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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the permits for the Dell Creek and Forest Park elk feedgrounds. Wintertime elk feeding in Western Wyoming is important to maintaining the elk population and reducing the exposure of cattle to brucellosis. I support the Forest Service allowing the continued use of USFS lands for the winter feeding of elk at Forest Park and Dell Creek. I support issuing a long term permit (20 years or more) in order to provide stability and consistency in the WGFD elk feeding program at these locations.

The traditional elk winter range in Western Wyoming no longer exists. It has been replaced with communities. The valley floors are occupied by towns and subdivisions. The foothills and lower elevation range country are covered with roads and houses. Ceasing to provide supplemental winter feed to elk will result in the starvation death of an unacceptable number of elk. The elk that don't starve will end up in the haystacks of horse owners and ranchers and on the cattle feedlines with the potential to spread brucellosis to the livestock.

The transmission rates of CWD in elk fed on feedgrounds is unknown. I believe that the loss of elk due to starvation of non-fed elk will exceed the consequences of CWD in elk that are provided supplemental feed at feedgrounds.