



Riding Mountain National Park Wildlife Health Program 2008

Doug Bergeson, Todd Shury, Tim Sallows



Manitoba TB management team receives award

□ Ceremony in Gatineau, QC recognizes team for eradicating Bovine Tuberculosis

The Manitoba Bovine Tuberculosis Management Team was honoured by The Public Service of Canada Public Service Award of Excellence at a ceremony held on Thursday, June 14 in Gatineau, QC.

This award recognizes employees who have demonstrated excellence in serving Canadians, while reflecting the values, ethics and priorities of the federal public service, including the renewal of the Public Service. A total of 30 individuals and teams were honoured.

"Your accomplishments, either as an individual or as part of a team, demonstrate the importance of the work that public servants do on behalf of the government and the people of Canada," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in his message addressed to award recipients. "This award recognizes the best of the Public Service today and sets the standard for what it can and must be in the years ahead."

Thanks to the Manitoba Bovine Tuberculosis Management Team, all livestock in Canada is now classified as free of bovine tuberculosis (TB). In September 2006, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency declared the area



From left, Alan Latourelle - Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada, Paul Tarleton - Resource Conservation Manager, Doug Bergeson - Conservation Biologist, Greg Fenton - Superintendent, Kim Durnin - Communications Officer, Tim Sallows - Resource Conservation Technician, Ken Kingdon - Wildlife Disease Program Coordinator, Todd Shury - Parks Canada Veterinarian (National Office), Steven Woodley - Parks Canada Ecologist (National Office), and Mike Wong - Parks Canada Ecologist (National Office)

around Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park free of bovine TB, the only region of the country that had been without this status.

Areas without bovine TB-free status face challenges such as extensive disease

testing, restrictions on animal movements to other areas of Canada, and extra requirements when exporting animals to other countries. Yet all that has changed for the farms around Manitoba's Riding Mountain National

Park. Cattle and livestock producers across Canada, residents of the Riding Mountain region and consumers are reassured knowing that bovine tuberculosis has been eliminated from Canada's cattle herds.

The members of the Manitoba Bovine Tuberculosis Management Team successfully designed and implemented TB control measures for the wildlife and livestock herds in the Riding Mountain area in collaboration with the

Province of Manitoba. In doing so, they were instrumental in ensuring the health and safety of the cattle industry in Canada.

The Manitoba Bovine Tuberculosis Management Team consisted of employees from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Parks Canada. Team members included: David E.G. Bates, Lynn Bates, Doug Bergeson, Rick Dryden, Kim Durnin, Greg Fenton, Robert H. Keffen, Ken Kingdon, Maria A.B. Koller-Jones, George Luterbach, Brian Manns, Tim Sallows, Todd K. Shury, Theodore W. Shwaluk, Paul Tarleton, and Stephen J. Woodley.

The Public Service of Canada is an important vital institution for Canadians. In their day-to-day work, public servants are privileged to have a direct impact on the quality of Canadians' lives and on the way that Canada shapes its future.

News Tips Welcome

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Cattle producers call for elk cull

❑ *Herd destroyed near Grandview as a result of positive TB test*

By CATE WATROUS

South Mountain Press

"It really is a tragic story," said Ray Armbruster referring to the cattle herd that was destroyed near Grandview as a result of a positive Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) test in one of its cows last week. "There are no winners here," he said.

Armbruster is a director with the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (MCPA). He also runs a cattle operation in the Birdtail Valley north of Rossburn. Ray and his wife, Susan, know the details of this story all too well. Back in 1997, their cattle herd was found to be infected with TB and had to be destroyed. All the animals on their farm that had contact with the cattle had to be put down as well, including their horses and pets. It was devastating.

Even before this happened on his farm, Armbruster had been

concerned about the possibility of disease spreading from nearby Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) to neighbouring farms.

The elk and white tailed deer (WTD) in the western part of RMNP have been found to be a disease reservoir of infection that can spread to cattle herds that border the park. The organism that causes bovine TB can pass back and forth between the species when infected bodily material such as saliva, urine, and manure is transferred directly from one animal to another, or indirectly as when an animal feeds on infected hay or grain.

