



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Freedom of  
Information

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

November 16, 2011

Darrell Geist  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
P.O. Box 957  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Dear Mr. Geist:

This is in response to your October 12, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the APHIS Decision Memos for outgoing funds to the State of Montana, Department of Livestock, Bison Operations for fiscal years 2008-2012. You also asked for the environmental analyses pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Your request was received in our office on October 13, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 2012-APHIS-00262.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and located the enclosed two pages of documents. The documents are being provided to you in their entirety without redactions.

For your information, the program has informed this office that the APHIS does not conduct an annual environmental analysis prior to engaging in the cooperative agreement process. Also, APHIS does not consult with USFWS as part of its cooperative agreement process with Montana Department of Livestock.

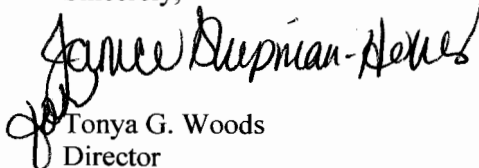
We have provided all of the responsive documents located. However, you are entitled to file an appeal. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received at the following address within 45 days of the date on this letter. Please send to:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401

If you choose to appeal, please refer to FOIA 2012-APHIS-00262 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, please provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted

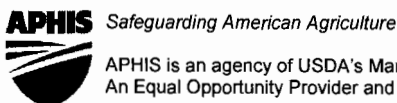
Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, the fees have been waived. Should you have questions, please contact Janice Shipman of this staff at (301) 734-0490.

Sincerely,

  
Tonya G. Woods  
Director

Freedom of Information & Privacy Act  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosures



APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**DECISION MEMO FOR OUTGOING FUNDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2010 PENDING AWARDS**

Agreement NO.: (if assigned) and type: 10-9730-0124-CA

Cooperator Name: **State of Montana, Department of Livestock  
Bison Operations**

Funding Level: **\$525,000.00**

*Answer the following questions for new and continued agreements and for agreements that are revised to increase the funding level. This template pertains to agreements under which funds are transferred out of APHIS including cooperative agreements, grants, and interagency agreements with non-USDA agencies. Delete any information in red when completing the form.*

1. What is the purpose of the agreement? This cooperative agreement will reduce the risk of transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle; maintain the marketability of Montana livestock; preserve the viability of wild bison population; and protect animal and human health by preventing further introduction of brucellosis.
2. How does the purpose/agreement align with the agency's and Secretary's priorities? (Refer to VS and USDA goals by number i.e., VS Goal 1, USDA Goal 6.) Veterinary Services Goals #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 – also USDA Goal #1 and #2.
3. How is the agreement accomplishing its activities to achieve the results as stated in the agreement? The cooperative agreement funding will allow the Montana Department of Livestock to work to prevent transmission of *Brucella abortus* from brucellosis infected bison to livestock in the Greater Yellowstone area; allows the implementation of the Interagency Bison Management plan; and prevents the further introduction of brucellosis into the State of Montana due to infected bison from Yellowstone National Park.
4. Is the same amount of funding needed this year as last year to accomplish the goals in the agreement? (Describe how you arrived at this conclusion?) Yes - We have worked closely with the MDOL, APHIS-VS, the livestock industry and producers in Montana. Ongoing work is required to prevent the further introduction and spread of brucellosis. (Funds reduced from \$660,000 in FY2009 to \$525,000 plus \$75,000 for bison hauling in FY10)
5. What performance information do you use to track accomplishments? Quarterly Reports, meetings with State Veterinarian. Additional meeting with the State Veterinarian - and staff when necessary.

**SIGNATURES:**

Submitting officials:

ADODR:



Agreements Specialist:



Approving official:

Deputy Administrator (or designee):



MAR 26 2010

Upon final signature, provide a copy of this approval to your agreements specialist for inclusion in the official file and the APHIS Cost Management System.

**DECISION MEMO FOR OUTGOING FUNDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2011 PENDING AWARDS**

Agreement NO.: (if assigned) and type: 11-9730-2087 -CA Brucellosis

Cooperator Name: State of Montana, Department of Livestock  
Brucellosis

Funding Level: \$751,000.00

1. What is the purpose of the agreement? This cooperative agreement will reduce the risk of transmission of brucellosis from infected wildlife (bison and elk) to cattle; maintain the marketability of Montana livestock; preserve the viability of wild bison and elk populations; and protect animal and human health by preventing further introduction of brucellosis.
2. How does the purpose/agreement align with the agency's and Secretary's priorities? Veterinary Services Goals #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 – also USDA Goal #1 and #2.
3. How is the agreement accomplishing its activities to achieve the results as stated in the agreement? The cooperative agreement funding will allow the Montana Department of Livestock to work to prevent transmission of *Brucella abortus* and prevent the further introduction of brucellosis into the State of Montana.
4. Is the same amount of funding needed this year as last year to accomplish the goals in the agreement? New agreement for brucellosis.
5. What performance information do you use to track accomplishments? Quarterly Reports, meetings with State Veterinarian. Additional meeting with the State Veterinarian - and staff when necessary.

**SIGNATURES:**

**Submitting officials:**

ADODR:

 8/8/11

Agreements Specialist:



**Approving official:**

Deputy Administrator (or designee):

  
Acting RD

AUG 09 2011

Upon final signature, provide a copy of this approval to your agreements specialist for inclusion in the official file and the APHIS Cost Management System.