

## Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



NOVEMBER 19, 2015

LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
(CONTACT—P. J. WHITE [307] 344-2442)

**Donald E. Herriott:** District Director; Veterinary Services; Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

**Leonard Gray:** Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Ervin Carlson:** President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

**Sam Sheppard:** Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

**Marty Zaluski:** State Veterinarian, MT Department of Livestock; Interim Executive Officer, MT Board of Livestock

**Quincy Ellenwood:** Chair Natural Resources Sub-Committee of Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

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

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



Meeting location:  
**Chico Hot Springs**  
Pray, MT  
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For room reservations call  
(406) 333-4933  
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 as Partners 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 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.

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> / Knowles Conference Room**

**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*

Start	Speaker	Topic
7:30	All	<b>Room opens</b> Coffee and tea provided
8:00	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<b>Welcome, meeting overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions of all present</li> <li>• Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications?</li> <li>• IBMP timeline—see website</li> <li>• Note of Partners’ acceptance by email of last meeting report</li> </ul>
8:20	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	<b>2015-2016 Bison Hunt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background (<b>Rick Wallen/Walt Allen</b>; 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review USFS proposal regarding Beattie Gulch area (Lapwai meeting)</li> <li>○ Tribal hunt subcommittee formed to review issues/make recommendations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tribal Treaty Hunt Subcommittee (<b>Carl Scheeler</b>; 30 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mutual goals</li> <li>○ Long-term and short-term measures</li> <li>○ Proposal and conditions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion of Hunting Issues (<b>P.J. White and others</b>; 60 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal for no captures of bison while tribal hunts ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need: Increase number and distribution of bison available for hunting</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Retrieval of bison from Yellowstone NP and National Forest System lands</li> <li>○ Habitat enhancement partnership (landscape analysis and habitat restoration)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public Hunt (<b>Sam Sheppard</b>; 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permits, season, any changes in regulations, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning for weekly phone calls regarding bison hunts (<b>Sam Sheppard</b>; 10 minutes)</li> </ul>
10:20	***	<b>Break (here or as called for by the Partners)</b>
10:40	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	<b>2015-2016 Winter Operations Plan (P.J. White)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal recommendations (<b>P.J. White</b>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NPS proposal (1,000 bison)</li> <li>○ CSKT recommendations (800-900 bison)</li> <li>○ Discussion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Transfer of bison to processing facilities (<b>Rick Wallen</b>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Existing agreements and facilities</li> <li>○ Request to offer bison to treaty hunt tribes before others</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Transfer of bison to research facilities: Preserving Yellowstone bison genetics using assisted reproductive technology (30 min, <b>Ryan Clark</b>; <b>Dr. Jennifer Barfield</b>, Colorado State University)</li> <li>• Process for completion of Operations Plan by December 31 (<b>Scott Bischke</b>)</li> </ul>

12:00 PM	***	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>
		<b>Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present</b> (Scott Bischke)
1:30 PM	<i>P.J. White Rick Wallen</i>	<p><b>Other Discussion Topics Raised by Tribes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treaty Hunt Subcommittee—ITBC request to participate</li> <li>• Barriers to natural migration west of Yellowstone River</li> <li>• Move capture facility to northern limit of tolerance zone in Gardiner basin</li> <li>• Reduce long-distance transport to processing facilities</li> <li>• Transport of bison carcasses through Yellowstone NP (Old Yellowstone Trail Road)</li> <li>• Herd bison from northern to west-central Yellowstone</li> <li>• Avoid use of population numbers—Use management triggers</li> </ul>
3:00	***	<b>Break (here or as called for by the Partners)</b>
3:30	<i>Public</i>	<p><b>Public comment</b></p> <p>Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.</p>
3:50	<i>As noted</i>	<p><b>Status of Ongoing Activities Related to Yellowstone Bison and Brucellosis</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS to evaluate bison management</li> <li>2. Jennifer—Status of Quarantine EA</li> <li>3. Jennifer—Status of petitions (1) to USFWS to list the bison as a threatened or endangered species, and (2) for USFWS to serve as a cooperating agency on the new EIS</li> <li>4. Sam—Status of State-wide Bison Management Plan</li> <li>5. Sam—Status of MEPA process for year-round bison tolerance of bison west side</li> <li>6. Sam—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project</li> <li>7. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA</li> <li>8. Ryan—Update on Gonacon trials</li> </ol>
4:30	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	<p><b>Annual Report Completion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions needed to complete</li> <li>• Timeline for completion</li> </ul>
4:45	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	<p><b>What's next? Partner Planning and Forthcoming Tasks; Planning for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for 2016 meetings—select dates and locations</li> <li>• Thanks to outgoing Lead Partner Daniel Wenk and NPS</li> <li>• Welcome to incoming Lead Partner Marty Zaluski and MDOL</li> </ul>
5 PM	***	<b>Adjourn—please travel safely!</b>

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

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## Meeting support materials

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Table 1.—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>