

Center for Disease Control Covid-19 Event Planning Guidelines

Following are a subset of the CDC event planning guidelines as of 4/11/22 (last updated by the CDC on 1/7/22). **Items in bold are direct quotes from the CDC.** The full set of guidelines can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/gatherings.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fdaily-life-coping%2Fevent-planners-and-attendees-faq.html .

Overview

If you are attending a gathering, think about the steps you need to take to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19.

- **Make sure you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.**
- **In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors.**
- **If you are sick and need to be around others, or are caring for someone who has COVID-19, wear a mask.**
- **If the COVID-19 Community Level <see below> where you live is**
 - **Low — Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk.**
 - **Medium — If you are at risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about wearing masks indoors in public. If you live with or will gather with someone at risk for severe illness, wear a mask when indoors with them.**
 - **High — If you are 2 or older, wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status or individual risk (including in K-12 schools and other community settings).**
- **If you are at risk for severe illness, wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection.**
- **Testing before a gathering can give you information about your risk of spreading COVID-19. — Consider using a self-test before joining indoor gatherings with others who do not live in your household. — Stay home if you test positive, even if you do not have symptoms.**
- **Stay home if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.**
- **Communicate with the people you will meet with about prevention strategies.**

COVID-19 Community Level for Gallatin County

COVID-19 Community Levels are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area. (See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>)

As of 3/29/22, the CDC rates Gallatin County as LOW for COVID-19 risk. Following are the CDC recommendations for holding events based on the community level risk:

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask indoors in public • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms • Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness
<p>People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are required on public transportation and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.</p>		
<p>If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease, learn more about how to protect yourself with additional CDC recommendations for each COVID-19 Community Level.</p>		

< Page left purposely blank >

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



APRIL 13, 2022

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: INTERTRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL
(CONTACT—SCOTT BISCHKE, FACILITATOR, [406] 582-4442)**

Rebecca Frye: Wildlife Biologist and Quarantine Facility Supervisor;
Veterinary Services, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Tom McDonald: Tribal Chairman; Confederated Salish
and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; InterTribal Buffalo Council

Marina Yoshioka: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Mike Honeycutt: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

Cam Sholly: Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

Quincy Ellenwood: Natural Resource Sub Committee for NPTEC

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



Meeting location:
**Hilton Garden Inn
Bozeman, MT**

* * *

For room reservations call
(406) 582-9900.

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.

Wednesday, April 13th

**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

Per Partner Protocols (newly revised for 2 meetings/yr on 12/20/21), the overall goal of the spring meeting is: 1) Review of winter operations to date. Presentation and discussion of potential changes that might be required for Winter Ops Plan for the following year. 2) For potential changes to the Winter Ops Plan, or other changes, begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for changes to the IBMP Adaptive Management Plan. Methods for making adaptive management changes are provided in the Partner Protocols, found at <http://ibmp.info/library.php>. 3) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new adaptive management or other activities. 4) Partner planning for, commitment to, and schedule review for completion of individual duties for Annual Report due at year end.

Start	Speaker	Topic
7:30	All	Room opens Coffee and tea provided
8:00	Scott Bischke, facilitator; or as noted	Invocation, welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invocation • COVID concerns, guidelines — with discussion as needed • Opening words from Lead Partner Ervin Carlson • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • A brief IBMP timeline • Scott summary of action items from Dec 2021 meeting • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:30	All	Partner updates and introduction of new facilitator ~3 min per Partner and treaty hunting Tribe to provide a brief summary their own handling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; results of legislative, agency, or Tribal Council actions; and other changes since December 2021 IBMP meeting, and how those might impact the IBMP <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with host and Lead Partner ITBC 2. APHIS, CSKT, MDOL/MBOL, MFWP, NPS, NPT, USFS 3. Blackfeet, CTUIR, Northern Arapaho, ShoBan, Yakama, Crow 4. Welcome to (and from!) new IBMP facilitator Julie Anton Randall
9:00	Multiple	Review of Winter Operations to date Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter. Conversation to be built around the three topics Partners agreed to as places they might make substantial improvements. 9:00 TOPIC #1: Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area. Topics to include: 1) Bison distribution (MFWP, NPS, all); 2) Habitat improvement, utilization (USFS, others); 3) Hunt —status, harvest, closures, safety, coordination (NPT, others); 4) Community relations (all, any) 9:30 TOPIC #2: Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues. Topics to include: 1) Enforcement (NPT, FWP, others) — incidents, collaboration, weekly meetings); 2) Carcass disposition (USFS); 3) Signage, education (MFWP, USFS); 4) Community relations (all, any)
10:00	Break	Here or as called for by the Partners

