

**Memorandum**

March 31, 2011

To: Files

From: Interagency Bison Management Plan Agencies

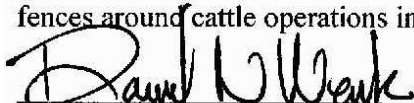
Subject: Adaptive Management Adjustments to the Interagency Bison Management Plan

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:

1. 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). Bison would not be allowed north of the hydrological divide (i.e., mountain ridge-tops) between Dome Mountain/Paradise Valley and the Gardiner basin on the east side of the Yellowstone River and Tom Miner basin and the Gardiner basin on the west side of the Yellowstone River.
2. As necessary, trailer up to 300 female and calf bison testing negative for brucellosis from the Stephens Creek capture facility to a double-fenced quarantine facility in Corwin Springs for holding until release back into the park in spring. The quarantine facility in Corwin Springs is leased by APHIS and the State of Montana and APHIS have collaborated to complete environmental analyses for use of the facility.
3. Evaluate the effects of these adjustments and modify as necessary to prevent bison from occupying lands north of the hydrological divide and minimize the risk of transmission of brucellosis to livestock.

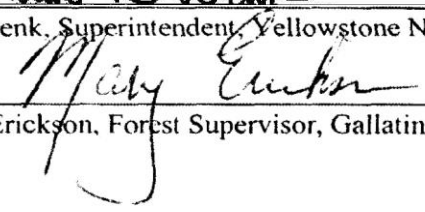
Pursuant to the FEIS and ROD for the IBMP and adaptive management adjustments in 2008, the IBMP agencies will continue to maintain separation between bison and cattle in the Gardiner basin, capture groups of bison attempting to move into Montana (west of the Yellowstone River) in the Stephens Creek facility and test them for brucellosis exposure, segregate and hold test-positive bison in the facility, release bison testing negative for brucellosis from the facility to provide operational space and shorten confinement, and work with livestock operators and conservation groups to build/maintain adequate fences around cattle operations in the Gardiner basin to prevent commingling of bison with cattle.



Dan Wenk, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

3/31/2011

Date



Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest

3/31/11

Date

*B. J. McCluskey*

3-31-2011

Brian McCluskey, Western Regional Director, APHIS

Date

*Christian MacKay*

3/31/11

Christian MacKay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock

Date

*Marty Zaluski*

3.31.11

Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Montana

Date

*Pat Flowers*

4/5/11

Pat Flowers, Region 3 Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Date

*McCoy Oatman*

4-21-11

McCoy Oatman, Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Date

*Tom McDonald*

4-5-11

Tom McDonald, Division Manager, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Date

*Ervin Carlson*

4/14/11

Ervin Carlson, President, InterTribal Buffalo Council

Date



