

## Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
(CONTACT—MARTY ZALUSKI [406] 444-0782)

**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

**Mike Honeycutt:** Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

**Marty Zaluski:** State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

**Quincy Ellenwood:** Chair Natural Resources Sub-Committee; Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

**Dan Wenk:** Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

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



Meeting location:

**Holiday Inn**

West Yellowstone, Montana

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For room reservations call  
(406) 646-7365

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.

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**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*

Start	Speaker	Topic
7:30	All	<b>Room opens</b> Coffee and tea provided
8:00	Scott Bischke, facilitator; all present	<b>Welcome, meeting overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions of all present</li> <li>• Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications?</li> <li>• A brief IBMP timeline</li> <li>• Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report</li> </ul>
8:20	MFWP, MDOL	<b>Applying Gov. Bullock’s EA decision on year-round habitat for Yellowstone bison</b> Process for integrating EA decision into the IBMP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential proposal and acceptance as an IBMP adaptive management change <i>(note: the IBMP AM process is shown in the Partner Protocols at <a href="http://www.ibmp.info/library.php">http://www.ibmp.info/library.php</a> )</i></li> <li>• Potential method of incorporation into the 2015-16 Winter Ops Plan and beyond</li> </ul>
9:10	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	<b>2015-2016 Winter Operations to date</b> Status and discussion of the following topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current situation overview (<b>MDOL</b>)</li> <li>• Overall removals versus Plan (<b>MDOL</b>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hunt results (<b>MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB</b>)</li> <li>○ Evaluation of bison distribution (<b>MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB</b>)</li> <li>○ Culls/transfer of bison to processing facilities (<b>NPS, CSKT, ITBC, others?</b>)</li> <li>○ Transfer of bison to research facilities (<b>APHIS</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Issues and alternatives (<b>all Partners</b>)</li> <li>• Planning for the remainder of the 2015/16 season (<b>all</b>)</li> <li>• Possible adjustments for next winter (<b>all Partners</b>; see also afternoon Adaptive Management item)</li> </ul>
10:40	***	<b>Break (here or as called for by the Partners)</b>
11:00	Aly Courtemanch  Ben Wise	<b>Status and lessons from the bison hunt in NW Wyoming</b> Aly is a wildlife biologist who manages the Jackson bison herd. Ben is brucellosis biologist in Jackson. Both work for Wyoming Game and Fish Department. (TBD: Brandon Scurlock, Brucellosis Program Supervisor for WGF, may also be available as a presenter).
12 noon	***	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>  <b>Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present</b> (Scott Bischke)
1:15	Public	<b>Public comment</b> Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.

1:45	<i>(Jodie Canfield to introduce)</i>  <i>Clayton Marlow</i>	<b>Update on USFS and MSU habitat assessment work regarding status of the Northern Range</b> (40 min presentation, 15 min discussion) Dr. Marlow is a professor at Montana State University, in the department of Animal and Range Sciences. Q&A and Partner open discussion regarding the Northern Range outside YNP, specifically as associated with USFS lands.
2:40	***	<b>Break</b> (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:00	As noted	<b>Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS process (also see 4:30 item)</li> <li>2. Jennifer—Status of Quarantine EA</li> <li>3. Jennifer—Status of lawsuit regarding access to Stephens Creek facility</li> <li>4. Jennifer—Status of FWS petition to list bison under ESA</li> <li>5. Sam—Status of State-wide Bison Management Plan</li> <li>6. Sam—Discussion of potential methods of conservation easement funding</li> <li>7. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA</li> <li>8. Shana Dunkley—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project</li> </ol>
3:20	<i>Peter Metcalf</i>	<b>Attitudes and values of residents in the Northern and Western Management Areas towards bison and bison management</b> (30 min presentation, 30 min discussion) Peter is a PhD student working in the College of Forestry and Conservation Human Dimensions Lab at the University of Montana.
4:20	<i>MFWP</i>	<b>Development of an educational handout: Landowners: Living with Bison</b> (1) volunteers; (2) funding; (3) proposed completion date; (4) ideas for content.
4:30	<i>Stephanie Kavanaugh, Mitch Chrismer</i>	<b>Introducing the Udall Foundation, Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution</b> <i>(Jennifer Carpenter to introduce speakers)</i> The Institute will be assisting the NPS and the State of Montana on the new bison management plan EIS process. Stephanie and Mitch will give a brief overview of the work they will be doing for the new EIS.
5 PM	***	<b>Adjourn—please travel safely!</b>

Meeting facilitator Scott Bischke, MountainWorks ([scott@emountainworks.com](mailto:scott@emountainworks.com))

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**Meeting support materials**


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

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