10:20	<p><i>Speakers as shown</i></p> <p><i>(note: these are as suggested by Scott — please change as needed)</i></p>	<p>TOPIC #3: Bison quarantine and translocation. Typically, topics include: 1) NPS Bison Conservation and Transfer Program (BCTP) facilities; 2) Fort Peck facility status; 3) Animal quarantine status (#s, transfer dates, etc at NPS, APHIS, Ft Peck facilities). Special beginning-to-end focus for this meeting, as follows:</p> <p>Full-cycle, step-wise review of Yellowstone bison quarantine program: how bison move from inside YNP through quarantine processing to transfer to Tribal lands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bison movement inside the Park through capture at Stevens Creek (Chris G, 5 min) 2. Bison processing steps at Stevens Creek (Chris G, 5 min) 3. Bison quarantine processing steps at Corwin Springs (Rebecca F, 5 min) 4. Bison quarantine transfer to Fort Peck (Robbie M [Marty Z]) 5. Bison quarantine processing at Fort Peck (Robbie M) 6. Bison transfer to Tribal lands, including selection and transport logistics (Troy H)
11:00	<p><i>Speakers as shown</i></p>	<p>Success stories, and impact, of transferring of Yellowstone bison to Tribal lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of program (Troy H) ○ Transfer of Yellowstone bison to Old Harbor Native Corp. on Kodiak Island, Alaska (Melissa Berns) ○ Other successes, e.g., Wind River; Yakima; Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (Troy H, Jason Baldes)
12 noon	Lunch	Bison luncheon, supplied by ITBC (message from Ervin &/or Troy before adjourning to lunch)
1:15 PM	<i>Public</i>	<p>* Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)</p> <p>* Public comment (not Q&A) — Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers, regardless of topic, be respectful.</p>
2:00	<i>NPS</i>	<p>Overview of, update on new bison Environmental Impact Statement</p> <p>Topics requested: a) Is there is an IBMP role in the EIS for input or does that input just reside with the cooperating agency process? B) How does the new EIS process fit with the existing IBMP (ROD/EIS)? C) Under new EIS, is the 3-phase quarantine process open for review?</p>
2:25	<i>CGNF</i>	<p>CGNF Forest Plan revision effort</p> <p>Overview on the completed plan, but with focus on the CGNF role in bison management. Specific topics of interest: a) CGNF objectives around bison habitat improvements; b) discussion on reinvigorating the habitat subcommittee.</p>
2:50	Break	Here or as called for by the Partners

3:10	<p>Topics started by:</p> <p>Summary + 1,2,3 Scott B</p> <p>4 Tim R</p> <p>5 ITBC</p> <p>6 Mary E</p>	<p>Review of Partner Protocols (review and editing, as needed) ** Do Partners need to convene an ad hoc committee to update Partner Protocols?</p> <p><i>Topic 1: Organization lead and second</i> (Table 1, line 33) <i>Topic 2: Meeting hosts & dates</i> (Table 1 ,line 33); discussion, as needed, on impact of new EIS <i>Topic 3: Meeting goals</i> in newly edited annual calendar showing 2 meetings/yr rather than 3 (Table 3, line 181)</p> <p><i>Topic 4: Discussion (review needed?) of which management actions are considered IBMP decisions as opposed to actions taken under the exclusive authority and sole responsibility of the agencies.</i> (Table 2, line 105)</p> <p><i>Topic 5: Review and revision, as appropriate, of Partner Protocols to improve annual Winter Ops Plan creation.</i> Consider these 4 locations in the Partner Protocols: a) Partner commitment (line 18): “Each Partner commits to the overall IBMP goal...” b) Lead Partner Responsibilities (line 40): regarding getting consensus on Winter Ops Plan c) Method of decision making (line 79-104, esp. line 86): regarding definition of consensus d) Winter Ops creation (line 151-157): regarding all must sign</p> <p><i>Topic 6: How will Partners do business in-between meetings</i> of, particularly given just two meetings per year? Should guidelines be incorporated into the Partner Protocols?</p>
4:20	As noted	<p>Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary—any update on CGNF Forest Plan revision effort separate earlier discussion 2. Mary, Cam (PJ)—status of lawsuits regarding bison/hunting/neighbors in Gardner Basin 3. Marty—any updates on removing <i>brucella abortus</i> from CDC select agent list 4. Shana Drimal <if anything new to report>—update on bison coexistence/fencing project 5. Partners and staff—questions on status of other ongoing activities?
4:40	Scott	<p>Planning for 2022/23 Winter Operations Plan and 2022 Annual Report **Short timeline overview, including new challenges given new 2-meeting-per-year schedule Close this topic with agreed upon process, timeline, and responsibilities for completing the Winter Ops Plan and Annual Report.</p>
4:50	As noted	<p>* Reminder of next meeting date and location—Nov 30, 2022 in West Yellowstone * Change of Lead Partner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reminder of COVID-inspired transition from ITBC to NPS ○ Troy — opportunity for meeting summary (including public comments) ○ Thanks to Ervin (and the ITBC team)! ○ Final word from Ervin and welcome from Cam
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

