Montana's Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)

Eric Liska, DVM
Brucellosis Program Veterinarian/Field veterinarian
(406)444-2043
eliska@mt.gov
Department website: liv.mt.gov

Brucellosis in Montana

- 1985 - Class Free status achieved
- May 18, 2007 – detected in a Montana cattle herd in Carbon County
- June 19, 2008 – detected in a second cattle herd in Park County
- September 3, 2008 – USDA-APHIS downgraded Montana's status from Class Free to Class A
  - From 2003 - 2008, all of the GYA states had lost their Class Free status.
- July 10, 2009 – Class Free status reinstated
- December 2010-November 2011: 3 affected within DSA
  - No loss of Class status or additional restrictions placed on MT livestock by other state animal health officials

National Brucellosis Program

- Instituted in 1934
  - To safeguard the health of domestic livestock
  - To maintain the economic viability of the U.S. cattle industry
  - To protect public health
  - To ensure food safety
- At the time of the programs inception, 11.5% of adult cattle were brucellosis reactors
- The program has evolved significantly over the last 70+ years

A New Direction for the Brucellosis Program

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 78

[Docket No. APHIS–2009–0083]

RIN 0579–AD22

Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

October 5, 2009 –

- USDA published concept paper in the Federal Register.

December 27, 2010

- Interim rule published in the Federal Register

United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service –Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS)

- Interim Rule
  - Removes **automatic** downgrade in State class status
    - With a brucellosis management plan (USDA-APHIS approved DSA)
  - Reduction in age for inclusion in a Whole Herd Test for epidemiologic investigations
    - 6 months
  - Dairy certified brucellosis-free herd alternative testing protocol
  - Eradication of brucellosis in the GYA remains the long-term goal.

Summary

- Increased authority at the State level
  - Enforcement of prevention and surveillance programs
  - Management of DSAs
    - Risk assessment, calfhood vaccination, adult vaccination, individual animal ID, testing, and herd plans
  - Elimination of State status system
    - A State's status currently determines the requirements for interstate movement

Summary

- Disease response will be limited to the affected herd and potentially exposed herds based upon epidemiological investigations.
  - For example, a herd within a DSA but outside of a disease investigation quarantine area would remain unaffected.

