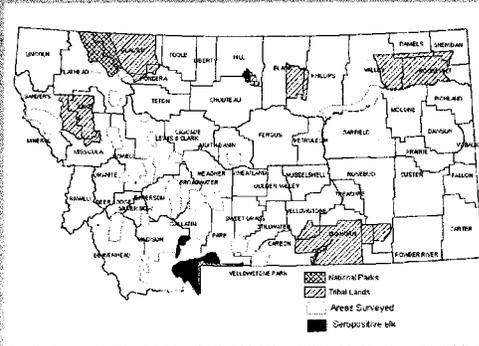


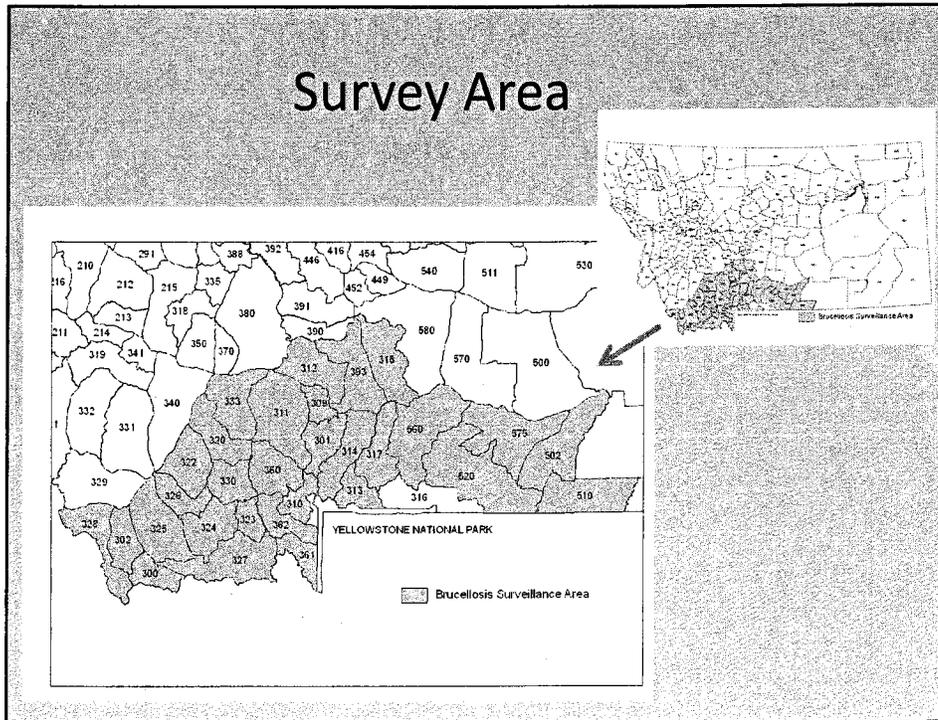
Surveillance for Brucellosis in Elk 2008 & 2009

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Surveillance History

- Started in early 1980's
- Conducted over much of Montana
- Brucellosis only detected in GYA
- Recent surveillance focused on GYA
- WB - started 2004
- 2008 & 2009
 - Determine geographic distribution





2008-09 and 2009-10 Survey Strategy

- Blood kits
 - Sent to hunters
 - Disseminated by landowners & FWP staff
 - FWP Regional offices
 - Businesses
 - Kiosks
- Blood
 - Mailed in
 - Drop-off points
- Research animals
- Tissue samples

The photograph shows survey materials including several white boxes and kits. Below the kits are several wooden signs posted in a field. One prominent sign reads 'ENTERING MOTOR TRAVEL RESTRICTED AREA' and 'RESTRICTED OFF-ROAD CAMPING AT DESIGNATED SITES ONLY'. Other signs include 'CAMPING UNIT' and '16 DAYS'.