Meeting support materials

Table 3.—REVISED Annual IBMP calendar (2 meetings per year)

< revised by Scott from the previous 3-meetings-per-year schedule with no Partner input to date >

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan - Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Winter Operations (Ops) Plan
Spring meeting (usually Apr/May)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Review of winter operations to date. Presentation and discussion of potential changes that might be required for Winter Ops Plan for the following year. (2) For potential changes to the Winter Ops Plan, or other changes, begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for changes to the IBMP adaptive management plan. Methods for making adaptive management changes are provided in the Partner Protocols, found at http://ibmp.info/library.php. (3) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new adaptive management or other activities. (4) Partner planning for, commitment to, and schedule review for completion of individual duties for Annual Report due at year end.
May-Aug	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Annual Hunt Managers' meeting (participants are a subset of IBMP Partners, plus tribes exercising treaty hunting rights). (2) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in preparing the IBMP Annual Report. (3) As needed, Partner or subcommittee discussions on proposed adaptive management efforts—e.g., changes to winter operations, methods of collaboration, measures tracked, methods of public interaction—to be made, particularly in reaction to outcomes of activities and operations from the previous winter.
Sep-Nov	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) NPS completes annual bison count and classifications. NPS develops models to evaluate the status of the population and provides recommendations for bison conservation and management. The status evaluation and associated recommendations are sent to the other Partners and posted on the IBMP website at http://ibmp.info/library.php. (2) Preparation of draft Winter Ops Plan for the following year. Lead Partner sends request to Partners to provide expected changes from previous year's Winter Ops Plan, and compiles all proposed changes. (3) Lead Partner sends draft (showing all markup provided by Partners) of the new Winter Ops Plan to Partners. Goal is for the draft to be largely complete, with the most likely exception the ramifications of NPS removal recommendations (discussed at fall meeting). (4) Partners discussions (potentially telecons) regarding issues under consideration in draft Winter Ops Plan for the following year. (5) Compilation and submission of Partner write-ups of their sections of the Annual Report. (6) Draft Annual Report completed and circulated for review to Partners.
Fall meeting (usually Nov)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partners review draft Annual Report; commit to complete remaining items by Dec 31. (2) Partners review and agree to or reject proposed adaptive management changes for the upcoming year (if applicable, not every year will have adaptive management changes). (3) Final Partner discussion and agreement on Winter Ops Plan for the following year.
Dec	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report and/or Winter Ops Plan. (2) Electronic signing of Winter Ops Plan.
Dec 31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Lead Partner posts completes and posts (to http://ibmp.info/library.php): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. previous year's Annual Report completed, and b. Winter Ops Plan for the upcoming winter.

Table 3.—PAST Annual IBMP calendar (3 meetings per year)

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan - Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
Spring meeting (usually Apr/May)	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
May-Aug	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Annual Hunt Managers’ meeting (IBMP Partners + tribes exercising treaty hunting rights). (2) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in prep for Annual Report. (3) 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. (4) Preparation of draft Winter Operations Plan for the following year. Lead Partner sends request to Partners to provide expected changes from previous year’s Winter Ops Plan.
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 Winter Operations Plan for the following year. Focus is on those items that will or might change (e.g., to accommodate an adaptive management change).
Aug/Sep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) NPS completes annual bison count and classifications. NPS develops models to evaluate the status of the population and provides recommendations for bison conservation and management. The status evaluation and associated recommendations are sent to the other Partners and posted on ibmp.info. (2) Lead Partner sends draft (showing markup) Winter Ops Plan to Partners. Goal is for the draft to be largely complete, with the exception of ramifications of NPS removal recommendations (discussed at fall meeting).
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 to www.ibmp.info.

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