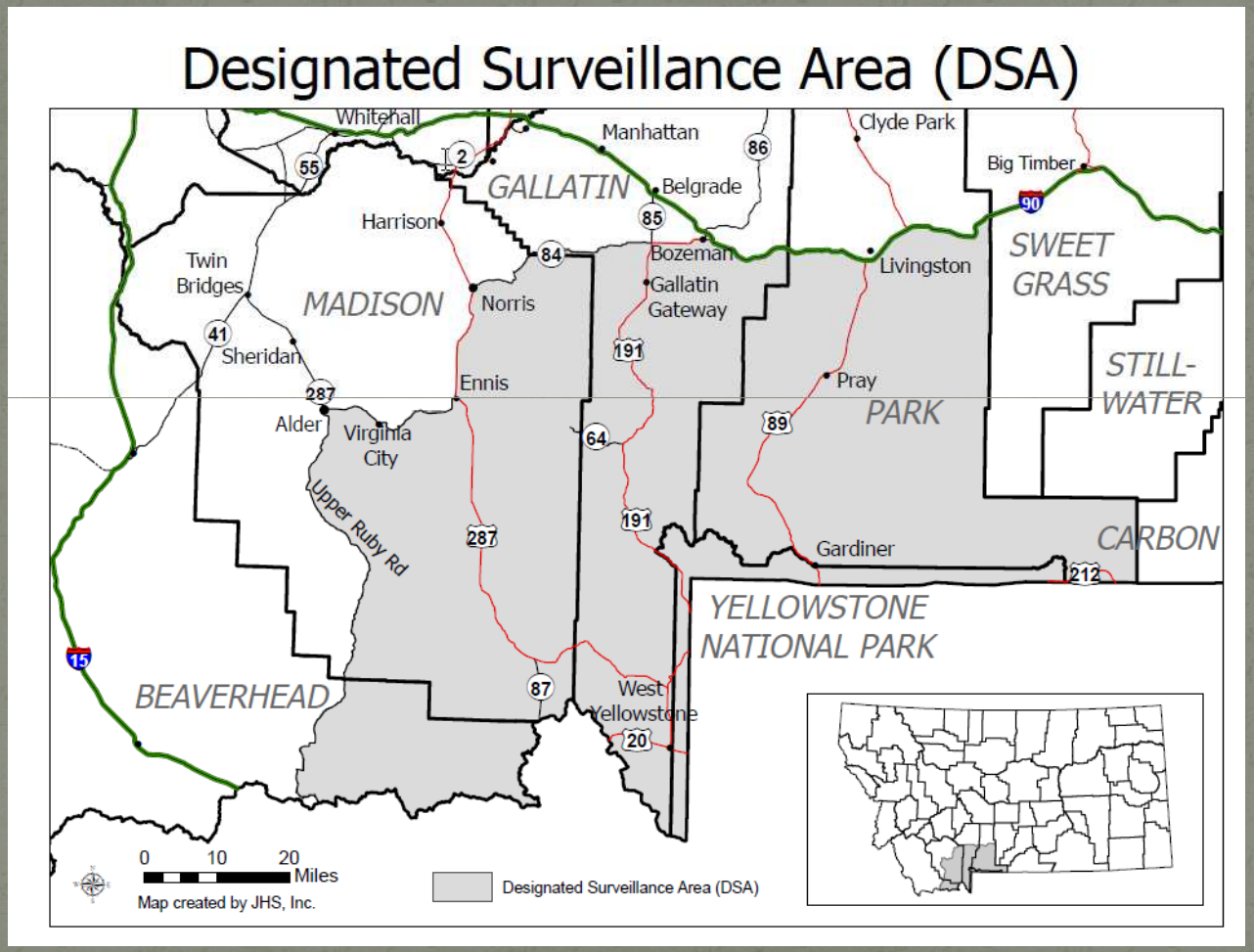
The Proposed Action Plan

1. Demonstrate the disease-free status of the U.S.
2. Mitigate disease transmission from wildlife
3. Enhance disease response and control measures
4. Modernize the regulatory framework
5. Implement a risk-based disease management area concept

National Brucellosis Program

- By 2007, the national prevalence had reached an all time low of 0.0001 percent
  - 1 affected animal in approx. 1 million animals
- In February of 2008, every State and two U.S. territories had achieved Class Free status for the first time in the 74 year history of the program.