Blood Processing

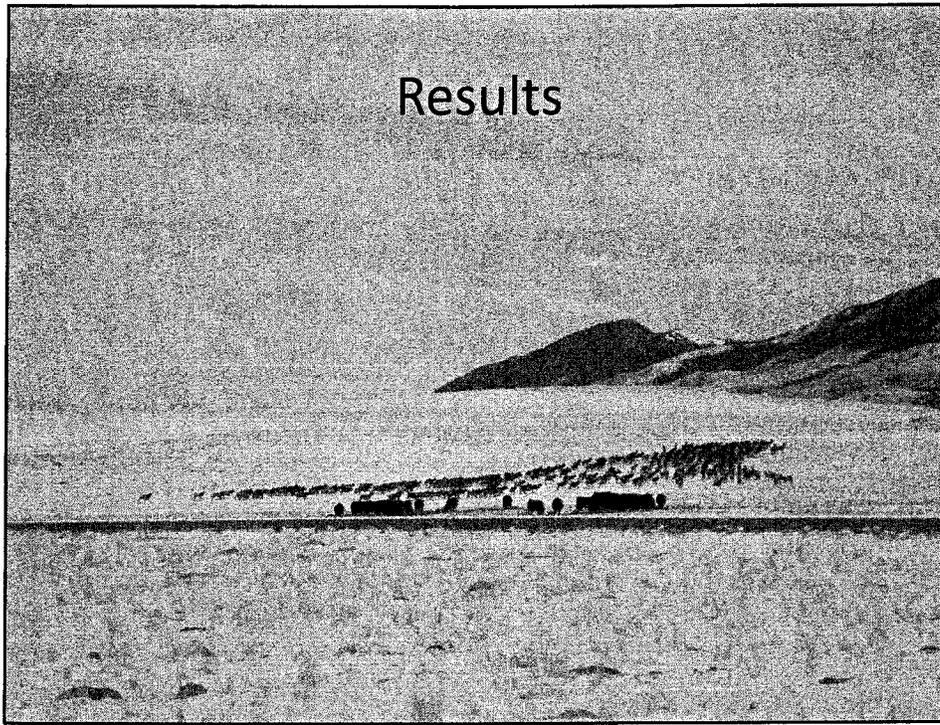


- Serum collected at FWP Wildlife Lab
- Submitted to MT DoL, Diagnostic Lab
 - Rivanol, Fluorescent Polarization, Standard Plate
 - BAPA added in 2009-10
- Suspect and Reactors
 - Western Blot - LSU
 - Cross-reaction with Yersinia
- Exposure not infection

Tissue Collections

- Samples collected at
 - Game check stations, meat processors
 - Backtracking to kill sites
 - Gardiner Late Hunt
 - Madison Management Hunt
 - Other locations with large harvest
- Tissues collected for culture
 - Retropharyngeal L.N.
 - Supramammary L.N.
 - Cotyledons, amniotic fluid
 - Reproductive Tract (Non-pregnant)
- Culture Conducted by NVSL
 - Confirms infection





2008-09 & 2009-10

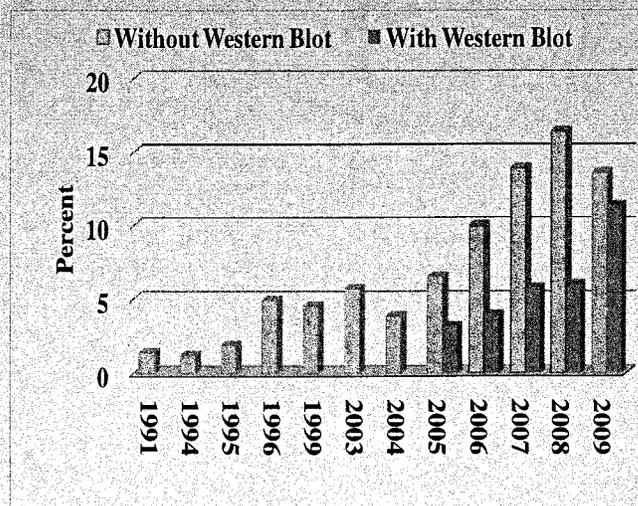
- Blood samples
 - Pooled over two years
- 829 adult female
- 234 adult male
- Focused on adult female elk
 - Primary concern for spreading brucellosis
 - Best indicate of brucellosis presence
- Tissue Samples
 - Pooled over two years
- 526 Samples
 - 463 female
 - 99 males
- Conjunction with CWD surveillance - 2009

