

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

May 1-2, 2012

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

McCoy Oatman—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
Don Herriott—Associate Regional 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
the C'Mon Inn, Bozeman 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 2011/12 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 2011/12 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.

Tuesday, May 1st

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	<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 • Accept last meeting notes (new process?)
Items related to Citizens Working Group (CWG) Recommendations to the IBMP February 24, 2012		
12:15	Partners	Discussion and/or signing of letter to Congressional delegation regarding request to remove <i>Brucella abortus</i> from the select agent list
12:30	Partners	Discussion of potential EA for additional bison habitat
1:00	Partner/CWG	<p>Discussion of Risk Reduction and importance of Seroprevalence as IBMP driver Desired outcomes of discussion: (1) Discovery process: preliminary collection of points of conflict and points of agreement; (2) naming of CWG/Tech Team group to meet to develop areas of potential consensus that might lead to adaptive management efforts; (3) role of hunting in association with seroprevalence (CWG recommendation Habitat 3b)</p>
1:30	Partner/CWG	<p>Discussion regarding developing and implementing a strong, factual education program to the bison/brucellosis issue. Desired outcome of discussion: (1) what can we build on already in progress; (2) goals of the program; (3) components/methods; (4) responsibilities; (5) timeframe</p>
2:00	CWG	<p>CWG presentations, as desired, addressing decisions at Partner/CWG 24 Feb meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to Partner questions (see action items from meeting summary) • Appeal(s) to Partner decisions • Clarify and request decision(s) on those recommendations that were labeled as “move to rework” during that same meeting
2:30	***	Partner “final” decisions made
2:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
2:45	CWG	CWG presentations, as desired, addressing decisions at Partner/CWG 24 Feb meeting (continued)
3:45	Partners (Pat Flowers lead)	<p>Develop matrix for CWG recommendations Matrix will show responsibility, priority, timeline, funding, personnel, and workplans to implement each accepted CWG recommendations. Discussion will begin with strawman showing lead agency as created by lead partner and the facilitator, and with Partner input regarding priorities, timelines, and workplans for implementation.</p>
4:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	***	Adjourn

Wednesday, May 2nd

8:00 AM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone newly present • Brief relook at yesterday and what's ahead today
8:15	Partners (discussion lead YNP)	<p>Status of Winter Operations with Partner discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking back: To include West side, North side, hunting, hazing actions, more... • Looking forward: Planning for remainder of spring
9:00	Arnie Dood	Status of State Bison Management Plan
10:00	***	<p>Break (here or as called for by the Partners)</p> <p>Partner Operating Procedures (Partner Interaction Protocol?)</p> <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
10:15	Scott, Pat F, Mike L	
10:40	Pat F	<p>Status for signing of Adaptive Management Plan</p> <p>Partner briefings/update/discussion on (1 min max each) ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pat—update on signing of 2011 Adaptive Management changes. 2. Pat—status of Feb 24th promise by Partners to write a letter to representatives stating their support for removing the significant barriers that exist for <i>Brucella abortus</i> research because of the select agent listing. 3. Mary—follow up with Park County Commissioner Malone regarding past Partner responses to his questions 4. 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 hazing 5. 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 6. 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.] 7. PJ—Status of draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination of bison 8. BF—Bison Quarantine Feasibility Study, Interim Summary, April 2012 9. SB—update on AM history, RSS feed, and other items on IBMP.info
11:00	As noted	
11:15	Partners	<p>Action item / task list planning, including for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Summer meeting planning—location, host, field trip plan? b. Action item discussion or addition c. Consider these Parked Items from past meetings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living safely with bison • Elk and Brucellosis (Steve Olsen)
11:30	Public	Public comment period (3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	***	<p>Adjourn—please travel safely!</p> <p>Meeting facilitator Scott Bischke, MountainWorks (scott@emountainworks.com)</p>