

## Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



*July 31, 2013*

**2011/12 Lead Agency: Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service**  
**Meeting Host: CSKT (contact: Tom McDonald 406-883-2887)**

**Don Herriott:** Associate Regional Director; Veterinary Services; W.  
Region Animal & 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; Montana Board of Livestock

**Marty Zaluski:** State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

**McCoy Oatman:** Natural Resources Sub-committee Chair; Nez Perce  
Tribe

**Dan Wenk:** Superintendent; NPS—Yellowstone National Park

**Mary Erickson:** Forest Supervisor; USFS—Gallatin National Forest



Meeting location:  
**Best Western+**  
**Kwa Taq Nuk Resort**  
1234 49708 US Highway 93  
East - Polson, MT 59860

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*For room reservations call*  
*(800) 882-6363 or*  
*(406) 883-3636*  
*Staff—ask for IBMP block*

### 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 IBMP 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 each year 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.

**Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

**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 AM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<p><b>Welcome, meeting overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from CSKT Tribal Chair</li> <li>• Prayer from Prayer Leader of our CSKT host</li> <li>• Buffalo song from CSKT drum group (tentative per drum group availability)</li> <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> <li>• Partners’ acceptance of last meeting notes as required under Partner Protocols?</li> </ul>
8:30	APHIS, NPS, NPT	<p><b>Discussion of 2013/2014 Winter IBMP Operations Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among many topics, discussion to include potential for bison shipment and slaughter in the winter of 2013/14. In the past both activities have been paid for by APHIS.</li> </ul>
9:50	***	<b>Break (here or as called for by the Partners)</b>
10:10	Dave Hallac	<p><b>Status of final report on NPS brucellosis science workshop report</b></p> <p>including status of Tom Hobbs predictive seroprevalence model publication and availability.</p>
10:20	Dave Hallac Marty Zaluski	<p><b>Seroprevalence</b></p> <p>1) objectives for a boundary vaccination program, 2) technical feasibility of achieving objectives, and 3) agency discussion of overall value.</p>
11:00	Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf	<p><b>Fire/bison grazing interaction</b></p> <p>Dr. Fuhlendorf is from Oklahoma State U. This talk has the potential, per Partner interest, to be carried on into the lunch hour.</p>
12 noon	***	<b>Lunch—Partners, staff, public on your own (restaurant available at the resort)</b> <i>(Possible movie showing during lunch hour—TBD)</i>
1:10 PM	Scott Bischke	<p><b>Call back to order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions of anyone newly present</li> </ul>
1:15	Partners (NPS leads)	<p><b>Possibility of the IBMP Partner sending a joint letter to MDOT</b></p> <p>recommending they reduce the speed limit on Highway 89 north of Gardiner during winter due to bison/auto safety issues.</p>
1:30	Don Herriott  Pat Flowers  MZ, ME, PF	<p><b>Per Partner Protocols: Continued discussion on potential adaptive management changes for the following winter.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Proposed zone concept adaptive change (from last meeting)</b> Redraw zone boundaries to update maps to reflect the zone concepts with new realities after recent adaptive changes and report to Partners at the next IBMP meeting.</li> <li><b>2. Proposed date change on the north side boundary (from last meeting)</b> (a) rewrite the proposed AM change (as part of this change, Partners asked that the new language be considered for making the proposed MDOL AM request more general for the entire north boundary), (b) send to rest of Partners to review before August IBMP meeting, and (c) present the rewritten AM change to the Partners at the August meeting.</li> </ol>

