

# Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

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*Nov 17/18, 2009*

*To be held at the Best Western Hotel; Livingston, MT*

**2009/10 Lead Agency: Montana Board of Livestock**

**Meeting Host: Yellowstone National Park**

**Contact: Al Nash 307.344.2010**

## **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

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## **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 (Apr, Aug, Nov) in 2009 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.

## Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

1:00 PM	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions of all present</li> <li>• Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?)</li> <li>• Timeline—where we've been, where we are going</li> </ul>
1:10	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition, ramifications of handover of leadership role from YNP to BoL</li> <li>• Welcome to tribal representatives followed by discussion, clarification of roles of tribal representatives within IBMP, tribal representatives opening remarks</li> <li>• Other changes to note?</li> </ul>
1:40	Marty Z	Winter-spring 2009/10 operations plan
2:20	***	<i>Break (here or as called for by Partners)</i>
2:40	Partners	Winter-spring 2009/10 West side operations plan discussions
3:20	Pat F	Briefing on status of moving to operations on RTR (North Zone 2 Adaptive Mgt), including RTR fencing status(Park County limitations, timing/location of fence building, \$s, etc)
3:50	Partners	Winter-spring 2009/10 North side operations plan discussion
4:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	***	<i>Adjourn</i>

## Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbreviated welcome, overview</li> <li>• Introductions of anyone new from yesterday; recap of yesterday; set today's goals</li> </ul>
8:40	Suzanne L PJ White	Status of completion of Annual Report and availability to Congress, public
8:50	As noted	<p><i>Partner briefings/update/discussion on...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ... MT Stockgrowers lawsuit regarding May 15<sup>th</sup> turn back date for Horse Butte (Christian M)</li> <li>2. ... lawsuit from environmental organizations &amp; tribes to stop federal agencies from killing bison (Mary E, Jerry D, Suzanne L)</li> <li>3. ...USAHA 5 brucellosis resolutions (Glenn P, Marty Z)</li> <li>4. ... potential creation of Yellowstone brucellosis zone (Jerry D, Marty Z)</li> <li>5. ... Citizen's Working Group status and discussion with Governor Schweitzer (Suzanne L)</li> <li>6. ... transfer of quarantine animals to Turner (Jerry D, Marty Z)</li> <li>7. ... RFP for transfer of future quarantined bison (Marty Z, Ryan C)</li> <li>8. ... draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination (Suzanne L, Rick W)</li> <li>9. ... plan/activities for RTR Working Group (Pat F, Sam S)</li> <li>10. ... discussion with Jack Ryan regarding their newly requested AM recommendation under AM action 1.2A (Ryun C, Jerry D)—action item from Aug 11/12 meeting</li> <li>11. ... meeting w/Mark Anderson DoL before significant action taken on short term habitat adjustments to the North Side; re: logistical and geographical considerations (Lisa S, Marty Z, Tech com)— action item from Aug 11/12 meeting</li> </ol>
10:10	***	<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
10:30	As noted	Partner briefings/update/discussions (continued)
11:00	All Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action item / task list planning</li> <li>• Planning for next meeting or meetings (where, when, meeting host?)</li> </ul>
11:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	***	<i>Adjourn</i>