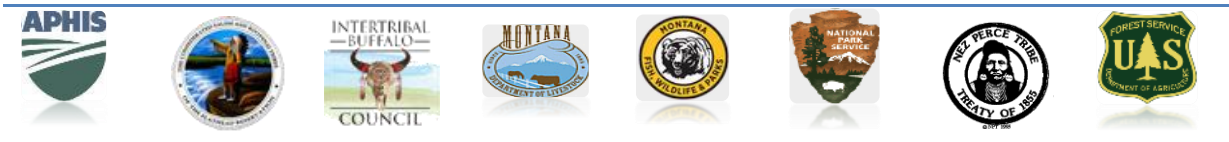


Summary Report from the Interagency Bison Management Plan Meeting December 1, 2021



First draft presented December 13, 2021 by meeting facilitator Scott Bischke

The following summary report reflects activities of the December 1, 2021 meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) Partners, held in person in Missoula MT. An attempt was made to allow conference call in for all interested parties (staff and public); the attempt was partially successful but the teleconference service dropped out on several occasions. This report comes from the flip chart notes of facilitator Scott Bischke¹, along with audio recordings of the meeting. The report will be marked *Draft* until formal Partner agreement to make it *Final* at the start of their next meeting. The report is shorter than many in the past since a full audio recording (over 5 hr) of the meeting is posted on the meeting webpage at <http://www.ibmp.info/Library/20211201/20211201.php>.

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¹ MountainWorks Inc.; scott@eMountainWorks.com

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Attendees

Nine Partners attended the in-person meeting in Lapwai: Ryan Clarke (APHIS), John Harrison (for Bing Matt; CSKT), Ervin Carlson (ITBC), Mike Honeycutt (MBOL), Martin Zaluski (MDOL), Marina Yoshioka (MFWP), Cam Sholly (NPS-YNP), Quincy Ellenwood (NPT), and Mary Erickson (USFS-CGNF). In addition to these Partners, across the day ~25 others attended in person; most were Partner staff members or treaty hunting tribe members, with ~10 people from the general public. An attempt was made to allow conference call in for all interested parties (staff and public); the attempt was partially successful but the teleconference service dropped out on several occasions.

Action items identified during the meeting

NPT

- Complete language regarding Winter Ops removal targets and send (through facilitator) the proposed language
- Confirm completion of the Winter Ops Plan and release to facilitator to initiate electronic signing by Partners
- Confirm completion of 2021 Annual Report and release to facilitator to post to IBMP website

ALL PARTNERS (COLLECTION OF ACTION ITEMS)

- Complete review and changes for Winter Ops Plan, then electronically sign before Dec31
- Complete addition to Annual he change listing on IBMP website of Apr1 IBMP report to "final"

SCOTT BISCHKE (COLLECTION OF ACTION ITEMS)

- Change listing on IBMP website of Jul21 IBMP report to "final"
- Work with Lead Partner team to shepherd completion of IBMP 2021/22 Winter Ops Plan
- Work with Lead Partner team to shepherd completion of 2021 IBMP Annual Report
- Contact 2022 Lead Partner ITBC to begin preparations for next scheduled (Apr13, 2022) IBMP meeting
- Contact Partners with ideas for future facilitators

Meeting COVID precautions, logistics

CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Many health precautions, fewer attendees

With an effort to maximize transparency, the IBMP Partners decided to hold this meeting as open to the public with recognition that COVID remains a public health issue, and in awareness of the new Omicron variant just a few days before the meeting. The Lead Partner asked the facilitator to review CDC guidelines for meetings and highlight those at the beginning of the meeting (the full set of CDC guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/event-planners-and-attendees-faq.html>).

Thus, the first page of the agenda includes a subset of the CDC guidelines applicable to this meeting, and the meeting started with a 5-minute review of those guidelines (the agenda can be found at the meeting webpage: <http://ibmp.info/Library/20211201/20211201.php>). In addition, a) the NPT Lead Partner team provided masks and hand sanitizer, and b) the facilitator took a set of photos of all attendees to assure the ability to identify attendees if contract tracing proved necessary.

