

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

Aug 30th, 2012

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

Don Herriott—Associate Regional Director; Veterinary Services; W. Region Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Ron Trahan—Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson—President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Pat Flowers—Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Christian Mackay—Executive Officer; MT Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski—State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

Brooklyn Baptiste—Vice Chairman, Tribal Executive Committee; Nez Perce Tribe

Dan Wenk—Superintendent; NPS-Yellowstone National Park

Mary Erickson—Forest Supervisor; USFS-Gallatin National Forest

29th—West Side Field Trip

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**30th—all day regular IBMP
meeting at Holiday Inn in
West Yellowstone 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.

Meeting Agenda

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

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

8:00 AM	<i>Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present</i>	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 • Partners acceptance of last meeting notes?
8:20	<i>Partners (Pat Flowers lead)</i>	State MEPA Process for addition of new lands open to bison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debrief/discussion from the Wednesday 8/29 IBMP field trip to these areas • Public hearings in West Yellowstone (8/20) and Gardner (8/21)
9:00	Rick Wallen	Summary of recent genetics work (Pringle 2011, Halbert et al. 2012, Pérez-Figueroa et al. 2012) and NPS response
10:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:20	<i>Dave Hallac PJ White</i>	YNP Bison Management Plan and IBMP Operations Plan, Winter 2013
12 noon	***	Lunch (on your own)
1 PM	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	Call back to order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone newly present
1:10	<i>Dan Wenk</i>	NPS topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of draft EIS for Remote Vaccination • Update on Transferring Bison to Tribes
1:40	<i>Partners (Pat Flowers lead)</i>	Update on matrix for CWG recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to Partner Responsibility matrix • Determination of how progress will be tracked
2:00	Andrea Jones	Update on efforts toward developing and implementing a factual education program about bison
2:15	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
2:30	<i>Scott, Pat F, Mike L</i>	Partner Protocols Review of version 2 of this document

3:00	As noted	<p>Partner briefings/update/discussion on ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pat—update on signing of 2011 Adaptive Management changes. 2. Pat—use of dogs for bison, report on discussion with Keith Aune 3. Pat—status of Feb 24th commitment 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. 4. Pat—status of relocation of quarantined bison from YNP 5. Christian or Pat—status of EA for additional bison habitat in Hebgen Basin 6. Pat—status of current litigation (1) on transfer of quarantined bison to Turner Ranch; (2) by Park County and Park County Stockgrowers on north side AM changes (trial last week) 7. Mary, PJ, Pat—status of other pending lawsuits 8. Earvin, Ron, Brooklyn—Status of tribal groups acting as single funding body 9. David—update on the Secretary’s Directive on the placement of Yellowstone bison 10. Don—Update on GonaCon Immunocontraception study—history, delivery, theory, transmission, +/-, under IBMP purview? 11. SB—updates on IBMP.info: upcoming revamp of library to include meeting notes; anything else
4:00	Partners	<p>Action item / task list planning, including for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report planning as shown in Partner Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report built on current AM Plan. Each Partner responsible to report on management actions in AM Plan where they are the lead agency. ○ Partner input to Lead Partner and Facilitator by Sep 30. Partners may include ideas for recommended adaptive management changes at this time—to be compiled by facilitator for Nov meeting. ○ The lead Partner will then compile the responses into a final report, plus add discussion/review of the year. DRAFT document sent to Partners by Nov1. ○ Partners provide final comments in written form (and discuss, as needed) at the November IBMP meeting. Give Lead Partner OK to post per requested changes being completed. No signatures needed. ○ By Dec 31, annual report posted to IBMP.info • Partner lead changeover (1 Jan 2013) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribal entities? APHIS? • Nov meeting planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nov 27/28, CMon Inn, host MFWP ○ Field trip needed? • Action items from this meeting—any discussion or addition?
4:30	Public	<p>Public comment 3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet</p>
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

NOTES:

1. The Partner/CWG discussion of alternatives to current protocol of quarantine for preserving YNP bison genetics, ie, utilizing older animals, embryo transfer, etc... will be put off until the Nov meeting to align with Dr. Steve Olsen’s talk during that meeting.

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