

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



May 9, 2013

2011/12 Lead Agency: Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
Meeting Host: APHIS (contact: Ryan Clarke 406-388-5162)

Don Herriott: Associate Regional Director; Veterinary Services; W.
Region Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Ron Trahan: Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Pat Flowers: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Christian Mackay: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

McCoy Oatman: Natural Resources Sub-committee Chair; Nez Perce
Tribe

Dan Wenk: Superintendent; NPS—Yellowstone National Park

Mary Erickson: Forest Supervisor; USFS—Gallatin National Forest



**Meeting to be held at the
Best Western GranTree**

...
1325 N 7th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
...

*For rooms reservations call
(406) 587-5261;
ask for government rate*

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. Tribal members—the Nez Perce, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and the InterTribal Buffalo Council—were invited to join the deliberative table beginning at the November 2009 Partner meeting.

The IBMP 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 each year 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.

Thursday, May 9th

**NOTE THAT AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY—
ACTUAL TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON PARTNER INTERACTION NEEDS**

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

8 AM	<i>Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present</i>	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications (?) • Timeline—where we’ve been, where we are going • Partners’ acceptance of last meeting notes as required under Partner Protocols?
8:20	<i>Discussion leads MFWP, MDOL, NPS</i>	<p>Discussion of Winter 2013 IBMP Operations</p> <p>To include (a) animal counts out of Park, (b) hunt results (including, if applicable, late season damage hunts), (c) status of helicopter hazing lawsuit (see Table 1); (d) planning for West Side Operations</p>
9:20	<i>Don Herriott NPS staff Dave Hallac Marty Zaluski</i>	<p>Seroprevalence (and more)</p> <p>(1) GAO letter with respect to IBMP performance efforts toward 2008 GAO report (2) Review of the ROD and provide the answer to whether seroprevalence reduction was explicitly called out as a goal. (See seroprevalence handout from NPS) (3) Report on NPS brucellosis science workshop (Feb 26-28, 2013) (4) Discussion of options for RB-51 vaccination—considering the 21 day meat withhold on vaccinated animals given the bison hunt as the backdrop</p>
10:05	<i>***</i>	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:25	<i>Peter Gogan</i>	Yellowstone bison population structure
11:15	<i>Cavan Fitzsimmons</i>	Overview of Hebgen Lake/Duck Creek landscape assessment & potential habitat improvement work
11:30	<i>***</i>	Lunch—Partners, staff, public on your own
12:40 PM	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	<p>Call back to order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone newly present
12:45	<i>Scott Bischke Pat Flowers</i>	Partner Protocols: Review, clarify Partner consensus concept
1:00	<i>Don Herriott Rick Wallen Pat Flowers</i>	<p>Per Partner Protocols: Begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed rewording of Management Action 1.1c (from last meeting): Each of the actions management action 1.1c. has been completed and the project reports are accepted and published in journals. The recommendation is to reword the action to be more general about research work so that there would be a place to report newly activated research projects. 2. Proposed zone concept adaptive change (from last meeting): Pat volunteered to draft an alternative AM proposal for increasing Zone 2 to include new North Side tolerance area as a counter to the AM change proposed by NPS at the Nov2012 meeting