PARTICIPATION FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The pandemic (and also possibly the Missoula meeting location) resulted in far fewer people in attendance late fall meetings in the past. As noted already, an attempt was made to allow conference call in for all interested parties (staff and public). That attempt was only partially successful but the teleconference service dropped out on several occasions. However, in the interest of transparency, and recognizing the likelihood of low public participation even though the meeting was open, the facilitator recorded audio of the full meeting. That audio is posted at the meeting website—see <http://ibmp.info/Library/20211201/20211201.php>. Listeners of the audio version of the meeting are provided with two cautions: 1) the audio, taken with a phone, is not always easy to hear and discern, especially when the speaker is far away; 2) it is not always apparent who the speaker is so *please* do not attribute any comment to any specific speaker until you verify that comment with the thought-to-be speaker.

Meeting opening

Along with detailing CDC COVID precautions, as noted above, the facilitator opened the meeting with a review of IBMP history and accomplishments. All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves, along with any affiliation they wished to call out. Partners agreed to declare the *draft* meeting summary from their July 2021 meeting as *final*, and instructed the facilitator to mark it as such and post to the IBMP website.



The December 1, 2021 IBMP meeting took place at the Missoula Double Tree Inn.

Each Partner and treaty hunting Tribe lead spent a short time updating the group on recent happenings for their group, including how they are handling issues of the pandemic, fires, personnel challenges, and more. Following is a selection of a few items of note:

- Numerous groups spoke of the sadness of losing people in their communities to COVID.
- Yellowstone Park had more COVID cases this year than last year. Significant increase in visitation with impact on staff and services. They went into immediate fire suppression this year due to drought.
- Many groups reported that while Zoom calls and remote meetings continue, field personnel have been largely back out doing their work, meeting with the public.
- The drought is having an impact on the Montana cattle industry, causing far greater sales than usual. TB has been found in Montana. Much testing has been involved, including for TB, CWD, and brucellosis.

- Blackfeet tribe helped with vaccinations in Canada. ITBC has had almost no COVID cases.
- A new regional wildlife manager is being hired by MFWP.
- APHIS is going through a phased-in return to the office for in-person work. Locally the focus has been on TB.
- Probably 30% of people reporting to CGNF Supervisor have had COVID. The Forest Service has more people acting in person if they are in the field, but headquarters offices have most people working remotely still. There is a phased returning to office in planning. Forest plan ROD on forest plan likely to roll out in January 2022. The infrastructure bill will bring substantial funding for upcoming USFS projects, including fuels treatment and safe communities.
- CSKT tribal health program given kudos. Bison hunt orientation for hunters is being done remotely for both the CSKT and Yakama.
- The CTUIR were opening their main offices on this day, December 1. A new governing body was just seated, including for the IBMP losing Jeremy Wolf and gaining Jim Marsh. Pacific NW lived through the heat bubble yet had surprisingly not a bad fire year, possibly due to controlled burning efforts.
- COVID had high impact on Blackfeet, including on revenue since visitation, fishing, and so on was cut way back. Game wardens will be down for hunt season. Likely won't have as many people as one might expect due to continuing COVID concerns.
- The ShoBan have lost people to COVID, an especially tough thing for small communities. The tribe is facing severe drought conditions, important to livestock and wildlife.
- Multiple thanks were provided to the NPT for their efforts made to host this meeting.

Who will be hunting this year?

Both state hunters and eight treaty hunting tribes are expected to be hunting in 2021/22. The treaty hunting tribes are the CSKT, NPT, ShoBan, CTUIR, Yakama, Crow, Blackfeet, and Northern Arapahoe.

NPS bison removal recommendations

CG provided an overview of bison population status report from NPS surveys, and bison removal recommendations for 2021/22 based on the group's population modeling. Chris's presentation slides, since brief, are presented in full below. These recommendations set the stage for the Winter Ops Plan discussion later in the day. Chris mentioned that the presentation below is based on the NPS report *Status Report on the Yellowstone Bison Population* (October 21, 2021). That report can be found by link at the IBMP website, on the library page (<http://ibmp.info/library.php>).

