

Summary Report from the Interagency Bison Management Plan Meeting July 31, 2013



Presented by meeting facilitator Scott Bischke

The following summary report reflects activities at the July 31st, 2013 meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) Partners, held at the Best Western+ Kwa Taq Nuk Resort in Polson, MT. This report comes from the notes and flip chart records of facilitator Scott Bischke¹. The report will be marked “Draft” until formal Partner agreement at the start of their next meeting. The nine Partner attendees were Don Herriott (APHIS), Tom McDonald (CSKT), Dennis Bear Don’t Walk (ITBC), Christian Mackay (MBOL), Marty Zaluski (MDOL), Pat Flowers (MFWP), McCoy Oatman (NPT), Daniel Wenk (NPS-YNP), and Mary Erikson (USFS-GNF). In addition to those at the deliberative table, ~20 staff members from across IBMP organizations and ~15 members of the public were present (attendance sheets are available from the facilitator).

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Action Items Identified

Table 1.—Action items identified during this meeting

#	Who	What	By when
1	Meeting to be called by Jodie Canfield / Courtney Frost (USFS)	First assessment of possible habitat improvement opportunities on the North Side. Expectations are that this would be a small assessment done over 1 year, not requiring NEPA but instead tackling the question, What does future habitat look like. Remainder of team is Karen Loveless (MFWP), Keith Lawrence (NPT), Rick Wallen (NPS), Stephanie Gillen (CSKT). Goal is to develop a statement of work by next IBMP meeting.	Report at next IBMP meeting
2	RC	RC to circulate the Winter Ops Plan to Partners for requested changes. Partners to review and comment before next harvest management meeting (Sep 15). The Partners stated a desire to sign the Winter Ops Plan this year at their November 21 meeting.	Circulate ASAP, Partner review to be complete and back to RC before Sep 15
3	DaveH, MZ	Continuing seroprevalence discussion, with topics: 1. objectives for a boundary vaccination program, 2. technical feasibility of achieving objectives, and 3. agency discussion of overall value.	At Nov2013 IBMP meeting
4	DaveH, DH	Process agreed to for commenting to MDOT regarding decreasing speed in the Gardner Basin, based on current MDOT ongoing review of this matter: (1) NPS to draft letter and forward to APHIS; (2) DH to submit the letter to MDOT on behalf of the IBMP Partners	ASAP
5	DaveH	Discussion of proposed AM change of the target haze-back date for bison from the Hebgen basin into YNP	ASAP
6	SB	The facilitator should circulate an AM change for electronic signature for the North Side adjustment as agreed to at this meeting.	ASAP
7	SB	The facilitator should circulate an AM change for electronic signature for the new AM zone map.	Before next meeting
8	SB	Update the process for making AM Adjustments in the Partner Protocols to reflect a pathway for minor AM adjustments or updates that the Partners decide to declare a necessary changes but do not require NEPA/MEPA analysis nor a formal signature loop. After making the update, post the revised Partner Protocols to ibmp.info .	Before next IBMP meeting
9	AJ	Andrea to solicit help from Matt Skoglund regarding re-engaging some citizens in the bison education project.	Before next IBMP meeting
10	SB	SB to complete AM section of ibmp.info .	Before next IBMP meeting
11	SB	SB to send out template for Annual Report to Partners.	ASAP
12	DaveH, ME, RC, SS	Plan fall field trip in the Gardner Basin for afternoon of November 20 th . Partners, staff, and public all welcome. Focus on habitat enhancement. Possible items on tour: Cutler Meadows, NPS exclosures, areas of AM changes, safety issues, management of hunt (topography issues).	ASAP with report to facilitator to post to ibmp.info

CSKT opening

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes hosted this meeting of the IBMP and provided the meeting opening. Germaine White, CSKT Information and Education Specialist, introduced Clara McDonald-Charlo to lead the opening prayer, the CSKT drum group played *Calling the Buffalo Song*, and finally Tribal Council member Lloyd Irvine, who welcomed the IBMP Partners on behalf of the Tribe. Germaine also presented the Partners, staff, and public a CD set titled “The Gift of Fire”. One CD describes the Tribe’s use of fire, fire ecology, and modern-day fire management activities on the Flathead Indian Reservation; the other tells the story “Beaver Steals Fire”, an ancient Salish tale.

Agreeing to previous meeting minutes

The facilitator asked if there were any objections or changes to the draft meeting report from the May 2013 IBMP meeting. KL requested a small change be made, and the Partners agreed that the facilitator and KL could make that change offline and then that the facilitator was then free to post the May 2013 meeting notes as final to IBMP.info.

Discussion of Winter 2013/014 Operations Plan

PJ noted that the Winter Ops Plan itself has not changed from that agreed upon for last winter.

