

Memorandum

Date: August 30, 2012
To: Files
From: Interagency Bison Management Plan Agencies
Subject: Adaptive Management Adjustments to the Interagency Bison Management Plan

The Record of Decision for the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) was signed in December 2000 to coordinate bison management between the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park. The National Park Service and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service were co-leads on the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was a cooperating agency. The Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks considered the FEIS prepared by the federal agencies in preparing their Record of Decision in December 2000. These five agencies agreed to work cooperatively within an adaptive management framework to implement the IBMP. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, InterTribal Buffalo Council, and Nez Perce Tribe became IBMP agencies in 2009.

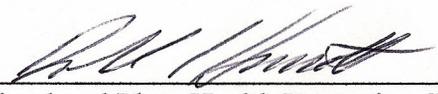
The IBMP agencies agree to the following adaptive management adjustments from the 2011 Adaptive Management Plan. Shown below in non-italicized text is an excerpt from that Plan. The two agreed upon adaptive management changes (both additions) are shown in *italics*:

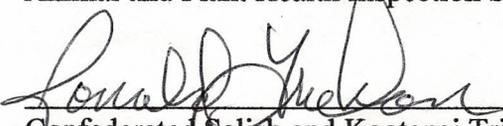
Management action 1.1.b—Consistent with the management responses outlined below, allow bison on habitat on U.S. Forest Service and other lands north of the park boundary and south of Yankee Jim Canyon (see attached map).

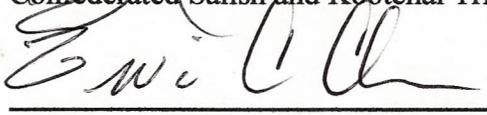
Monitoring metrics:

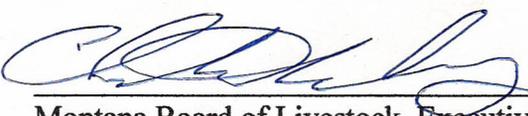
- Weekly survey of the number and distribution of bison in the Eagle Creek/Bear Creek area and the Gardiner basin (Lead inside YNP = NPS; Lead outside YNP = MDOL with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)).
- Annually document the numbers and dates that bison attempt to move north of Yankee Jim Canyon into Tom Miner basin or the Paradise Valley (Leads = MDOL and MFWP). Annually document the number of bison in the north boundary management area and the number and type of management activities needed to (1) track disease management (Lead = MDOL), and (2) provide for public safety and property protection (Lead = MFWP).
- Annually collect data to update the relationships between bison herd and/or population size, snow pack, and the number of bison moving near or beyond the boundary of YNP (Lead = NPS).

- Annually collect data to determine natural migration routes and timeframes (in the absence of hazing) for bison migration out of and back into the park (Lead inside YNP = NPS; Lead outside YNP = MDOL/MFWP).
- Annually document the number of bison tested negative at Stephens Creek facility for release into the Gardiner Basin.
- Annually document number of times bison move north of the hydrological divide and the actions taken; i.e. licensed hunting, agency lethal removal, or haze back into Zone 2.

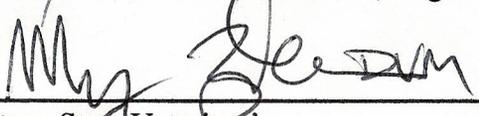

 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Western Regional Director *Associate* Date 8/30/2012

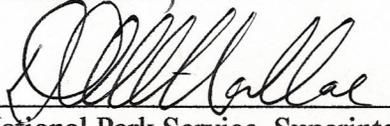

 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Division Manager Date 8/30/12

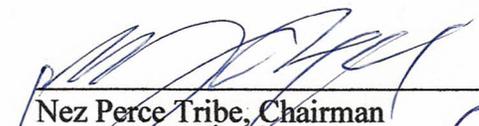

 InterTribal Buffalo Council, President Date 8/30/12

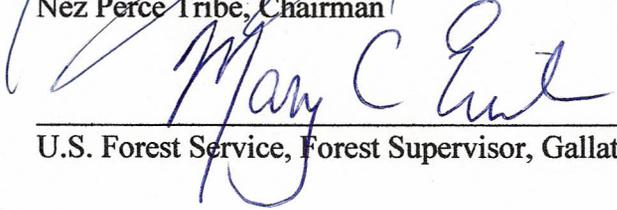

 Montana Board of Livestock, Executive Officer Date 8/30/12


 Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Region 3 Director Date 8/30/12


 Montana State Veterinarian Date 8.30.2012

 For DAN WENK
 National Park Service, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park Date 8/30/12


 Nez Perce Tribe, Chairman Date 9/6/12


 U.S. Forest Service, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest Date 9/4/12