

# Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

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*April 14/15, 2010*

*To be held at the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Bozeman, MT*

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

**Meeting Host: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**

**Contact: Mel Frost 406.994.6931**

## **IBMP Signatory Representatives**

**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

**Brian McCluskey**—Director, Veterinary Services, W. Region Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**Marty Zaluski**—State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

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## **Background**

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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 2010 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 plan to meet several times (e.g., Apr., Aug., Nov.) in 2010 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 14<sup>th</sup>

*Maps to be available at each meeting per Nov09 agreement: YNP—IBMP zones; APHIS—land ownership; MFWP—elk range*

12:00 noon	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	Welcome, meeting overview <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>
12:10	Marty	2009/10 <b>West</b> side operations planning and updates
1:10	Pat	2009/10 <b>North</b> side operations planning and updates
2:10	***	<i>Break (here or as called for by Partners)</i>
2:30	Pat	Discussion of the next RFP (timing, cost, making process easier, determining barriers if no adequate proposals are submitted) for quarantined bison and potentially helping groups with their proposals Tribal participation in IBMP
2:50	NP, SK, ITBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina—Clarify ITBC legal status (provided at Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting)—any updates?</li> <li>• Tom, Brooklyn—provide official response from SK and NP to Partner invite for the record (done in Feb)</li> <li>• NP, SK, ITBC—presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Partner / tribal entities MOU</li> </ul>
3:40	Partners	Results of questions to legal counsel on potential addition of members to the deliberative table
4:10	MDOL	Status of letter sent out to County Commissioners on IBMP Partner willingness to attend public meetings held by the counties
4:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	***	<i>Adjourn</i>

## Thursday, April 15<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	Keith Aune	Presentation on persistence based on recently published paper
9:30	Arnie Dood	Presentation on state-wide bison conservation plan
10:20	***	<i>Break (here, or as called for by partners)</i>
		<i>Partner briefings/update/discussion on...</i>
10:40	As noted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary—confirm GNF takeover as lead partner for 2011/12</li> <li>2. Steve—request for RSS feed to allow public to get automatically updated on changes to IBMP.info, including meeting announcements</li> <li>3. Becky—verify that all available quarantine reports are posted to IBMP.info</li> <li>4. Pat—verify that RTR operations sent to partners and signed in December</li> <li>5. Christian—status of MT Stockgrowers lawsuit regarding May 15<sup>th</sup> turn back date for Horse Butte</li> <li>6. Mary, Suzanne—status of lawsuit from environmental organizations &amp; others to stop federal agencies from killing bison</li> <li>7. Brian, Marty—update on potential creation of Yellowstone brucellosis zone</li> <li>8. Partners—update on status Citizen's Working Group</li> <li>9. Brian, Pat—status of transfer of quarantine animals to Turner and pending lawsuit</li> <li>10. PJ—status of draft EIS for remote brucellosis vaccination</li> <li>11. Pat—did working group convene to look at short term habitat adjustments to the North Side with Tom Lemke before his retirement? If yes report; if no carry this action forward?</li> </ol>
11:20	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>