

IBMP Conference Call Notes:

Reason: Winter OPS

Date: February 10, 2014, 10:00AM

Participants: Christian Mackay & Rob Tierney – MT DOL; Marty Zaluski – MT State Vet; Ryan Clarke & Don Herriott – APHIS; Pat Flowers, Sam Sheppard, and Andrea Jones – MT FWP; David Hallac, Al Nash, PJ White, Rick Wallen, Bonnie Schwartz – YNP; Jim Stone, Trudy Ecoffey & Rita Weatherbee – ITBC; Tom McDonald, Stephanie Gillam - CSKT; Keith Lawrence & Angela Sondenaa – NP; Ron Hecker-Gardiner Office, Rachael Feigley-Livingston Office – USFS

Reports:

MT DOL: No operations. Same number – 25 head out West Yellowstone. No buffalo at Gardiner.

APHIS: Nothing to report – start operations after bison capture.

MT FWP: Bison hunt update – State – 25 harvested; 19 at Gardiner, 6 West Yellowstone; 109 total – CSKT – 69; Nez Perce 9 to date, 8 at Gardiner, 1 West Yellowstone; Shoshone Bannock – West side; state issued 10 new tags; 2nd choice notice for cow and calf recently went out; uptake in female harvest.

YNP: Rick Wallen – Monitoring north side; 250-300+ pushed 60/70 out of park; 3-10 Beech Hills area; hard to find areas – 30 animals; 4 bulls along highway near airport– down from 6; 40-50 came back into park north of Gardiner; 25 animals put themselves into pen – plan to work with CSKT to move these; 900-1,000 Blacktail area.

CSKT: Will double check on hunt numbers. Hunt ended at the end of January.

FS: Nothing to report in Gardiner. Question from Keith on closure of discharge of firearms going from Old Yellowstone Trail to Yellowstone River, Beatty Gulch Trailhead – 150 yards from that. All is okay with that. Question from Keith regarding animals being harvested too close to the road. It was stated that it is up the groups to work with their hunters on that. Inquiries are up at the Forest Service [to talk about better dispersal of hunters with some better access and the Forest Service stated they had considered and decided they would not provide additional access.](#)

NP: Nothing to report. Hunting will start to ramp up.

Dave Hallac –have had inquiries from the CUT regarding finding ways to keep bison carcasses and gut piles away from the road. Recommends that the partners that administer hunting find ways to keep gut piles and carcasses out of sight of the road so that the situation does not attract negative attention from local residents, landowners, and the media.

Hunting - 45 taken at Gardiner, Beatty Gulch area – 2 weeks. Ago. Tom asked how Bozeman article was received. Story didn't have anything negative.

ITBC: Question was asked if Monday's were best day for IBMP Conference Call. After discussion it was decided that Tuesdays would be better. New day and time: Tuesdays, 1:30PM Mountain Time. Jim Stone requested items for the agenda for next week. It was noted that draft notes of today's teleconference would be sent to everyone for correction, then distributed as a final after corrections.