Culls.—NPS described the desire to have 250-300 culls during the coming winter as described in their document titled, “Managing the Abundance of Yellowstone Bison, Winter 2014” (the document is available at <http://ibmp.info/Library/20130731/20130731.php>; there was some discussion regarding whether the document suggested 350-400 culls rather than 250-300). Those removals would optimally be taken across the winter, not all at once late in the season, and would focus on cow and calf bison. Some Partners stated agreement with the idea of incremental takes.

Capture and ship.—Capture and ship could occur during the hunt. NPS has made offers to CSKT, ITBC, and others that they can pick up bison at capture facilities with the Tribes then able to take and distribute as the Tribes see fit. Bison transfer of ownership would occur at the capture facilities (Stephens Creek) before the bison leave YELL. Most likely months of transfer would be January, February, and March.

TM noted that the CSKT did have an agreement with NPS for last year. The agreement, however, must be renewed by the Tribal Council to be in effect again this year. DW noted stated that for the Park the agreement was good across 5 years, but understanding that the Tribes have their own decision timing and processes.

TM asked what would happen if NPS had bison in capture facilities for this program but no willing recipients. PJ noted that at least one possibility is that the population will then continue to increase, perhaps to 5500 animals next year, and 6000 the year following, with a current ongoing shift of animals toward the Northern herd.

A short discussion was held regarding who pays for the shipment of animals and DW clarified that the current process includes payment for shipment by the benefitting (receiving) organization. TM noted that, indeed, funding was one reason the CSKT Tribal Council must make a decision on the program again this year.

Improving the hunt.—TM recognized that better hunt management could reduce population, as well. There was, as the Partners have stated in the past, agreement that the hunt should be maximized before capture and ship, or ship to slaughter, takes place. Partners recognized that animal dispersal is of major importance to the having both a successful and safe hunt. One item noted for improving the hunt was the possibility to having the hunt on for a week, then off for a week since this past year the bison responded quickly to the hunt by moving back into the Park.

Habitat improvement.—Another thought brought forward for improving the hunt to was that habitat improvement would likely draw animals out sooner, and keep them out of YELL longer, and that such changes should be consider for adaptive management adjustments. ME described that on the GNF habitat improvement is a real possibility and one she would support, both on public lands and also in possible

public/private partnerships. While the GNF initial work is slated for the West Side, efforts on the North Side, including Cutler Meadows, are also possible in the future. ME noted, however, that she has limited capacity to take on anything, particularly in the next year. One Partner described the search for preferred bison migration corridors as less time consuming than a full landscape analysis.

PF stated MFWP support for the concept of habitat improvement, though MFWP like GNF has limited capacity. TM stated CSKT interest and willingness to help with their staff and expertise. NPS also stated willingness to help, given expertise derived from an ongoing project to reestablish habitat. The NPT also stated interest in participating in habitat improvement assessment and work.

Partners recognized that a group of them already meets for a harvest management meeting, and likewise they could convene a group for a habitat management meeting. This discussion led to the creation of ****action item 1**—First assessment of possible habitat improvement opportunities on the North Side. Expectations are that this would be a small assessment done over one year, not requiring NEPA but instead tackling the question, What could future habitat look like? The team, as declared by Partners volunteering their staff, consists of Jodie Canfield/Courtney Frost (USFS), Karen Loveless (MFWP), Keith Lawrence (NPT), Rick Wallen (NPS), Stephanie Gillen (CSKT). The group’s goal is to develop a statement of work by next IBMP meeting.

Other thoughts.—Three counterpoints to the long discussion on habitat improvement were put forward:

- The proposal that bison don’t return to the Park because of poor habitat; instead they return because of hunting pressure and thus modifying the hunt should be the focus of future work. NPS requested that modifying the distribution of the hunt in space and time, thereby allowing animals to be further dispersed across the landscape, also be considered by the Partners.
- The idea that bison have been hazed year-by-year. If the paradigm was changed to push them toward using all habitat available (not just back into the Park), there might be more animals available for hunting.
- While most of the discussion focused on possible habitat work to be done during the summer, TM noted that there are efforts can be made in the spring, as well, particularly on how wild fire is managed as a tool.

Completing the Winter Ops Plan.—Per Partner Protocols, the Winter Ops Plan should be signed off by December 31 of each calendar year. ****Action item 2**—RC to circulate the Ops Plan to Partners for requested changes. Partners to review and comment before next harvest management meeting (Sep 15). The Partners stated a desire to sign the Winter Ops Plan this year at their November 21 meeting.

Status of final report on NPS brucellosis science workshop report

DaveH provided a short report on the completion of the report from the NPS brucellosis science workshop held in February 2013. That report can be found in full at the meeting website (<http://ibmp.info/Library/20130731/20130731.php>) and will not be repeated here. As part of his talk, DaveH showed a comparison of recommendations made by the Science Panel, and the Bison and Elk Citizens’ Working Groups (Table 1). Two major findings of the Science Panel were (1) a recommendation against the use of remote vaccination of bison; and (2) a statement in support of the activities of the IBMP Partners.

