

Center for Disease Control

Covid-19 Event Planning Guidelines

Following are a subset of the CDC event planning guidelines as of 11/29/21 that we will seek to follow for the 12/1/21 IBMP meeting. **Items in bold are direct quotes from the CDC.** The full set of guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/event-planners-and-attendees-faq.html>.

Vaccination status

We strongly request that everyone in attendance be vaccinated against COVID-19.

- **Event planners might choose to verify COVID-19 vaccination status at the time of ticket sales or entry to an event. Organizers must obey all applicable local, state, tribal, and territorial laws, regulations and rules as they consider whether to confirm COVID-19 vaccination status.**

Prevention strategies

We strongly request proper masking and social distancing be practiced by all in attendance, throughout the meeting and day that IBMP Partners, staff, and interested public are assembled at the meeting or in contact during breaks and similar. Per the CDC:

- **Ensure staff and attendees wear masks correctly and consistently.**
- **Encourage physical distancing.**
- **Encourage staff and attendees to cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands.**
- **Encourage staff and attendees to stay home if they are sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19, and to get tested for COVID-19.**
- **Tell staff and attendees who are not fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 to quarantine and get tested for COVID-19.**
- **Conduct contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine for staff or attendees who show symptoms of COVID-19. These steps should be taken in a manner consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including those relating to privacy, and in collaboration with state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments.**

Considerations on the number of people allowed at the meeting

Per the CDC:

- **CDC does not provide specific numbers, including maximum or minimum numbers, of attendees for events and gatherings.**
- **Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces because it can be harder to maintain physical distancing indoors, and viral particles disperse more easily outdoors than indoors.**
- **In general, the more people who interact, the more closely they interact, and the longer those interactions occur, the greater the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.**
- **Event organizers should also monitor levels of community transmission (low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local COVID-19 vaccination coverage.** Per the CDC COVID Tracker Data website (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>; as of 11/29/21) see below for a) CDC rating for community transmission; b) %population >12 fully vaccinated:
 - USA: a) high; b) 69.1%
 - Montana: a) high; b) 60.2%
 - Missoula County: a) high; b) 67.8%

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Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



DECEMBER 1, 2021

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: NEZ PERCE TRIBE
(CONTACT—SCOTT BISCHKE, FACILITATOR, [406] 582-4442)**

P. Ryan Clarke: Senior Staff Veterinarian, Veterinary Services; Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Bing Matt: Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Marina Yoshioka: 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

Quincy Ellenwood: Natural Resource Sub Committee for NPTEC

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



Meeting location:
**Double Tree Inn,
Missoula, MT**

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For room reservations call
(406) 728-3100.

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.

Wednesday, December 1st

**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

Per Partner Protocols, the overall goal of the summer meeting is: 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.

Start	Speaker	Topic
7:30	All	Room opens Full breakfast for Partners and staff provided by the Nez Perce Tribe; coffee and tea provided
8:00	Scott Bischke, facilitator; or as noted	Welcome, meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID concerns, guidelines — with discussion as needed • Opening words from Lead Partner Quincy Ellenwood • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, any agenda modifications? • A brief IBMP timeline • Scott summary of action items from July 2020 meeting • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report
8:30	All	Partner updates ~3 min per Partner and treaty hunting Tribe to provide a brief summary their own handling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; results of legislative, agency, or Tribal Council actions; and other changes since July 2021 IBMP meeting, and how those might impact the IBMP <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with host and Lead Partner NPT 2. APHIS, CSKT, ITBC, MDOL/MBOL, MFWP, NPS, USFS 3. Blackfeet, CTUIR, Northern Arapaho, ShoBan, Yakama
9:00	Marina, all	Who will be hunting in 2021/22 Per action item from July meeting, compilation of all groups (tribal, state) expected to be hunting in 2021/22. Focus on new tribal groups, if any, with such items as MOA, safety planning and coordination, number of hunters expected, permits expected, length of season, West side or North side of both?
9:20	NPS	Report NPS bison count and removal recommendations First focus is on presentation time. Discussion time available here but with a recognition that a full session on the Winter Ops Plan occurs later in the day.
10:00		Break (here or as called for by the Partners) <i>Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: Improving safety, quality of the north side hunt/improving boundary issues.</i>
10:20	??	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (NPS) Harvest and population goals (post-break summary, if needed, of previous section) 2. (NPT, MFWP, all) Enforcement, including communication (between agencies, within agencies as in hunter-training) 3. (MFWP, Kqyn Kuka) Communication/education update — New signage and video 4. (USFS to start, all) Field operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential for carcass handling (Mike T, also Shaina D or Nathan V?)—Update from Mike T on his discussions and data collection from Buffalo Bridge group, including their potential to manage the carcass handling program ○ Gardner basin neighbor relations ○ Safety issues at Beattie Gulch and/or Eagle Creek...., may include past item regarding discussions with Carl Scheeler, Brad Bolte, Brian Helm (others?) on safety, posting, etc in Beattie Gulch