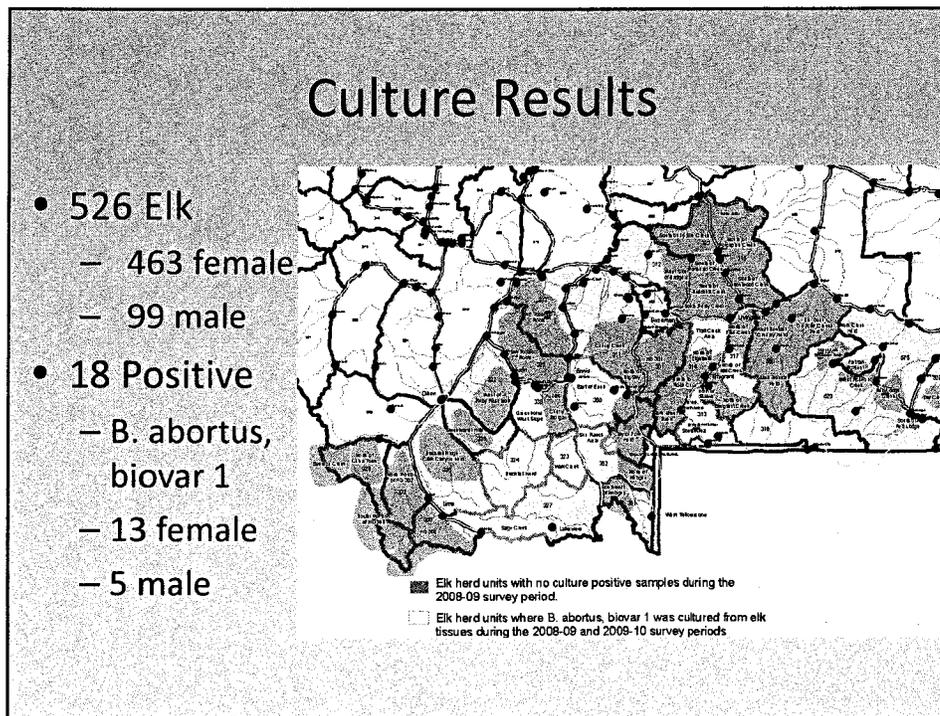
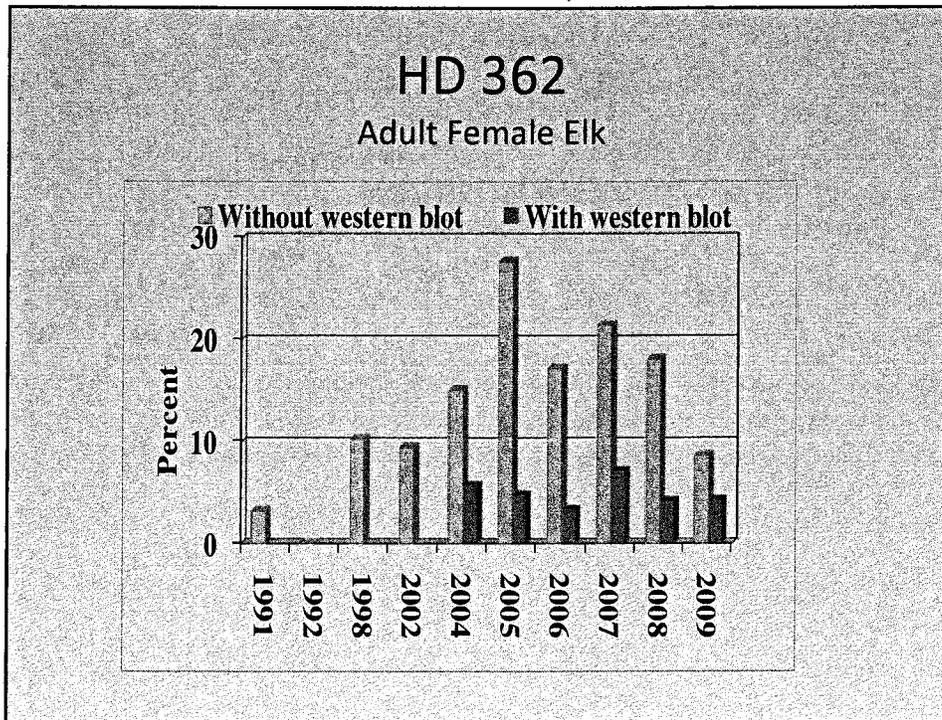
Serology Results Adult Females 2008-09 and 2009-10

