

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



NOVEMBER 28TH, 2017

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

P. Ryan Clarke: Regional Epidemiologist—GYA, 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:
**Chico Hot Springs,
Pray MT**
* * *

For room reservations call
(406) 333-4933.
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.

Tuesday, November 28th

**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	Julie Cunningham, Scott Barndt, Technical Committee CWG or NGOs, Local landowners	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to land owner questions posed after Aug field trip and IBMP meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Included in this discussion — what management actions, if any, would be undertaken per current Winter Operations Plan should bison arrive in the Taylor Fork on their own and soon 2. Status of conversations between landowners and NGOs and/or CWG 3. Charter creation for West Side Bison Tolerance Technical Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose ▪ Composition ▪ Oversight ▪ Timeline ▪ Expected products ▪ Scope of authority 4. What's next? Potentially including thoughts and planning from the Technical Committee and Partners regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modeling/determining suitable habitat for bison, especially in the winter, and the number of bison the area could hold ▪ Determining the most likely migration route(s) from YNP into the new West Side tolerance areas, including the Taylor Fork ▪ Creating a strawman plan for introducing a small, experimental population of bison to the Taylor Fork drainage.
9:30	NPS, MDOL, APHIS	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Bison quarantine and translocation</i>
10:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:20	Tribal Hunt Managers	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: <i>Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues</i>
11:00	Paul Cross, USGS	Findings of the National Academies of Sciences review of brucellosis in wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone area Dr. Cross was a member of the NAS review team and will discuss the finding, as well as the process to reach those findings. (~45 min presentation with 15 min discussion)

12 noon	***	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	All or discussion leads as appropriate	Discussion and preparation for 2017/2018 Winter IBMP Operations Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bison harvest planning (NPS leads discussion) — ~60 min • Use of the trap during hunting season • Transfer of bison to research facilities • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups • Shipment of bison for processing • Potential use of quarantine • Other items? • Process for completing 2017/18 Winter Ops Plan (CGNF)
3:40	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
4:00	Scott Barndt Scott Bischke	Annual Report and Ops Plan preparation, as per Partner Protocols Partner planning for completion of individual duties for Annual Report.
4:20	As noted	Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer—NPS Quarantine Environmental Assessment 2. Shana Drimal <if anything new to report>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project 3. Marty—Update (if any) on proposed management action to vaccinate bison in the western management area 4. Partners and staff—Questions on status of other ongoing activities?
4:40	Scott	Administrative items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to 2017 Lead Partner Mary Erickson and CGNF • Welcome to 2018 Lead Partner MFWP • Select date and location of remaining 2018 IBMP meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Historically, April — West Yellowstone, late July/ early Aug — Bozeman, late Nov — Chico • Determine if, when, and who will be involved in winter field trip to the Taylor Fork (possibly in February or March, 2018?) • 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

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.