In August 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) instituted a ban on cattle imports from the vicinity around RMNP due to the num-

**"I'm frustrated.
They're spending
hundreds of thousands
of dollars to accomplish
absolutely nothing."**

*-Glen Campbell, MCPA director
on Parks Canada*

ber of positive TB tests in herds in the area. This led to the implementation of the Manitoba Bovine TB Management Program prepared by representatives from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), MAFRI, Parks Canada, and Manitoba Conservation, in consultation with MCPA and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. It was not until the fall of 2006 that the area around RMNP finally regained its TB-free status and exports to the

U.S. were allowed to resume.

Manitoba's TB-Free status is not expected to be affected by the latest findings, but trading partners, specifically the U.S., may require CFIA to step up TB testing. Under CFIA's enhanced surveillance program, livestock herds located in the Riding Mountain Eradication Area (RMEA) already undergo periodic testing for bovine TB. The infected cow was in a herd of 240 cattle, which was among the approximately 200 herds scheduled for testing during this season. The last finding of bovine TB in Manitoba occurred in March 2004.

One of the main strategies of the Manitoba Bovine TB Management Program is to minimize wildlife-livestock interactions, as well as unnatural elk herding behaviour that occurs where they feed on hay bales and other

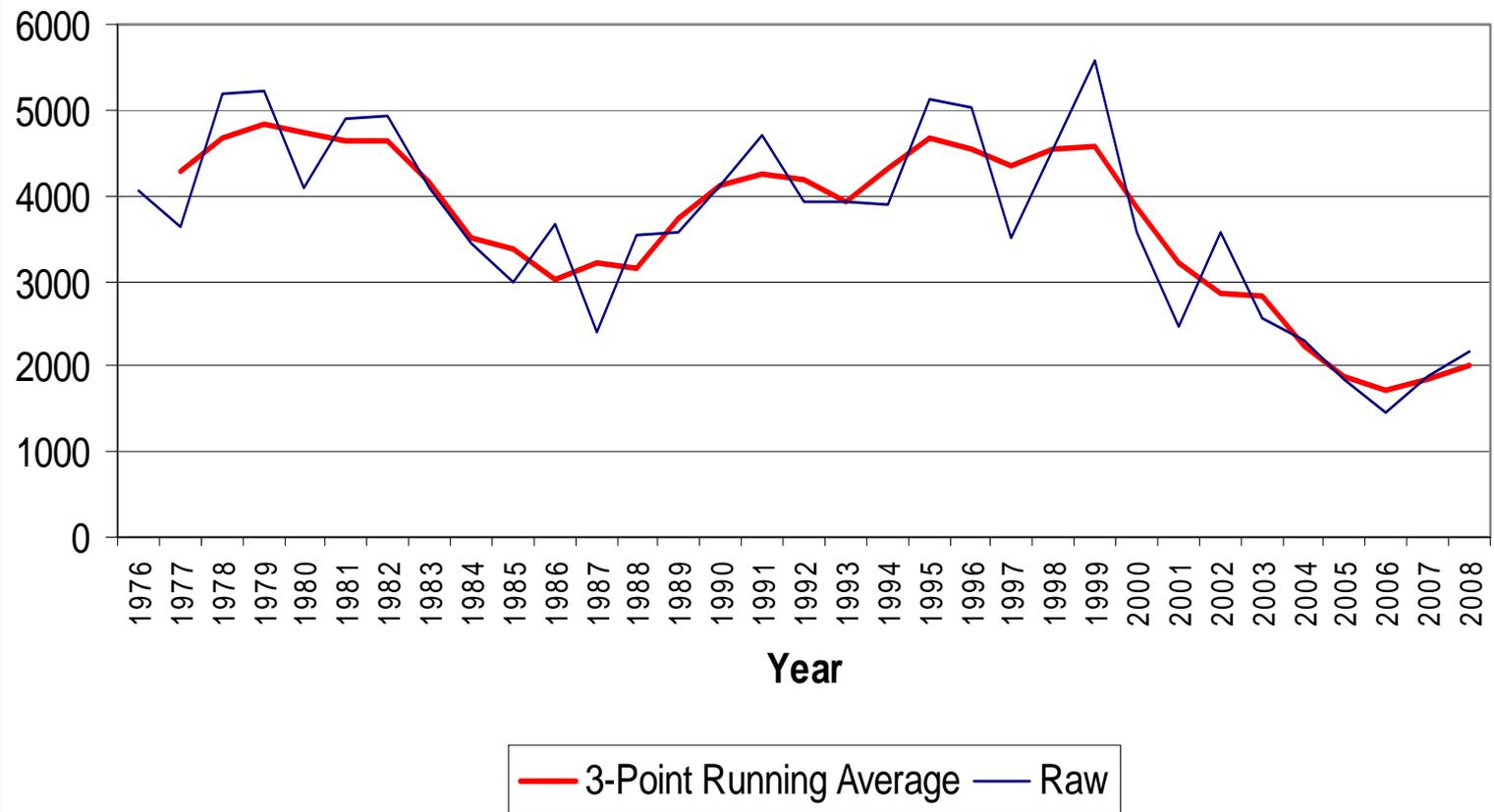
See "Producers" on page 2

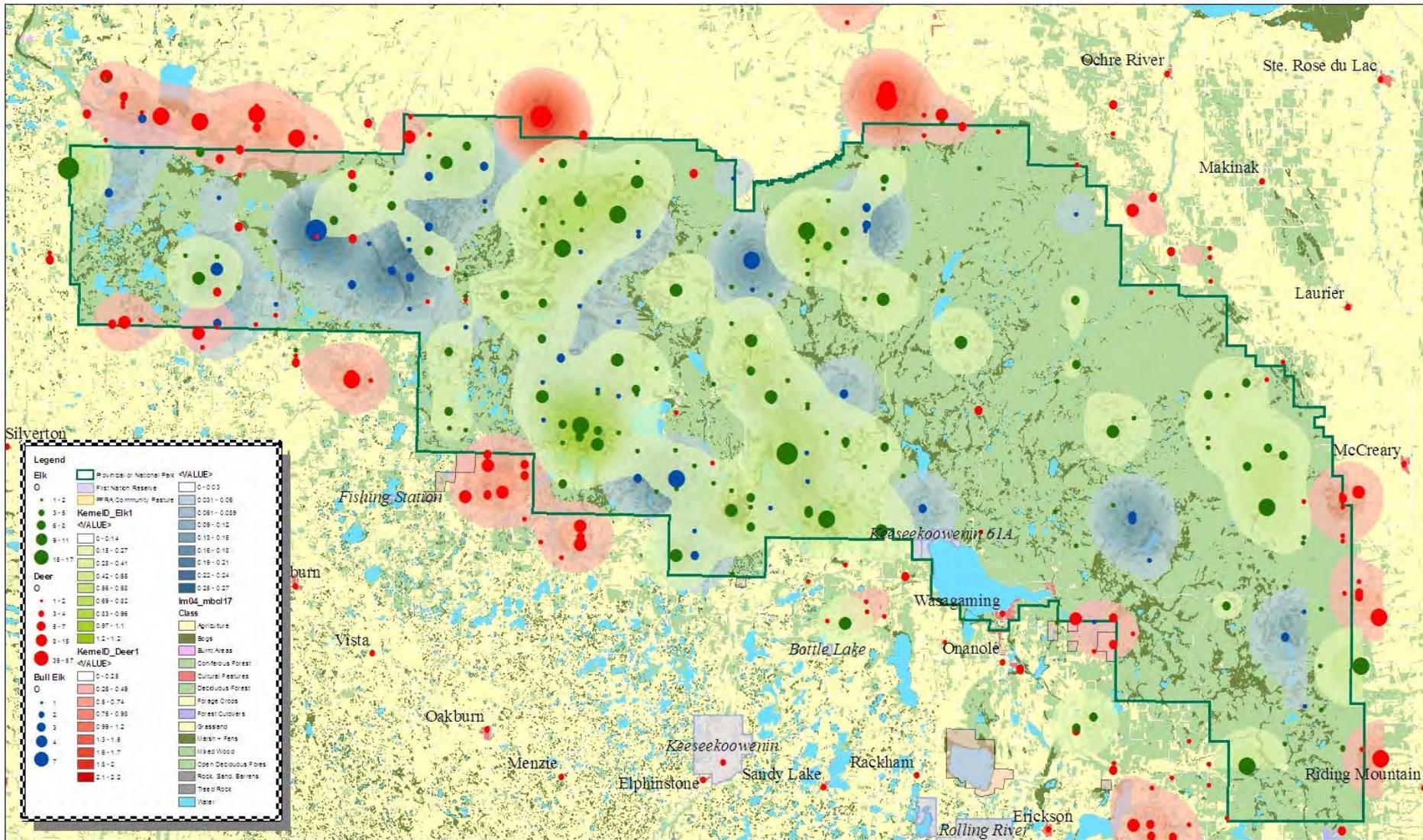


Objectives

- Surveillance - geographic distribution of bovine TB in the regional elk/deer and cattle populations
- Research - contact rate study
- Prevention - barrier fencing
- Prevention - enforcement of feeding and baiting regulations
- Control - through hunting and test and removal of suspect elk/deer and cattle