HD	Samples	Reactors without WB	Reactors with WB	# Cow elk - 2007/08
313	110	17 (15.4%)	9 (8.2%)	~3,000
314	192	10 (5.2%)	4 (2.1%)	~2,800
317	8	2	0	~490
323	12	3	0	~2,000
324	26	3	0	~1,600
326	6	2	0	~100
327	20	1	0	~1,500
360	89	8 (9.0%)	2 (2.2%)	~1,400
362	117	19 (16.2%)	5 (4.3%)	~1,600

HD 313

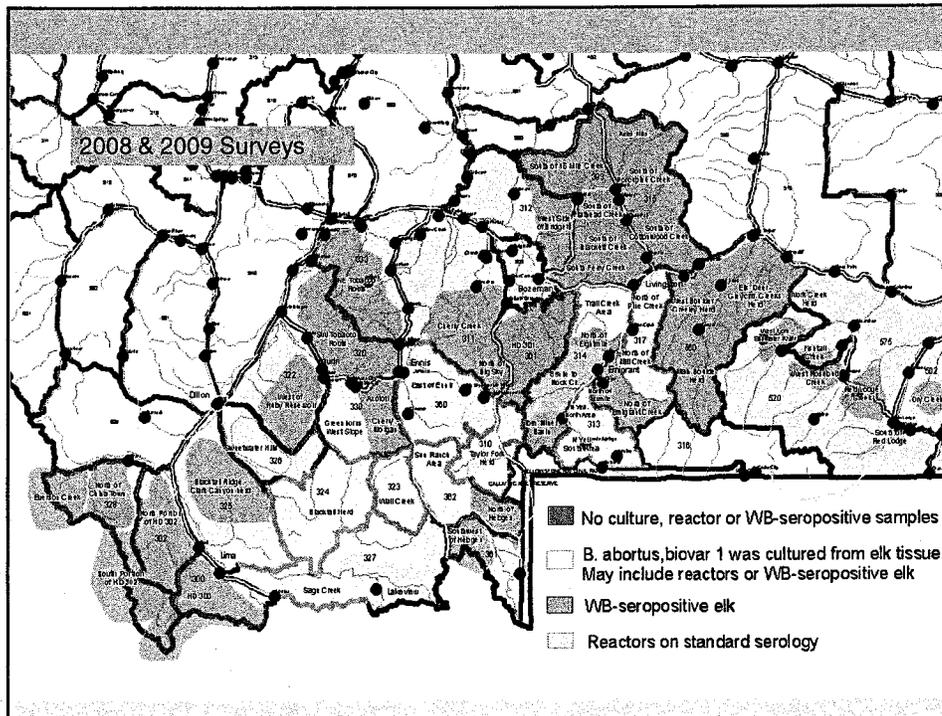
Adult Female Elk

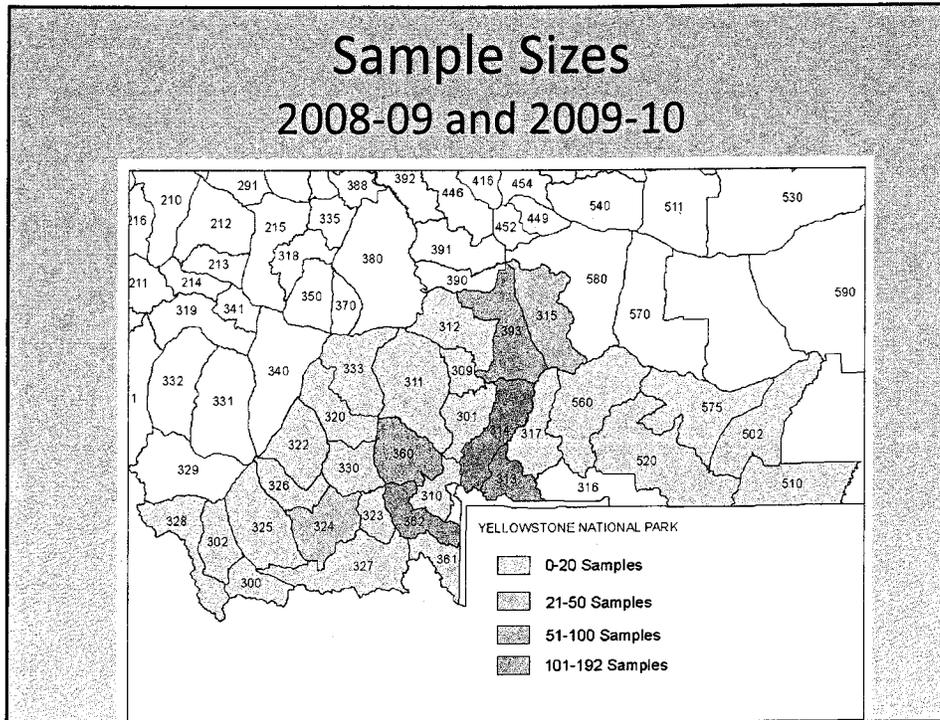




Blood and Culture Results

Serology	WB Results	Culture Results	Samples
Negative	Not tested	B. abortus not detected	118
Negative	Not tested	B. abortus, biovar 1	1
Reactor	Yersinia	B. abortus not detected	6
Reactor	Brucella and/or Yersinia	B. abortus not detected	5
