

Provided by Shana Drimal of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition for the 7/29/20 IBMP Zoom call

GYC Summary of Bison Carcass Transport & Disposal Options

After some research into where and how to dispose of bison carcass remains from the Beattie Gulch area, Steve Primm and Shana Drimal concluded that transport to the Gallatin County Logan Landfill is the best option (Park County no longer has a dump). Steve spoke to the landfill manager there (Jim Simen) who confirmed that it wouldn't be an issue to dispose of bison carcass remains there (they often take roadkill) and they would just plan to bury it immediately. Giving them a heads up prior to arriving is advisable. The cost would be \$27.00/ton, which seems very reasonable.

Marty Zaluski confirmed that disposing of bison remains shouldn't be an issue as far as disease concerns as long as the remains consist of only hides, bones, etc. If the materials include reproductive organs including utters, etc. then those should be kept within the DSA. However, it appears that the Logan Landfill is actually within the DSA (see link to map below), and any transport from Gardiner to Logan could remain within the DSA if we take the route through Bozeman/Churchill. Hopefully that wouldn't be necessary unless for some reason hunters end up disposing of gut piles/reproductive organs (which we're not asking them to do). We could look in to finding a local Gardiner resident with a big truck to dump the trailer once or twice per season for a fair price. Steve Primm still believes the ideal scenario in the long-term is to develop a composting site in the Paradise Valley (or elsewhere) and transport there from Gardiner as needed.

MT DSA MAP:

<https://liv.mt.gov/Portals/146/brucellosis/2018%20Final%20Boundary.pdf?ver=2018-10-04-132938-890>

Summary of additional info gathered between Steve Primm & Shana Drimal on dumpster type, costs, etc.:

- After seeing Kevin Frey's photos, Steve believes a big container is likely overkill and that a dump trailer would likely be sufficient.
- The most flexible option could be a bear-resistant dump trailer, since it doesn't require a special vehicle to move it (just a big enough truck). If 8,000lbs of remains is a season's worth, a mid-size dump trailer could handle that. Ideally it would be dumped a few times during the season to cut down on attractants and keep the load manageable.
- A new dump trailer runs between \$7-9K. We could also try to find a used one, or try to lease one. Putting a bear-resistant top on it could run an additional \$2K. Steve spoke to L&L, no estimates on cost yet but they could be a good source for buying a container and retrofitting to meet needs.
- Cost to rent a dumpster from Republic would be about \$3,000/month (with them doing all the hauling). This is definitely cost prohibitive for anything long-term. Though we may be able to find a dump trailer to rent locally that would be cheaper, it seems buying a dump trailer is the most economical route to take long-term.
- Steve's not sure about the need for a liner, unless someone (APHIS or state vet) says that it's required and/or that it can't just go to a landfill? They have roadkill elk from inside the DSA

routinely deposited in Madison County's dumpsters and hauled to landfill, no liners.

Another possibility is to use an absorbent material in the container to soak up any liquid.

- Last, if disease concerns remain (or become) an issue with transport, we could also consider doing a very small experimental compost site somewhere in the area. It's still ideal to get remains off site but composting on-site would address disease concerns and save transport costs. The idea would be to use concrete blocks (the 6' x 2' x 2') ones, stacked two high) to form three sides; attach electric fence to the blocks (hilti bolts); gates with hotwires bolted to blocks on 4th side. Maybe use parking curbs under gates to discourage digging under. Composting process should keep odors minimal and hot fence would discourage repeat visits.
- Funding question: Can any of the agencies or other NGOs contribute any funds toward this effort? GYC budgeted 5K for this effort so we would need to figure out funding shortages and how to fill them. We would also need to secure funding for the ongoing transport and disposal costs.

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