

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – TERRISTRIAL

**THE FOLLOWING ABSTRACTS ARE FROM PRESENTATIONS
MADE AT A
JOINT MEETING OF THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY,
THE SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY AND
PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILE CONSERVATION
FEBRUARY 25 - 29, 2008
MISSOULA, MT**

BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE IN FREE-RANGING MONTANA ELK — SURVEILLANCE CHALLENGES AND RESULTS

Neil Anderson and Jen Williams, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1400 S 19th,
Bozeman, MT 59718

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has conducted surveillance for brucellosis in elk (*Cervus elaphus*) since the early 1980s. Occurrence of brucellosis in a domestic cattle herd in Montana has raised a concern producers have about potentially infected elk transmitting the disease to cattle. Recent events have increased the challenges of obtaining adequate samples and interpreting standard serologic tests. Based on historic records brucellosis in free-ranging elk has only been documented within the Greater Yellowstone Area with a sero-prevalence of < 4 percent. Sero-prevalence seemingly has not changed greatly over time, but new confounding factors are influencing surveillance activities. A brief history of surveillance efforts, new challenges faced in conducting surveillance and interpreting serologic test results and recent survey findings were presented.