

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

December 7-8, 2010

Chico Hot Springs; Pray, MT

2010/11 Lead Agency: Gallatin National Forest

Meeting Host: Gallatin National Forest
Contact: Marna Daley 406.587.6701

Chico contact info:

*Chico Hot Springs
and Day Spa
#1 Old Chico Road
Pray, Montana
1-800-468-9232 or
406-333-4933*

IBMP Signatory Representatives

Mary Erickson—Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest

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

Colin Campbell—Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Christian Mackay—Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock

Brian McCluskey—Director, Veterinary Services, W. Region Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Marty Zaluski—State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Tribal Representatives

Brooklyn Baptiste—Nez Perce Tribe

Ervin Carlson—Interagency Tribal Bison Council

Tom McDonald—Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe

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. Tribal members were invited to join the deliberative table beginning at the November 2009 Partner meeting.

The 2010/11 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 plan to meet several times in 2010/11 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, December 7th

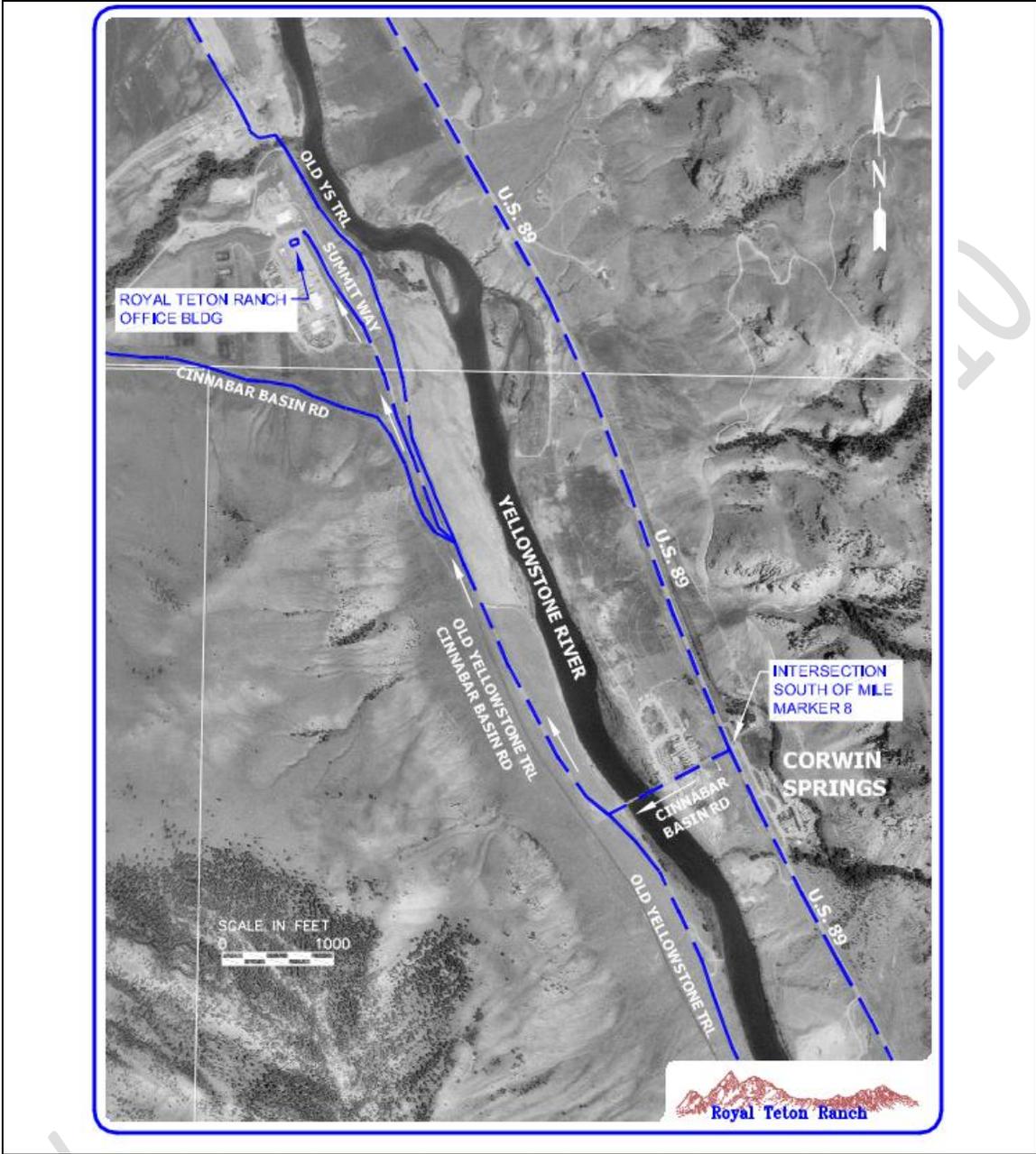
North side field tour 10:00—3:00 (tour begins and ends at Royal Teton Ranch, see map on following page)

