

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

*Held at: State Capital, Room 152
Helena, MT*

*Host: Montana Board of Livestock
Contact: Steve Merritt (406) 444-9431*

Date: Aug 11/12, 2009

IBMP Principal Representatives

Jerry Diemer—Associate Regional Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Mary Erickson—Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest

Pat Flowers—Region 3 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Suzanne Lewis—Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Christian Mackay—Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski—State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Background

The Federal and State Records of Decision in December 2000 for the Long-Term Interagency Bison Management Plan for Montana and Yellowstone National Park (IBMP) were the result of extensive deliberation and legal proceedings that yielded an unprecedented agreement amongst federal-state agencies (National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Montana Department of Livestock, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks). Under the IBMP, these agencies harness their respective skills and operational resources to work cooperatively within an adaptive management framework to conserve a wild, free-ranging bison population while concurrently protecting against transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle.

Partner agencies are committed to the adaptive management framework of the IBMP, as signified by their signing and publication of an adaptive management plan on December 18, 2008. The plan was the result of a series of seven, two-day working meetings that occurred between August and December, 2008.

The 2009 meetings allow the partners to continue progress toward meeting their shared goal of conserving a wild-free-ranging bison population while concurrently protecting against transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle. To accomplish this goal the partners will meet three times (Apr, Aug, Nov) in 2009 in public forum to consider prevailing conditions and review collected data, and then develop and apply short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP.

Tuesday, August 11th

1:00 PM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	Welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?) • Timeline—where we've been, where we are going
1:10	As noted	Partner briefings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on MT Stockgrowers suit regarding May 15th date for Horse Butte (Christian M) • Update on Tuesday, Aug 4 meeting in Billings regarding split state status (Marty Z)
1:20	Mel Frost	Web site (www.ibmp.info) status update Short term opportunities for new adaptive management techniques (~15 min each topic)
1:30	As noted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Habitat (Lisa S and Technical Committee) • Update from MFWP on status of quarantined animals and the RFP for transfer of animals (Pat F) • Transfer of surplus animals; what are the broader opportunities for relocation (Jerry D, Marty Z)
2:15	Pat F / Sam S	Status update on developing plan for RTR Working Group
2:30	***	<i>Break</i>
2:45	Lyndsay Cole	Concept paper describing progress in creating Citizen's Working Group
3:15	Public	Public Comment on Public Working Group concept paper
3:45	***	<i>Break</i>
3:55	Glenn P, PJ White	Begin Annual Report Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New bison/brucellosis science as required per adaptive management plan
4:10	PJ White	DRAFT Annual Report Overview
4:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	***	<i>Adjourn</i>

Wednesday, August 12th

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	Abbreviated welcome , overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone new from yesterday; recap of yesterday; set today's goals
8:40	Glenn Plumb	Present potential framework/process for finalizing annual report and separately reviewing / discussing adaptive management recommendations
9:20	YNP lead	Begin review of adaptive management recommendations
10:20	***	<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
10:30	YNP lead	Continue review of adaptive management recommendations
11:20	All Partners	Planning for Nov 9, 10 IBMP meetings (where, when, lead, topics, action items) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reason for date selection: AHA meeting is in late October so that time booked for many; bison hunt starts Nov 15; Veterans' Day holiday Nov 11; DOL will be the new lead agency as of Nov 1
11:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	***	<i>Adjourn</i>