

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



AUGUST 6, 2015

HOST FOR THIS MEETING: NEZ PERCE TRIBE (CONTACT—NEIL THAGARD [208] 621-4676)

LEAD PARTNER: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (CONTACT—P. J. WHITE [307] 344-2442)

Donald E. Herriott: District Director; Veterinary Services; Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Leonard Gray: Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Sam Sheppard: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Christian Mackay: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

McCoy Oatman: Treasurer, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

Dan Wenk: Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

Mary Erickson: Forest Supervisor; USFS—Custer Gallatin National Forest



Meeting location:
Clearwater River Lodge
Lapwai, Idaho
* * *

For room reservations call
(208) 298-1400
Staff—ask for IBMP block

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. Tribal members—the Nez Perce, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and the InterTribal Buffalo Council—were invited to join the deliberative table as Partners beginning at the November 2009 Partner meeting.

The IBMP 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 meet several times each year 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.

Thursday, August 6th / Miyo' Oxat Conference Room

**NOTE THAT AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY—
ACTUAL TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON PARTNER INTERACTION NEEDS**

Maps to be available at each meeting per Nov09 agreement:

YNP—IBMP zones; APHIS—land ownership; MFWP—elk range

7:15	All	Breakfast Provided by the Nez Perce Tribe for all in attendance
8 AM	Leotis McCormack	Opening Prayer from the Tribal Chaplain
8:10	Bill Picard	Welcome from the Vice Chair, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
8:20	(Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present)	Welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • IBMP timeline—see website • Note of Partners' acceptance by email of last meeting report
8:30	Josiah Blackeagle Pinkham	Formative Nez Perce Oral Traditions and the Relationship with the Bison Josiah is a Nez Perce Ethnographer and part of the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Program
9:30	NPT, CSKT, ITBC as shown	Considering new paradigms for YELL bison and habitat management An opportunity for to share philosophies, ideas, and recommendations for managing Yellowstone bison and their habitats given current conditions. (15 min for each group, including Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPT = Quincy Ellenwood, Chair of Natural Resources Committee NPTEC • CSKT = Stephanie Gillin
10:15	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:30	Chris Geremia	Methods for forecasting the timing and extent of bison migration to the north and west boundaries of Yellowstone National Park (includes ~15 min Q&A and discussion)
11:00	Chris Geremia	Bison removal recommendations for the winter of 2015/16 Including both the recommendations and how those recommendations were derived. (includes ~30 min Q&A and discussion)
12:00 PM	***	Lunch (at meeting location, provided by NPT)
1:10 PM	Scott Bischke	Call back to order Introductions of anyone newly present
1:15	Public	Public comment Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.
1:45	As noted	Status of Ongoing Activities Related to Yellowstone Bison and Brucellosis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS to evaluate bison management 2. Jennifer—Status of Quarantine EA 3. Sam—Status of State-wide Bison Management Plan 4. Sam—Status of MEPA process for year-round tolerance of bison on west side 5. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA

		6. TBD—Update on bison deaths of formerly quarantined YELL bison at Ft Belknap reservation
		7. TBD—Update on two bison killed in Island Park, Idaho
2:15	Sam Sheppard	Bison hunt meeting summary
2:30	Walt Allen	Update on hunt issues related to the Beattie Gulch area
3:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
		Adaptive management proposals
		Per Partner Protocols: Potential submission of briefing statements for Adaptive Management proposals for next year. Per Partner Protocols spring meeting includes “...begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.”
4:00	NPS	
	Scott Bischke	
		1. NPS—Proposed changes to the annual report format (administrative change)
		2. (Scott, if time available—review of citizen comments with potential as AM changes)
		What’s next? Partner Planning and Forthcoming Tasks; Planning for
4:30	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft 2016 Winter Ops Plan • 2015 Annual Report • Fall Meeting: A reminder to all that the fall 2015 IBMP meeting will be held at Chico Hot Springs MT and will return to Lead Partner NPS acting as both local financial and logistical host.
5 PM	***	Adjourn—please travel safely!

Meeting facilitator Scott Bischke, MountainWorks (scott@emountainworks.com)

Meeting support materials

Table 1.—Annual IBMP calendar, as agreed to in Partner Protocols

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan – Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
Spring meeting (generally May)	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
Jun-Aug	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in preparation for Annual Report. (2) As needed, Partner or subcommittee discussions on proposed adaptive management efforts (i.e., operational changes) to be made for following winter given results of previous winter activities. (3) Develop recommendations for harvests/culling for the following winter. (4) Preparation of draft Operations Plan for the following year.
Summer meeting (generally Aug)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report. (2) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new AM activities and continued collection of ideas for adaptive changes for the following winter. (3) Presentation and discussion of draft Operations Plan for the following year (including recommendations for harvests/culling).
Oct/Nov	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Compilation of Partner write-ups of their sections of the Annual Report. (2) Draft Annual Report completed and circulated for review to Partners. (3) Partners discussions (potentially telecons) regarding issues under consideration in draft Operations Plan for the following year.
Fall meeting (generally Nov)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Partners review Draft Annual Report; commit to complete any remaining items by Dec 31. (2) Partners review and potentially agree to proposed adaptive management changes for the upcoming winter (if applicable, not every year will have AM changes). (3) Final Partner discussion and signature of Operations Plan for the following year.
Dec	Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report.
Dec 31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Previous year's Annual Report completed and posted to www.ibmp.info. (2) Lead Partner posts revised Operations Plan for the coming winter.