

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



November 21, 2013

Meeting Host and 2012/13 Lead Agency: Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (contact: Ryan Clarke 406-388-5162)

Don Herriott: District 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 location:
Chico Hot Springs
Pray, Montana
* * *

*For room reservations call
(406) 333-4933
Staff—ask for IBMP block*

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, November 21st

**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"> • Welcome • 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>Partners</i>	Opportunity for comments, debrief on yesterday’s field trip
8:30	<i>Pat Flowers Christian Mackay</i>	<p>Status of State MEPA process for addition of new west side lands open to bison If complete, ramification to IBMP Winter Ops Plan and Adaptive Management Plan</p>
8:50	<i>APHIS, NPS, NPT</i>	<p>Discussion and signing of 2013/2014 Winter IBMP Operations Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison culls, shipment to Tribal entities • Harvest—planning, timing of hunt • Status of signing per Partner Protocols
10:00	<i>***</i>	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:20	<i>As noted</i>	<p>Seroprevalence timeline discussion Discussion goal: to begin clarifying future IBMP directions with respect to seroprevalence for Partners and Public. Possible topics of discussion with focus on (1) topic description, (2) timeframe for implementation and/or completion of each item:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. potential new mandate for brucellosis control in wildlife (APHIS) 2. potential MDOL ramp up on bison vaccination (MDOL) 3. status of bison remote vaccination EIS (NPS) 4. potential for setting objectives for a boundary vaccination program and determining feasibility of achieving those objectives (all) 5. status of Tom Hobbs predictive seroprevalence model publication and availability (NPS) 6. brucellosis suppression as an IBMP goal (all) 7. discussion of overall value of seroprevalence as a tool for achieving twin IBMP goals (all)
11:00	<i>Dr. Pete Coppolillo</i>	<p>Overview of conservation detection dogs and possible applications to disease management — Pete is the Executive Director of Working Dogs for Conservation.</p>
12 noon	<i>***</i>	<p>Lunch—Partners, staff, public on your own (pool snack bar, saloon eatery onsite) —> note lunchtime Partner transition quick meeting (APHIS, CSKT, ITBC, NPT)</p>

1:15 PM	Scott Bischke	Call back to order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of anyone newly present
1:20	Public	Public comment 3-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet
1:50	Don Herriott Pat Flowers MZ, ME, PF	Per Partner Protocols: Continued discussion on potential adaptive management changes for the following winter. 1. Adjustment to change the north side map (from July meeting) — Status of signing 2. Adjustment to treatment of the north side hydrological divide (from July meeting) — Status of signing
2:10	Arnie Dood	Update on the Montana State Bison Management Plan
2:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
2:50	Jodie Canfield	Habitat improvement working group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report on formation and development of scope of work • further tasking by Partners
3:20	Cavan Fitzsimmons Courtney Frost Keith Konan	Update on the North Hebgen habitat restoration project
3:50	As noted	Partner briefings/quick updates on ... (plan ~5 min each unless otherwise noted) 1. Don—status of letter to MDOT re: slowing speed limit in Gardner Basin 2. Andrea—status of continuing efforts on bison education brochures 3. Dave—NPS planning update, e.g., remote vaccination EIS update 4. Pat, Christian—Lawsuit regarding expanded bison tolerance on North Side/Gardiner Basin 5. Pat—status of relocation of quarantined bison from YNP to Turner 6. Ryan—update on Gonacon trials 7. Scott—updates on IBMP.info: AM collection and posting; showing of new loop added to Partner Protocols for minor AM Plan changes
4:20	Don Herriott Scott Bischke	Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report Status, planning for completion by Dec 31 st
4:30	Partners	What's next? Partner planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further action items or tasks to record from today? Recall key Dec 31 deadlines for Annual Report and Winter Operations Plan. • Change of leadership on Jan 1, 2014 to Tribal entities as shared Lead Partner. Given shared Lead, any need to discuss method of communication with facilitator, Partners, and/or Public? • ** Meeting planning for 2014—Date, location, host (as needed), field trips.
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 11-12-13*

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.