

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

November 30 – December 1, 2011

2011/12 Lead Agency: Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Meeting Host: MFWP (contact: Andrea Jones; 406.994.6931)

Brooklyn Baptiste—Tribal Chairman; Nez Perce Tribe
Ervin Carlson—President; Inter Tribal 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—Division Manager; Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Division; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Dan Wenk—Superintendent; Yellowstone National Park
Marty Zaluski—State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

Meeting to be held at
Chico Hot Springs, Pray MT



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—the Nez Perce, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and the InterTribal Buffalo Council—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.

Wednesday, Nov 30th

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

12 noon	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• Accept last meeting notes (new process?)
12:10	Mike L, Tom M, Jim S, Pat F, Brian M	Partner Operating Procedures (Partner Interaction Protocol?) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day-to-day interactions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example: phone calls, decision making, meeting process, clarification of roles, responsibilities of tribal entities• How AM changes are accomplished<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example: documentation, public notification, NEPA &/or MEPA sufficiency testing
12:40	Citizens Working Group	Presentation of recommendations of the Citizens Working Group (CWG)
2:15	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
2:30	CWG	CWG presentation and Partner discussion thereof continued...
4:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	***	Adjourn

<< Dinner and evening events on your own. >>

Thursday, December 1st

8:00 AM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	Welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions of anyone new present• Brief relook at yesterday and what's ahead today
8:10	Partners	Signing of (1) 2010 Adaptive Management Changes; (2) 2010/11 Annual Report; (3) NEPA/MEPA Sufficiency Report (All signings per outcome of Partner Operating Procedures discussion on Nov 30 th)
8:40	Dave H, PJ	Winter Operations Plan for Yellowstone bison
10:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:45	Subcommittee chairs	Subcommittee reporting on their prioritized list of AM recommendations <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)
11:10	As noted	Partner briefings/update/discussion on (1 min max each) ... <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mary—(1) follow up with Park County Commissioner Malone regarding past Partner responses to his questions; (2) return original RTR agreement to FWP2. Mary, PJ—status of lawsuits (1) from environmental orgs & others to stop federal agencies from killing bison; and (2) Alliance for Wild Rockies suit against hazing3. Pat—(1) status of the current litigation by Park County and Park County Stockgrowers; (2) status of transfer of quarantine animals to Turner and pending lawsuit; (3) status of plans for relocation of the 200 quarantined bison from Yellowstone

4. PJ, Jim—Feedback from Partners on 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].)
5. PJ—Status of draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination of bison
6. SB—update on AM history and other items on IBMP.info

		Action item / task list planning , including for
		a. Meeting planning for 2012
		i. dates, locations, hosts
11:20	<i>Partners</i>	ii. Consider these Parked Items from past meetings?
		1. Living safely with bison
		2. Status of MFWP bison management plan (Dood)
		3. Planning for upcoming hunting season
		b. Action item discussion or addition
11:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	***	Adjourn —please travel safely!

Meeting facilitator Scott Bischke, MountainWorks (scott@emountainworks.com)