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First name: Patricia

Last name: Schmidt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Leading Agency:

I have concerns about the statement made on page 106 of the EIS under Section 3.3.2.2 that says, "no measurements of prion disease have been made from soil in the Dell Creek or Forest Park feedgrounds". On page 105 in the EIS, it is noted that "soil is introduced to disease-carrying prions from infected cervids through urine, saliva, fecal matter, and decomposition of deceased, infected animals (Miller et al. 2004; Gregori et al. 2008; Spickler 2016; Somerville et al. 2019)". On September 29, 2022, and October 3, 2022, each feedgrain area was measured for soil compaction, soil loss, and amount of detrimental soil disturbance. It seems like that would have been a good opportunity to check for prions also. I think it would benefit the Proposed Action as well as the three alternatives, Phase Out (PO), Emergency Feeding (EF) and No Special Use (NF), if soil testing was done in both Dell Creek and Forest Park feedgrounds to help curtail the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and brucellosis from the infected elk herds.