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Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 2:49 PM

To: Steve@IdahoforWildlife.com

Subject: RE: Climate Disruption or wolves ?

Steve FYI- Thanks for the information. I forwarded your email to USDA Wildlife Services and our vets so they can also be aware of these concerns. The state and federal agencies did a thorough review of diseases, parasites etc. even before the reintroductions were being considered- but there is nothing wrong with a fresh look and checking out more information.

There are 2 diseases/parasites being discussed lately. One is Echinococcus granulosus, it is a tapeworm in wolves and other canids and has part of its life cycle in ungulates. There are 2 forms in the NRM one brought in by domestic sheep and sheep dogs many decades ago. The other was either already here in domestic or wild canids in low numbers, was brought in by naturally dispersing wolf/coyotes, foxes/dogs or was brought in with the reintroduced wolves [although I doubt that as we dosed the reintroduced wolves twice with a drug that was documented to be 100% effective in dogs with a single dose. But we may never know for sure if it ever left or where it might have come from. **However I believe there is no doubt that wolves have speeded up the transmission cycle in wild ungulates. This is the tapeworm that causes visible cysts in lung of wild ungulates,** those cysts appear rare in domestic ungulates. I lived/hunted in Alaska and they are very visible, especially if you pay attention to them.

The second issue discussed lately is Neospora canis [sp?] it is the one that sometimes causes abortions. The main health problem has been infected dogs around cattle, but any canid, including wolves, can carry it. Whether it might cause abortions in wildlife is unlikely but not well documented. These issues have been looked at in many areas and there is nothing wrong with bring them up again to be sure experts on parasites and diseases can provide accurate information.