

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



AUGUST 3RD, 2017

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: CUSTER-GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
(CONTACT—SCOTT BARNDT [406] 587-6749)**

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

Mike Volesky: Chief of Operations, 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:
**Best Western Gran Tree,
Bozeman MT**

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For room reservations call
(406) 587-5261.

Special rates available for
Partners & staff (ask for the
“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 3rd

**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	Room opens Coffee and tea provided
8:00	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? • A brief IBMP timeline • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:30	Mary (with Scott Bischke)	Considering IBMP effectiveness: Part II A follow on to Partner discussions at their April 6 th meeting. Included is the outcome of the Partner telecon held on May 25 th with 3 focal areas Partners agreed to target for near-term progress (see next 3 items on agenda)
9:00	Julie Cunningham, Scott Barndt (discussion open to all who attended)	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area</i> Review, recap of yesterday's IBMP field trip co-hosted by the CGNF For those not in attendance, the field trip was held on the West Side of YNP sponsored by the C-GNF. The field trip emphasized considerations of issues and opportunities for the new West Side tolerance area signed into law by Governor Bullock in Dec of 2015 (with subsequent ERRATUM update provided June 2016).
9:45	NPS, MDOL, APHIS	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Bison quarantine and translocation</i>
10:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:50	Tribal Hunt Managers	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues</i> Multiple topics, including report on 2017/18 hunt planning meeting held May 24 th in Missoula MT.
11:35	Ryan Clarke	Highlights of the findings of the National Academies of Sciences review of brucellosis in wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone area We hope to have one of the members of the review team available at the November 2017 IBMP meeting to provide a one hour presentation on the NAS review team process and findings. We expect to have full Q&A session at that time. (15 min presentation with 5 min discussion)
11:55	***	Lunch (on your own) Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)
1:15 PM	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	Speakers, discussion leads as noted	Discussion and preparation for 2017/2018 Winter IBMP Operations Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison harvest planning • Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS) • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipment of bison for processing • Potential use of quarantine • Other items? • Process for preparing of 2017/18 Winter Ops Plan (CGNF)
3:15	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
3:35	Scott's Barndt & Bischke	Annual Report and Ops Plan preparation, as per Partner Protocols: (1) Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report. (2) Any further discussion needed regarding creating the draft Operations Plan for next year?
4:00	Dr. Clayton Marlowe	Status of CGNF Habitat Studies: North Side results and West Side planning (~20 min presentation, 10 min Q&A)
4:30	As noted	Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis 1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS process and Udall Institute progress (including report on Sep 26 webinar) 2. Jennifer—Status of lawsuit regarding access to Stephens Creek facility 3. Jennifer—NPS Quarantine Environmental Assessment: Final decision, and what happens from here? 4. PJ—Status of lawsuit suing USFWS over not listing Yellowstone bison under ESA 5. Shana Drimal <if anything new to report>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project 6. Marty—Update (if any) on proposed management action to vaccinate bison in the western management area
4:50	Scott	Administrative items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify time and location of remaining 2017 IBMP meetings — Nov 28; Chico Hot Springs • Other items to review or close
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

<i>Jan 1</i>	New Lead Partner assumes duties
<i>Jan – Jun</i>	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
<i>Spring meeting (generally May)</i>	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
<i>Jun-Aug</i>	<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.
<i>Summer meeting (generally Aug)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (3) Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report. (4) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new AM activities and continued collection of ideas for adaptive changes for the following winter. (5) Presentation and discussion of draft Operations Plan for the following year (including recommendations for harvests/culling).
<i>Oct/Nov</i>	<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.
<i>Fall meeting (generally Nov)</i>	<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.
<i>Dec</i>	Partners submit any modifications to Draft Annual Report.
<i>Dec 31</i>	<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.