

Meeting #6 of 7 Agenda

Interagency Bison Management Plan

*Held at: Chico Hot Springs
Emigrant, MT*

*Host: APHIS
Contact: Becky Frey (406) 333-4425*

Date: November 5-6, 2008

IBMP Principal Representatives

Jerry Diemer, Associate Regional Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest
Pat Flowers, Region 3 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock
Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Purpose/Needs Statement for Series of Seven Meetings

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. In keeping with this commitment, the partners have scheduled multiple working meetings between August and December 2008. These meetings will be open to the public with agendas designed so that partner agencies can effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office; assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008); and considering prevailing conditions, develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Goals of the Seven Meetings: for the IBMP Partners...

1. ... to effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office;
2. ... to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008);
3. ... considering prevailing conditions, to develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Wednesday, November 5th

Morning / Afternoon sessions

		Welcome, meeting overview
9:30 AM	Scott Bischke (facilitator); all present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline—where we've been, where we are going • Desired outcomes from Nov 5, 6 meetings • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications as needed
9:45		Information Sharing. <i>Please 1) use agreed upon briefing page format, 2) bring copies for partners, staff, public, and 3) bring electronic copies for posting to www.ibmp.info (electronic copies should be given to Scott).</i>
	DoL/APHIS	<i>(5 min) Updated status of adult cattle vaccinations, appended to the briefing paper already provided at Oct 2,3 meeting</i>
9:50	Larry Fisher	Summary findings and recommendations on opportunities for public engagement, from the U. S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
10:50	All Partners	<p>* Begin with 10 min presentation from Tech Comm on two maps: 1) original RoD for the North side Zone 2; 2) updated (as appropriate) North side Zone 2 map</p> <p>* Discussion of, leading to agreement on, North side Management Objective 1.1.a dealing with quantifying how bison will be tolerated outside of YNP (when, where, and what the status [sex, age, testing status] of bison are allowed). Discussion based on compiled version of Mgmt Obj 1.1.a provided to the Partners by the facilitator on Oct 31.</p>
12 noon		<i>Lunch (provided for IBMP Partners and staff; public has access to pool-side cafe)</i>
1:15	Tech Comm All partners	<p>* Presentation by the Technical Committee on their quantitative results for the <i>draft</i> West side adaptive management plan version 3.0</p> <p>* Partner goal is to arrive at an agreed upon West side AM plan ver3.0 by the end of the meeting on Nov 6</p>
3:15		<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
4:30	Observers	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00 evening	Adjourn	<i>(partners please huddle to debrief before departure)</i> <i>Dinner on your own at Chico; recognized potential for the Partners to push on</i> <i>g post-dinner</i>

Thursday, November 6th

Morning session

<i>early</i>		<i>Breakfast (on your own; Chico has a restaurant + a grille attached to the hot springs entrance)</i>
8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	Abbreviated welcome, overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions of anyone new from yesterday• Recap yesterday's meeting and set today's goals
8:40	All partners	Continued discussion of West side AM plan with goal to arrive at ver3.0
<i>10:30</i>		<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
11:00	Scott Bischke	Planning for subsequent meetings; discussion: based on progress to this moment are we on track to make December goal?
11:30	Observers	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	Adjourn	<i>(partners please huddle to debrief before departure)</i>