- Field tour will be facilitated by the Forest Service.
- Public comment to occur at specific stops (within time constraints) and following the field tour.
- There will be a ½ hour partner discussion at the end of the field tour to share with each other and the general public what was learned during the field trip to local landowners on the North Side. Possible discussion topics: Process of the day; which landowners visited; what locations on the ground; how are their operations impacted by IBMP management; how do their operations impact bison; what would landowner like to see changed; what possible areas (e.g., turn out time, fencing) might the landowner be willing to work with Partners on.

North Side Tour Route Draft Itinerary

10:00 am	Meet at Royal Teton Ranch (see map on following page for location)
10:30 am	Park Line – Reese Creek Look at Hoppe lease on Stermitz property Little Trail Creek
11:00 am	Stephens Creek Capture Facility Tim Reid
12:00 pm	Eagle Creek Campground corrals
1:00 pm	Brogan’s – Quarantine Facility
1:30 pm	Fish, Wildlife & Parks Game Check Station Allotments Cutler Meadow
2:00 pm	Royal Teton Ranch

>> **IMPORTANT:** There will be no dinner service available at Chico on the evening of December 7. <<



Wednesday, December 8th

Maps to be available at each meeting per Nov09 agreement: YNP—IBMP zones; APHIS—land ownership; MFWP—elk range

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <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
8:45	Marty	Marty—status and signing of final report for 2010 (signing can take place over morning break); date of posting to IBMP.info
8:50	Matt Skoglund, Ariel Overstreet CWG Committee Members	Citizens Working Group (CWG) Report and IBMP Partner discussion of group's charge and how they will function with IBMP agencies
9:50	All	Citizens Working Group interaction opportunity for Partners to hear specific thoughts on how a CWG could/could not help tackle adaptive management changes.
10:20	***	<i>Break (here or as called for by Partners)</i>
10:35	Tech Committee Rick Wallen	<p>Review of adaptive management (AM) suggestions for 2010/11 season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions partners have consensus on • Overview of those items without consensus
11:05	IBMP Partners	Sharing Perspectives—an IBMP Partner round robin on those non-consensus adaptive management suggestions; discussion of any opportunities for movement on AM suggestions, potential role of citizen's working group
12:00	***	<i>Lunch (on your own)</i>
1:00	IBMP Partners	AM discussion (continued from above)
3:00	***	<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
3:15	Rick Wallen	<p>Genetics assessment report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christian—Status of letter sent out to County Commissioners on IBMP Partner willingness to attend public meetings held by the counties 2. Brian—update on letter of response sent to Commissioner Malone 3. Brian—Update on the pending APHIS interim rule that will revise the current brucellosis program and on potential of creation of a State/APHIS MOU under the new brucellosis rules 4. Becky—Report out on analysis of data from bull bison 5. Pat—1) get signatures on RTR agreement from CSKT, NP, and GNF special agent; 2) follow up on legal determination of changing haze back date from Apr 15 to May 1 on RTR agreement 6. Pat—Meet with CSKT, NP, Umatilla, Shoban, GNF regarding potential of adding winter/spring west side hunt. Core of hunt starts ~Jan 1. 7. Pat—Complete review of fencing option along the highway (~1 mile) to push bison toward HB & away from S Fk of the Madison; meet w/ fencing contractor to look at directional fencing options. Also, potentially talk with Mike Leahy of Defenders of Wildlife who, in citizen testimony, talked of the development of a new type bison-proof, wildlife friendly fencing. 8. Christian—status of MT Stockgrowers lawsuit regarding May 15th turn back date for Horse Butte 9. Mary, PJ—status of lawsuit from env. orgs & others to stop federal agencies from killing bison 10. Pat—status of transfer of quarantine animals to Turner and pending lawsuit 11. PJ—status of draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination 12. Parked item from August: JS—request to convene Tech Committee to sit down with Landowners and identify AM opportunities based on their constraints
3:45	As noted-- Partner briefings/update /discussion on...	
4:15	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action item / task list planning • Reconsider these items previously parked (?) – 1) Plan winter West Side field trip to occur in Winter of 2011; 2) Possibly revisit GIS layers for migratory paths, consider what was learned at field trip, provide talk at Dec meeting (who?? Tech Comm??); 3) Public safety and bison presentation: Arnie Dood survey; YNP/MFWP protocol created for safety at RTR (Sam Sheppard) • Planning for 2011 meetings (where, when, meeting host?)
4:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5	***	<i>Adjourn</i>

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