continued →

	Marty Zaluski Dave Hallac	3. Proposed date change on the north side boundary (handout?) 4. Proposed change of the target haze-back date for bison from the Hebgen basin into YNP (handout).
2:15	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
2:30	Jack Rhyan	History of bison and brucellosis management in Yellowstone National Park
		Partner briefings/quick updates on ... (plan 5 min each unless otherwise noted)
3:05	As noted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pat, Christian—Lawsuit regarding expanded bison tolerance on North Side/Gardiner Basin (10 min; see Table 1) 2. Hannah Scott—Bison/brucellosis related bills in Montana State legislature (10 min, see Table 3) 3. Pat, Christian—State MEPA process for addition of new west side lands open to bison 4. Christian, Marty—Status of USDA review of Montana brucellosis efforts 5. Pat—status of relocation of quarantined bison from YNP to Turner (see Table 1) 6. Pat, Arnie Dood—State Bison Management Plan 7. Andrea—Update on efforts toward developing and implementing a factual education program about bison (10 min) 8. Ryan—update on Gonacon trials 9. Scott for Partners—Recognition that on Mar 23 the MT/WY Tribal Leaders Council passed a resolution regarding the protection of wild buffalo in and around YNP and Montana 10. SB—updates on IBMP.info: upcoming revamp of library to include meeting notes; AM collection and posting
4:10	Partners	<p>What's next? Partner planning as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any further action items or tasks to record? ○ Meeting planning—(a) Interest in movies? (b) Field trip or trips? Where? Purpose? Who leads? Partners have set aside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>July 31</i>--possible field trip (TBD, hold the date). • <i>August 1</i>--Normal IBMP meeting. Location: CSKT Tribal Headquarters, Pablo MT (8 AM to 5 PM). • <i>November 20</i>--possible field trip (TBD, hold the date). • <i>November 21</i>--Normal IBMP meeting (8 AM to 5 PM). Location: Chico Hot Springs, Pray MT. (Partners to discuss funding issues—fiscal year 2014—with Chico, and possibility of changing this venue)
4:30	Public	Public comment 3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

Meeting facilitator Scott Bischke, MountainWorks (scott@emountainworks.com)

Meeting support materials

Table 1.—Summary of current lawsuits surrounding IBMP as of 1-17-13*

Defendant		Sued by (Plaintiff)	Reason	Status	
1	MDOL	MSGA	deviation from implementing the IBMP on the West Side of YNP	?	?
2	YELL, GNF	Alliance for Wild Rockies	helicopter hazing	NOI to appeal to the 9 th Circuit Court	Finding for the IBMP Partners (state, APHIS, USFS, NPS) in District Court; notice of injunction pending appeal
3	MFWP	GWA, BFC, others?	privatization of a public resource; i.e., sending previously quarantined YELL bison to Turner	Case closed	Summary judgment for the state
4	State of MT (MDOL, MFWP)	Park County Stockgrowers'	implementation of proposed 2011 adaptive changes in Gardiner Basin	Case closed	Case found for the state of MT; increased tolerance allowed
5		Park County			
6	USFS, NPS, APHIS, MDOL, YELL	BFC, WW, GWA, others (?)	over their participation in implementation of IBMP; to stop federal agencies from killing bison	Case closed	Finding for the Federal government in the 9 th circuit court

* Note: This table put together by facilitator generally with “on-the-fly” input from Partners. Thus, specific details may not be exact or may be incomplete.

Table 2.—Annual IBMP calendar, as agreed to in Partner Protocols

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan – Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
Spring meeting (generally May)	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
Jun-Aug	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in preparation for Annual Report. (2) As needed, Partner or subcommittee discussions on proposed adaptive management efforts (i.e., operational changes) to be made for following winter given results of previous winter activities. (3) Develop recommendations for harvests/culling for the following winter. (4) Preparation of draft Operations Plan for the following year.
Summer meeting (generally Aug)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report. (2) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new AM activities and continued collection of ideas for adaptive changes for the following winter. (3) Presentation and discussion of draft Operations Plan for the following year (including recommendations for harvests/culling).
Oct/Nov	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Compilation of Partner write-ups of their sections of the Annual Report. (2) Draft Annual Report completed and circulated for review to Partners. (3) Partners discussions (potentially telecons) regarding issues under consideration in draft Operations Plan for the following year.
Fall meeting (generally Nov)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partners review Draft Annual Report; commit to complete any remaining items by Dec 31. (2) Partners review and potentially agree to proposed adaptive management changes for the upcoming winter (if applicable, not every year will have AM changes). (3) Final Partner discussion and signature of Operations Plan for the following year.
Dec	Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report.
Dec 31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Previous year’s Annual Report completed and posted to www.ibmp.info. (2) Lead Partner posts revised Operations Plan for the coming winter.