	Dave Hallac	<b>3. Proposed change of the target haze-back date for bison from the Hebgen basin into YNP</b> (minimum 30 min requested).
3:00	***	<b>Break</b> (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:20	As noted	<p><b>Partner briefings/quick updates on ... (plan 5 min each unless otherwise noted)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pat—status of newly allowed late season damage hunts. Did they occur and if so, to what outcomes?</li> <li>2. Dave—NPS planning update, e.g., remote vaccination EIS update</li> <li>3. Pat, Christian—Lawsuit regarding expanded bison tolerance on North Side/Gardiner Basin</li> <li>4. Pat, Christian—State MEPA process for addition of new west side lands open to bison</li> <li>5. Pat—status of relocation of quarantined bison from YNP to Turner</li> <li>6. Cavan—Hebgen Lake/Duck Creek landscape assessment &amp; potential habitat improvement work</li> <li>7. Arnie Dood—State Bison Management Plan</li> <li>8. Andrea—Update developing and implementing a factual education program about bison; focus on livestock and Tribal brochures</li> <li>9. Ryan—update on Gonacon trials</li> <li>10. SB—updates on IBMP.info: AM collection and posting</li> </ol>
3:50	DH, SB	<p><b>Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report</b> Including, specific consideration of reporting and responsibility lead for each CWG recommendation</p>
4:10	Partners	<p><b>What's next? Partner planning as needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Any further action items or tasks to record?</b></li> <li>○ <b>Meeting planning—(a) Interest in movies? (b) Field trip or trips? Where? Purpose? Who leads? Partners have set aside:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 20--possible field trip (TBD, hold the date).</li> <li>November 21--Normal IBMP meeting (8 AM to 5 PM). Location: Chico Hot Springs, Pray MT.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:30	Public	<p><b>Public comment</b> 3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet</p>
5 PM	***	<b>Adjourn—please travel safely!</b>

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

## Meeting support materials

**Table 1.—Summary of current lawsuits surrounding IBMP as of 1-17-13\***

Defendant		Sued by (Plaintiff)	Reason	Status	
1	MDOL	MSGA	deviation from implementing the IBMP on the West Side of YNP	?	?
2	YELL, GNF	Alliance for Wild Rockies	helicopter hazing	NOI to appeal to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Finding for the IBMP Partners (state, APHIS, USFS, NPS) in District Court; notice of injunction pending appeal
3	MFWP	GWA, BFC, others?	privatization of a public resource; i.e., sending previously quarantined YELL bison to Turner	Case closed	Summary judgment for the state
4	State of MT (MDOL, MFWP)	Park County Stockgrowers'	implementation of proposed 2011 adaptive changes in Gardiner Basin	Case closed	Case found for the state of MT; increased tolerance allowed
5		Park County			
6	USFS, NPS, APHIS, MDOL, YELL	BFC, WW, GWA, others (?)	over their participation in implementation of IBMP; to stop federal agencies from killing bison	Case closed	Finding for the Federal government in the 9 <sup>th</sup> circuit court

\* Note: This table put together by facilitator generally with “on-the-fly” input from Partners. Thus, specific details may not be exact or may be incomplete.

**Table 2.—Annual IBMP calendar, as agreed to in Partner Protocols**

<b>Jan 1</b>	New Lead Partner assumes duties
<b>Jan – Jun</b>	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
<b>Spring meeting (generally May)</b>	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
<b>Jun-Aug</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in preparation for Annual Report.</li> <li>(2) As needed, Partner or subcommittee discussions on proposed adaptive management efforts (i.e., operational changes) to be made for following winter given results of previous winter activities.</li> <li>(3) Develop recommendations for harvests/culling for the following winter.</li> <li>(4) Preparation of draft Operations Plan for the following year.</li> </ol>
<b>Summer meeting (generally Aug)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report.</li> <li>(2) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new AM activities and continued collection of ideas for adaptive changes for the following winter.</li> <li>(3) Presentation and discussion of draft Operations Plan for the following year (including recommendations for harvests/culling).</li> </ol>
<b>Oct/Nov</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Compilation of Partner write-ups of their sections of the Annual Report.</li> <li>(2) Draft Annual Report completed and circulated for review to Partners.</li> <li>(3) Partners discussions (potentially telecons) regarding issues under consideration in draft Operations Plan for the following year.</li> </ol>
<b>Fall meeting (generally Nov)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Partners review Draft Annual Report; commit to complete any remaining items by Dec 31.</li> <li>(2) Partners review and potentially agree to proposed adaptive management changes for the upcoming winter (if applicable, not every year will have AM changes).</li> <li>(3) Final Partner discussion and signature of Operations Plan for the following year.</li> </ol>
<b>Dec</b>	Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report.
<b>Dec 31</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Previous year’s Annual Report completed and posted to <a href="http://www.ibmp.info">www.ibmp.info</a>.</li> <li>(2) Lead Partner posts revised Operations Plan for the coming winter.</li> </ol>