Reactor	Brucella and Yersinia	B. abortus, biovar 1	2
Reactor	Yersinia	B. abortus, biovar 1	4

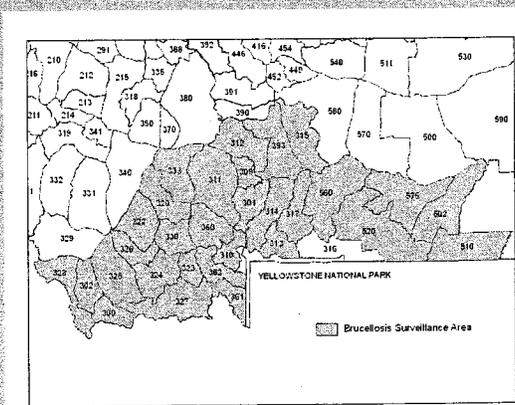




Future Surveillance and Research

- 2010-11 through 2014-15
- Funding available for 2010-2011
- Future efforts dependant on funding

Three Phases



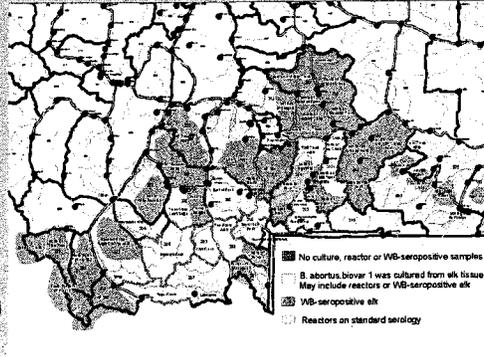
- Surveillance
 - Large area
 - Targeted
- Brucellosis epidemiology research
- Elk movement research

Surveillance

- Large area
 - Maintain hunter harvest surveillance
- Targeted
 - Focus on an area of concern
 - Utilize hunter harvest and live animal capture
 - Improve sample size
 - Capture ~100 elk
 - 50 Hunter harvested samples