NPS Management Recommendation Winter 2021-2022

COMMONALITIES:

IBMP partners and Tribal Nations to preserve a viable population of wild migratory bison, while maintaining human safety, a low risk of brucellosis transmission, minimal property damage, and federal trust responsibilities to tribes

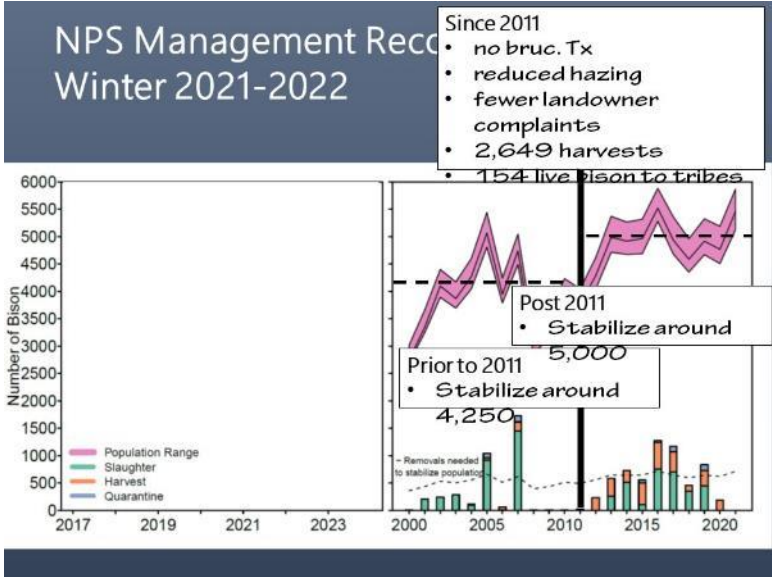
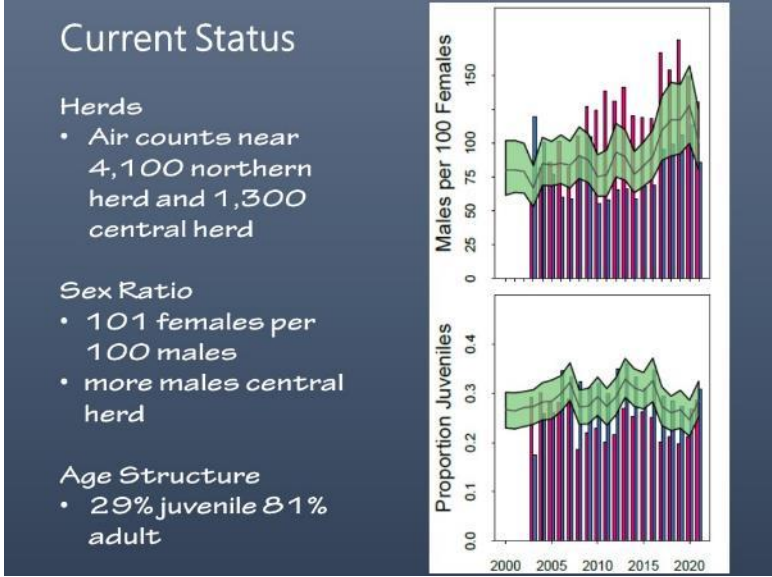
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

1. Sustain a viable, wild population
2. Remove fewer than 25% of the population and less than 1,000 animals per winter when possible
3. Maintain more than 1,000 bison in the central and northern herds
4. Maintain a balanced sex ratio
5. Maintain an age structure of about 70% adults and 30% younger animals

Current Status

- About 5,450 bison currently





NPS Management Recommendation Winter 2021-2022

- 1. Remove 600-900 animals (4,300-4,700 at the end-of-winter and 5,200-5,700 after calving)*
- 2. No hunting or lethal removals in western conservation areas*
- 3. Support federal trust responsibilities to tribes by allowing for hunting opportunities and entering animals into brucellosis quarantine*
- 4. Balance captures with state and tribal hunting opportunities*

