP Commission adoption. Some potential management actions identified in future work plans would also need to be adopted through other Commission processes (biennial season setting, lease approval, etc.).

TIMELINE: Potential management actions identified here may be implemented no later than December 31, 2013. Other management actions that may be identified prior to December 31 but are not enumerated here may require additional presentations to the FWP Commission. FWP staff will provide informal updates to Commission at monthly meetings. A summary review in front of the FWP Commission has been identified for August.

2013 WORK PLAN POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Unknown number of local elk hazing efforts during risk period (January 15 - June 15) throughout the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA).
- Unknown number of small scale fencing efforts (stackyards, feed lines) throughout the DSA.
- Unknown number of small scale dispersal hunts throughout the DSA. Each dispersal hunt may target not more than 10 harvested elk and would be individually described (dates, area, number of hunters, etc.) by FWP regional staff. Dispersal hunts will be defined in the context of adjusting elk distribution and not population control. Hunters will be selected using mechanisms comparable to those used for game damage hunts. Successive hunts (up to 10 harvested elk) could be applied in the same area but each would require specific approval. Antlered and/or antlerless elk may be made available for take depending upon circumstances. Dispersal hunts will be accomplished as early as possible in the risk season and no dispersal hunts will be implemented if elk calves or elk calving behavior are observed. Both the FWP Regional Supervisor and local area FWP Commissioner may modify and both must approve dispersal hunt proposals, including the sex of animal harvested for the purpose of dispersal.
- FWP staff will continue to identify and work with local working groups to assemble comprehensive annual or multi-year work plans. This will include an initial presentation by FWP to ensure common understanding and a consistent start to process. Public communication, education and outreach efforts will also continue as will ongoing surveillance.