

Elk Brucellosis Project – March Update

Throughout March, we have continued to monitor the 36 radio collared elk in the study area. The 9 brucellosis seropositive pregnant elk were monitored from 2 to 8 times each, and all 9 vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) remain on live mode indicating no evidence of abortion events.

Julee Shamhart and pilot Neil Cadwell flew the study area on Tuesday March 27, 2012 to locate all radio collared elk. Thirty-four of the 36 collared elk were located during the flight (Figure 1, Table 1). All 9 of the brucellosis seropositive pregnant elk were located during the flight (Figure 2).

One radio collared elk was killed by a mountain lion on March 26th. The elk was an 8 year old seronegative animal captured in the Little Basin Creek area. We heard the collar mortality signal during the March 27th flight, and from the plane we observed a mountain lion feeding on the carcass. The collar was retrieved on March 29th and the movement information on the collar showed that the animal was killed during the evening of March 26th. A mortality investigation confirmed the elk was killed by a lion. No other predator tracks, scat or sign was in the area.

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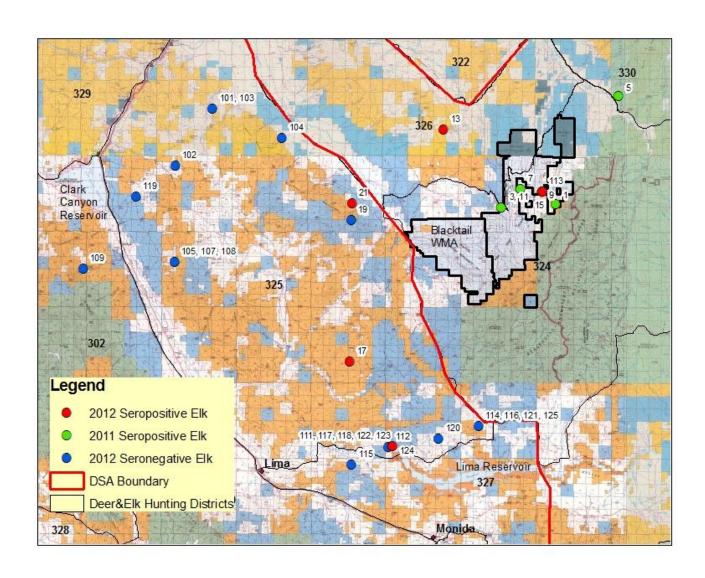


Figure 1. The locations of all the brucellosis project collared elk, as of 03/27/12. The seropositive elk are shown in red and green and the seronegative elk are shown in blue.

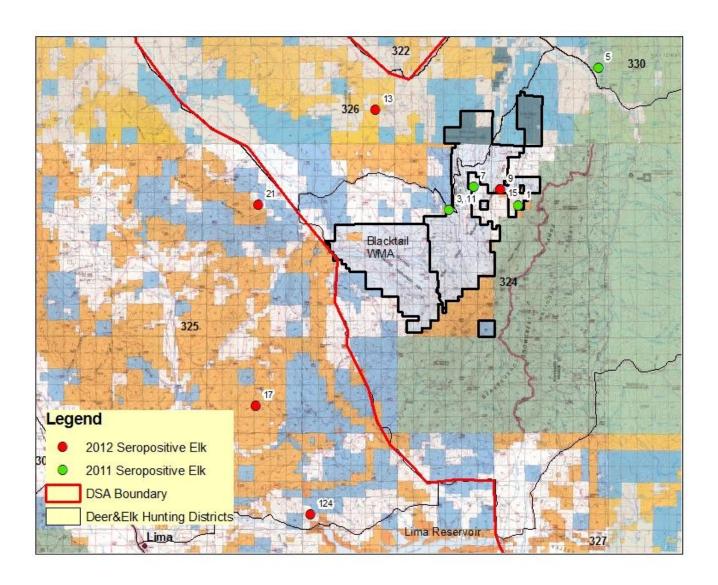


Figure 2. Location of the brucellosis seropositive elk as of March 27, 2012. Seropositive elk initially captured and collared in 2012 are shown in red, and seropositive elk initially captured in 2011 are shown in green.

Table 1. Thirty elk were captured and collared in 2012, and an additional 7 brucellosis seropositive elk from year 1 of this study were also recaptured and collared.

		First				
		capture		2012 Pregnancy		
ID#	Capture Area	year	Serostatus	status	Most recent location	
1	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Ledford Creek /Ruby	
3	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Spring Brook/ Ruby	
5	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Ruby River/ Ruby	
7	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Robb Creek/ Ruby	
9	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Ledford Creek /Ruby	
11	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	Spring Brook/ Ruby	
12	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	Wall Creek WMA/ Madison	
13	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	Timber Hill/ Ruby	
15	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	Ledford Creek /Ruby	
17	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	Vinegar Hill/ Sage Creek	
19	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Cottonwood Creek/ Blacktail Ridge	
21	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	Cottonwood Creek/ Blacktail Ridge	
101	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Unknown	Small Horn Canyon/ Blacktail Ridge	
102	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Unknown	Clark Canyon/ Blacktail Ridge	
103	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Unknown	Small Horn Canyon/ Blacktail Ridge	
104	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Unknown	Ashbough Canyon/ Blacktail Ridge	
105	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	South Red Rock Exit/ Blacktail Ridge	
106	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	Mortality 2/24/12 Clark Canyon	
107	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	South Red Rock Exit/ Blacktail Ridge	
108	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	South Red Rock Exit/ Blacktail Ridge	
109	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	Bell Canyon/ Tendoys	
110	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Unknown	Missing	
111	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	West end Lima Reservoir	
112	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Mortality 3/27/12 Lima Reservoir	
113	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Ledford Creek /Ruby	
114	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Clover Creek/ Lima Reservoir	
115	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	South of Lima Reservoir Road	
116	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Clover Creek/ Lima Reservoir	
117	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	West end Lima Reservoir	
118	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	West end Lima Reservoir	
119	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Maurer Creek/ Blacktail Ridge	
120	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	East of Express Creek/ Lima Reser.	
121	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Clover Creek/ Lima Reservoir	
122	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	West end Lima Reservoir	
123	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	West end Lima Reservoir	
124	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Open	West end Lima Reservoir	
125	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Unknown	Clover Creek/ Lima Reservoir	