NPS Management Recommendation Winter 2021-2022

- 6. Captured animals that do not qualify for quarantine could be given to tribal partners for transfer to meat-processing facilities*
- 7. Some captured animals that do not qualify for quarantine could be released to further support hunting opportunities*
- 8. Bison congregating around the capture facility could be moved away*
- 9. Up to 200 additional animals could be harvested or captured in late winter if numbers of bison using Montana conservation areas exceeds tolerance*

A robust discussions followed Chris's presentation focused on many topics, including a new bison pasture in the Stephens Creek area. Interested parties are directed to the meeting website for the audio of the discussion.

Improving IBMP effectiveness

The Partners organized their discussions into three categories, as reported below, that they several years ago agreed upon as the key areas that where they had good chance of making progress. Highlights of the discussions are provided for each of the three areas below.

HUNT/BOUNDARY ISSUES

- **ENFORCEMENT:** Good communication reported by FWP and NPT reps. FWP will have wardens through the main season — please reach out to them. The major conflict they see is trespassing on private land and violations of safety closures. Special concerns (elk and bison hunting noted) above Travertine Road

and Beatty Creek area. A note made that many hunters are using ONIX but may be using it incorrectly or without correct layer on. It's getting more crowded.

- **EDUCATION:** New maps have been set up in two locations for those hunting areas at Beatty Gulch. Those maps are available online (FWP). FWP is creating a video for bison hunting or hunters. FWP invites video submittals from Partners.
- **FIELD OPERATIONS:** Carcass removal concept hit some roadblocks with who might own the program and the responsibility for carcass management. Shooting closures have been marked; CGNF is first group in entire country to go through the Dingell Act process. Actual impact on the ground minimal compared to last 5 yrs. The group Buffalo Bridge was allowed to stay on CGNF longer than normal last year and are expected back on the ground this year — they act as an education resource for the public, helping hunters with moving animals, but not expected to be able to take on full, singular responsibility for running a carcass-removal program.

IMPROVE HABITAT UTILIZATION (ESPECIALLY WEST SIDE)

- **WEST SIDE HABITAT AND HUNTING:** JBrey — Two timber sales of note in progress with respect to bison distribution and hunting: 1) North Hebgen flats sale — have completed work east of Hwy 191 and are now moving to west side of highway (out on flats and on Horse Butte). The biggest impact is that with winter and snow there will likely be snowmobile traffic that might impact access to hunting opportunities. Timber operators are limited to some respect on where they can travel. 2) The upper Canyon/Whits Lake/Red Canyon area—a little bit out of where bison are usually found. They are operating there now and likely through the winter. No closures anticipate in that area.
- West side hunting: CTUIR, CSKT, FWP will continue to respect closure on the West Side.
- Highway safety West side — Cougar Creek bridge work underway. MDOT given kudos for talking with MFWP (as reported by JC) to add wildlife migration and wildlife/traffic safety issues (also fisheries protection) into their design considerations. There is also a snowmobile bridge across Cougar Creek here that MFWP, CGNF, and MDOT are discussing with respect to optimizing, if possible, wildlife migration. There is potential for some project funding from the recently passed federal infrastructure bill.