Table 1.—Comparison of recommendations

Brucellosis Management Recommendations	Science Panel	Bison CWG	Elk CWG
<i>Livestock Vaccination</i>	Need effective livestock vaccine	Need effective livestock vaccine	Need effective livestock vaccine
<i>Remote Vaccination (wildlife)</i>	Cost ineffective tool	Should not be a priority	NA
<i>Immunocontraception</i>	Not needed to achieve disease management goals; further research is needed	NA	NA
<i>Hunting</i>	Useful tool	Useful tool	Useful tool
<i>Spatial & temporal separation</i>	Effective	Reduce artificial concentrations of bison and elk	Reduce problematic concentrations of wildlife
<i>Human Dimension</i>	Understand human values towards conservation of wildlife affected by brucellosis	Opportunities to gather and report information on brucellosis	Education regarding brucellosis management

Seroprevalence

A continuing discussion on seroprevalence was planned, with expected topics being: 1) objectives for a boundary vaccination program, 2) technical feasibility of achieving objectives, and 3) agency discussion of overall value. Partners agreed to delay the discussion until their November, 2013 meeting (****Action item 3—MZ, DaveH to lead seroprevalence discussion at Nov2013 IBMP meeting**).

Fire/bison grazing interaction

Dr. Samuel Fuhlendorf, of Oklahoma State University, presented a talk describing the interaction of fire and grazing. The slides from his talk, as well as a background paper Sam provided on pyric herbivory, are available at the meeting website (<http://ibmp.info/Library/20130731/20130731.php>) and will not be repeated here.

Dr. Fuhlendorf’s talk was particularly applicable to current Partners discussions about habitat improvement. He provided evidence to support the following conclusions on the roles of fire, people, and herbivory:

- (1) All ecosystems are heterogeneous
- (2) Fire and herbivory are critically linked
- (3) Biodiversity requires heterogeneity—in grasslands that means highly variable fire and grazing distribution in space and time
- (4) Most management is single objective and reduces heterogeneity
- (5) Considering grasslands as shifting mosaics can simultaneously
 - a. Enhance biodiversity
 - b. Sustain ecosystem services

- (6) This interaction operated anywhere with fire and herbivory
- (7) The strength is dependent on the relationships among grazing site selection, fire intensity, herbaceous biomass and forage quality—How much heterogeneity is possible?



Figure 1.—Sam Fuhlendorf, of Oklahoma State University, addresses the IBMP Partners, staff, and general public about the interaction between fire and grazing.

Several interesting points brought out in Sam’s presentation and/or the Q&A session follow:

- Over the last 100 years, the only thing we know that does not work is fire suppression.
- Removal of fire may be society’s largest impact ever on the natural world.
- In the 1800s , evidence shows that the majority of fires were set by people.
- Fire and herbivory (“pyric herbivory”) are inseparable from the grazing animals perspective; but that link has been largely severed by people.
- The primary driver for determining where grazers graze is fire.
- Burned areas are even more attractive to grazers than riparian areas. The latter may have more biomass but the former has higher forage quality.
- Insects as worse in unburned areas, potentially making burned areas more attractive to grazers.
- An open question regarding the ecology of YELL: Why when people talk about the reintroduction of wolves and their impact on herbivores, do they never connect that event to the large fires of 1988, less than a decade earlier?
- Could fire be a new tool for habitat management available to the Partners?
- Ranchers burn their land each year in Kansas to improve forage quality for their livestock.
- Why was there never any analysis to exclude fire from the range, but now people are demanding analysis to return it to the range? The issue, is mostly a social one.

Hebgen Lake/Duck Creek landscape assessment

< Note: this item was moved forward from its original 3:20 PM update timeslot >

As it melded well with Dr. Fuhlendorfs's presentation, CF updated the Partners on an upcoming USFS landscape assessment of GNF lands. CF reminded Partners that notwithstanding their earlier conversation regarding habitat improvement on the North Side, that the GNF's planned work will initially be focused to the north of Hebgen Lake (on ~95,000 acres). He further reminded them that the GNF would be completing an assessment as a precursor to future GNF projects that could impact IBMP goals, including potential habitat restoration and/or improvement, understory manipulation for fire management, and others.

CF mentioned that they are considering fire as a tool, but noted the Forest's caution regarding possible unintended consequences. They are concerned about mountain sagebrush habitat. Also, for example, they have found that moose and other creatures rely heavily on bitterbrush, but have some evidence that bitterbrush does not come back well after fire. So they want to find the "sweet spot" where they might help one species such as bison, while not hurting another species such as moose. CF said they see two questions:

- (1) What risk can we take using fire, or other techniques, as a management tool?
- (2) What can we learn from the Madison Arm area, given that multiple treatments of that land occurred in the past (e.g., there has been lots of disturbance on the South side of the Madison, far less on the North Side of Zone 2)?