RMNP Elk Population Running Average of Population Estimate





RMNP Wildlife Lab

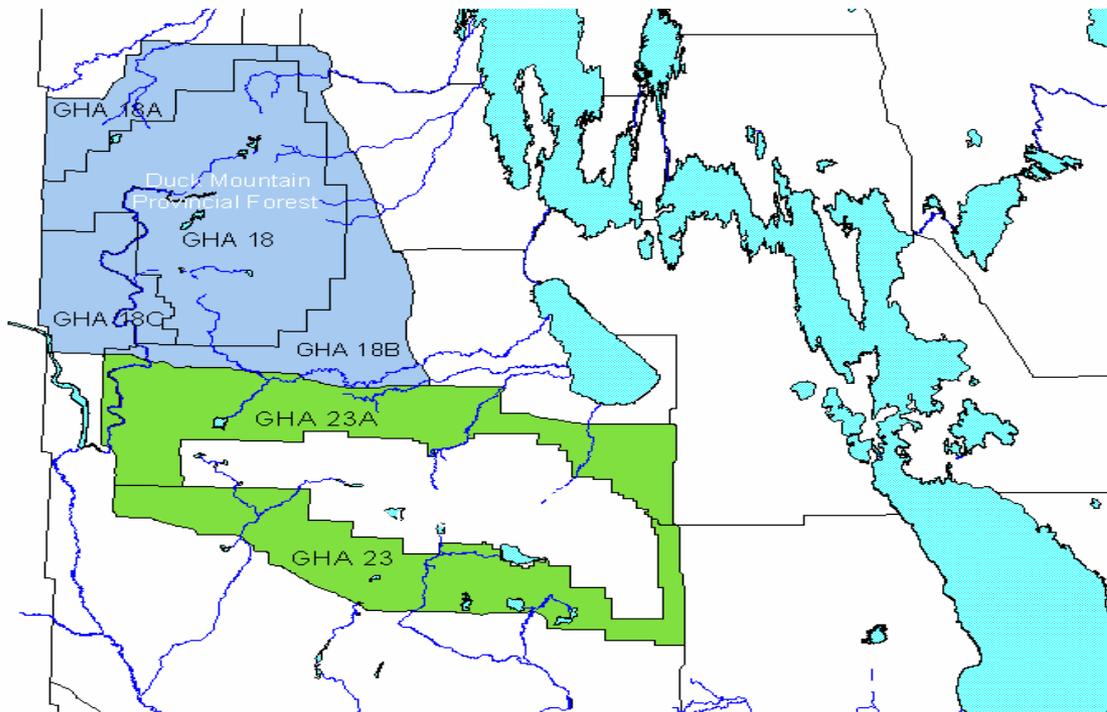
Hunter harvested samples
(head and lungs)

-135 Elk
(Total of ~ 3000 Elk)

-557 Deer
(Total of ~ 5500 Deer)



BOVINE TB MONITORING PROGRAM AREAS



-  Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area
-  Duck Mountain TB Surveillance Area



Capture and Blood Test Program

Elk

152 elk blood tested

-99 west RMNP (63 bulls, 36 cows)

