

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

May 17-18, 2011

C'Mon Inn; Bozeman, MT

2010/11 Lead Agency: Gallatin National Forest
Meeting Host: Gallatin National Forest
Contact: Marna Daley 406.587.6701

Mary Erickson—Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest
Pat Flowers—Region 3 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Dan Wenk—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
Brooklyn Baptiste—Nez Perce Tribe
Ervin Carlson—Interagency Tribal Bison Council
Tom McDonald—Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe

C'Mon Inn
contact info:
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1-866-782-2717

(a map is provided at the end of this agenda)

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, May 17th

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

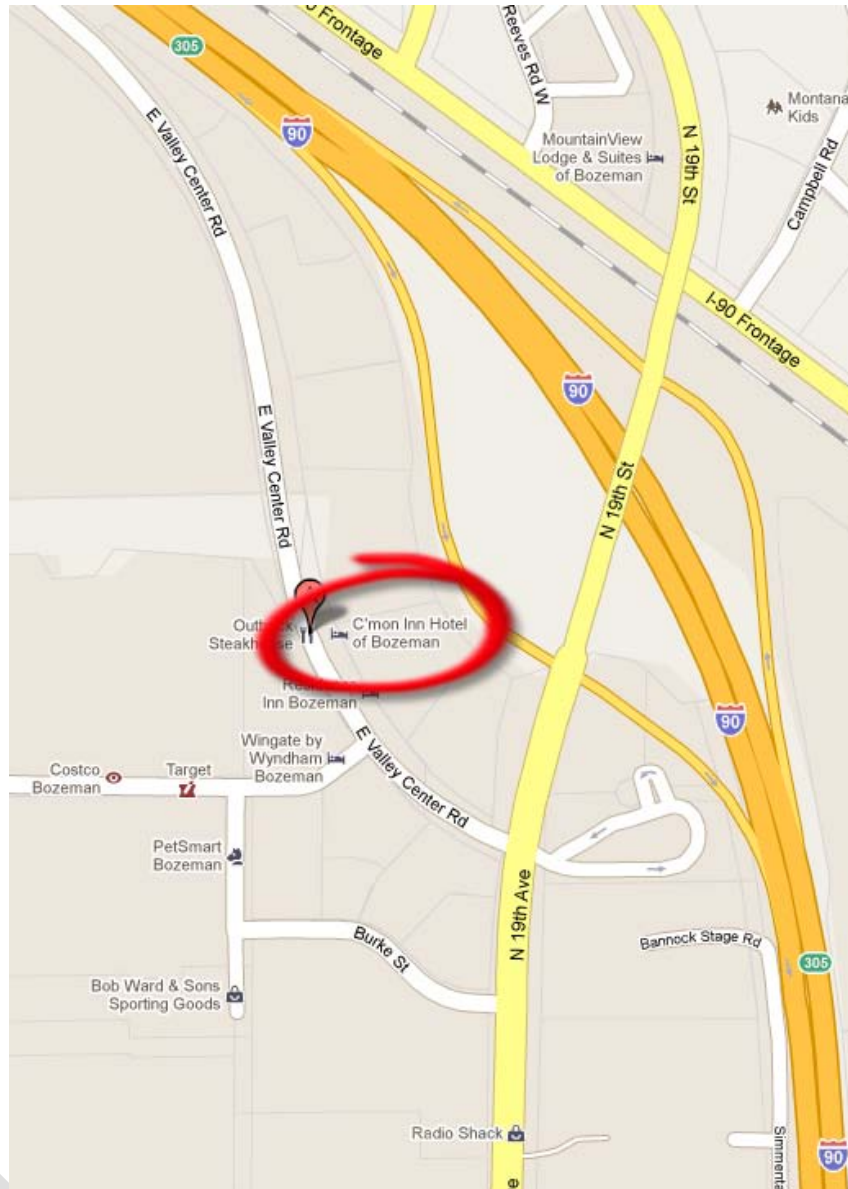
12:00 noon	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?) • Timeline—where we’ve been, where we are going
12:15	Partners as noted	<p>2011 Operating Season</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hunting update State Hunt, Tribal Hunt (FWP/Tribes) 2. Operations Overview : North Side (YNP, DOL, FWP) 3. Operations Overview : West Side (YNP, DOL, FWP)
1:00	Partners as noted	<p>Adaptive Management Changes since December 2010 & current status</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential areas of state land for moving quarantined bison (FWP) 2. Shipment to slaughter injunction (FWP/DoL) 3. Review of Dec2010 Adaptive Management Changes (Rick Wallen/Partners) 4. Increased tolerance area on North side of Park (Partners) 5. Impact of May11 restraining orders against increased tolerance (Partners)
2:00	As noted	<p>Subcommittee reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of sideboards for, and timeline of completion for Adaptive Management (Partners) 2. Reports out by committee chairs (10 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison restoration to other locations in the country (Julie Cunningham & Karen Loveless) • Increasing habitat (Jodie Canfield) • Population modulation & resources vs population (PJ White) • Prevalence reduction (Rick Wallen)
3:00	***	<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
3:15	CSKT, NP, ITBC lead Partners as noted	<p>Process, Procedure, and next steps for Adaptive Management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better clarification of roles, responsibilities of tribal entities (Tribal Partners) 2. Transfer of bison to tribes (Tribal Partners) 3. Process for Adaptive Management Changes (Partners) 4. How AM changes are accomplished (Partners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documentation of changes - creation of a master AM document ○ Public notification ○ Need for NEPA &/or MEPA sufficiency testing? ○ Concurrence requirements / process
4:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5	***	<i>Adjourn</i>