CF also described going out onto GNF lands recently to do a visual assessment and review with representatives from the NPT and CSKT, and also that he reviewed programs with the CSKT on their lands yesterday. He such interchange is highly valuable. CF said that in this planning stage he very much wants to focus on the objectives of the habitat improvement work, not the tools to achieve those objectives. Similarly, he hoped the program would focus on 25-30 years out, not on next year.

ME further stated that the GNF has everything that they need to get started on the work without a revision of the forest plan or anything else; they simply need folks to roll up their sleeves and get to work. As stated at the May IBMP meeting, they want input from interested Partners and the public. The Hebgen Basin is the GNF priority, with three goals: improving wildlife habitat (CWG priority), safety, and forest resiliency. The forest is hoping to complete with their habitat improvement proposal this year.

Possibility of the IBMP Partner sending a joint letter to MDOT

Partners discussed the idea of sending the Montana Department of Transportation a letter recommending that the speed limit on Highway 89 north of Gardiner be reduced during the time of likely bison out migration from YELL into the Gardner Basin (i.e., a seasonal reduction). The discussion brought forth several comments and questions, with key points summarized below:

- The best route for IBMP contact is likely through MBOL or MFWP. . It could be a letter, CM noted sitting in meetings regularly with the head of MDOT
- What speed? Might be best to suggest the same as the West Side, or simply request reduced speed without requesting anything specific (i.e., for MDOT to determine). Also, there was recognition that MDOT has its own methods of data analysis that will show if a reduced speed is warranted.
- NPS stated a willingness to draft a letter from the Partners to the head of MDOT, to be sent by the Lead Partner (DH concurred if that path chosen).
- Partners need to include Park County Commissioners in the discussion or written request, if there is to be either, as this area falls under their jurisdiction.
- **** Action item 4:** Process decided on:
 - CM to ask MDOT director if a letter from the IBMP would be useful
 - NPS to draft letter
 - Lead Partner to send
- *Toward meeting end, CM came back from a phone call with the following information from the head of the MDOT:*

- Any request to MDOT needs to come from the County where the road exists
- A public process regarding the slowing traffic in the Gardner Basin has already started, with a request already made by Park County
- MDOT is still looking for input, thus

Discussion of potential adaptive management changes

This discussion of potential adaptive management changes to the IBMP is a continuation from the May meeting and a part of the normal IBMP calendar, as called out under the Partner Protocols.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE TARGET HAZE-BACK DATE FOR BISON FROM THE HEBGEN BASIN INTO YNP

Partners agreed to delay the discussion until their November, 2013 meeting (****Action item 5—DaveH**) pending decision on the State of Montana MEPA process for lands on the West Side of YELL. Depending on the outcome of that decision, there is a possibility that discussion of this potential AM adjustment will no longer be needed.

PROPOSED CHANGE ON THE NORTH SIDE BOUNDARY

MZ provided a handout describing a proposed North Side change. This proposed adjustment was initially presented at the May 2013 IBMP meeting, then reworded in the interim to address Partner concerns. In summary, the recommended adjustment now reads: *Reduce the opportunity for bison to breach the tolerance zone boundaries by employing management actions at the most efficient trigger points in consideration of overall conditions and risks.* The full revised briefing statement describing the requested AM change can be found at <http://ibmp.info/Library/20130731/20130731.php> and will not be repeated here. The key change to the proposal was to make it less specific to a single area.

A short discussion followed, paralleling much of the discussion during the May 2013 IBMP meeting:

- The big change in the newly restated AM adjustment was to remove the explicit spatial piece so that it would not be so absolute.
- Yes, MDOL has the authority described in the AM adjustment already but the AM adjustment makes that authority more tangible.
- If bison breach the area, will management actions start with those least onerous? Yes, most likely haze first and then potentially escalate from there on a case dependent basis.
- A key is that this needs to be a general authority—each situation will be unique so the method of action *cannot* be prescriptive (e.g., exact steps to take, distance from the zone boundary before action taken).

Following this discussion, Partners provided 100% consensus to the AM adjustment as rewritten. They instructed the facilitator to (****Action item 6**) prepare an AM adjustment memo to file for the Partners to sign reflecting this change.

PROPOSED ZONE CONCEPT ADAPTIVE CHANGE

At the last IBMP meeting, PF agreed to spearhead a redrawing of the IBMP zone boundaries to update maps to reflect the zone concepts with new realities after recent adaptive changes. Along with Rick Wallen and Sam Sheppard, Pat presented that map to the Partners (Figure 2).

