

Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group Recommendation Template

The following text is considered draft and must be reviewed by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group prior to being considered final.

Email Comments to:

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Group's Purpose

The purpose of the advisory group is to forge new relationships among stakeholders and collaboratively develop new and creative ideas and recommendations for issues surrounding elk management in Montana to balance hunter and landowner interests.

Key Issue

This section identifies the “key issue,” as identified by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group.

Recognize and reduce disease.

Title of Recommendation

This section describes the title, or what we want to call the recommendation.

Add your text here.

Intent

This section describes the intent of the recommendation, or what it is trying to achieve.

To recognize the impacts on livestock producers within the DSA who deal with the risk of disease transmission from elk to cattle. Remain flexible in solutions to address commingling of cattle and elk during the critical abortive months (March thru June).

Note: The intent of the recommendation must align and address the Key Issue.

Justification

This section describes the “problem” that we are trying to solve, and why we think this recommendation will be able to address the problem.

A transmission of brucellosis from elk to cattle puts an entire ranching operation at risk. Quarantines are extensive and expensive. Brucellosis is self-sustaining in elk; therefore, eradicating the disease is not feasible. Many factors affecting elk—predator increases, climate changes, and poor range conditions have caused elk to seek the safety and nutrition found on ag lands. This in turn increases the risk for cattle producers, causing the need for mitigation strategies that are applied with flexibility and ingenuity. Recognize the role that Yellowstone National Park bison play in the brucellosis issue (they are the reservoir, the elk are the vectors).

Note: There should be a clear connection between what “we are trying to solve” and the key issue.

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Description

This section describes the recommendation. It explains who is doing what, and the practical actions that will be taken to achieve the intention.

Use existing programs such as hazing to mitigate commingling (FWP). On a yearly basis brainstorm new strategies, tools, or programs that could be helpful. Use local work groups to expand thinking on strategies. DO NOT tell producers no because of the public's view or the efforts needed. Work with absentee landowners to help educate them on the need to implement strategies such as hazing,,,ask for their help. Use FWP's position on the IBMP committee to maintain the spatial and temporal separation of bison and cattle within the DSA.