



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interagency Bison Management Plan

Status of Ongoing Activities

Public Meeting

April 23, 2015

West Yellowstone, Montana

New Bison Management Plan/EIS

NPS-State of Montana co-leads on plan

- **Five Cooperating Agencies (NPT, CSKT, ITBC, CTUIR, USFS)**

Public Scoping Period has begun

- **March 16 – June 15, 2015**
- **Public Scoping Meetings mid-to-late May (specific dates announced soon)**
- **Scoping newsletter available**
 - **Draft Purpose and Need; Objectives**
 - **Draft Alternative Concepts**
- **Draft EIS scheduled for summer 2016**

NPS Quarantine EA

The Use of Quarantine to Identify Brucellosis-free Yellowstone Bison for Relocation Elsewhere

- **Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates establishing quarantine program for bison at one or more facilities within YNP, on tribal lands, or elsewhere**
- **Public Scoping Completed Fall 2014**
- **Draft EA under DOI Solicitor Review**
- **Public Release of EA in Summer 2015**

Status of lawsuits and other petitions

- **FOA and BFC filed Emergency Rulemaking Petition to Protect the Genetic Diversity and Viability of the Bison of Yellowstone National Park and Gallatin National Forest with DC Federal District Court**
 - **NPS and USFS each responded to petition and DC District Court dismissed the case with stipulations in March 2015**
- **Complaint filed by ACLU and BFC requesting immediate, continuing, and future access to Stephens Creek facility**
 - **NPS responded to complaint on February 17, 2015 and held media tour of facility on February 18, 2015**

Status of lawsuits and other petitions

- **Two separate petitions submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list Yellowstone Bison as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act**
 - **Western Watersheds Project & Buffalo Field Campaign, November 2014**
 - **Private individual, March 2015**
 - **Both petitions are currently under review by USFWS**
- **NPS received request from 6 NGOs and a law firm to invite the USFWS to serve as cooperating agency on new Bison EIS**
 - **NPS in discussion with USFWS regarding participation**