

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



AUGUST 1ST, 2018

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS
(CONTACT—SCOTT BISCHKE, FACILITATOR, [406] 582-4442)**

Rebecca K. Frey: Wildlife Disease Specialist—GYA, Veterinary Services;
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

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

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Mark Deleray: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Mike Honeycutt: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

Ferris Paisano: Member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Dan Wenk: Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

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



Meeting location:
**Hilton Garden Inn,
Bozeman, MT**
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For room reservations call
(406) 586-5200.

Special rates available for
Partners & staff—ask for the
“IBMP” block; rooms are at
Marriott Springhill Suites

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 1st

**NOTE THAT AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY—
ACTUAL TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON PARTNER INTERACTION NEEDS**

Note: maps to support meeting are available online at ibmp.info/library.php

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	Julie Cunningham, Mark Deleray	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of <i>proposed</i> expanded west-side bison hunting district after MT Fish and Wildlife deliberations in Dec2017 • Discussion item: Would Partners be open to the potential of closing a portion of the West Side to hunting (in time and/or space) to allow bison to more readily move into new tolerance zone? • Any other follow-up discussions on habitat suitability from April 2018 IBMP meeting?
9:10	NPS, MDOL, APHIS	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Bison quarantine and translocation</i> Including impact of release of bison.
9:50	Tribal Hunt Managers	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues.</i> Discussion not limited to but to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on June Hunt Managers' meeting in Missoula • Handling of bison carcasses on the North Side • Actions to facilitate bison migration and distribution across tolerance area
10:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:50	Tim Reid (lead), others	Consideration of creating a new bison capture facility Partner discussion at the Apr25th meeting resulted in an action item to consider using a temporary capture facility somewhere north of YNP. Partners were careful to a) use the words say "use" not "move" and "temporary", and, b) not be any more explicit than just noted in describing the possible locations for a temporary capture facility. Questions needing to be answered included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been done to date? 2. What can we learn from similar temporary capture facility operations that have occurred in the past on the West Side? 3. At this time are Partners interested and willing to dedicate more time to this topic? Is the timing right to continue exploring this possibility? <p>An IBMP team, as follows, was convened to discuss this possibility: MFWP MD (lead), CSKT (TM); USFS (MT); NPS (TR); NPT (FP); ITBC (legal); APHIS (RF); MDOL (MZ, Vines)</p>
11:50	***	Lunch (on your own)

1:15 PM	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.
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Planning for 2018/19 Winter Operations Plan		
Review of Winter Ops timeline and responsibilities per Partner Protocols (Scott)		
Key topics considered annually for Winter Ops Plan (Winter Ops Plan outline below)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS)2. Transfer of bison to Tribal groups3. Shipment of bison for processing4. Potential use of quarantine5. Status of developing removal targets for 2018/19 (NPS)6. Discussion regarding IBMP population goals<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Review of population/removal targets were handled in past Winter Ops Planso Review of recent bison population levels<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ As considered at Hunt Managers' meeting (MFWP, others; levels discussed were 3000, 4200, 6000)▪ As considered in NPS presentation at April IBMP meeting (NPS; 4200)o Do the IBMP Partners have the latitude to change the population goal itself or only to change operations to impact the population? If so, how?7. Other items?8. Process for preparing of 2017/18 Winter Ops Plan (MFWP)		
Winter Ops Plan outline		
2:00	Partners	pg — heading (<i>topics of note; there are others</i>) ----- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 — Introduction (<i>9 objectives of the IBMP</i>)• 3 — Jurisdiction and Legal Mandates (<i>Tribal hunting updates?</i>)• 3 — Media Relations/Public Information (<i>Tribal additions?</i>)• 3 — Organization (<i>Table 1 is Partner activities matrix</i>)• 4 — Managing Bison Abundance (<i>population, removals—hunt, trap, also see p11</i>)• 4 — Monitoring & Reporting of Bison Movements & Management Activities (<i>safety</i>)• 5 — Bison Distribution (<i>as described in AM Plan, geography, hazing, #s, dates</i>)• 6 — Hunting Bison (<i>5 or 4 or ? tribes, season dates & guidelines</i>)• 8 — Hunt-Trap Coordination Protocol (<i>total removal goal and interim goals by date</i>)• 10 — Hazing Bison (<i>methods, responsibilities, coordination</i>)• 11 — Capturing Bison (<i>why, how, coordinate w/hunt, testing, removal, + next item</i>)• 12 — Shipment to Processing Facilities (<i>transfer to Tribes for slaughter, vaccination, testing, research</i>)• 13 — Lethal Removal of Bison — Risk Management (<i>safety</i>)• 13 — Vaccinating Cattle (<i>vaccination goal for north and west sides</i>)• 14 — Safety (<i>IBMP personnel, private parties</i>)• 14 — Access/Approval to Operate on National Forest System Land (<i>how to</i>)• 14 — Assurance of General Security (<i>facilities, field operations</i>)• 14 — Maintenance of Records and Accountability for Bison Removal (<i>MDOL, NPS</i>)• 15 — Adaptive Management Review, Evaluation, and Modification (<i>updating Plan</i>)
3:10	***	Break (<i>here or as called for by the Partners pending Winter Ops discussion</i>)

3:30	<i>(continued)</i>	Planning for 2018/19 Winter Operations Plan <i>(continued, see discussion items above)</i>
4:20	<i>As noted</i>	Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shana Drimal <<i>if anything new to report</i>>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project 2. Partners and staff—Questions on status of other ongoing activities?
4:40	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	Administrative items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short review of Partner planning of process for completing the Winter Ops Plan and Annual reports • Review dates of remaining 2018 IBMP meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nov 28 — Pray MT (Chico Hot Springs) • Other items to review or close with?
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

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.

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