

## Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

---

*August 4, 2011: All day bus tour*

*Aug 5: Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council Chambers, Pablo, MT*

**2010/11 Lead Agency: Gallatin National Forest**

**Meeting Host: Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes**

**Contact: Tom McDonald 406.883.2887**

**Brooklyn Baptiste**—Tribal Chairman, Nez Perce Tribe  
**Earvin Carlson**—President, InterTribal Buffalo Council  
**Mary Erickson**—Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest  
**Pat Flowers**—Region 3 Supervisor, MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks  
**Christian Mackay**—Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock  
**Brian McCluskey**—Director, Veterinary Services, W. Region Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
**Tom McDonald**—Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
**Dan Wenk**—Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park  
**Marty Zaluski**—State Veterinarian, MT Department of Livestock

### **IMPORTANT!**

- Aug 4 will be a full day bus tour of National Bison Range & related CSKT wildlife programs, starting at 9 AM
- Aug 5 will be a full, single day IBMP meeting, from 8 AM to 3 PM.
- The public is invited to attend both the bus tour and the regularly scheduled IBMP meeting.
- Maps for Aug 4 bus trip start and Aug 5 meeting location, as well as possible accommodations, are 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.

NOTE THAT AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY—  
ACTUAL TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON PARTNER INTERACTION NEEDS.

### Thursday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup> (field trip day)

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

8:30 to 9:00 AM	<i>Gather, coffee</i>	<b>Meet at Joe McDonald Fitness Center on the campus of Salish Kootenai College</b> (map provided at the end of this agenda). The CSKT seeks to make the tour as safe as possible for all. As such, we request that anyone (public, IBMP Partners and staff) attending the tour do so on the buses provided by CKST, not in their own cars, to minimize vehicles at pull offs. We will start early due to decreased traffic. (Note: We considered having the tour on Friday but decided against that to avoid heavy weekend traffic.)
9:00	1) <i>Scott Bischke</i> 2) <i>Tom McDonald</i>	<b>1) Welcome; Introductions of all present</b> <b>2) Plan and logistics for the day</b>
9:15	<i>Tony Incashola</i>	<b>Opening prayer</b> – from the Director of the Salish Pend d' Oreille Culture Committee
9:25	<i>Germaine White, Thompson Smith</i>	<b>Q̓̓eyq̓̓ay Brief History of the Tribal Relationship with Bison</b>
10:00	<i>Yamncut</i>	Calling Buffalo Song
10:05	<i>All</i>	Question and answers on the presentations
10:15	<i>Tom McDonald</i>	<b>Bus tour</b> of National Bison Refuge and wildlife over and under passes. Goal is to learn from the CSKT about their methods of fencing and handling bison, to compare and contrast elk and bison fencing, to review how the CKST handle bison safety and movement (particularly highway crossings), and more.
12:30 PM	<b>LUNCH provided for all by the CSKT</b>	
1:30	<i>Tom McDonald</i>	...tour continues
5	<b>Return to Salish Kootenai College and adjourn</b> << Dinner and evening events on your own. Note that the Ronan Pioneer days all week (Wed-Sun). >>	

### Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM	<i>Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present</i>	<b>Welcome, meeting overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions of all present</li> <li>• Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?)</li> <li>• Timeline—where we've been, where we are going</li> </ul>
8:15	<i>E.T. "Bud" Moran</i>	<b>Welcome from the CSKT Tribal Council Chairman</b>
8:30	<i>Partners</i>	<b>Short debrief of field trip from yesterday</b>
8:50	<i>Mike L, Tom M, Jim S, Pat F, Brian M</i>	<b>Partner Operating Procedures (Partner Interaction Protocol?)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day-to-day interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example: phone calls, decision making, meeting process, clarification of roles, responsibilities of tribal entities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How AM changes are accomplished <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example: documentation, public notification, NEPA &amp;/or MEPA sufficiency testing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9:10	<i>As noted</i>	<b>Subcommittee reports</b> Reports out by committee chairs (~10 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bison restoration to other locations in the country (Julie Cunningham &amp; Karen Loveless)</li> </ul>

- Increasing habitat (Jodie Canfield)
- Population modulation & resources vs population (PJ White)
- Prevalence reduction (Rick Wallen)

Each chair was asked to provide (1) a prioritized list of AM opportunities with those that can be done now; subcommittees are empowered to engage Partners before Aug meeting for AM opportunities they feel could be implemented before August; (b) description of overlap points of subcommittees; (c) complete duties as assigned in Feb 7 telecon and follow up notes on the telecon