Wednesday, May 18th

830 AM	Scott Bischke	Brief review; introductions of anyone not present on May 17th
8:45	Matt Skoglund, Ariel Overstreet, CWG Members	Presentation followed by open participation discussion regarding Citizens Working Group (CWG) progress to date. As part of the report out, the CWG is requested to respond to two action items from the Dec2011 meeting: (1) CWG to provide an estimate for the number of meetings and facilitation funds CWG expects to require; and (2) CWG to come back to the next IBMP meeting with a recommendation on Partner role at CWG meeting.
10:00	Mary Erickson	Discussion on funding facilitation for CWG
10:15	***	<i>Break (here or as called for by Partners)</i>
10:30	As noted-- Partner briefings/update/ discussion on...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christian—Any response back from letter sent out to County Commissioners on IBMP Partner willingness to attend public meetings held by the counties? 2. Brian—Update on the expected publication of final APHIS rule to revise the current brucellosis program to operate under designated surveillance zones 3. Pat—status of signatures on RTR agreement from CSKT(x), NP, and GNF special agent 4. Mary, PJ—status of lawsuit from env. orgs & others to stop federal agencies from killing bison 5. Pat—status of transfer of quarantine animals to Turner and pending lawsuit 6. PJ—status of draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination 7. PF—Update on Montana legislature bills (SBs 144 (tabled), 148, 174 (tabled) 184, and 207, and HB 214 and 318 (tabled)
11:15	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action item / task list planning • Reconsider parked item list
11:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	***	<i>Adjourn—please travel safely!</i>

These items were parked to potentially address in the future and could be added to this meeting:

- (1) Discussion on whose responsibility is operational quarantine?
- (2) MFWP to sit down with landowners and identify AM opportunities based on their constraints
- (3) Plan winter West Side field trip to occur in winter of 2012.
- (4) NPS to share experience in managing bison interactions with traffic along roadways. Partners to engage with Montana Department of Transportation to initiate a discussion regarding traffic safety in the bison conservation area. A request was also made to include the CWG and/or Buffalo Field Campaign in the presentation with a topic area of “living with bison”. To be considered for April 2011 meeting (action item # 7). Some discussion that this item should be lead by MFWP.
- (5) A request was made by MFWP that the Partners begin talking about conservation easement funding. The Partners agreed and asked that this item be added to the next agenda. A statement was also made that the CWG could be helpful in this realm.



The location of the C'Mon Inn is near the 19th Street interchange with I-90 in Bozeman, Montana (very near Costco). The meeting is on the ground floor, just inside the main door and to your left. For further information on the C'Mon Inn see www.cmoninn.com/midwest-hotel-locations/bozeman/ or call 866-782-2717.