

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



April 23, 2015

Host and Lead Agency for this meeting:

National Park Service (contact: P. J. White [307] 344-2442)

Donald E. Herriott: District Director; Veterinary Services; Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Leonard Gray: Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Sam Sheppard: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Rob Tierney: MT Department of Livestock

Brooklyn Baptiste: Natural Resources Subcommittee Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Steve Iobst: Acting Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

Mary Erickson: Forest Supervisor; USFS—Custer Gallatin National Forest



Meeting location:

Holiday Inn

West Yellowstone, Montana

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*For room reservations call
(406) 646-7365*

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, April 23rd

**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 (Steve lobst of NPS is the new Lead Partner) • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • Timeline—see website • Note of Partners’ acceptance by email of last meeting report
8:20	<i>Lead by NPS as Lead Partner</i>	<p>Discussion 2015 Winter IBMP Operations (West and North sides) to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison harvest—Tribal, State • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups • Transfer of bison to APHIS • Hazing operations • Safety issues (personal, property, highway) • Planning for the remainder of the season
9:50	<i>Lauren Oswald</i>	Update on North Hebgen Project
10:10	<i>***</i>	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:30	<i>Rick Wallen Pauline Kamath</i>	<p>New Genetic Findings on Yellowstone Bison and Brucellosis Transmission Dynamics in the GYE (each talk 30 min followed by 15 min Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick—Bison genetics findings • Pauline—Brucellosis transmission dynamics
12:00 PM	<i>***</i>	Lunch (on your own)
1:10 PM	<i>Scott Bischke</i>	<p>Call back to order Introductions of anyone newly present</p>
1:15	<i>Public</i>	<p>Public comment Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.</p>
1:45	<i>As noted</i>	<p>Status of Ongoing Activities Related to Yellowstone Bison and Brucellosis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS to evaluate bison management 2. Jennifer—Status of Quarantine EA 3. Jennifer—Rulemaking petition from FOA and BFC regarding management of bison 4. Jennifer—Request for access to Stephens Creek from ACLU and BFC 5. Jennifer—Petition from WWP and BFC to list Yellowstone bison under ESA 6. Arnie—State of Montana Bison Management Plan 7. Sam—Quarantined bison from Turner lands—any further activities following Nov2014 transfer to Fort Peck, Fort Belknap? 8. Sam, Rob—MEPA process for addition of new west side lands open to bison 9. Rob—Governor’s directive not to haze on private property 10. Sam, Rob—Status of state legislature bills impacting bison 11. Sam, Rob—Outcome of MDOL/MFWP meeting from Nov2014 regarding potential to direct state licenses to select cows or bulls based on desired population control goals

		12. Sam (also NGOs)—Update on the bison coexistence/fencing project 13. Ryan—Gonacon trials
2:15	Rick Wallen Jodie Canfield Clayton Marlow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bison Grazing and Habitat Assessments (each talk 30 min followed by 15 min Q&A) Rick—Bison grazing study the NPS and Syracuse University Jodie / Dr. Marlow—USFS and MSU habitat assessment work All—Future habitat restoration projects in Gardiner basin
3:35	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:50	Robin Schoen Peggy Yih	Update on National Academy of Sciences review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA
4:20	Partners	<p>What's next? Partner Planning and Forthcoming Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential submission of briefing statements for Adaptive Management proposals for next year. Per Partner Protocols spring meeting includes "...begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter." Partners discussion on how to improve public engagement in the IBMP process Set up time, date, location for spring hunt coordination meeting Partner Protocols calendar reminders for next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft 2016 Winter Ops Plan Annual report duties assigned Discussion, as needed on Adaptive Management proposals submitted today or in coming months. <p><i>Reminder to all: The summer 2015 IBMP meeting will be held in Lapwai ID with NPT acting as local financial and logistical host.</i></p>
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

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

Meeting support materials

Table 1.—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.