

February 2016



## Veterinary Services Staff

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# Veterinary Services Newsletter

## February 2016

## Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center

### Still More Sheep Facility Construction...

We had a very productive month here in the canyon. We were able to make considerable progress on our sheep handling facility by finishing almost all of the exterior alley way, completing catch pens in the pastures, and installing automatic waterers. Next, we have to finish the chute system in the handling building and some cosmetic work inside. The facility should be complete by mid-March.



*Exterior of the sheep handling facility.*

### Sampling and Moving Sheep to New Pasture

All of our hard work is beginning to pay off. In January we trimmed hooves, sampled all of our bighorn sheep, and moved them out to their new double-fenced pasture. We utilized this opportunity to host new Cody biologist, Juliann Terry, and Greybull biologist, Leslie Schreiber, for training on bighorn sheep handling, sampling, and sample processing. We try to use each handling experience at the TWRC as an opportunity to train WGFD personnel or students in wildlife handling and disease sampling.



*Greybull biologist, Leslie Schreiber, drawing blood on a bighorn ewe before moving her to the new pasture.*

The new pasture is nearly 6 times the size of their old enclosure, providing our bighorn sheep with a much more natural and low-stress environment. Our ewes now have access to a free-flowing creek, trees for shade and cover and a rock pile for climbing. They seem to be acclimating well to their new pasture and appear to enjoy the extra space.



*Bighorn ewes acclimating to their new pasture at the Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Center.*

## Wildlife Necropsy Summary

Twenty-three wildlife cases were submitted for diagnostics in January.

Species	Date Received	County	Diagnosis
Elk	1/8/2016	Platte	CWD, aspiration pneumonia
Eurasian-collared dove (3)	1/14/2016	Natrona	Avian Paramyxovirus
Elk	1/14/2016	Sweetwater	Pending
Elk	1/15/2016	Natrona	Emaciation
Elk	1/15/2016	Natrona	Emaciation, adenovirus
Turkey	1/15/2016	Johnson	Phosphide toxicity
Turkey	1/15/2016	Johnson	Phosphide toxicity
Cotton tailed rabbit	1/25/2016	Platte	Pending
Cotton tailed rabbit	1/25/2016	Platte	Pending
Cotton tailed rabbit	1/25/2016	Platte	Pending
White-tailed deer	1/25/2016	Park	Pending
Bighorn Sheep	1/26/2016	Albany	Pending
Eurasian-collared dove (3)	1/26/2016	Converse	Avian Paramyxovirus
Mule deer	1/26/2016	Converse	Pending
Pronghorn	1/26/2016	Albany	Pending
Mule deer	1/26/2016	Fremont	Necrobacillosis
Mule deer	1/26/2016	Fremont	Pending
Mule deer	1/29/2016	Albany	Pending

### Case of the Month

Wildlife Division Deputy Chief, Scott Edberg, responded to a call of a number of dead Eurasian-collared doves in west Casper. Laboratory testing of the doves at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory indicated they died from avian paramyxovirus. Final confirmation from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames Iowa identified the culprit as pigeon paramyxovirus-1 (PPMV-1).

PPMV-1 is a virus that is considered endemic in the US and affects primarily pigeons and doves. Since May of 2014, Eurasian-collared dove mortality from PPMV-1 has been documented in Green River, Cheyenne, Ft. Laramie, Douglas and Casper. Mortality rates can be high and may be associated with birds congregating around bird feeders or bird baths. Only one Mourning dove has been diagnosed with PPMV-1 in Wyoming to date.

Pigeon paramyxovirus-1 is spread by direct contact between infected birds, bird carcasses, or by contact with contaminated items such as bird feeders or bird baths. Ongoing mortality events in Wyoming mirror those along the front range of Colorado. Continued mortality of Eurasian-collared doves can be expected throughout southern and eastern Wyoming and may expand to other regions of the state. We are monitoring the movement of this virus in Wyoming and request that die-offs of any doves be reported to the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory. We may not conduct diagnostic testing on all die-offs, particularly if the virus has already been detected in that area of the state; however, we will monitor the number of reports we are receiving to gauge the overall impact this virus may have in Wyoming.

A fact sheet on PPMV-1 is available to the public on the Veterinary services web page.

# Wildlife Health Laboratory

## Brucellosis Surveillance:

Brucellosis surveillance in hunter-killed elk was complete at the end of January. Sample totals for this season include: received 1,157 blood samples were received by the laboratory with 798 (69%) of those being suitable for testing. Four-hundred and eighty two suitable samples were received from the Bighorns alone, with no positive animals identified. The final report on the 2015 brucellosis surveillance program will be available by the end of February 2016.

## Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

A total of 1,747 deer, elk, and moose samples were analyzed. Of these samples, 98 tested positive for CWD representing 65 mule deer, 12 white-tailed deer, and 21 elk (see table 1). This year's surveillance efforts identified five new deer hunt areas: 1 at Devil's Tower National Monument, 24 near Sheridan, 100 in the Baggs area, 112 near Cody, and 171 which encompasses most of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Four new elk hunt areas were also discovered in 2015 including; hunt areas 11 and 12 in the Snowy Range Mountains, 21 near Baggs, and 34 on the eastern slope of the Bighorn Mountains (see maps below). Of the 1,747 total samples received, 85% came from hunter-killed animals, 8% from targeted and 7% from road-killed deer, elk and moose. It should be noted that the majority of road-killed surveillance occurs outside of the known endemic area for chronic wasting disease, while targeted animals tend to be submitted from within the endemic area. The final report on the 2015 surveillance effort will be available by the end of February 2016.

	Mule Deer		White-Tailed Deer		Elk		Moose		Total	
Hunter-kill	788	48	90	3	605	16	5	0	1,488	67
Targeted	62	15	20	8	44	5	14	0	140	28
Road-kill	87	2	4	1	24	0	4	0	119	3
Total	937	65	114	12	673	21	23	0	1,747	98
	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos

Table 1. Distribution of samples and proportion of positives according to surveillance category

## Respiratory Disease Surveillance in Bighorn Sheep

Preparations began for upcoming disease surveillance in bighorn sheep. Plans are currently underway to capture 25 sheep in Devil's Canyon, 10 sheep in the North and South Fork of the Shoshone, 5 in the badlands near Dubois, 15 in Temple Peak, 20 near Whiskey Basin, and 11 in Jackson. Capture operations will begin in the middle of February and should wrap up by the middle of March



Bighorn Ewes