

Memorandum

Date: August 9, 2013
To: Files
From: Interagency Bison Management Plan Agencies
Subject: Adaptive Management Adjustment to the Interagency Bison Management Plan

The Record of Decision for the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) was signed in December 2000 to coordinate bison management between the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park. The National Park Service and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service were co-leads on the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was a cooperating agency. The Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks considered the FEIS prepared by the federal agencies in preparing their Record of Decision in December 2000. These five agencies agreed to work cooperatively within an adaptive management framework to implement the IBMP. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, InterTribal Buffalo Council, and Nez Perce Tribe became IBMP agencies in 2009.

Recommended Adjustment to the Adaptive Management Plan

Add Management Action 3.2e, along with related monitoring metrics and management responses, to Management Objective 3.2 as follows:

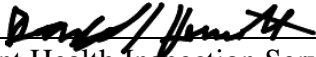
Management Action 3.2.e: Haze bison away from tolerance boundaries when conditions are conducive to breach. The goal is to reduce the opportunity for bison to breach the tolerance zone boundaries by employing management actions at the most efficient trigger points in consideration of overall conditions and risks.

Monitoring metrics:

1. Document the number of times and numbers of bison are successfully or unsuccessfully moved away from tolerance boundaries.
2. Document occurrences of bison entering non-tolerance areas.


Management Responses: If bison approach tolerance boundaries, then the State Veterinarian will evaluate the site specific circumstances (e.g. number of bison, bison behavior, weather, snowpack, time of year, etc.) to determine what management actions are necessary to prevent the further movement of bison out of Zone 2 into Zone 3.


IBMP Partner Signatures


Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Western Regional Director 8/23/2013
Date

Tom McDonald 8/19/2013
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Division Manager Date


InterTribal Buffalo Council, President October 17, 2013
Date



Montana Board of Livestock, Executive Officer August 20, 2013
Date


Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Region 3 Director October 17, 2013
Date


Montana State Veterinarian August 20, 2013
Date


National Park Service, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park November 7, 2013
Date

McCoy Oatman
Nez Perce Tribe, Chairman October 22, 2013
Date


U.S. Forest Service, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest 8/9/13
Date