

MINUTES – ANNUAL STARKEY IACUC SITE VISIT

12 February 2020

ATT: Dr. (b)(6) (attending veterinarian), Hans Hayden (Starkey Area Manager), Ryan Kennedy (Range Conservationist, Starkey Team), (b)(6) (citizen representative), Mike Wisdom (IO), and Mary Rowland (IACUC Chair)

The group met at the winter handling facility from 0800-0945 hrs. Topics discussed included:

- Winter 2019-2020 deer and elk handling and trapping
 - ~260 elk handled to date, 100 from NE and 160 from Starkey Main
 - Most elk are wintering out so far and not coming in
 - Corral traps also set up with cameras and bait, but no action yet
 - New bull collars to be tried this year when animals released back into Main
 - Mule deer capture:
 - Very slow year, despite 3x capture effort; (b)(6) (Univ. NV-Reno) with techs still trapping
 - 8 collars out on new adult does this season, 4-5 with collars from prior years still alive
 - Remote traps set up in new places beyond the usual v-traps along 2105 Rd.
 - Also have collared a few deer in NE, think ~12 deer there, in NE-W side
 - Will capture some deer in Barn Pasture soon also
 - Two white-tails have been collared
- Removal of Main Study elk at end of season for experimental reduction as part of mule deer research
 - Goal is for ~100 total elk in Main (~70 adult females)
 - Group of ~20 elk is hanging out and monitored (via Verizon cell phone/camera app) in NW corner of Main Study Area; may try to release directly from there; likely mostly bulls
 - This area often used in winter, even with hay trail won't leave there, leading to starvation in some years
 - Excess animals will be trucked out of Starkey at end of winter, may include nearly all elk from Main on the feedground other than the collared animals that are released back into Main
- Tame elk
 - Three remaining animals
 - Eating mostly pelleted feed
 - Hay flakes also given but animals spitting out quids, not digesting well
 - Condition as expected, one animal pretty gimpy
 - Discussed future care and maintenance of these animals
 - The electric fence between Bull and South Pastures (as anti-predator defense for tame elk) is being worked on by Hans and Ryan; will be 2 strand, will spray underneath, etc.
- FOIA request
 - Mary filled in group about FOIA request for information by New England Anti-vivisection Society on complaints or issues relating to welfare of Starkey animals used in research from 1/1/19 to present.

- Reported back to Washington Office of the FS that no complaints were received in 2019 regarding any Starkey animals used in research
- Along these lines, Mary mentioned needing to get death certs and other info on handling related injuries each year from Ryan/Hans to place in IACUC files in case requests come from APHIS or others
- Miscellaneous
 - Although not discussed onsite, Mike stated later that the new biological technician position (vice Dennis Rea) is now at HR and may be advertised in a few weeks.
- Action items:
 - (b)(6) to discuss tame elk care with (b)(6)
 - Hans to send (b)(6) contact information for (b)(6) ODFW state wildlife veterinarian
 - Mary to work with (b)(6) on writing some Standard Operating Procedures for predator capture as part of renewal of Starkey predator research, forthcoming in June 2020
 - Hans to let IACUC know when electric fence is in place and operational