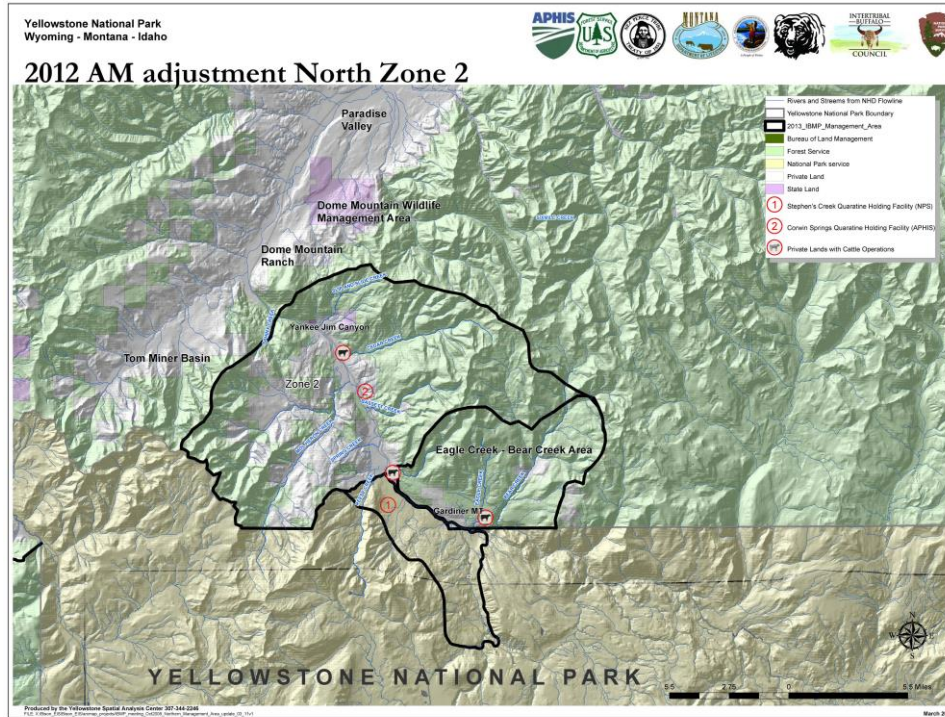


Figure 2.—New Zone boundary map reflecting recent adaptive changes and accepted by the Partners for incorporation into the IBMP Adaptive Management Plan.

Following a short discussion, the Partners provided 100% consensus that the map as shown was acceptable. A discussion then ensued, however, regarding whether the addition of the map needed to be recorded as a change to the AM Plan by Partner signature. No signature was favored by those who thought the creation of the map was essentially an administrative step (as one staff member noted, the AM adjustment was to expand the area—already signed by the Partners—not to redraw the map). Those who favored a signature loop argued that if Partners are changing the language of the AM Plan that a signature loop is needed to show incremental changes that are difficult to find when just documented in meeting notes.

At the close of the discussion, the Partners instructed (****Action item 7**) the facilitator to document the map change in the meeting notes, to send around an AM adjustment for electronic signing, and to modify the Partners Protocols AM process drawing to show that in some cases a formal signature loop might not be warranted (see next item).

Modification to the Partner Protocols

<< this item was not part of the original meeting agenda >>

As an part of the discussion to add the new map (Figure 2, see previous section), the Partners decided that the process description for AM adjustments in the Partner Protocols needed to be changed. They provided 100% consensus that the old process (Figure 3) needed to be updated to reflect a pathway for minor AM adjustments or updates that the Partners decide to declare as necessary changes but do not require NEPA/MEPA analysis nor a formal signature loop. They instructed (****Action item 8**) the facilitator to make this change, incorporate it into the Partner Protocol document, and then re-post that document to IBMP.info.