BISON QUARANTINE AND TRANSLOCATION

- APHIS (RC) — 50 bison were transferred to Ft Peck over the past year. At Corwin Springs group of 8 animals tested on Monday. Expect with successful results they will be transferred to Ft Peck in January 2022. Currently being held at Corwin Springs: 41 cows, 4 bulls split in two pastures; expect final testing December 2022 before becoming eligible to move on with their caves to Ft Peck.
- ITBC (DW)—Since last meeting 1) 11 bulls tested successfully out of Phase 3 and turned out at Ft Peck; 2) two family groups will be transferred by ITBC out to other tribes from those bison at Ft Peck later this month; each transfer group will include ~30 animals
- NPS (CG) — expect 28 animals will complete final testing late December 2021 and then be transferred to Ft Peck in January 2022. NPS has 25 females and 3 bulls that are on schedule to move to Corwin Springs eventually. The Park is considering taking 80 new animals this year into its quarantine program (to be held in the Park); need to coordinate with ITBC on the desired demographics of these animals. NPS is aiming to have 5 pastures (40 animals in each pasture) at its new quarantine facilities. The goal completion date for the new facility is October 2022. NPS hopes to have 2 of the 5 pastures open this year (hence the statement of 80 new animals in 2022).



The Double Tree Inn, site of the IBMP meeting, is across the Clark Fork River from the University of Montana, where these deer were spotted before dawn, just prior to the start of the meeting.

Update on Annual Report

Annual Report is roughly 90% complete. The facilitator called out the missing items still to be submitted.

Completions of 2021/22 Winter Ops Plan

DISCUSSIONS

Partners reviewed the current Winter Ops Plan. The facilitator reviewed all the items that had been submitted for change. Separate minor changes, the Partners soon centered their discussion on the 2021/22 removal recommendations. Long discussions followed that centered around the upper and lower range of bison removals, as was initially discussed by CG during his morning presentation. The screen shot below shows where the Partners arrived after many iterations. This language was agreed to by all but the Nez Perce Tribe. The Partners agreed a plan whereby the NPT Executive Council would review the language shown below, and either report agreement to it or suggest new language for the Partners to consider by Wednesday, December 15).

making during winter operations.

The IBMP members have decided to manage for a stable to slightly decreasing population during the winter of 2021-2022 by removing an anticipated 5,600 to 7,200 bison, plus no more than 200 additional animals as warranted consistent with other objectives in the plan, and focusing removals on bison in northern Yellowstone. The IBMP members plan to manage numbers and distribution of bison through public and treaty harvests in Montana. The NPS will initiate capture operations at Stephen's Creek throughout the winter season to meet population management, quarantine, and conflict resolution objectives. During capture operations, sufficient numbers of bison will be allowed to pass by the facility to continue to provide treaty and state hunting opportunities.

The NPS will monitor bison abundance and movements through the winter. The CSEK, NPT, and MEWP

*During the meeting, the Partners arrived at the language shown above as the potential removal recommendation for the 2021/22 Winter Operations Plan. **The language above was not accepted as of the end of the meeting and was still being considered.** The 2021/22 Winter Operation Plan is only viable upon all Partners signing, scheduled to happen on or before December 31.*

UPDATE ON WINTER OPS PLAN COMPLETION TIMING

The facilitator reminded the Partner and staff that the Winter Ops Plan, per Partner Protocols, is to be signed by December 31 each year to better assist field personnel in their work. If the 2021/22 Winter Ops Plan is not signed, the Partners (again per their Partners Protocols) agree to operate under the previous signed Winter Ops Plan (in this case, the 2020/21 Winter Ops Plan).

Status updates

(topics listed in the agenda, unless already discussed in the meeting)

New bison EIS — Still in internal scoping phase. A cooperators’ meeting is planned for Dec 6. NPS will be seeking approval to proceed from DOI within the next couple weeks. Expecting public scoping process to start in early (likely January or February) 2022. There will be 2 virtual public meetings expected and a 30-day comment period. Tribal consultation will be initiated during the same time frame.

Lawsuit updates (PJ) — There are two lawsuits of note that are described in the 2021 Annual Report. As of now, both lawsuits have been sent to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. In both cases, hearings have been scheduled for February.

Update on removing *Brucella abortus* from the CDC select agent list (MZ) — No updates.

Planning for 2021 (and beyond) IBMP meetings

MEETING DATES

After short, open discussion, the Partners decided to change from a 3-meeting-per-year format to trying a 2-meeting-per-year format. The standard summer meeting will be dropped. Partners recognized that they could return to the 3-meeting-per-year format if they found it necessary. The changes reflect that the summer meeting has often had minimal impact, in part because the annual bison count and subsequent population modeling — upon much of the Winter Ops Plan is based — is not complete until September or October of each year.

