

RE: brucellosis risk fencing

Kujala, Quentin

11/2/2012 3:40 PM

To: Loveless, Karen

Cc: Burt, Howard

Thanks Karen. I offer only a few edits for your consideration (in yellow highlight below).

I have also attached a complaint/response form paralleled off the game damage response form. Please use both the attached form and documentation below in your continued efforts (attach any narrative or voucher to the complaint form). Disregard the footnote about colored copies to field services—couldn't get rid of that. We should ultimately have copies for region, Helena and of course for the landowner. In the interim, we'll have to rely on photocopies.

In these first efforts, whatever else it will be key to consistently capture the primary elements. That said, I might expect this process and associated "paper work" to be further modified.

Does this represent clarity for forward movement?

Thanks again,
Q

From: Loveless, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Kujala, Quentin
Cc: Burt, Howard
Subject: brucellosis risk fencing

Hi Quentin,

As requested, here is a short description of the request for brucellosis risk management fencing.

Jim and Lexi Marsh run a small cattle operation from their residence on Mill Creek Road in Paradise Valley. The cattle are kept within a fenced corral, and hay is stored in an unfenced area adjacent to the corral. They do not have a structure for storing hay. A herd of approximately 500 elk winters in the Mill Creek area. Undeveloped elk winter range in this area is small and elk are frequently observed in close proximity to private residences and cattle operations. Elk pass through the Marsh's and other residential properties when

travelling from the foothills above the Mill Creek developed area to the agricultural fields adjacent to the Yellowstone River. The concern here is that elk may be attracted to the unfenced haystacks as they pass through the Marsh's property, and linger in proximity to the Marsh's cattle in order to feed on the hay. On the suggestion of the Department of Livestock, Lexi Marsh contacted FWP to ask for financial assistance with constructing a stackyard fence in order to minimize the risk of brucellosis exposure from elk due to the hay attractant.

This is the first request of this type and as such we do not have a protocol for responding.

Through our game damage program we provide assistance with stackyard fencing if landowners allow free public access for hunting. The Marshes do not allow hunting on their property, however they have a small parcel of land and proximity of their cattle, their residence and the road would preclude hunting. They do not have concerns over loss of hay to elk, and would not be requesting assistance aside from the brucellosis risk concern. When responding to game damage complaints, we offer up to \$2000 in materials for stackyard fencing, and landowners are responsible for providing labor to construct the fence. This has been an effective and successful protocol for game damage, and as such we offered to supply up to \$2000 in materials with the stipulation that the Marshes are responsible for constructing the fencing prior to the brucellosis risk period. To clarify, the request is not game damage oriented and resources used in any response are not from the game damage program. This circumstance is related to brucellosis risk management and any reference to game damage is only in the context of procedural or operational models that established program might reasonably provide here in this effort to reduce the risk of brucellosis infection between elk and livestock. They are satisfied with this offer and would like to pursue the project. Once we provide them with paperwork for purchasing materials they will proceed.

Please let me know if there are further questions, or clarifications needed.

Thanks for all your help on this.

Karen

Karen Loveless

Livingston Area Wildlife Biologist

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

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