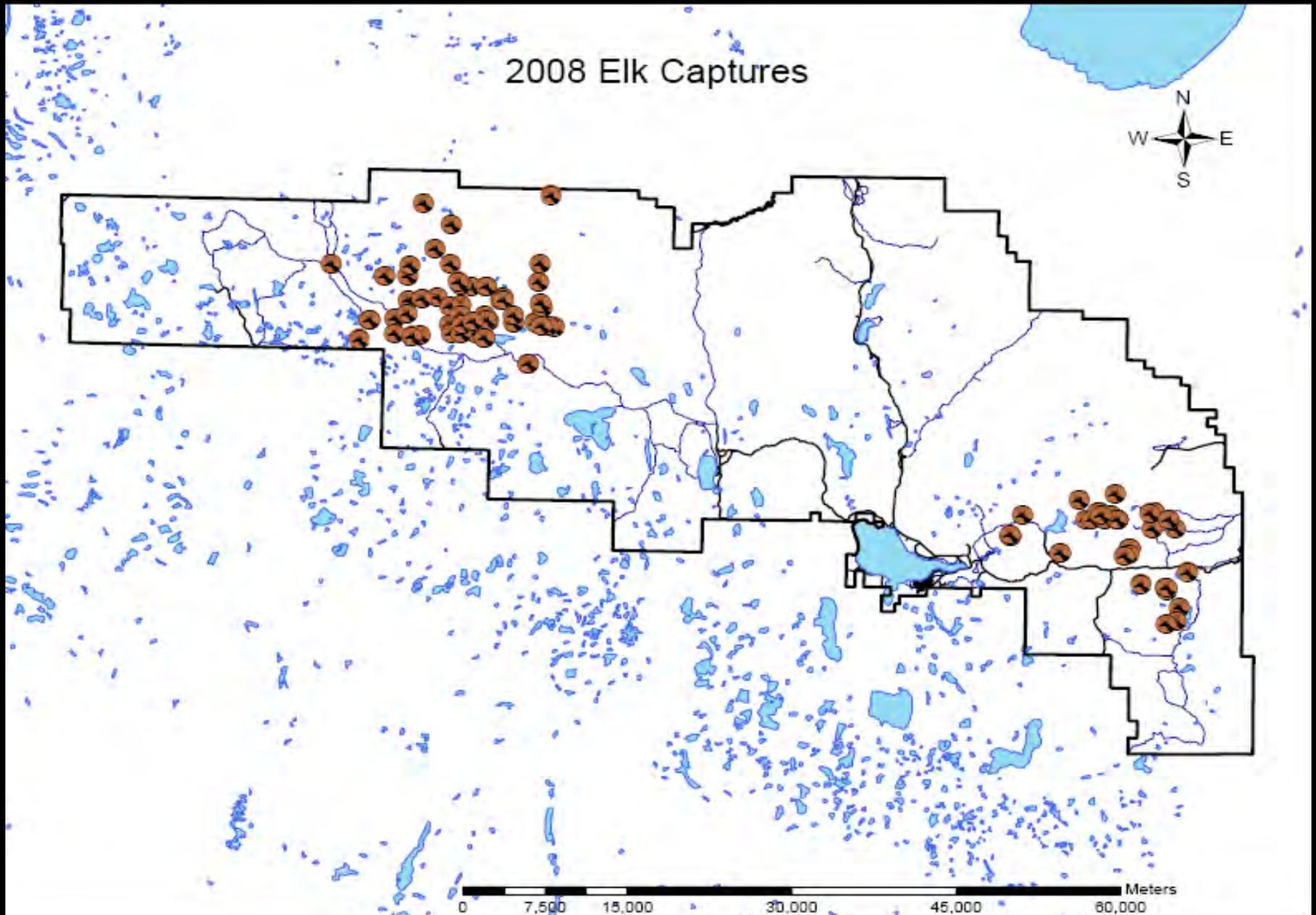
-53 east RMNP (26 bulls, 27 cows)

Deer

-59 WTD in RMNP
north Birdtail (29, 7
males) Grandview area
(30, 8 males)



2008 Elk Captures



Blood Test Results

Elk

LST – 27/150 (2 unfit)

FPA – 17/152

Rapid – 7/152

Deer

LST – 5/59

FPA – 1/59

Rapid – 2/59

Elk/Deer Removals and Culture Results

Elk

-35 (11 cows 19 bulls west,
1 cow, 4 bulls east)

Culture positive - 5 elk (4
bulls, 1 cow all west RMNP)