(Note that a point had been made previously that since many hunts go until Mar 31 it would be better to hold the Partners’ Spring meeting later in the spring, say in May, more time to collect, analyze, and verify their hunt data. Partners talked briefly about this concept but decided a preference to meeting in April rather than May.)

Given that background, the Partners decided on the meeting schedule shown below for 2022. Next year will include two Lead Partners (ITBC and NPS) because ITBC was unable to fulfill that role in 2020 due to the spring meeting being cancelled due to the new COVID outbreak).

Lead Partners set, Partner Protocols modified to reflect decisions below — spring meeting lead is ITBC, late fall meeting lead is NPS. This change allows the possibility of a summer field trip, to be determined each year.

2022	<i>when</i>	<i>Mtg type (expected)</i>	<i>host</i>	<i>Lead Partner</i>	<i>Facilitation cost\$</i>	<i>mtg location cost\$</i>	<i>mtg date & location</i>
•	<i>Spring</i>	<i>in-person</i>	<i>ITBC</i>	<i>ITBC</i>	<i>ITBC</i>	<i>ITBC</i>	<i>April 13 in Bozeman</i>
•	<i>Late Fall</i>	<i>in-person</i>	<i>NPS</i>	<i>NPS</i>	<i>NPS</i>	<i>CSKT</i>	<i>November 30 in Pablo (tentatively)</i>

2023 – return to Partner Protocol schedule for Lead Partner MDOL (who also acts as host for each meeting)

2024 – again following Partner Protocol schedule (USFS is Lead Partner for 2024) ...

CHANGE OF LEAD PARTNER

The Partners recognized that Ervin Carlson, of ITBC, as their new Lead Partner for 2022.

CHANGE OF FACILITATOR

The Partners asked the facilitator, who's last meeting will be in April 2022, to provide information on the job description for a future IBMP facilitator. CS stated a goal for the Partners to have a candidate identified before the April meeting and have that person shadow the current facilitator. The Partners decided that they would convene a group offline to review candidates.

Meeting close

Quincy Ellenwood asked for a moment to make a presentation. He said that over the years he has had the honor of working with retiring NPS Ranger Brian Helm. Though Bryan was not at this meeting, Quincy provided Cam Sholly (and Brian's NPS workmate Kevin Dooley) with a gift, a specially designed NPT woolen blanket, as a retirement gift and token of appreciation for Brian. NPT officer W___ also provided positive words for Brian, and best wishes on his retirement.

In closing, said that it has been a great honor to be the Lead Partner this year. He thanked everyone for traveling to Missoula. He said, in part, "As people here I really respect you guys and I've had a lot of good conversations. I understand you each have your own professions and duties. I likewise took an oath to the constitution of the Nez Perce Nation that I take very seriously. I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you. I know a lot of us all have family or friends lost to this pandemic. My prayers go out to all of you and I wish you safe travels."

All assembled gave Quincy a final round of applause for his and the NPT's work as Lead Partner for 2021.

Three final items: 1) The facilitator noted that Carl Scheeler of the CTUIR would be retiring before the next meeting—he received a warm round of applause; 2) the next Lear Partner, Ervin Carlson of ITBC, added his thanks to the NPT for hosting this year's meetings and said he looked forward to having everyone back next year; and finally 3) the facilitator added his thanks to everyone, and bid them safe travels.



Quincy Ellenwood presented a gift to NPS Officer Brian Helm, who was not present, to recognize Brian's retirement. Cam Sholly and officer he December 1, 2021 IBMP meeting took place at the Missoula Double Tree Inn.

Public comment

Two public comment were made at the meeting. In addition, a Google Form was available for public comment from the day before the IBMP meeting until midnight the day of the meeting.

