

Existing Language in the 2008 Adaptive Management Plan (Management Response under Management Action 1.1.a):

- During the period from November 15 through April 15, up to 30 female bison (or a mixed group of 30 males and females) will be allowed in Zone 2 on the Madison Arm. After April 15, up to 30 female/mixed group bison will be allowed east of the Madison Arm Resort. After May 15, no female/mixed group bison will be allowed on the Madison Arm.
 - If female/mixed group bison exceed 30 animals or breach the Zone 2 perimeter on the South Fork two or more times before April 15, then this will trigger management actions to reduce risk that may include hazing, capture, testing, or lethal removal at the discretion of the State Veterinarian.
 - If female/mixed group bison exceed 30 animals or breach the Madison Arm Resort two or more times between April 15 and May 15, then this will trigger management actions to reduce risk that may include hazing, capture, testing, or lethal removal at the discretion of the State Veterinarian.

Suggested Clarification for 2010 operations (without changing existing language in the 2008 Adaptive Management Plan):

IBMP partners will continue to evaluate bison numbers, movements, and distribution in and near the western management area. If ongoing distribution counts of bison indicate numbers on the Horse Butte peninsula exceed 300 and there is a directed movement of more than 100 central herd bison west towards Horse Butte, then the State Veterinarian has the management discretion to initiate management actions in zone 2 that may include hazing, capture, testing, or lethal removal to prevent bison from entering zone 3 (where there is no tolerance of bison by the state of Montana). IBMP partners acknowledge that the risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle on the Horse Butte peninsula is substantially lower (approximately zero) in 2009 compared to 2000 when the Record of Decisions for the IBMP were signed.

IBMP partners will continue to collect data to evaluate factors that influence bison movements to areas north and south of Horse Butte, including central herd size, the number of bison on Horse Butte, the number of bison in the Madison Valley, snow pack, responses of bison to hazing actions, residual forage biomass, and forage green-up. The IBMP partners expect the carrying capacity for bison on Horse Butte and other portions of the western conservation area to vary substantially among winters based on prevailing conditions. Thus, the threshold of 300 bison on Horse Butte peninsula is an indicator to guide management decisions, not an estimate of the actual carrying capacity for bison in any given winter. Also, the form of the relationship (e.g., linear, moderated, threshold) between the number of bison occupying Horse Butte peninsula and movement responses by bison to areas north and south of the butte is currently unknown.

IBMP partners will monitor the movement responses of bison following hazing events and evaluate if there is a relationship between the hazing of bison on Horse Butte peninsula and bison moving south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake.

IBMP partners will develop a fencing strategy in collaboration with private landowners (See 2008 Adaptive Management Plan, Objective 3.2, Management Action 3.2.b) to minimize the risk of transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle (e.g., impede bison movements at key locations into zone 3 when cattle are present), without adversely affecting other wildlife.

IBMP partners will identify and explore opportunities for bison use of available habitat in other public and private land areas in the Hebgen basin (See 2008 Adaptive Management Plan, Objective 3.2, Management Action 1.3).