

IBMP Briefing Statement

Agency: IBMP Technical Committee

Issue: Review of Adaptive Management changes proposed by all partner agencies.

Date: 8 December 2010

Background:

Technical Committee was tasked to review a list of 33 adaptive management recommendations provided by partner agencies in August and compiled in October, find the recommendations that result in consensus, and prioritize the recommendations that need further discussion.

Adaptive Management Recommendations Review:

- 17 Adaptive Management Recommendations are ready for moving forward with
- 4 additional Recommendations need further discussion by the Technical Committee to resolve
- 13 Recommendations need further discussion by the managers to resolve whether adaptive management adjustments should be implemented. These recommendations fall in to the following 9 issues to discuss.
 - Limiting bison occupancy in the Flats south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake
 - Limiting bison occupancy on the Horse Butte Peninsula
 - Increasing tolerance for bison to occupy areas in close proximity to the conservation area boundary
 - Evaluation and adjustment of management zone boundaries
 - Strategic fencing near cattle occupied lands
 - Transfer of surplus bison to quarantine facilities
 - Completion of statewide bison management plan
 - Population abundance thresholds
 - Strategies for reducing brucellosis prevalence

Committee:

Rick Wallen, Yellowstone National Park, Julie Cunningham Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Dr. Marty Zaluski, Montana Department of Livestock, Jim Stone, Intertribal Buffalo Council, Stephanie Gillan, CSKT, Becky Frey, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Keith Lawrence, Nez Perce Tribe, Jodie Canfield, Gallatin National Forest.

5 broad topics for AM review

1. Bison restoration / relocation to locations outside the Park
2. Increase available habitat
3. Population modulation / limits
4. Brucellosis prevalence reduction
5. (Develop bison strategies that are consistent with knowledge of prevalence of brucellosis in elk)

Proposal—Schedule early JAN Partner call w/
two agenda items based DEC 8 Partner
discussion:

- (1) Talking about opportunities **this season** that are available for mitigation to decrease #s sent to slaughter from assigned team by _____.
- (2) Assignment on the four broad area opportunities with expected response from assigned team by _____.

1) **Bison restoration / relocation to locations outside the Park**
Team

2) **Increase available habitat**
Team

3) **Population modulation / limits**
Team

4) **Brucellosis prevalence reduction**
Team

>>> **Develop bison strategies that are consistent with knowledge of prevalence of brucellosis in elk <<< considered / informs #1-4 discussion**