

Mike Carter

From: Mike Carter [mikec@cskt.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:55 AM
To: 'Dean_Rundle@fws.gov'
Cc: 'Jeff_King@fws.gov'; 'Ty Smucker'; 'Tim_A_Miller@fws.gov'; 'Pat_Jamieson@fws.gov'; 'Amy Lisk'; 'Dalon Weaselhead'; 'Tom McDonald'; 'daleb@cskt.org'; 'brianu@cskt.org'
Subject: FW: Breifing Paper- 2009 Bison Round Up- DRAFT

Dean- One thing that I forgot to mention that was vital to the success of this year's round up- that was the knowledge, input and cooperation provided by FWS staff here at NBR. These "seasoned veterans" led the way so we could properly execute our assignments. Would you please include a statement to that effect in the training section of the briefing paper? I regret that omission. Thanks!- Mike

From: Mike Carter [mailto:mikec@cskt.org]
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To: 'Dean_Rundle@fws.gov'
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Subject: Breifing Paper- 2009 Bison Round Up- DRAFT

Dean- Attached is a briefing paper regarding the 2009 bison round up. Jeff is out today and this is in "draft" as I'm not sure of any formal format for a briefing paper. It was longer than one page, so please modify as you see fit.

The bottom line is that all aspects of this event went very well- we are very proud of our efforts- yet there is always room for improvement. The challenge of effectively addressing the learning curve was met and we are already planning for next year's event. We want to be held as the example of the right way to do things! If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call. Thanks!- Mike

**BREIFING PAPER
(DRAFT)**

**2009 Bison Round Up
National Bison Range**

The annual bison round up was conducted at the National Bison Range October 5-7, 2009. By all measures this event was an overwhelming success. Approximately 390 animals were processed through the corral system. Various data was collected, the animals were micro-chipped as needed, biological samples were taken, and high visibility collars were put on 40 cows as part of a reproductive study. These collars will be removed at next year's round up. 44 animals were removed for sale (34) or transfer to Rocky Mountain Arsenal (10).

Training

All NBR-CSKT site staff were received training as it related to their assigned round up duties. As well, additional FWS staff from sites assisted in the round up activities. Cooperation and communication was good with the emphasis being on staff safety and animal welfare while conducting a quality viewing/educational event for the public. Much of the NBR staff was new to this event and there was a significant learning curve to address. We managed to successfully execute our stations and observe the event as a whole. We are very prepared for the 2010 round up!

Site Preparation

There were significant improvements made to the corral system in 2009. The electrical system received major upgrades providing for increased demand, safe and dependable service, and generator back up provisions. The corral system was improved by installing and upgrading catwalks, installing an electric motor to the squeeze chute, improving animal safety by modifying the guardrail siding in the chutes. The site was safe, clean and attractive.

De-briefing Session- Lessons Learned

On October 20, 2009 we held an all staff de-briefing session to identify and discuss areas where improvements can be made as they relate to the overall improvement of the round up. Major issues include:

- There was a repeated need voiced to establish a general briefing session for all staff prior to the event. While we conducted a number of departmental meetings related to specific round up activities, no "big picture" meeting was conducted. In 2010 we will hold the all staff meeting as well as a staff/volunteer briefings meeting each morning prior to the daily round up events.
- Assure that we have our protocols up to date and distributed. Specifically protocols regarding personal injury and the handling of dead or injured animals. Two animals had to be destroyed during the round up. Both animal injuries were related to corral/chute design.

- Continue to address design issues related to the configuration of the corral system. Emphasis should be on safe, effective, and efficient handling of animals. Make this system “state of the art”!
- Better address public safety concerns related to vehicle traffic and the movement of school groups to the educational area. Design better traffic flow and increase law enforcement presence.
- The bison were gathered and grouped into pastures above the corrals 3-4 days prior to the round up. They were sorted by 4-wheelers and moved to the corrals by jeep. The result was a less agitated animal to work with. This was a very effective method.
- Improve timing and communication with the both NBR and the Wildlife Health Office in order to arrange for preliminary data needed for round up planning.

(M. Carter 11.5.09)