

Comparison among Greater Yellowstone Area states in implementation of Designated Surveillance Areas

	WYOMING	IDAHO	MONTANA
<p>Question 1(a): What is the definition of a Designated Surveillance Area? (These questions, requested by Sen. Debby Barrett, were e-mailed to the Wyoming and Idaho State Veterinarians and the Montana Dept. of Livestock executive officer, with certain questions sent to Montana's Fish, Wildlife, & Parks.)</p>	<p>Wyoming's definition of a DSA is long established on surveillance data on elk and bison Brucella seroprevalence from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) and Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL). ... [description of boundaries - inserted into question (1)(c)]...This DSA is defined in the WLSB's Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules in which vaccination, testing, and identification requirements are outlined. <i>(Note - Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules require mandatory brucellosis vaccination of eligible animals within the DSA, with exceptions. Testing also is required for 30 days prior to movement out of the DSA, interstate movement, or change of ownership.)</i></p>	<p>Idaho's definition is basically that area of the state where there is an increased risk of transmission of brucellosis from infected wildlife to livestock. Although not specifically included in Idaho's rules governing brucellosis, the DSA is an important part of our state brucellosis management strategy.</p>	<p>Montana's designated surveillance area is described in the Order that establishes it, Dept. of Livestock Animal Health Division Official Order No. 10-01-D. The part of the order* regarding the designated surveillance areas requires livestock owners in certain parts of Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, and Park Counties to annually conduct whole herd brucellosis tests on eligible animals (12 months or older sexually intact male and female cattle) and test cattle within 30 days of their being moved out of the DSA or a change of ownership. The order also requires official identification of the age-eligible sexually intact cattle or domestic bison prior to sale/change of ownership or permanent movement outside the DSA.</p>
<p>Question 1(b): Does the state consider its DSA a state program?</p>			<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Question 1(c): Is the state program of regimented vaccinating and testing of livestock the same as in other GYA states?</p>	<p>Our DSA includes all of Teton and Sublette counties, the northern 2/3 of Lincoln county, the western 1/3 of Fremont County, and approximately the western half of Park county, all of which are in proximity of Yellowstone National Park and in the GYA.</p>	<p>Idaho is a mandatory brucellosis vaccination state. All female calves must be officially calfhooed vaccinated with the only exception being calves that enter a feedlot to be fed to slaughter only. Female cattle imported into the state for breeding purposes must be vaccinated as well.</p>	<p>Same implies identical. They are not identical because the regions of interest, the prevalence, and the industry is not identical. <i>(Note - Montana's DSA covers parts of Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, and Park Counties. DOL says roughly 70% of MT cattle are vaccinated.)</i></p>

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Question 1(d): When was the DSA established? (not one of Sen. Barrett's questions, but answered anyway)	We have had these rules in place since 2000 and they carry the same effect as statute.	Idaho's DSA was established when our Brucellosis Free status was downgraded in 2006. As a part of our action plan to regain free status, Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) developed the area that is currently known as our DSA.	January 13, 2010 (following expiration Jan. 10, 2010 of one-year Brucellosis Action Plan, put into place after a market test revealed a Brucellosis-positive result.)
Question 2: What are the total number of acres in Montana's DSA (note private and public land acres separately)?	The total # of acres in the Wyoming DSA is approximately 8,139,200. See attached map for public/private indications. Unsure of percentages.	Does not have #. Includes portions of 6 counties.	Montana DSA is 3,267,693 acres.
Question 3: How many individual ranches are being regulated for brucellosis detection in livestock in each state within the DSA?	There are nearly 1600 cattle producers in our DSA who are held to the enhanced testing, vaccination, and surveillance requirements in our Chapter 2 rules.	Currently 63 herds are managed within the DSA. All of these herds have completed a voluntary herd plan for brucellosis management that has the owner, ISDA, and IDFG as signatory parties. These are reviewed annually and updated as needed.	Montana is aware of 166 producers in the Montana DSA.
Question 4: What number of cattle in each state are being vaccinated and tested annually within the DSA?	Producers from Wyoming's DSA annually vaccinate over 50,000 heifers and test over 40,000 head of cattle for change of ownership or movement testing requirements.	All breeding female cattle are required to be brucellosis vaccinated in Idaho. Testing of herds within our DSA is completed at least once every 3 years unless known elk/cattle interaction has occurred, in which case the herd is tested as soon as possible.	Montana's vaccination requirement extends to the entirety of the counties of Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, and Park. Based on the 2008 NASS data, the number of female calves is 90,350.