- (Jesse Bolin) Sharing observations of traveling for last few years for conservation. Seems a bit dire out there. Bringing that home here — GYE is one of our great hopes, part of continent is one of our last great

- hopes, full of diversity. Discussion of water quality issues associated with human pollution, including into YNP. All critters including bison drink the water. Like to focus on solutions more than problems. Seems like the big solution here is habitat which would solve all sorts of problems (e.g., hunting). We have much land on USFS that is available. Worry about 5500 bison in Yellowstone vs 93.5 million cattle in the US. I would like to see us work toward balance — maybe start with 1% bison.
- (Don Woerner) I'm a practicing veterinarian. Been to these meetings for years. We need an area where we can really put these animals. I so see some big hope in the tribal programs. One of the primary roles of the tribes is to keep the bison wild and respect them. There are many challenges with this animal — it is not domestic — but it is an adaptable animal and we need to work with the animal. I work with commercial bison ranchers. One of the environments I'd really like to see us work toward is some type of open, maybe co-managed area of land where these animals could really spread out and we could properly take care of them like the wild animals they are. Last year I wrote the health certificates for the bison. Lot of fun up there, good attitudes. I've also followed bison to a slaughter plant and that was a very glum experience—and we need to not do that. As a practicing vet I understand the need for regulations, importance of brucellosis. I worry when we pen animals for a long time we can bring in other diseases. We need to monitor closely. Not saying that we can't use the area around Yellowstone, but we really seriously need to look for other areas. We have destroyed their habitat and we need to bring that back.
 - (Megan Davenport, speaking as individual not as a rep of ITBC) As student researcher I am looking at managing Yellowstone bison through the lens of settler colonialism. While it is really important to seek the balance between management topics like hunt, quarantine, and shipment to slaughter focusing on this issue can become another tactic of settler colonialism which can either inadvertently or advertently pit tribes against one another, becoming a sort of divide and conquer tactic rather than a tool to support the sovereignty of all tribal nations. Focusing on the differences between tribal nations defocuses us from the many elephants in the room; for example: 1) trust responsibilities to all tribal sovereigns, 2) what really degrades the hunt — the population of bison, the size or use by bison of tolerance areas (these areas that are available to tribal nations are unbelievably limited), 3) the success of quarantine program is limited by UM&R outdated, danger unfairly credited bison not elk, federal agencies follow state guidance rather than that of tribes. Who and what are the interests that don't want buffalo allowed outside of the Park or in any capacity restored to their wild status? Please use the power in this room, in your respective agencies, to address the real issues buffalo are facing.
 - (Chamois Anderson, Defenders of Wildlife, from Google form comment #1 of 2): Defenders appreciated the dialogue about available tools to minimize the numbers that go to slaughter, BUT the crux is the allocation or harvest numbers dedicated to the tribal hunt, to that of quarantine contributing to tribal restoration efforts. This issue of animals getting out alive or being hunted is clearly what needs to be solved in the short and long term. In our view the discussion needs to get back to the Tolerance Zone (with Custer Gallatin FS revised plan), having the ability for animals to move into that area and thus expand hunting opportunities and territory. I address ITBC's concern about more animals getting out alive, if Fort Peck were given full Phase 2 authority for brucellosis testing, opening up those 600 additional slots (animals for ITBC member tribes/herds), than that would get to all these concerns and to the key point by Cam Sholly about moving away from slaughter. IBMP support of this scenario would really move the needle at the federal USDA level. Bottom line: All tools in all capacity (including land management; movement of bison into tolerance zone) will mean less animals go to slaughter. Thank you.
 - (Shana Drimal, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, from Google form comment #2 of 2): Thanks to Yellowstone's leadership, significant progress has been made in developing and most recently expanding the quarantine/rehoming program for Yellowstone bison as an alternative to slaughter. To continue moving away from the unacceptable use of slaughter to manage bison numbers, hunting opportunity/effectiveness outside the Park must be improved, along with further expansion and improved efficiency of the quarantine/rehoming process. Even with recent expansion efforts, there will continue to be a bottle neck situation at the phase 1 and 2 facilities that significantly slows down this process. First and foremost, Fort Peck should be considered a phase two facility. In addition, it's time

