

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

Feb 2, 2010

Held at the MFWP; Bozeman, MT

2009/10 Lead Agency: Montana Board of Livestock

Meeting Host: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Contact: Mel Frost 406.994.6931

IBMP Principal Representatives

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

Brian McCluskey—Director, Veterinary Services, W. Region Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Marty Zaluski—State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

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.

The 2009 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 will meet three times (Apr, Aug, Nov) in 2009 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.

Tuesday, February 2nd

9:00 AM	Scott Bischke, facilitator	Welcome, meeting overview • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda
9:10	All	Potential addition of a County Commissioner position to the deliberative table at IBMP meetings
10:10	***	<i>Break</i>
10:15	All	Winter-spring 2009/10 West side operations plan discussion
11:30	Public	Public comment period (2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet)
12:00	***	<i>Adjourn</i>