

Meeting #3 of 7 Agenda

Interagency Bison Management Plan

*Held at: Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Division
Building (the Old Armory Building, 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch), Room 112
Helena, MT*

Host: Montana Department of Livestock

Date: September 8-9, 2008

IBMP Principal Representatives

Jerry Diemer, Associate Regional Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest

Pat Flowers, Region 3 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Purpose/Needs Statement for Series of Seven Meetings

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. In keeping with this commitment, the partners have scheduled multiple working meetings between August and December 2008. These meetings will be open to the public with agendas designed so that partner agencies can effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office; assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008); and considering prevailing conditions, develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Goals of the Seven Meetings: for the IBMP Partners...

1. ... to effectively deliberate on recent recommendations by the US Government Accountability Office;
2. ... to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of IBMP management activities (highlighting winter 2007-2008);
3. ... considering prevailing conditions, to develop and incorporate short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP for winter 2008-2009 and beyond.

Monday September 8th

Afternoon session

12:00 noon	Scott Bischke <i>(facilitator);</i> all present	<p>Welcome, meeting overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline—where we've been, where we are going • Desired outcomes from Sep 8, 9 meetings • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications as needed
12:15	APHIS	Plotter size mapping presentation combining information shown in the USFS 8/29 presentation. Maps will incorporate current landownership, cattle grazing, and bison movement information in both the west side and north side boundary areas and will serve as visual tools to sort through adaptive management options.
12:45	YNP	Report on prevalence of brucellosis 2000-2008
1:45	<i>Break (here or as called for by partners)</i>	
2:00 – 4:30	All partners	<p>Compile lists of written, measurable management objectives from all partners. Working exercise—complete Excel matrix (projected on screen) for each management objective showing spatial (e.g., Horse Butte, other), temporal (short- or long-term), area of action (increasing tolerance, population conservation, and preventing disease transmission). Once compiled, we can sort this list to show management objectives that are for Horse Butte over the short term. Use this sorted list as the basis for tomorrow's discussion on adaptive management for Horse Butte for 2008/9 season.</p>
4:30	Observers	Public comment period (2-3 min, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
5:00	Adjourn	

Tuesday September 9th

Morning session

8:30 AM	Scott Bischke	Abbreviated welcome, overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions of anyone new from yesterday• Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications as needed• Recap yesterday's meeting and set today's goals
8:40	All partners	Horse Butte adaptive management discussion; goal is to create a first pass adaptive management plan for Horse Butte reflecting what has changed on the ground since 2000.
10:30	<i>Break (here or as called for by partners)</i>	
10:45	Scott Bischke	Planning for subsequent meetings; discussion: based on progress to this moment are we on track to make December goal or not? If so or if not what are our next steps in meetings 4, 5, 6, 7?
11:30	Observers	Public comment period (2-3 min, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12 noon	Adjourn	<i>(partners please huddle to debrief before departure)</i>
