

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



JULY 31, 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

Tim Reid: Bison Management Coordinator, NPS—Yellowstone
National Park

McCoy Oatman: Member of Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

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



Meeting location:
Holiday Inn Bozeman
5 Baxter Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715

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For room reservations call
(406) 587-4561

Governments rates available for
Partners/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, July 31st

**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 • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • A brief IBMP timeline • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:20	Mark Deleray, Jeremy Wolf to lead	Report on May 16 Hunt Managers meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes, if any, to Hunt Managers' MOA 2. Status of signees to Hunt Managers' MOA 3. Decisions made at Hunt Managers' meeting impacting 2019/20 hunt (north, west sides) 4. Other topics
8:45	Julie Cunningham	Impact of hunting on elk behavior Focus initially on state of knowledge for elk, with follow-on discussion to include potential lessons learned from elk applicable to impact of hunting on bison behavior (e.g., potential to leverage the hunt to change bison distribution).
9:30	Bear Creek Council presentation and discussion	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues. Partner-invited Bear Creek Council (BCC) presentation titled, "Six Solutions to Increase Safety of the North Side Bison Hunt". A hand out will accompany the BCC presentation.
10:30	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:50	NPS	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Bison quarantine and translocation. 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?
11:20	1 Mary Erickson	Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Improve utilization of expanded bison habitat, especially in new West side tolerance area. Topics to include, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status of potential habitat manipulation—including for increasing migration corridor along Hwy 191—as discussed without action items at August 2018 meeting
11:50	***	Lunch (on your own)

1:15 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	Scott	<p>Compilation and short review of citizen comments over the past year for Partner consideration</p>
		<p>Planning for 2019/20 Winter Operations Plan</p> <p>* Review of Winter Ops timeline and responsibilities per Partner Protocols (Scott)</p> <p>* Pre-meeting input from Partners on requested changes or areas for change (as requested during Aug2018 discussion of this topic)</p> <p>----</p> <p>For reference: Winter Ops Plan outline</p> <p>pg — heading (<i>topics of note; there are others</i>)</p> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 — Introduction (<i>9 objectives of the IBMP</i>) • 3 — Jurisdiction and Legal Mandates (<i>Tribal hunting updates?</i>) • 3 — Media Relations/Public Information (<i>Tribal additions?</i>) • 3 — Organization (<i>Table 1 is Partner activities matrix</i>) • 4 — Managing Bison Abundance (<i>population, removals—hunt, trap, also see p11</i>) • 4 — Monitoring & Reporting of Bison Movements & Management Activities (<i>safety</i>) • 5 — Bison Distribution (<i>as described in AM Plan, geography, hazing, #s, dates</i>) • 6 — Hunting Bison (<i>5 or 4 or ? tribes, season dates & guidelines</i>) • 8 — Hunt-Trap Coordination Protocol (<i>total removal goal and interim goals by date</i>) • 10 — Hazing Bison (<i>methods, responsibilities, coordination</i>) • 11 — Capturing Bison (<i>why, how, coordinate w/hunt, testing, removal, + next item</i>) • 12 — Shipment to Processing Facilities (<i>transfer to Tribes for slaughter, vaccination, testing, research</i>) • 13 — Lethal Removal of Bison — Risk Management (<i>safety</i>) • 13 — Vaccinating Cattle (<i>vaccination goal for north and west sides</i>) • 14 — Safety (<i>IBMP personnel, private parties</i>) • 14 — Access/Approval to Operate on National Forest System Land (<i>how to</i>) • 14 — Assurance of General Security (<i>facilities, field operations</i>) • 14 — Maintenance of Records and Accountability for Bison Removal (<i>MDOL, NPS</i>) • 15 — Adaptive Management Review, Evaluation, and Modification (<i>updating Plan</i>) <p>-----</p> <p>Opportunity to collect potential 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>
3:00	***	<p>Break (<i>here or as called for by the Partners pending Winter Ops discussion</i>)</p>
3:20		<p>Planning for 2018/19 Winter Operations Plan (continued)</p>
4:00	Partners	<p>Considering a change to the IBMP annual calendar</p> <p>An idea has been put forward to drop the summer meeting and instead have a 2-day fall meeting. The current Partner-created IBMP annual calendar is on the next page.</p>
4:20	As noted	<p>Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark – update, if any, on addition of new treaty hunting tribes 2. Mary – Update on CGNF Forest Plan revision effort 3. Shana Drimal <<i>if anything new to report</i>>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project 4. Partners and staff—Questions on status of other ongoing activities?

		Timeline, responsibilities for key IBMP deliverables ahead Administrative items
4:40	Scott Bischke	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short review of Partner planning of process for completing the Winter Ops Plan and Annual reports 2. Review dates of remaining 2018 IBMP meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dec 3 West Yellowstone 3. 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)