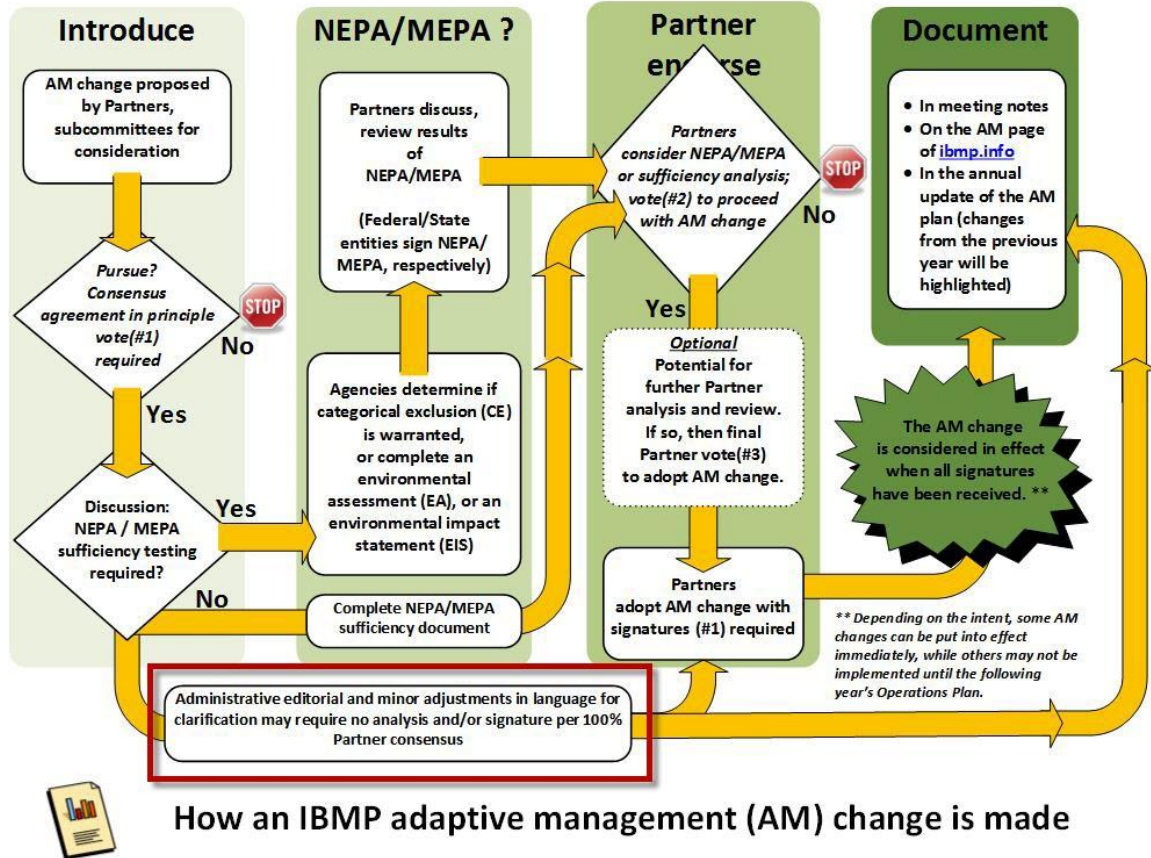


Figure 3.—New AM process now to be shown in the Partner Protocols. The new loop change added by the Partners in this meeting is shown here with a red box around it. All else is identical to the previous version.

Partner briefings and updates

Pat—status of newly allowed late season damage hunts. Did they occur and if so, to what outcomes?

Yes the State does now have authority for the late season hunts. That authority was not exercised in the spring of 2013 but does provide the Partners another management tool.

Dave—NPS remote vaccination EIS update

The remote vaccination EIS is currently under review with a Record of Decision expected by the end of the calendar year. Current indication—though not official—is that the no action alternative will be recommended.

Pat, Christian—Lawsuit regarding expanded bison tolerance on North Side/Gardiner Basin

Combined Park County lawsuit decided Jan 7, 2013. The suit was dismissed. All findings were in favor of the state (MFWP, MDOL). The decision is being appealed to the Montana Supreme Court. A cross appeal has also been filed. See Appendix A/Table A1.

Pat, Christian—State MEPA process for addition of new west side lands open to bison

Public comment period has been extended to September 13, 2013. Date of decision will be strongly dependent on the number of comments received. Currently there have been ~1000 comments. There have

been lots of form mailers, with ~50 unique comments, most of those being in favor of the increased tolerance.

In response to a question regarding whether anything from the Supreme Court appeal (previous update) could impact the MEPA process, PF stated that his opinion was no, the two are not linked. Also, CM and PF clarified that for the MEPA, there are two decision makers: MBOL and PF (as Region 3 MFWP Director).

Pat—status of relocation of quarantined bison from YNP to Turner

Nothing new to report. Bison are still on Turner properties.

Pat—State Bison Management Plan

The State Bison Management Plan is slated for completion in 2015.

Andrea—Update developing and implementing a factual education program about bison; focus on livestock and Tribal brochures

Andrea reported that she has had lots of feedback from gateway communities state that they like and appreciate the two bison education brochures (Bison Basics and Staying Safe in Bison Country) completed to date. Some residents of West Yellowstone have requested that workshops be held based on the content of the brochures. PF stated a willingness for MFWP to lead a “living with bison” workshop should the increased tolerance MEPA be accepted. He noted that the workshop would be improved with IBMP Partner and local citizen input/participation with local landowners.

She has had some discussion with Tribes, less with landowner communities, regarding completion of the Tribal and landowner brochures, respectively.

Any continued, cohesive input from members of the CWG is missing. While requests have been made for citizen input, none to any real degree has been forthcoming.

