

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



AUGUST 3RD, 2016

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
(CONTACT—MARTY ZALUSKI [406] 444-0782)**

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

Mike Honeycutt: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

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

Dan Wenk: Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

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



Meeting location:
Homewood Suites

1023 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, MT
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For room reservations call (406)
587-8180 Special rates available
for Partners & staff (dinner,
breakfast included)

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.

Wednesday, August 3rd

**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	Room opens Coffee and tea provided
8:00	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	Welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • A brief IBMP timeline • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:30	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	2015-2016 Winter Operations summary Status and discussion of the following topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of season overview (MDOL) • Overall removals versus Plan (MDOL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hunt results (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) ○ Evaluation of bison distribution (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) ○ Culls/transfer of bison to processing facilities (NPS, CSKT, ITBC, others?) • Hunt planning meeting outcome — May 2016 (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) • Possible adjustments for next winter (all Partners; see also afternoon Adaptive Management item)
9:00	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	Discussion and preparation for 2016/2017 Winter IBMP Operations Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison harvest planning (NPS) — 60 min • Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS) • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups • Shipment of bison for processing • Ramifications of newly adapted (May 2016) changes from Montana EA • Process for preparing of 2016/17 Winter Ops Plan (MDOL)
10:20	all Partners	Adaptive management proposals Per Partner Protocols: Potential submission of briefing statements for Adaptive Management proposals for next year. Per Partner Protocols spring meeting includes "...begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From NPT (see handout): Change to section 1.3.d of the AM Plan, which addresses private land but not public land AOI's): "Consider a voluntary compensation program for livestock owners who agree to release livestock on private land <i>after</i> June 15." • From MDOL (see handout)—Process, if any, for adoption of the ERRATUM to DEC 2015 Year-Round Habitat for Yellowstone Bison EA Decision Notice
10:40	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
11:00	Angela Brennan	Spread of brucellosis in elk and cattle — a multi-project look. Dr. Brennan, a Fulbright Fellow, is doing her post-doc at the University of Wyoming.

12 noon	***	Lunch (on your own) Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)
1:15	Public	Public comment Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.
2:00	Pete Husby	Continuing discussion of Northern Range Habitat assessments Pete is a retired scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Services
2:45	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:00	As noted	Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marty—Outcome (May 2016) of signing of 2016 AM Plan by Governor Bullock, Partners 2. Matt Skoglund—status of bison being named national mammal 3. Jennifer C—Status of new EIS process 4. Jennifer C—Status of lawsuit regarding access to Stephens Creek facility 5. PJ—Status of notice of intent to sue USFWS over not listing Yellowstone bison 6. Sam—Status of development of <i>Landowners: Living with Bison</i> educational handout 7. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA 8. Shana Dunkley—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project
3:30	MDOL APHIS	Proposed removal of <i>Brucella abortus</i> from the CDC select agents list Could this proposal result in a possible opportunity for research and development of an effective livestock vaccine?
4:00	NPS	NPS Quarantine Environmental Assessment Final decision, and what happens from here?
4:20	MFWP	Montana State-wide Bison Management Plan Final decision, and what happens from here?
4:40	Scott, Emily	Preparation of Annual Report
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

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

Meeting support materials

Table 1.—Annual IBMP calendar, as agreed to in Partner Protocols

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