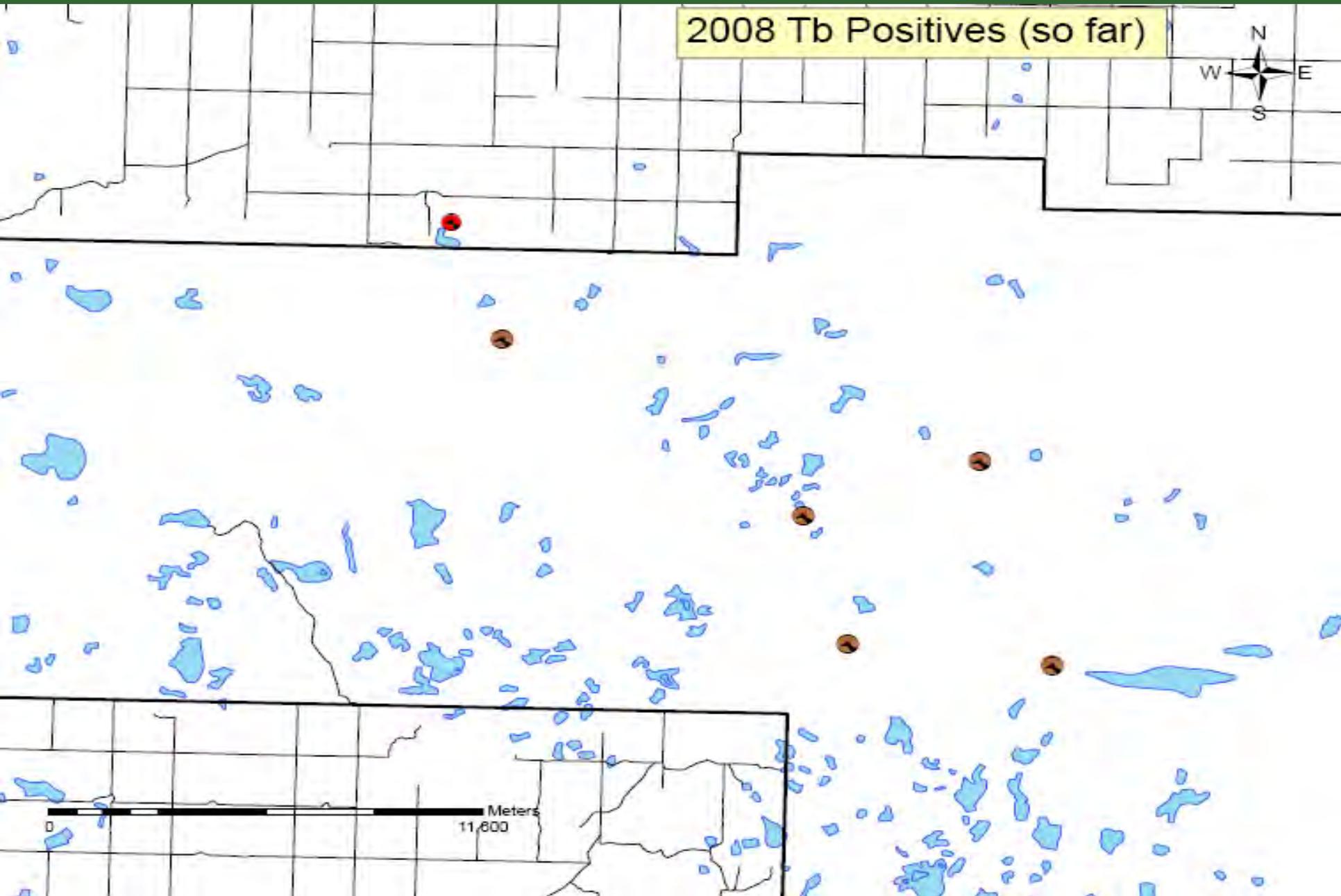
Deer

- 8 (7 does, 1 buck)

Culture positive - 1 deer



2008 Tb Positives (so far)



Bovine TB Positive Elk - Deer

Total 40 Elk

- Blood Test – 28 / 802
- Hunter harvest – 9 / 3000
- Other – 3

22 Bulls, 18 Cows

Total 8 Deer

- Hunter Killed 4 / 5500
- 2004 deer removal – 2 / 225
- Blood test 2 / 143

7 Bucks, 1 Doe

Age/Sex of Positive Elk - Deer

Elk

31 - 3+ yrs (12 cows, 19
bulls)

9 - < 3 yrs (6 cows, 3 bulls)

Deer

7 - 3+ yrs (7 bucks)

1 - < 3 yrs (doe)



Apparent Prevalence Rates

Elk

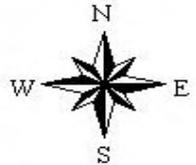
- Hunter harvest 9 / 3000 < 1%
- Blood test 28 / 802 ~ 4%
- Blood test West RMNP Region 28 / 474 ~ 6%
- Other (3)

Deer

- Hunter harvest 4 / 5500 < 1%
- Special harvest 2 / 225 ~ 1%
- Blood test 2/143 ~ 1%