****Action item 9** : Andrea to solicit help from Matt Skoglund regarding reengaging some citizens.

Ryan—update on Gonacon trials

The abortion season for both the treatment and non-treatment groups is complete. All Gonacon treated previously not pregnant remain not pregnant. APHIS is currently looking for brucellosis shedding. No results to date. The first cohort is being rebred.

SB—updates on IBMP.info: AM collection and posting

Scott let the Partners know that the work on collecting and posting IBMP adaptive management history is nearing completion (****Action item 10**—SB to complete AM section of ibmp.info).

Future activity planning

- Annual report—****Action item 11**—SB to send out template for Annual Report to Partners. After some discussion, Partners agree to keep reporting on CWG recommendations the same as last year, including not naming a lead for those recommendations where multiple Partners have input to outcomes for the year.
- PF noted that while not an IBMP event, that Partners, staff, and public might be interested in a September 2013 American Bison Society meeting to be held in Big Sky. Information about the meeting can be found on-line². One item noted that might be presented at the meeting is the a new DOI Federal Bison Plan. Partners asked that a report on that plan be added to the Parked Item list for consideration as an agenda item at their November meeting (NPS presenting).

²See <https://mtds.emeetingsonline.com/emeetings/websitev2.asp?mmno=281&pagename=SITE8103>

- A short discussion was held on the next Lead Partner, to be shared by the three Tribal entities. Note was made that a key factor is getting funding in place early, before the start of 2014 when the leadership changes (i.e., on January 1, 2014)
- *Fall IBMP meeting* will be held on Nov Chico Hot Springs on November 21st, as planned.
- A fall field trip in the Gardner Basin was discussed for November 20th. The field trip was defined as follows:
 - Half day trip (afternoon).
 - Partners, staff, and public all welcome.
 - Focus on habitat enhancement. Likely stops at Cutler Meadows, NPS exclosures Cutler Meadows, NPS exclosures, areas of AM changes, safety issues, management of hunt (topography issues).
 - Planning group (** **Action item 12**) to consist of DaveH (NPS), ME (GNF), RC (APHIS), SS (MFWP)

Public comment

The following notes on public comment to the IBMP Partners are not intended to be complete, but rather reflect the facilitator's best effort to capture key statements. The facilitator has especially attempted to capture those comments from the public that appeared to be solution oriented and have the potential for inclusion in AM planning and/or process improvement. These items, as well as other potentially actionable items, are called out with a "***" in the listings that follow.

Names associated with comments are available from the facilitator. They are not included here, however, in an effort to focus on the comment rather than the speaker. Line breaks in the bullets indicate a new speaker.

- The IBMP declares itself a public process but it is not.
- Why should states outside the tri-state area be able to define brucellosis concerns therein? Ranchers around the country are working on imposing their will on GYA states.
- Statements exist from APHIS to the effect that states, for example Texas, should increase brucellosis testing for cattle from the GYE.
- We don't want wildlife regulated.
- Is the collaboration based on having wild, free roaming bison or is it that wild bison will be sterilized or vaccinated?

- Thank you to the CSKT for the beautiful gift of the buffalo song.
- ** I challenge the IBMP Partners to think of a better public input process. For example, allow the public to have input before each break. The facilitator is capable of keeping the group in control.
- Do you want more public comment or not? I am feeling so frustrated that I am thinking about giving up.
- Please don't refer to "Yellowstone bison".
- It is troubling that the Park feels compelled to manage the abundance of bison in Yellowstone Park.
- How does one maintain something you don't have? We have virtual fences around the Park. The EA for the West Side is good, yes, but we don't have free ranging bison.
- ** I recommend a primary management area, as we do for grizzly bears.
- Please don't kill bison without saying why. We should not have no tolerance zones.

- I want to provide an update on the bison coexistence/fencing project being run by a number of non-profits.
- We are working with landowners—whether they are pro or anti bison—through MFWP on both the North and West Sides.
- Our groups do recognize that there are places where people just don't want bison. Our fencing projects can help those people.
- Just in West Yellowstone area we have 4 projects.