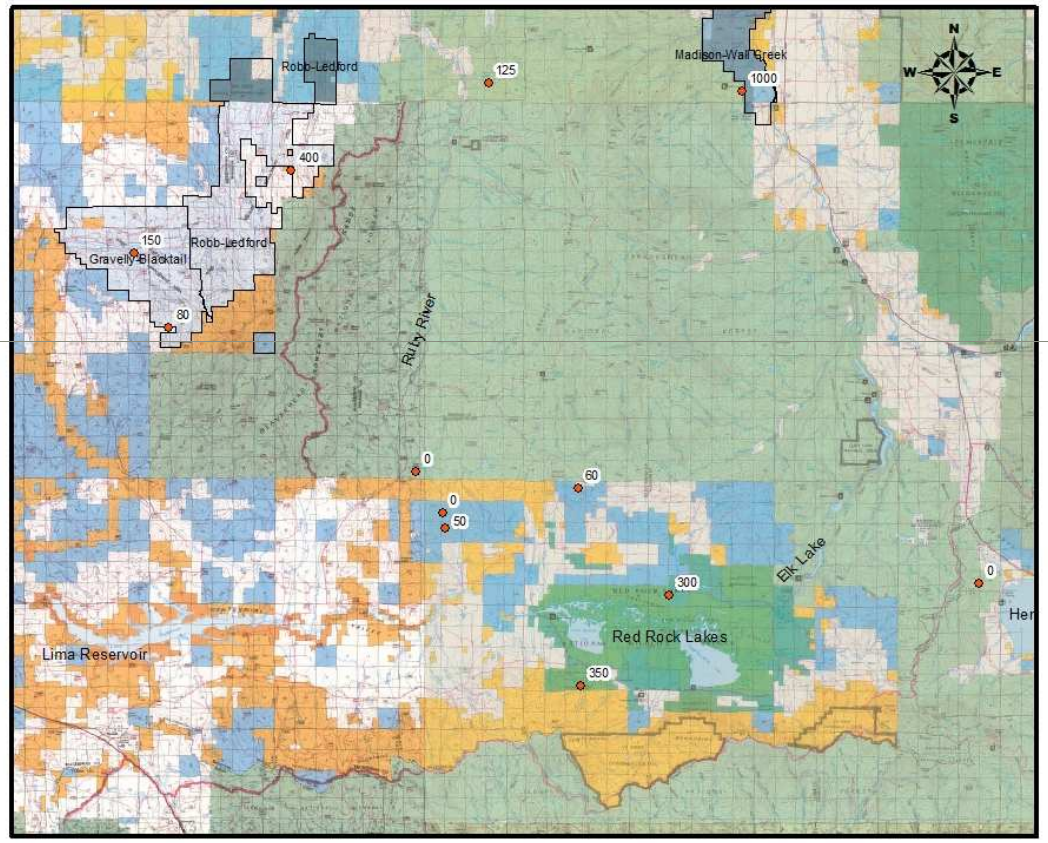
DSA Boundary Jan. 2010-Aug. 2011



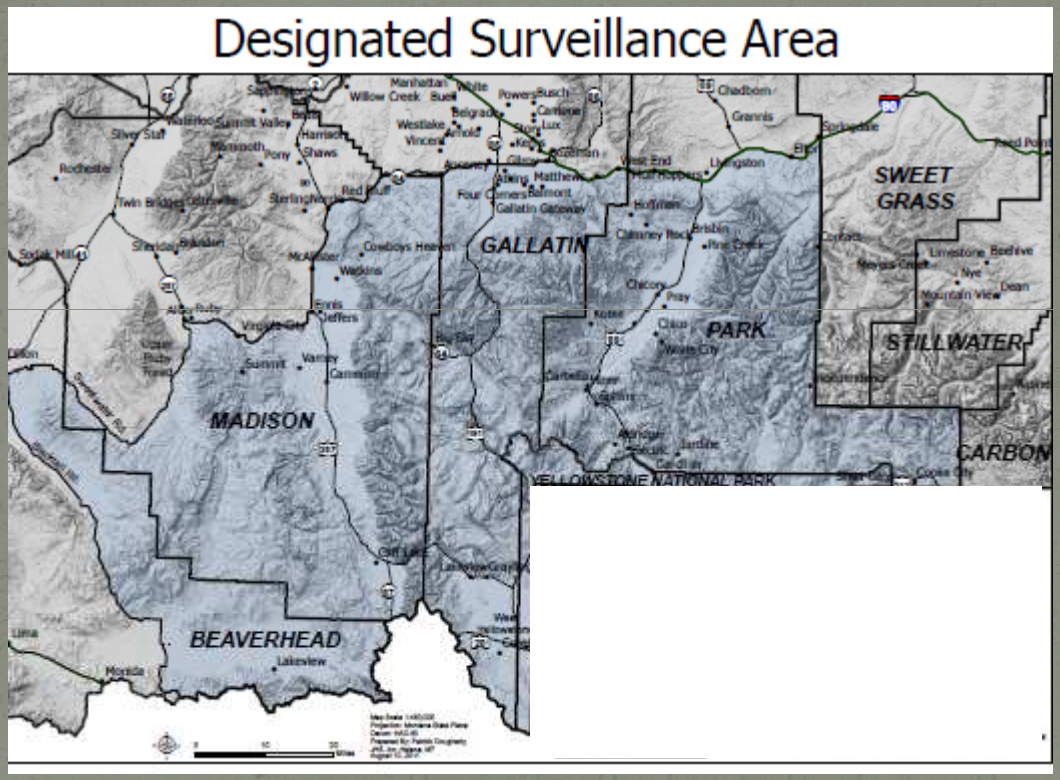
Elk Live Capture Project

- 500 elk to be captured over 5 years
  - 2011 study-100 elk captured South of Sweetwater Road 12 were positive for exposure to *Brucella*
- Focus on boundary area of known infection
- Positive elk collared and implanted with vaginal transmitters
- Abortion / birth sites sought for location and culture
- Elk remaining seropositive removed at end of study period

For Mr. Anderson



DSA Boundary as of Aug. 2011



DSA Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM)

1. Boundary
2. Identification
   - All sexually intact cattle and domestic bison (regardless of age)that have been within the DSA (at any time).
3. Testing (sexually intact 12 months of age and older)
   - Movement out of the DSA
   - Change of ownership
   - Variances may be possible with a Herd Plan
4. Vaccination
   - All females within Beaverhead, Gallatin, Madison and Park as of Jan. 1 of any calendar year
5. Penalty
   - Misdemeanor