

Agenda (ver 7/20/21) for IBMP Partners July 21, 2021 meeting (in-person & Zoom)

Times shown are in Lapwai ID (Bozeman MT times are 1 hr later)

Per Partner Protocols, the overall goal of the summer meeting is: Discussion of and planning for the following year's Winter Ops Plan, including--as applicable--reports of subcommittees or others on proposed new operations plans and/or adaptive management changes.

7:15 AM -- Breakfast

The Nez Perce Tribe is providing a simple breakfast and chance for Partners to meet before the meeting. The breakfast will be in the meeting room.

8:15 -- WELCOME!

1. Welcome from Lead Partner Quincy Ellenwood (and NPT team)
2. Scott -- meeting logistics
 - COVID concerns, guidelines — open discussion if needed
 - Zoom protocol for Partners, staff, and treaty hunting tribes
 - Introduction of Kayeloni Scott; her thoughts on slide presentations, microphone management, Facebook Live streaming, monitoring Zoom chat, recording this meeting
 - (If needed) Public comments have been and still are being taken via Google Form (not on Facebook Live)
 - Brief history of the IBMP
 - Scott summary of action items from Apr1 meeting
 - Acceptance of Apr 1 meeting report, including reminder that the full meeting video is posted to IBMP.info

8:45 -- Partner updates

~3 min per Partner and treaty hunting Tribe to provide a brief summary their own handling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; results of legislative, agency, or Tribal Council actions; and other changes since Apr1 meeting, and how those might impact the IBMP

1. Begin with host and Lead Partner NPT
2. APHIS, CSKT, ITBC, MDOL/MBOL, MFWP, NPS, USFS
3. Blackfeet, CTUIR, Northern Arapaho, ShoBan, Yakama

9:15 -- Final review of 2020/21 Winter Operations, considerations for 2021/22

Items below are group per three categories Partners agreed (in 2018) as having their best chance at tackling successfully

1. **(A) Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues.**
 - Review of outcomes of recent Hunt Managers' meeting (CTUIR, CSKT, MFWP, others)
 - Highs, lows, or opportunities associated with current efforts under the Tribal hunt MOA (Tribal hunt managers)
 - These items are regularly discussed as part of Winter Ops Planning; potential changes to:
 1. Harvest & population goals, including status, timing of NPS bison population counts (NPS)
 2. Enforcement, including communication (between agencies, within agencies as in hunter-training) (NPT, MFWP, others)
 3. Field operations, including carcass handling; Gardner basin neighbor relations; safety issues at Beattie Gulch and/or Eagle Creek... (USFS, others); included will be Mike Thom report on a) his discussions and data collection from Buffalo Bridge group (as well as their potential to manage the carcass handling program); b) discussions with Carl Scheeler, Brad Bolte, Brian Helm on safety, posting, etc in Beattie Gulch
 4. Method of hunt-trap op'n & its relation to IBMP population goals (NPS, CTUIR, others)
 1. Bison distribution (actions or observations regarding bison migration out of Park and distribution across tolerance area) (all)
2. **(B) Bison quarantine and translocation**
 - Bison Conservation and Transfer Program (BCTP) at Stephens Creek (NPS)
 - Status of expansion of BCTP facility (NPS, APHIS)
 - Bison transfers to Fort Peck (APHIS, ITBC, NPS, MDOL)
 - Bison status at Fort Peck (ITBC)
 - Bison transfers from Fort Peck (ITBC)
3. **(C) Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area**
 - Hunt status, west side, including MFWP hunt zone status, tribal hunt (MFWP)
 - Status update on bison distribution and use of West Side habitat (increased?) -- NPS, MFWP
 - Status update on West Side habitat manipulation -- with goals potentially to include increased forage and/or increased migration of bison and/or increased traffic safety -- near Hebgen Lake and along the Hwy 191 corridor (Hebgen Flats, Fir Ridge/Teepee Creek, Red Canyon). (Jason Brey)

- Status update (if any) on concerns of West Side highway safety issues associated with increased bison movement along Hwy 191 corridor -- current status, plans ahead? -- (MFWP, USFS)
- Re-engagement, if any, with West Side owners (USFS, MFWP, all)

10:45 BREAK (here or as called for by the Partners)

11:00 – Nez Perce presentation by Nakia Williamson

12 noon -- Catered lunch, chance for informal meetings, and chance to stretch legs

1:30 PM Public testimony

< Remote public input available through a Google form — link available at <http://ibmp.info/meetings.php> >

2 PM NPS discussion of new bison EIS

2:30 < Currently open >

3:30 Opportunity to introduce Adaptive Management topics to the current IBMP Adaptive Management Plan

3:40 BREAK (here or as called for by the Partners)

4:00 -- Status updates on new or ongoing programs or issues

1. ITBC (also APHIS, MDOL?)
 - status of Fort Peck assurance testing facility capacity (if not already covered)
2. MBOL, ITBC – final (?) status update on bison-related bills considered by the Montana Legislature
3. MDOL -- update, if any, on removing *brucella abortus* from CDC select agent list (i.e., response, if any, to Apr 2020 comments from MDOL to CDC and USDA request for input)
4. NPS, USFS -- Updates on lawsuits (Neighbors against bison slaughter, Cottonwood Law, more?)

4:45 Review of upcoming 2021 and 2022 meetings

1. Lead Partners set, Partner Protocols modified to reflect decisions below
2. Discussion, if any, on upcoming locations? First in-person meeting likelihood?
3. Contingency planning if COVID-19 is still eliminating the chance to meet in large-group, public forums?
4. Date changes suggested: a) make Spring meeting later in the year to since many hunts go til Mar 31 so later would give groups more time to collect, analyze, and verify their hunt data; b) move the summer meeting until fall to assure that it comes after the NPS bison count thereby giving the Partners more information upon which to base their Winter Ops Planning discussions.

| | date | mtg type (expected) | host | Lead Partner | Facilitation costs | mtg location costs | possible mtg location |
|-------------|--------|------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021 | | | | | | | |
| • | Dec 1 | in -person | NPT | NPT | NPT | NPT | Chico or Bozeman (TBD) |
| 2022 | | | | | | | |
| • | Spring | in -person | ITBC | ITBC | ITBC | ITBC | Bozeman? |
| • | Summer | in -person | CSKT | NPS | NPS | CSKT | Pablo? |
| • | Winter | in-person | NPS | NPS | NPS | NPS | Chico? |

2023 -- return to Partner Protocol schedule for Lead Partner MDOL (who also acts as host for each meeting)

2024 -- per Partner Protocol schedule (USFS is Lead Partner) ...

5 PM -- Close with final words from Lead Partner Quincy Ellenwood and NPT Team

ADJOURN (please drive safely!)

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