

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



APRIL 6TH, 2017

LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: CUSTER-GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
(CONTACT—SCOTT BARNDT [406] 587-6749)

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:
Holiday Inn, W Yellowstone
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For room reservations call
(406) 646-1137.

Special rates available for
Partners & staff (ask for the
“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, April 6th

**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	Partners as noted	Discussion of 2016/2017 Winter IBMP Operations to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall removals versus Plan (MDOL/MFWP/NPS) • Hunt results (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) • Status of new Tribes participating in hunt (MFWP, Yakama, others) • Evaluation of bison distribution, including use (or not) of newest North and West Side tolerance areas (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) • Culls /transfer /distribution of bison to processing facilities (NPS, CSKT, ITBC, others?) • Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS) • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups • Scope, timing of upcoming hunt planning meeting — May 2017? (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB)
10:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:20	Partners	After review of winter operations-to-date, begin collecting ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter. Per Partner Protocols. Consider re-instituting subcommittees, if needed, to address these AM change requests.
11:00	Mary	Considering IBMP goals and effectiveness—can the IBMP evolve to be more effective, efficient, and successful? (1) How do the Partners perceive they are working together? What works in the IBMP? What doesn't? (2) What are Partners top 2 concerns for the IBMP? What are Partners top 2 areas you believe viable progress can be made? -- Break ? -- (3) What better methods of organization, structure, or interaction might make the Partners more productive? (4) Next steps? Organization/effectiveness subcommittee or similar?
12:15 PM	***	Lunch (on your own)
1:30	Public	Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke) Public comment Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.

2:10	Scott	A review of actions on Citizens' Working Group recommendations A review of progress made against 2011 CWG recommendations, including Partner discussion.
2:30	Shana Drimal	Is there an on-going role for the Citizens' Advisory Group? Report on two citizen meetings to consider if the CWG should be reformed—goals, questions, concerns. If reformed, what role the CWG would have? Who would make up the group? What projects would they work on and to what ends? How would they interact with the Partners?
3:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:40	As noted	Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS process and Udall Institute progress (including report on Sep 26 webinar)2. Jennifer—Status of lawsuit regarding access to Stephens Creek facility3. Jennifer— NPS Quarantine Environmental Assessment: Final decision, and what happens from here?4. PJ—Status of lawsuit suing USFWS over not listing Yellowstone bison under ESA5. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA6. Mary—Status of North-side and West-side CGNF habitat studies7. Shana Drimal <if anything new to report>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project8. Marty—Update (if any) on proposed management action to vaccinate bison in the western management area
4:10	Scott	Administrative items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verify time and location of remaining 2017 IBMP meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aug 3; Bozeman○ Nov 28; Chico Hot Spings• Is a field trip or other special event desired at one or both of remaining two meetings?• Other items to review or close
4:30 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

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan – Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
Spring meeting (generally May)	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
Jun-Aug	<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.
Summer meeting (generally Aug)	<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).
Oct/Nov	<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.
Fall meeting (generally Nov)	<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.
Dec	Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report.
Dec 31	<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.