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Question 5: How many elk in Montana are being "live" tested for brucellosis annually?	The WGFD annually tests 200-300 head of live elk. Additionally, they test 500-600 elk that are hunter-killed.	This number varies depending on the number of live animals trapped. In FY '09 approximately 140 head were live tested. Hunter samples vary as well but are usually 100-plus samples.	FWP tests live elk opportunistically when capturing and handling elk for other purposes such as radio collaring and other research purposes. Between 2004-2008 FWP tested an average of 34 live elk per year (range=29-45).
Question 6: What is the amount or degree of participation of (including funding) that each state's wildlife agency is contributing to that state's DSA and how much participation or funding is available from each federal agency that is actively participating in each state's program?	The WFD contributes a very significant amount of time to the Brucellosis elimination/ prevention effort in Wyoming by doing elk vaccination and testing, bison testing, elk hunter kill surveillance testing, elk trap and test projects, habitat improvement and others. There is a good and longstanding relationship between the WGFD and WLSB. APHIS is the only federal agency that has an active role in Brucellosis management and mitigation in Wyoming. We receive approximately \$200,000 annually from APHIS for Brucellosis efforts	The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) works cooperatively with ISDA in regards to brucellosis. We have an annual brucellosis coordination meeting between the two agencies. IDFG traps and tests live wild elk, distributes hunter sample kits, assists with mitigation of elk & cattle interaction, develops projects to improve habitat, hazes elk away from cattle, etc. USDA APHIS VS provides funding through a grant to assist Idaho with brucellosis activities.	DOL - In Montana, federal funding through the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Bison Committee Federal cooperative agreement is provided to Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. In 2008 and 2009, \$109,000 and \$105,000 were provided to FWP for the Bison Quarantine Feasibility Study and elk surveillance. FWP - Unsure what is meant by "contributing to that state's DSA"... FWP does not track budgets by hunting district or DSA. FWP has been and continues to do a variety of work related to disease management as it relates to elk and bison management in the hunting districts encompassed by the proposed DSA, including disease surveillance, population monitoring and management, research to understand elk distribution, movements, and timing of those movements; hunting management, hazing, and working with livestock producers and Dept. of Livestock to identify and minimize risk.**... FWP also participates in implementation of the IBMP (Interagency Bison Management Plan).

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<p>Question 7: How does the state's elk management differ within the DSA compared to the elk management outside of the DSA?</p>	<p>The primary difference in elk management outside the Wyoming DSA vs. within the DSA is that Wyoming hosts the National Elk Refuge, and we also have 22 state operated elk feed grounds within our DSA. Elk are fed by WGFD personnel to prevent elk commingling with cattle. This is a very effective tool in commingling prevention and Brucellosis exposure reduction. The WGFD also vaccinates elk against Brucellosis on these feed grounds and trap elk for testing. Additionally, the WGFD has written Brucellosis Herd Management Action Plans on all elk herd units in our DSA in order to mitigate the disease and the risks it poses to the cattle industry.</p>	<p>The activities cited in #6 (above) are significantly enhanced within the DSA.</p>	<p>DOL - Although there are differences in elk management between Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana (i.e. feedgrounds in Wyoming, emergency feeding in Idaho, and deploiment of live traps in Idaho), MDOL does not have complete information.</p> <p>FWP - In general, effective elk management doesn't differ inside or outside of the DSA. Elk management is driven by the state's Elk Management Plan with management focused towards meeting population objectives. Generally, FWP encourages habitat management programs to emphasize healthy habitat, dispersion of elk, and minimized spatio-temporal overlap of elk and cattle. FWP will also maintain elk population densities to help minimize disease transmission probabilities. Within the hunting districts encompassed by the proposed DSA, FWP has focused a lot of additional effort and resources toward surveillance, research, hunter management, and risk mitigation.</p>
<p>Notes: *The Montana order also states that livestock producers within the counties of Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon Counties who have not submitted an operation specific risk survey to the Montana Department of Livestock or completed a whole herd brucillosis test since Jan. 1, 2009, shall brucellosis test cattle within 30 days prior to a change of ownership. Further, livestock producers in all of Beaverhead, Gallatin, Madison, or Park Counties are required to officially calfhooood vaccinate (OCV) all eligible animals (intact, female cattle and domestic bison 4-12 months of age) prior to change of ownership. There are exceptions for all provisions.</p> <p>** FWP is preparing a summary of the work done/being done for the Economic Affairs Committee meeting in March.</p>			