- ** Projects are going well. We request that the Partners tell folks about the program and how funds are available to help them with fencing projects. Tell them to call Sam Sheppard (MFWP) or Matt Skoglund (NRDC).
- More on the bison coexistence/fencing project mentioned by the previous speaker.
- The project started in 2011. To date it has raised ~\$41,000.
- In the first year we assisted 5 landowners, 7 projects in 2012, 8 projects in 2013.
- In the second year we changed our process to have the landowners contact Sam Sheppard of MFWP.
- We have funding available for 9 more projects. We hope to build a waiting list for these projects. Our goal is to help people live with bison.
- We have seen overwhelming support for the program. People are thrilled with the program. The program shows that we can care about people and wildlife at the same time.
- I am hoping that we will someday be able to create conservation herds of bison on the Great Plains.
- A member of the public provided written testimony and asked that it be scanned and send to the Partners. Partners agreed that could be done and asked the facilitator to take on the task.
- I will get you to love bison.
- We have all heard that the IBMP has stopped brucellosis. This is not true, nor does it need to be done. Just look at Grand Teton National Park where bison and cattle mix and they have no brucellosis transfer.
- You have failed bison. Elk, not bison, have transferred brucellosis to cattle.
- You are 13 years into the plan and have still not agreed on bison being wild animals.
- I have witnessed the hunt—I am a hunter—and the bison hunt is not a fair hunt.
- Buffalo are sacred to the tribes. What is being done to the bison is so sad.
- The saddest thing may be the hazing in West Yellowstone. What other species would we ever run for 18 miles? We even had a DOL representative get hurt because the bison are scared from the hazing.
- Look at the buffalo not as having cattle mentality. Instead, I urge you to try just once to do what the buffalo tells you to do. Leave the buffalo on the landscape until June and see if they will go back in the park then.
- I ask you to look into your heart and do something for once that is good for the buffalo.
- I warn the tribes not to be part of the slaughter process.

*** Meeting adjourned ***

Abbreviations

- AJ—Andrea Jones
- AM—Adaptive management
- APHIS—Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- BB—Brooklyn Baptiste
- BFC—Buffalo Field Campaign
- CF—Cavan Fitzsimmons
- CM—Christian Mackay
- CSKT—Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes
- CWG—Citizens’ Working Group
- DaveH—David Hallac
- DH—Don Herriot
- DSA—Designated Surveillance Zone
- DW—Dan Wenk
- EA—Environmental Assessment
- EC—Earvin Carlson
- GAO—Government Accountability Office
- GNF—Gallatin National Forest
- GWA—Gallatin Wildlife Association
- GYA—Greater Yellowstone Area
- ITBC— Inter Tribal Buffalo Council
- JH—John Harrison
- JS—Jim Stone
- KL—Keith Lawrence
- LG—Larry Greene
- MBOL—Montana Board of Livestock
- MD—Marna Daley
- MDOL—Montana Department of Livestock
- MDOT—Montana Department of Transportation
- ME—Mary Erickson
- MEPA—Montana Environmental Policy Act
- MFWP—Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
- ML—Mike Lopez
- MO—McCoy Oatman
- MOU—Memorandum of Understanding
- MSGA—Montana Stockgrowers’ Association
- MSU—Montana State University
- MZ—Marty Zaluski
- NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act
- NGO—Non-governmental organizations
- NP—Nez Perce
- NPS—National Park Service
- NPCA—National Parks Conservation Alliance
- NRDC—Natural Resources Defense Council
- Park—Yellowstone National Park
- PF—Pat Flowers
- PIOs—Public Information Officers
- PJ—PJ White
- RC—Ryan Clarke
- ROD—Record of Decision
- RFP—Request for proposals
- RT—Ron Trahan
- RobT—Rob Tierney
- RTR—Royal Teton Ranch
- RW—Rick Wallen
- SB—Scott Bischke
- SEIS—Supplemental EIS
- SK—Salish Kootenai
- SS— Sam Sheppard
- TM—Tom McDonald
- TR—Tim Reid
- USFWS—US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USGS—US Geological Survey
- WMA—state of MT wildlife management areas
- YELL—Yellowstone National Park
- YNP—Yellowstone National Park

Appendix A.

Table A1.—Summary of current lawsuits surrounding IBMP as of 8-11-13*

Defendant		Sued by (Plaintiff)	Reason	Status	
1	MDOL	MSGA	deviation from implementing the IBMP on the West Side of YNP	?	?
2	State of MT (MDOL, MFWP)	Park County Stockgrowers', Park County (suits combined)	implementation of proposed 2011 adaptive changes in Gardiner Basin	Case closed; appealed to the MT Supreme Court	Case found for the state of MT; increased tolerance allowed
3	IBMP Partners	Alliance for Wild Rockies	helicopter hazing	NOI to appeal to the 9 th Circuit Court	Finding for the IBMP Partners (state, APHIS, USFS, NPS) in District Court; notice of injunction pending appeal
4	MFWP	GWA, BFC, others?	privatization of a public resource; i.e., sending previously quarantined YELL bison to Turner	Case closed	Summary judgment for the state
5	USFS, NPS, APHIS, MDOL, YELL	BFC, WW, GWA, others (?)	over their participation in implementation of IBMP; to stop federal agencies from killing bison	Case closed	Finding for the Federal government in the 9 th circuit court

* Note: This table put together by facilitator generally with "on-the-fly" input from Partners. Thus, specific details may not be exact or may be incomplete.