

IBMP Conference Call Notes:

Reason: OPS check-in

Date: April 23, 2013

Participants: Pat Flowers-FWP; PJ White, Rick Wallen, Dave Hallac, Bonnie Schwartz, Brian Helms.-YNP; Cavan Fitzsimmons-USFS; Christian Mckay.-BOL, Marty Zaluski, Rob Tierney-DOL; Don Herriott, Becky Frey, Ryan Clarke- APHIS; Keith Lawrence- NPT

Reports:

DOL: North side; Bison need to be back into YNP on May 1st including bulls. With increased activity on West side we need to try and address the numbers out on N side sooner rather than later. Resources to work both sides are limited. Propose to haze on Friday 26th. There is not year round tolerance bulls on the North side (expect for Eagle Creek area) at this point.. The year round bull tolerance is currently in process in EA, not signed off on yet.

West side; There are probably over 550 bison out on the West side with 119 on the south side of Madison River. DOL has hazed around 50 animals from the S. Fork of the Madison across to Horse Butte 4 or 5 times. Limit on S side is 30 hd. Propose May 13th for start of whole herd push back.

YNP North side: 150 bison in Gardiner basin. These are primarily Central herd animals. Don't expect these bison to head south for another month. Seeing some movement of bison off Blacktail heading back east towards Hellroaring.

Issues identified:

FWP: Would a damage hunt on S. Fork help to encourage bison to stay away from that area? FWP will look into the possibilities and contact landowners.

USFS: 1) What is the measure of greenup?

YNP response: We use criteria to measure growth and what will hold the bison. Is often dependent on conditions in Hayden Valley

2) Can we just protect individual cattle/ranches on west side like we do for Gardiner?

DOL response: We do not do a good job of “protecting” cattle from commingling with bison in the Gardiner basin. West side has even more challenges when it comes to fencing and managing commingling that will make us even less able to prevent commingling or use during the risk period.

3) Need to re-examine travel plans and follow use special permits. ATV’s need to stay on designated roads during hazing operations, unless there are exceptions in permit.

4) What is USFS role in grizzly bear monitoring during haze?

FWP will have bear specialist out prior to hazing, and he will be available to determine the extent if any of bear disturbance. See also hazing/helicopter MOU between FWP and DOL.

YNP – MT/WY Tribal Leaders Resolution. There are numerous inaccuracies, does IBMP respond, do we try to correct the inaccuracies? What is the intent of this document?

Will try to get more information for May 9th meeting.

Other Recent information:

Summary judgment was awarded for the state in lawsuit regarding transfer of bison from quarantine to Green Ranch, Turner Enterprises, Inc.

NPT has contributed money to the efforts to clean up gut piles on the N. side at Beattie Gulch left during the hunting season.