

Public meeting #1 of 3 for 2009 Interagency Bison Management Plan

*Held at: MFWP Offices
Bozeman, MT*

*Host: MFWP
Contact: Mel Frost (406) 994-6931*

Date: Apr 8/9, 2009

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

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.

The 2009 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 will meet three times 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 8th

12:00 noon	Scott Bischke, facilitator all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Desired outcomes from Apr 8/9 meetings • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?) • Timeline—where we've been, where we are going • Action item review from Dec 17/18 meeting
12:20	All Partners	Partner report out on <i>items specifically associated with Operational Procedures</i> (other updates will come later in the agenda). Please remember to provide—if appropriate—hard copy briefing documents for Partners and public, as well as an electronic copy to the facilitator for posting at IBMP.info. << 10 min max: NPS, DoL, FWP, GNF, APHIS >>
1:00	PIOs	(1) Status of IBMP.info
1:10	NPS	(2) Status of IBMP reports —annual report; revisions to biweekly reports
1:35	FWP	(3) Status of RTR agreement
2:00	GNF	(4) Relationship with Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to create new public engagement process (telecon w/Larry Fisher, tentative)
2:20	Public	Public input to gather recommendations for public engagement
2:40		<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
3:00	All Partners	Public engagement process —continued Partner discussion
3:30	DoL	(5) Discussion of bison population management
4:00	NPS	(6) Discussion of role of Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative as associated with the IBMP
4:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	Adjourn	<i>(partners please huddle to debrief before departure)</i>

Thursday, April 9th

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	<p>Abbreviated welcome, overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone new from yesterday • Recap yesterday's meeting and set today's goals
8:40	DoL FWP	<p>(7) Description of and status of proposed bison-related legislation in the 2009 MT legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 353—transfer of neutered bison to tribes • SB 337—prohibits FWP from relocating wild bison as a result of the state/federal bison quarantine feasibility study • HB 253—Wild Buffalo Recovery & Conservation Act of 2009
9:05	All Partners	(8) Discussion of March 6 th correspondence from NRDC requesting supplemental EIS
9:30	NPS	(9)* Bison population abundance range . Meaning of 3000 bison limit. YNP use of 2500 bison as a red flag. (* = parked item from Dec08)
9:55	DoL / APHIS	(10)* Montana brucellosis management planning to regain class-free status.
10:20		<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
10:40	NPS	(11)** Status of the Draft Remote Vaccination EIS
11:05	All Partners	<p>Planning for future IBMP meetings (where, when, lead, topics, action items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 11, 12 (on Dec 18 listed as in Helena, DoL/BoL host); reason for date selection: IBMP annual report due Aug 1; gives Partners 1+ week to consider report, then join for AM discussions; gives 60 d for agreements before hand over lead agency role to DoL as of Nov 1 • Nov 9, 10 (on Dec 18 listed as possibly in Chico with YNP host); reason for date selection: AHA meeting is in late October so that time booked for many; bison hunt starts Nov 15; Veterans' Day holiday Nov 11; DOL will be the new lead agency as of Nov 1
11:30	Public	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>