

From: [Clarke, Patrick R. - APHIS](#)
To: [Nol, Pauline - APHIS](#); [McCollum, Matthew P - APHIS](#); [Rhyan, Jack C - APHIS](#); [Frey, Rebecca K - APHIS](#)
Subject: RE: GnRH bison
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:45:12 AM

I like it.

Let's not forget we can be looking at latency with some of these animals since we know the complete clinical history of their dams.

I have not heard anything else from Don about the "future research" proposals other than they probably won't decide until the new administration settles in

Cheers,
The other Rhyan

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From: Nol, Pauline - APHIS
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 9:42 AM
To: [McCollum, Matthew P - APHIS <Matt.McCollum@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Rhyan, Jack C - APHIS <Jack.C.Rhyan@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Frey, Rebecca K - APHIS <Rebecca.K.Frey@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Clarke, Patrick R. - APHIS <Patrick.R.Clarke@aphis.usda.gov>](#)
Subject: RE: GnRH bison

Hi, I've done a few first pass edits. I think that these bison can also be used for further research on detection/diagnostic techniques and open up opportunities for future collaborations.
Take or leave as you think appropriate.

Question: Has the proposal for future research/quarantine at Corwin Springs been sent up the ladder...and looked at?
P

From: [McCollum, Matthew P - APHIS](#)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 9:06 AM
To: [Nol, Pauline - APHIS <Pauline.Nol@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Rhyan, Jack C - APHIS <Jack.C.Rhyan@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Frey, Rebecca K - APHIS <Rebecca.K.Frey@aphis.usda.gov>](#); [Clarke, Patrick R. - APHIS <Patrick.R.Clarke@aphis.usda.gov>](#)
Subject: GnRH bison

Here is a start on the email for our folks. What I'm trying to do is show what negative effects sending the bison to slaughter will bring us. Look it over and let me know what you think. If you

think we should not take any particular tact, let me know, but right now, I think the stops need to be pulled out.

Thanks,

Matt

Suelee and Beth,

Here is a breakdown of the bison in question and what we plan to do with them in future. We don't have enough room at the facility in Corwin springs to complete everything and also having the animals here in fort Collins is much more conducive to use being able to use them for further research.

All bison:

WiLDIT uses: Used for development of drydart technology. Seeing if we can deliver vaccines/ immobilization drugs/ antibiotics using dry darts.

CSU collaborator uses: basic assisted repro techniques that are just not known for bison.

Brucella positive bison:

WiLDIT uses: All or a subset of offspring that remain or become seropositive for *B. abortus* after weaning will be maintained and monitored through their first parturition.

CSU collaborator uses: Use of Assisted repro techniques as a disease mitigation strategy including clean-up of semen from B+ bulls for use in Artificial Insemination, Embryo transfer from positive cows to negative surrogates.

Brucella negative females.

CSU collaborator uses: Demonstrate the use of AI using semen of B+ bulls.

Brucella negative bison: As part of the collection permit that we used to originally acquire the bison and the IACUC approved study protocol we have in place, we are obligated as follows. (both are attached)

From the permit:

Brucellosis negative Yellowstone bison should be consigned to a quarantine location for

further diagnostics, directly to a managed for public conservation program to supplement population genetic diversity, to an introduction program to establish a new conservation population of wild bison, or if no such opportunities exist, to private not for profit bison conservation program. If none of these opportunities can be accommodated then a last choice would be to offer brucellosis free bison to any private party that requests transfer of ownership. Disease free bison should not be killed as a convenient method to move the animals out of USDA facilities.

From our study protocol: "Adults and offspring that remain negative for brucellosis on serology and culture and satisfy the bison quarantine requirements as published in the UM&R will be used for bison conservation."

Because of the commitments laid out in our research permit and our study protocols, we have made partnerships to place the resultant bison. Experience from the Quarantine Feasibility Study showed that finding places to actually put the animals can be problematic. Much time and effort has gone into developing these partnerships. Affected entities include but are not limited to: The Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd (Colorado State University, the City of Fort Collins, and Larimer county), a variety of native American tribes including The Crow Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, and The Shoshone Nation; The American Prairie Reserve, USDA FS Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, MN Zoo, Bronx zoo, Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd is unique in that we are partners on the project and as part of that, we are assured access to the animals for continued Brucella monitoring which add an extra level of comfort. All the female bison that go through the quarantine process will be placed there and can continue to be monitored.

We realize that conservation of bison is not the thrust of our mission, but the commitment has been made and should be followed through. We said we'd do it in order to get the bison for research and to get the approvals to conduct the research, we can't just send them to slaughter now because it is convenient. Public perception could really go downhill for us if we do this.

These bison are irreplaceable. In theory, we should be able to get more from YNP, but in practice, with the vitriolic atmosphere around the GYA, there is little hope of getting any more animals from Yellowstone for research- which is contrary to the IBMP agreement that dictates slaughter be used only as a last resort, not a first choice.

We are not privy to the higher level discussions, all we know is what we have heard third hand: the state was willing to send the research bison to us and APHIS is who said slaughter was the way to go.

This puts our CSU collaborator in a bad spot. She does not want to act against us since we have worked so long together and we have a good partnership, at the same time, she does not want us to go ahead with the slaughter of animals she could have access to further her research. The same goes for the WILDIT group and our SPRS colleagues. We don't want to go against our own organization, but our input was solicited, we gave it, and what came back was nothing like we had talked about and really puts a damper on continued research on brucellosis.

Our Corwin Springs facilities are limited for space. Our plan was to remove animals to Fort Collins to alleviate that issue. Removing animals to slaughter and replacing them with new animals does nothing to help with crowding and the resultant safety issues involved.

Best,

Matt

Matt McCollum

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