Table 3.-- Quick summary (as facilitator could find 5/7/13 via MSGA, BFC, newspaper reports)

#	Bill title (passed or still active)	Status
HB 328	AN ACT ALLOWING NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL WILD BUFFALO HUNTING LICENSE RECIPIENTS AS TO WHERE WILD BUFFALO OR BISON ARE LOCATED	Passed; signed into law by Gov Bullock
Bills believed to be inactive, tabled, or dead for this session		
HB 249	AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF WILD BUFFALO OR WILD BISON ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; AMENDING SECTION 81-2-121, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.	Tabled in House Approp. Committee
HB 312	AN ACT PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR TESTING AND PREVALENCE REDUCTION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE; ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITY FOR TESTING COSTS; REQUIRING REPORTING; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE.	Tabled in House Ag Committee
HB 396	AN ACT REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BEFORE THE DEPARTMENTS OF LIVESTOCK OR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS MAY AUTHORIZE ANY RELEASE, TRANSPLANTATION, OR RELOCATION OF WILD BUFFALO OR BISON CERTIFIED AS BRUCELLOSIS-FREE INTO A MONTANA COUNTY	Passed; vetoed by Gov Bullock
HB 484	AN ACT CLARIFYING THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FOR MANAGING WILD BUFFALO OR WILD BISON THAT MIGRATE FROM YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK INTO THE STATE OF MONTANA; AMENDING SECTIONS 81-2-120, 87-1-216, 87-1-271, 87-1-304, 87-2-101, 87-2-701, 87-2-702, 87-2-730, 87-2-731, AND 87-6-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.	Tabled in House Approp. Committee
HB 507	AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MANAGEMENT OF WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON; APPLYING LIVESTOCK LAWS TO CERTAIN WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON; RESTRICTING WHERE WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON MAY BE RELEASED OR TRANSPLANTED; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-101, 15-24-921, 81-1-101, 81-2-120, 81-3-201, 81-4-602, 81-4-603, 81-5-101, 81-5-104, 87-1-216, 87-1-271, 87-1-304, 87-2-101, 87-2-701, 87-2-702, 87-2-730, 87-2-731, 87-6-101, AND 87-6-906, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 81-2-121, MCA.	Tabled in House Ag Committee
HB 610	AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MANAGEMENT OF WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON; APPLYING LIVESTOCK LAWS TO CERTAIN WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON; RESTRICTING WHERE WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON MAY BE RELEASED OR TRANSPLANTED; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 81-1-101, 81-2-120, 81-3-201, 81-4-602, 81-4-603, 81-5-101, 81-5-104, 87-1-216, 87-1-271, 87-1-304, 87-2-101, 87-2-701, 87-2-702, 87-2-730, 87-2-731, 87-6-101, AND 87-6-906, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 81-2-121, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.	Tabled in House Ag Committee
LC 1827	AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FROM EXPENDING ANY FUNDS ON THE RELOCATION OR TRANSPLANTATION OF WILD BUFFALO OR BISON ON THE SPOTTED DOG WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-1-201 AND 87-1-216, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.	Draft cancelled
LC 1946	Revise laws related to bison	On hold 1/17/13
SB 143	AN ACT REVISING BISON MANAGEMENT LAWS; ESTABLISHING A YEAR-ROUND HUNTING SEASON; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE LICENSES; PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER, RELOCATION, OR TRANSPLANTATION OF WILD BUFFALO WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 81-2-120, 81-2-121, 87-1-216, 87-1-301, 87-1-304, 87-2-506, 87-2-701, 87-2-702, 87-2-730, 87-2-731, AND 87-6-304, MCA	House vote 50 Yea, 50 Nay; defeated
SB 256	AN ACT MAKING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS LIABLE FOR DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY BY WILD BUFFALO AND BISON; REQUIRING AN ESTIMATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGE AND COSTS FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE LIABLE IF A WILD BUFFALO OR BISON PROPOSED FOR RELEASE OR TRANSPLANTATION ESCAPES	Passed but vetoed by Gov Bullock
SB 305	AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF WILD BUFFALO AND WILD BISON	Passed but vetoed by Gov Bullock
SB 341	AN ACT ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR THE TRANSPLANTATION, INTRODUCTION, OR AUGMENTATION OF CERTAIN WILDLIFE SPECIES; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-5-702, 87-5-703, 87-5-704, 87-5-713, AND 87-5-716, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.	Tabled in House FWP Committee