10:00	<i>Break (here or as called for by Partners)</i>	
10:15	<i>Mary E</i>	<b>Adaptive Management collected history and representation</b>
		<b>Discussion of Proposed May 2011 Adaptive Management Adjustments</b>
10:30	<i>MDOL/YNP discussion leads</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of history of these proposed changes</li> <li>• 14 proposed adaptive management adjustments and NEPA/MEPA sufficiency analysis</li> <li>• MDOL discussion and possible proposed changes</li> </ul>
12:00	<i>LUNCH provided for all by the CSKT</i>	
		<b>Partner briefings/update/discussion on...</b>
1:00 PM	<i>As noted</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary—follow up with Park County Commissioner Malone regarding past Partner responses to his questions</li> <li>2. Mary, PJ—status of lawsuit from environmental orgs &amp; others to stop federal agencies from killing bison; also on Alliance for Wild Rockies suit against hazing</li> <li>3. Brian—Any update on the expected publication of final APHIS rule to revise the current brucellosis program to operate under designated surveillance zones</li> <li>4. Pat—status of signatures on RTR agreement; has GNF special agent signed?</li> <li>5. Pat—status of transfer of quarantine animals to Turner and pending lawsuit</li> <li>6. PJ, Jim—Transfer of bison to tribes (YNP/ITBC past plan laying out a possible method of transfer of bison to tribe, including issues of operations, funding, and social/political concerns [for the latter, discussion of social issues associated with quarantine, transfer, and receiving of bison].)</li> </ol>
		<b>Presentation followed by open participation discussion regarding Citizens Working Group (CWG) progress to date.</b> As part of the report out, the CWG is requested to respond to two action items from the May2011 meeting: (1) CWG begin to make inquiries about funding for future facilitation through grants or NGOs, and report back on progress at the August meeting; and (2) CWG to provide lead Partner GNF a final verification of the CWG schedule and number of meetings planned.
1:15	<i>Matt Skoglund, Ariel Overstreet, CWG Members</i>	<p>Action item from May meeting for CWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GNF will lead the Partner effort to develop funding for the CWG through the September meeting. Upon completion of the task, GNF will provide the CWG verification of the existence of funding for their meetings through the Sep2011 meeting.</li> <li>• All Partners to consider ability to help fund Citizen Working Group through Jan 2012. Initial \$10k funded through May 2011. Meetings cost ~\$2k per meeting. YNP committed to funding the June CWG meeting. Thus meetings in Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan are still unfunded, requiring \$14,000 more.</li> </ul>
2:15	<i>Partners</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Action item / task list planning</b>, including for             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fall Gardner-based field trip—date (current date Sep 21 with backup date of Oct 25), goal of field trip; who leads; logistics planning (create team?)</li> <li>b. Planning for annual report</li> <li>c. Next meeting: Nov 30-Dec 1 Chico Hot Springs                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Action item list from this meeting</li> <li>ii. Consider parked item list: any items desired items to add for Nov2011 meeting?</li> <li>iii. Other?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
2:30	<i>Public</i>	<b>Public comment period</b> (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
3:00	<i>Adjourn—please travel safely!</i>	