** final **

that the Park work with APHIS to shorten the duration of time it takes for bison to complete the quarantine process based on the best available science and data supporting this. In the Final quarantine EA it states that “the intent of quarantine is to confine and test bison for the minimum time necessary to ensure they are brucellosis free. Initially, bison would be quarantined for the minimum periods recommended by USDA, APHIS” (from the 2003 UM&R). However “the minimum time periods...may be adjusted after further experience and consultation with APHIS.” First, the guidelines in the 2003 UM&R are outdated and warrant updating. Also, we’ve known that no bison in the quarantine feasibility study from 2005-2010 (Clark et al. 2014), sero-converted to test-positive after 205 days (~7 months). And that no latent infections were detected in test-negative bison, and no calves born to any of the bred females tested positive for exposure. Data from recent quarantine efforts in Yellowstone further corroborate this – since the program began an additional 5 or 6 cohorts have completed the process, and once an animal has reached day 1 of phase 2 (between 200-230 days), no animal has seroconverted to positive. And lastly, the quarantine process for cattle within the DSA is far less rigorous that what is required for Yellowstone bison going through this process. It’s time that these time frames be updated to reflect the years of data and science that support a much shorter quarantine process and we urge APHIS to begin the process to formally update the guidelines. And lastly, I want to encourage the Forest Service and IBMP partners to move forward with some sort of a habitat subcommittee/working group with the goal of identifying one or more projects to improve bison habitat/use of the landscape on the west-side following direction from the new forest plan.

*** Meeting adjourned ***

Abbreviations

- AM—Adaptive management
- APHIS—Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- BCC—Bear Creek Council
- BCTP—Bison Conservation Transfer Program
- BFC—Buffalo Field Campaign
- CG—Chris Geremia
- CGNF—Custer Gallatin National Forest
- CSh—Cam Sholly
- CSc—Carl Scheeler
- CSKT—Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes
- CTUIR—Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- CV—Clay Vines
- CWG—Citizens’ Working Group
- DSA—Designated Surveillance Zone
- DW—Dan Wenner
- EA—Environmental Assessment
- EC—Ervin Carlson
- EH—Eric Holt
- GAO—Government Accountability Office
- GW—Germaine White
- GWA—Gallatin Wildlife Association
- GYA—Greater Yellowstone Area
- ITBC— InterTribal Buffalo Council
- JH—John Harrison
- LG—Leonard Gray
- LW—Leander Watson
- MBOL—Montana Board of Livestock
- MD—Mark Deleray
- MDOL—Montana Department of Livestock
- MDOT—Montana Department of Transportation
- ME—Mary Erickson
- MEPA—Montana Environmental Policy Act
- MFWP—Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
- MH—Mike Honeycutt
- ML—Mike Lopez
- MOA—Memorandum of Agreement
- MOU—Memorandum of Understanding
- MR—Majel Russell
- MSGA—Montana Stockgrowers’ Association
- MSU—Montana State University
- MV—Mike Volesky
- MZ—Marty Zaluski
- NAS—National Academy of Sciences
- NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act
- NGO—Non-governmental organizations
- NPS—National Park Service
- NPT—Nez Perce Tribe
- NPTEC— Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
- NRC—National Research Council
- NRDC—Natural Resources Defense Council
- NT—Neil Thagard
- Park—Yellowstone National Park
- PIOs—Public Information Officers
- PJ—PJ White
- QE—Quincy Ellenwood
- RC—Ryan Clarke
- ROD—Record of Decision
- RF—Rebecca Frye
- RFP—Request for proposals
- RTR—Royal Teton Ranch
- SB—Scott Bischke
- SEIS—Supplemental EIS
- SG—Stephanie Gillin
- SK—Salish Kootenai
- TM—Tom McDonald
- TR—Tim Reid
- USFWS—US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USGS—US Geological Survey
- WMA—state of MT wildlife management areas
- YELL—Yellowstone National Park
- YNP—Yellowstone National Park