Surveillance Outcomes

- Determine the presence/absence
- Improve understanding of distribution
- Baseline information on seroprevalence



Epidemiology

- Collar seropositive adult female elk
- Implant seropositive pregnant
- Monitor abortion/birth events
- Collect and test abortion/birth tissue
- Recapture and repeat for four additional years
- Remove seropositives, necropsy and test after five years

Epidemiology Outcomes

- Evaluate sero-status
- Determine risk of seropositive animals
 - Ability to shed B. abortus
- Additional information to evaluate testing methodology
- Increase number of isolates for comparison to other areas
- Difference in seropositive/seronegative movements

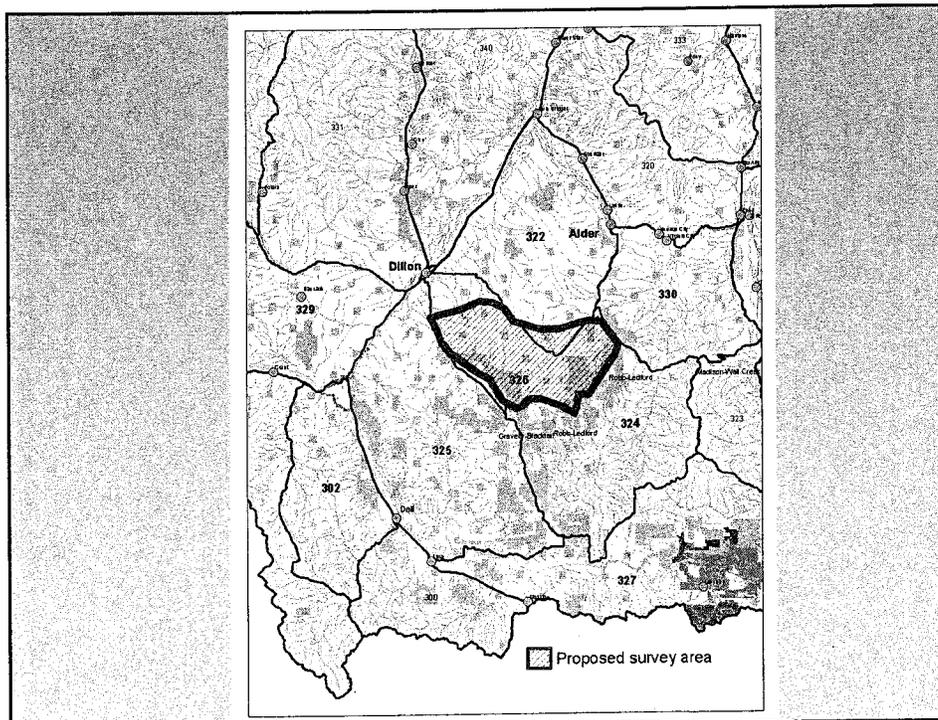
Elk Movement Research



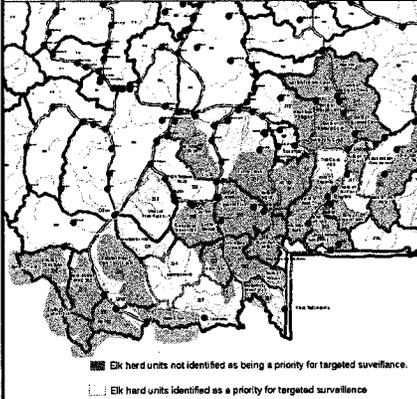
- GPS collar 30 adult female elk
- Double collar some of the seropositives

Movement Research Outcomes

- Determine movement patterns of elk
- Improve risk assessments for transmission
 - Elk - Cattle & Elk - Elk
- Improve understanding of brucellosis distribution
 - Future surveillance
 - Develop/improve risk models
- Better understanding of factors affecting brucellosis distribution and increasing seroprevalence



Future Targeted Surveillance & Research



- Dependant on funding
- Identify high priority areas
 - Use existing data, current modeling efforts, research data, management needs/concerns
- Repeated in 4 different areas

