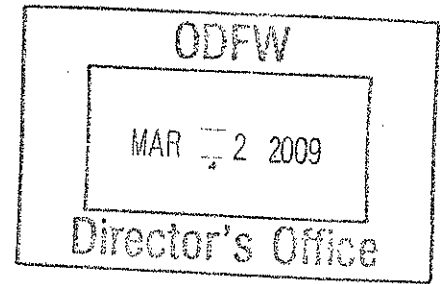


Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of May 18, 2009**

P O Box 487
Corvallis, Oregon 97339-0487
February 26, 2009

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Marla Rae, Chairperson
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon, 97303-4924



Subject: Management of Cervid Diseases.

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express my support to you for fulfilling provision 0055 (Disease Testing) in Administrative Rules, 635- 049 (Cervid Rules) adopted on May 9, 2008. I believe the adoption and active enforcement of disease testing rules like or very similar to those considered by the Commission on November 14, 2008, are critical for the protection of native cervids, livestock and humans. During the last few months publications have reported incidences of, and the seriousness of, the three diseases being considered for inclusion in the Cervid Disease Surveillance List. These reports were published in the following publications:

Brucellosis:

- The September 12, 2008 issue of the Capital Press agriculture newspaper reported that the state of Montana had lost its brucellosis-free status. The loss of this status can be very costly to the cattle rancher.
- The same Capital Press article reports the state of Wyoming was concerned that the U.S. Department of Agriculture would revoke the State's brucellosis-free status as a second cow had tested positive for the disease and that the rancher had decided to slaughter his herd.
- The September-October issue of Montana Outdoors reports officials are greatly concerned and the Montana wildlife department is doubling its surveillance efforts for the detection of brucellosis.
- The September-October issue of Wyoming Wildlife News reports The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is expanding surveillance for brucellosis by asking a larger number of successful elk hunters to collect blood samples for testing.

Chronic Wasting Disease: (CWD) (Continues to be found in new areas.)

- The August 29, 2008 issue of The Capital Press newspaper as well as a Grand Rapids, Michigan blog (http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/news_impact/2008/08/hunters_disappointed_farm_owne/print...) have reported chronic wasting disease had been found for the first time in Michigan. A captive white-tailed deer in a privately owned facility had been confirmed with the disease. Michigan officials quarantined all 580 privately owned cervid facilities in the state and banned the movement of all privately owned deer, elk and moose. The agency also banned baiting in the lower Peninsula.
- The January issue of Wyoming Wildlife reports that CWD had been found in an elk for the first time within elk hunt area 117.
- The November, 2008 issue of Wyoming Wildlife reports the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is expanding its surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease.

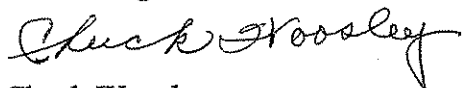
Bovine tuberculosis

- The September 26, 2008 issue of the Capital Press newspaper reports that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had withdrawn the Bovine tuberculosis accredited-free status rating from the states of California and New Mexico. "Dairy men and cattle producers predict this downgrade in TB status will have an economic (adverse) impact on them."
- The January 16, 2009 issue of the Capital Press newspaper reports that a tuberculosis lesion had been found in a cow at a processing plant. This cow was traced back to a beef herd of more than 200 animals in southwestern North Dakota. The entire herd was tested for TB and 28 cows were found to be "suspect" cows. These 28 "suspect" animals were slaughtered and tissue samples are in the process of being diagnosed for tuberculosis. If TB is confirmed in any samples from these 28 cows, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department feels that it would need to kill hundreds of wildlife in the endemic area at a cost of "hundreds of thousands of dollars".
- There are many references of Bovine tuberculosis being a peril to other mammals including humans. One such reference is on page 3 of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission packet, Exhibit F, dated November 14, 2008. This reference states: "*The disease can be transmitted to cattle or any mammal including humans*".
- To me, a very informative article on tuberculosis has been published in the winter 2009 issue of "Terra". "Terra," Volume 4, Number 1, is a publication of Oregon State University (oregon.edu/terra). In part this article reports: "*M. tuberculosis is a tenacious germ. Armored in a thick, waxy wall impervious to water, the bacterium can lie dormant in the lungs for decades, waiting for a weakness in its human host. When airborne in a cough or laugh, it can infect a new victim in a single breath of air. With a flip of a gene, it can dodge healing drugs by mobilizing legions of mutant clones.*"
"*Once considered a disease of the past (the last of Oregon's sanitariums were closed in the 1970's) TB is making a comeback. Around the world, more than 8 million people are infected yearly, and 2 million die. Piggybacking on the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the opportunistic TB pathogen is more dangerous than ever. Some 12,000 strains, each bearing a distinct "genetic fingerprint" have turned up in hospitals, prisons, refugee camps and clinics.*"

It is evident that the above three cervid diseases are significant perils for Oregon's important wildlife, the livestock industry and its citizens. I encourage you to adopt a protective surveillance list and to give a very high priority to the enforcement of all provisions of the 635-049 Administrative Rules.

Thank you for considering the above information and for considering my request.

Kindest regards,



Chuck Woosley

Cc. Ron Anglin, ODFW; Colin Gillin, ODFW and Don Hanson, ODA.

Liz Bueffel

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Liz Bueffel
Subject: FW: Elk Ranching

Liz: Please assign to appropriate staff for response. Thanks. Teri Kucera

-----Original Message-----

From: John McGowen [mailto:jdmcgowen@q.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:57 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Elk Ranching

I'm a resident of Oregon, and I'd like to think my voice can be heard on this subject. In my own humble opinion, right now the last thing this state needs is a loss of revenue. I would like to see that these elk ranches are regulated, but I do not like the idea of putting them out of business, or not allowing them to sell their business. I do not believe Oregon should stop permits to Elk ranchers. Elk is a leaner meat than most cattle, and in my opinion I'd rather see elk ranches than cattle. We already have more regulations in this state with wildlife conservation than we know what to do with. I don't see how Elk ranches don't conserve these animals.. With our economy failing in this country at this time I want who ever reads this to think about this point I'm going to give.. When people get hungry in this state because of no money and no job, There is no game warden in the state that is going to stop them from going hunting to feed their family. I feel very fortunate to have a good job during these hard times but there are a lot of people that are less fortunate. When state funding can not keep up with demand for the hunger in this state, people will do what they need to survive. I truly hope our economy quickly recovers, but it fails our natural game in the wild will most definitely be depleted quickly. It's not an extremist's view, it's just pure reality of how people react to hard times. We need these Elk ranchers, they are a great insurance to the success of our wildlife plan. Don't be close minded please look at every aspect before making any critical changes just to please a select group. I'm not an Elk rancher, nor do I often hunt. But I am not against hunting. I work for Union Pacific Railroad, and I enjoy seeing the wildlife in Oregon, and I believe that people need the rights to enjoy the outdoors, and hunting is a great way for fathers to bond with their sons. I've been long winded enough so I'll close this letter, with a please don't look at this subject narrow sided.
John D. McGowen