

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



APRIL 25, 2019

LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
(CONTACT—SCOTT BISCHKE, FACILITATOR, [406] 582-4442)

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

Mark Deleray: Region 3 Supervisor; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Mike Honeycutt: Executive Officer; Montana Board of Livestock

Marty Zaluski: State Veterinarian; MT Department of Livestock

Cam Sholly: Superintendent, NPS—Yellowstone National Park

McCoy Oatman: Member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive
Committee

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



Meeting location:
**Community Center,
208 Main Street W
Gardiner, MT 59030**

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For room reservations call Comfort
Inn Gardiner (406) 848-7536

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, April 25th

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

Note: maps to support meeting are available online at ibmp.info/library.php

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 (including a special recognition) • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • A brief IBMP timeline • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:20	All	Review, discussion of Apr 24th North Side field trip Open discussion with emphasis on the Bear Creek Council organizers of the field trip. Begin with feedback from Partners and staff first, then for any public who attended the field trip. Please focus comments on possibly opportunities that were discussed in the field, what adaptive management changes those opportunities might lead to.
8:40	As shown	<i>Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues.</i> Topics to include, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hunt with overview of field ops, including issues, if any, with new tribes exercising treaty rights (MFWP, USFS, CSKT, NPT, CTUIR, Yakama, Blackfeet; note afternoon session dedicated to field ops, as well) 2. Tribal hunt MOA (Tribal hunt managers) 3. Discussions of following items (all), beginning with Chris Geremia report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hunt-trap coordination o Increasing bison distribution o Actions to facilitate bison migration and distribution across tolerance area 4. Handling of bison carcasses on the North Side (all) 5. Potential to adopt hunt policies described by the hunt managers in WY Natl Elk Refuge 6. Other updates or future topics?
9:30	Chris Geremia Also ITBC, APHIS	<i>Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Bison quarantine and translocation.</i> Topics to include, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bison quarantine at Stephens Creek (Chris Geremia) 2. Bison transfers to Fort Peck (APHIS) 3. Bison status at Fort Peck (ITBC) 4. Other updates or future topics?
10:10	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:30	1 Marty Zaluski 2 Mary Erickson	<i>Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area.</i> Topics to include, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and revamp, as needed, of timeline shown in Fig 1 of Winter Ops Plan regarding South Fork of Madison Arm (MZ requested item from 11/28/18 meeting) 2. Status of potential habitat manipulation—including for increasing migration corridor along Hwy 191—as discussed without action items at August 2018 meeting 3. Other updates or future topics?
10:45	Dr. Clayton Marlow	Availability of an Ecological Baseline for Tracking Ungulate-Vegetation Interaction in the Gardiner and Hebgen Basins
11:45	***	Lunch (on your own)

1:00 PM	Public	<p>Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)</p> <p>Public comment</p> <p>Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.</p>
1:45	Partners, as shown	<p>Report on 2018/2019 Winter IBMP Operations to date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions of following items, beginning with Chris Geremia report (may be repeat of morning presentation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall removals (MDOL/MFWP/NPS) Culls /transfer/distribution of bison to processing facilities and tribal groups (NPS, CSKT, ITBC/Fort Peck Tribe, others?) Hunt results (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB, Yakama, Blackfeet) Status of newest Tribes participating in or petitioning to hunt (Yakama, Blackfeet, Crow, others?; MFWP) Evaluation of bison distribution, including use (or not) of newest North and West Side tolerance areas (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB, Yakama, Blackfeet) Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS) Scope, timing of upcoming hunt planning meeting — May 2019? (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB, others?)
3:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners pending Winter Ops discussion)
3:20	(continued)	<p>Report on 2018/2019 Winter IBMP Operations to date (continued, see discussion items above and concludes with item below)</p> <p>After review of winter operations-to-date, begin collecting ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter. Per Partner Protocols. Consider instituting or engaging subcommittee(s), if needed, to address these AM change requests.</p>
3:45	Mary Erickson	Update on Custer-Gallatin National Forest Plan revision effort
4:00	Mike Honeycutt Daniel Wenner	Update on MT legislature deliberations on all bison related bills Including HB 112, 132, 332, 478
4:30	As noted	<p>Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mark – update on addition of new treaty hunting tribes All—IBMP-related implications, if any, related to federal government shutdown Shana Drimal <if anything new to report>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project Scott — update of Partner Protocols since last IBMP meeting (now includes table from Winter Ops) Scott — update on information request for MDOT Partners and staff—Questions on status of other ongoing activities?
4:45	Scott Bischke	<p>Administrative items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request for desired agenda items for Jul 31 meeting Review dates of remaining 2018 IBMP meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jul 31 Bozeman; Dec 3 West Yellowstone Other items to review or close with?
5 PM	***	Adjourn —please travel safely! (help with chair stacking appreciated)

Meeting support materials

Table 3.—Annual IBMP calendar

Jan 1	New Lead Partner assumes duties
Jan - Jun	Core season for IBMP field operations carried out under the Operations Plan
Spring meeting (usually Apr/May)	Review of winter operations to date and begin collecting, if applicable, ideas for adaptive management changes for the following winter.
May-Aug	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Annual Hunt Managers' meeting (IBMP Partners + tribes exercising treaty hunting rights). (2) All Partners compile yearly data they are responsible for in prep for Annual Report. (3) 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. (4) Preparation of draft Winter Operations Plan for the following year. Lead Partner sends request to Partners to provide expected changes from previous year's Winter Ops Plan.
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 Winter Operations Plan for the following year. Focus is on those items that will or might change (e.g., to accommodate an adaptive management change).
Aug/Sep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) NPS completes annual bison count and classifications. NPS develops models to evaluate the status of the population and provides recommendations for bison conservation and management. The status evaluation and associated recommendations are sent to the other Partners and posted on ibmp.info. (2) Lead Partner sends draft (showing markup) Winter Ops Plan to Partners. Goal is for the draft to be largely complete, with the exception of ramifications of NPS removal recommendations (discussed at fall meeting).
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 to www.ibmp.info.

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