## Maps and information

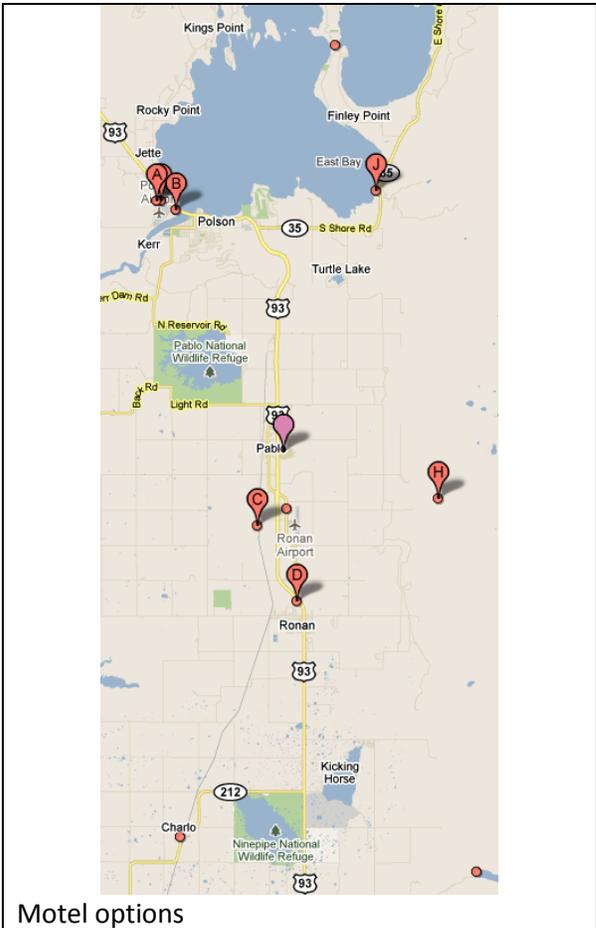
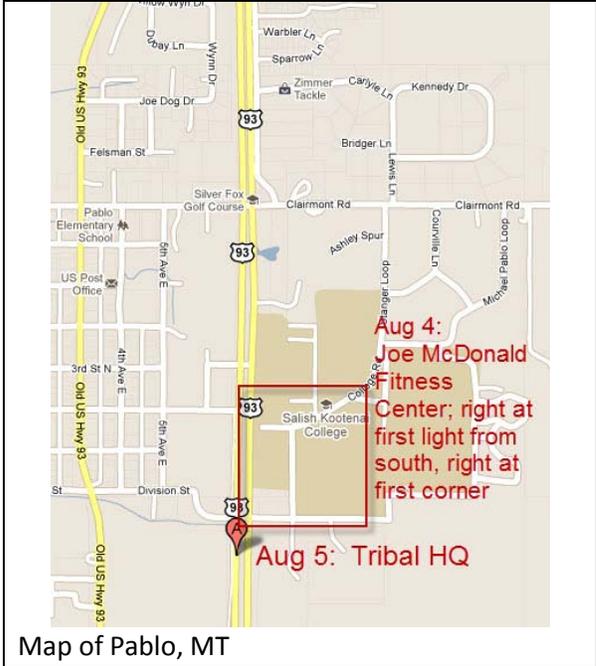
### MEETING LOCATIONS

- Aug 4 meet at the Joe McDonald Fitness Center on the campus of Salish Kootenai College. Coming from the south on Hwy 93 take a right at the first light coming into Pablo (if you go under the overpass, you are too far). Then take the first right and the Fitness Center is the large building on or near the corner.
- Aug 5 meet at the Salish Kootenai Tribal Headquarters; 51383 Highway 93 N, Pablo, MT; (406) 883-2701 . Shown as “A” on the map

### PLACES TO STAY IN THE AREA

#### Some hotel/motel options

- A. Flathead Lake Inn  
125 Anchor Way, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-6266 · flatheadlakeinn.com
- B. Starlite Motel  
18 Main Street Southwest, Ronan, MT  
(406) 676-7000 ext. 0
- C. Port Polson Inn  
502 U.S. 93, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-5385 · americasbestvalueinn.com
- D. Cherry Hill Motel  
50713 US Highway 93, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-2737
- E. Bayview Inn  
914 U.S. 93, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-3120 · bayview-inn.com
- F. Ninepipes Lodge  
69286 US Hwy 93, Charlo, MT  
(406) 644-2588
- G. Best Western Plus Kwataqnuq Resort  
49708 US Highway 93, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-3636 · book.bestwestern.com
- H. Mission Mountain Resort  
36296 Fulkerson Lane, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-1883 · polsonmtresort.com



I. Flathead Lake Inn  
21 South Shore Route, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-6266 · flatheadlakeinn.com

**Some camping options**

- A. KOA Kampgrounds  
200 Irvine Flats Road, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-2151 · koa.com
- B. Flathead River RV Resort  
9 Regatta Road, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-6400 · flatheadlakerv.com
- C. Mission Meadows Camping & RV  
44457 Mission Meadow Dr # 102, Ronan, MT  
(406) 676-5182
- D. Diamond S RV Park  
Hwy 93 N, Ronan, MT  
(406) 676-2267
- F. Holland Lake Campground  
Condon, MT
- G. Polson Motorcoach Resort  
200 Irvine Flats Road, Polson, MT  
(406) 883-2333 · polsonrvresort.com
- H. Lindbergh Campground  
Condon, MT
- I. North Crow Creek Campground  
Ronan, MT
- J. Cedar Creek Campground  
Bigfork, MT
- K. Flathead Lake RV Resort and Campground  
Polson, MT