Duck Mountain
Provincial Forest

Bovine TB Culture Positive Animals Riding Mountain Area



GHA 23A

Riding Mountain National Park

GHA 23

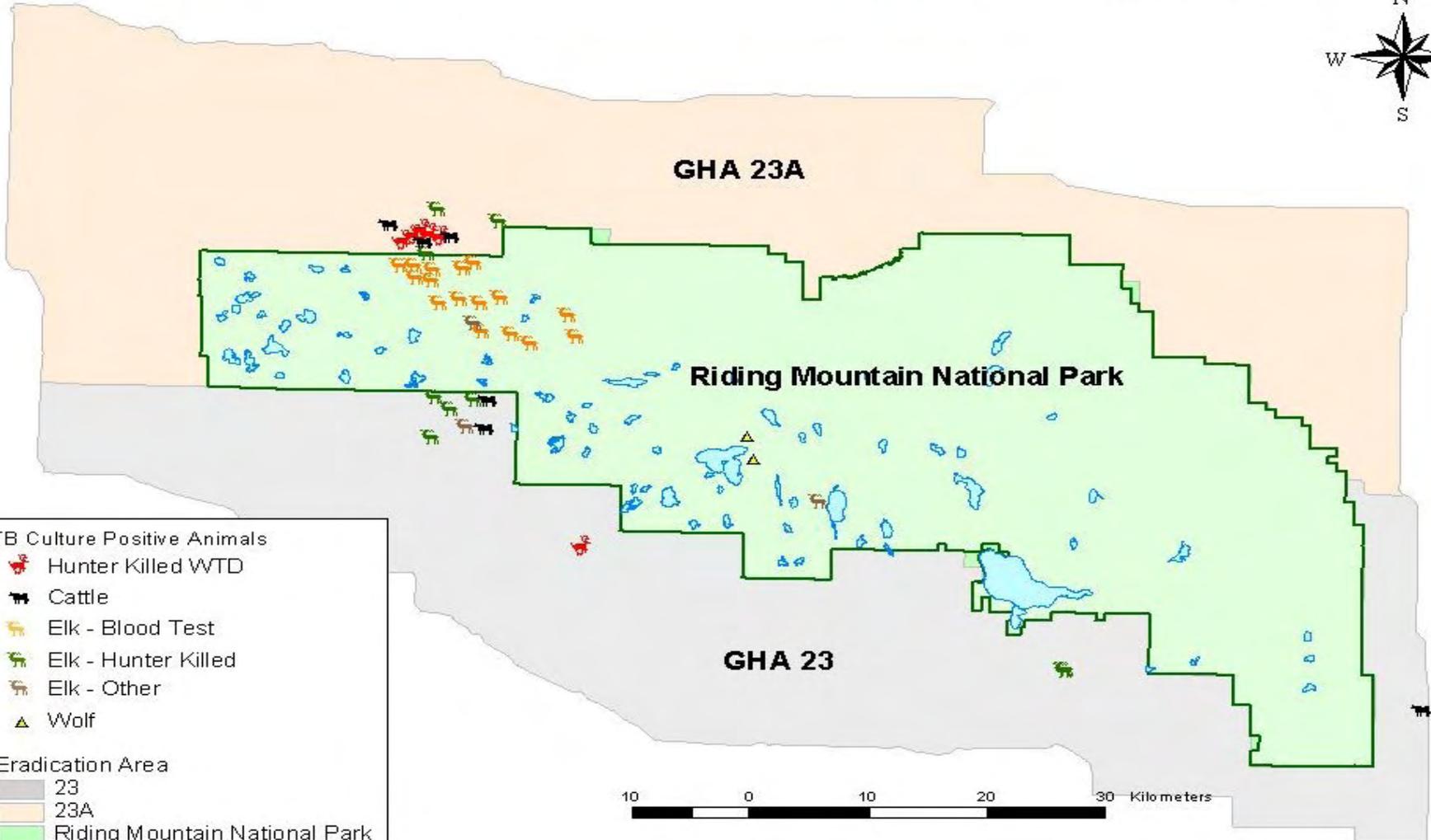
TB Culture Positive Animals

-  Hunter Killed WTD
-  Cattle
-  Elk - Blood Test
-  Elk - Hunter Killed
-  Elk - Other
-  Wolf

Eradication Area

-  23
-  23A
-  Riding Mountain National Park

10 0 10 20 30 Kilometers



What is Next?

- Determined geographic extent
- Approximation of prevalence rate consistent
- Disease continues to be found in the west RMNP area
- Identification of a RMNP Elk/Deer Control Area (west), Test and Remove Area (central) and surveillance area (east)