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5. (NPS, CTUIR, others) **Method of hunt-trap operation** and & its relation to IBMP population goals
 6. (all) **Bison distribution**—actions or observations regarding bison migration out of Park and distribution across tolerance area
 7. Other?
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*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:

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| 10:50 | <i>As noted</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bison distribution (MFWP, NPS, all) — update on bison distribution and use of West Side habitat (increased?) -- NPS, MFWP2. Habitat —<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (From July meeting, Jason B) — Communicate with Partners regarding any impact (e.g., closures, special safety considerations) that West Side USFS projects (near Hebgen Lake and along the Hwy 191 corridor—Hebgen Flats, Fir Ridge/Teepee Creek, Red Canyon). Projects have many goals and which might include habitat manipulation to increase forage and/or increased migration of bison and/or increased traffic safety.• (USFS, others) Potential, once discussed, of creating a subcommittee to develop a potential habitat manipulation plan for the West Side. Potential group to be created could a) make use of Dr. Marlowe recommendations, b) include an NGO rep(s)3. Hunt —<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (tribal hunting groups, state) West side 2021/22 hunt status• (MFWP) West side hunting district zone status (any changes with FW Commission meetings?)• (All) Discussion option? Past proposal for all hunt agencies to temporarily close off bison hunting in the Taylor Fork expansion area until sufficient population exists for hunting4. Highway safety —<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (MFWP, USFS, others) Status update (if any) on concerns of West Side highway safety issues associated with increased bison movement along Hwy 191 corridor — current status, plans ahead? Related action item from July meeting: “Led by Tom M: Julie C, Chris G, Carl S, Jason B, James Holt (BFC), Pat Flowers (ask as rep to the area). Consideration at two levels: What can be done 1) now (e.g., signage)? and 2) if we think BIG, e.g., big \$s overpasses etc? As part of this work, Julie C, who is currently working with MDOT on the Cougar Creek bridge project, will keep the team abreast of what is happening with that project.”• Re-engagement, if any, with West Side owners (USFS, MFWP, all)5. Other? |
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*Improving IBMP effectiveness topic of agreed interest: **Bison quarantine and translocation.***

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| 11:30 | <i>??</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bison Conservation and Transfer Program (BCTP), including<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ status of expansion of BCTP facility (NPS)○ status of bison at the BCTP facility and at APHIS facilities (Ryan)○ Bison transfers <u>to</u> Fort Peck (APHIS, ITBC, NPS, MDOL)○ Bison status <u>at</u> Fort Peck (ITBC)○ Bison transfers <u>from</u> Fort Peck (ITBC)2. (NPS, ITBC, APHIS, all) Potential to add past discussion item: Given recent changes—as discussed above—What is the future of quarantine as an IBMP management tool? a) What does the future look like? b) What roles will each Partner play? c) Who funds the quarantine program? d) Where is it located? e) How will the flow of animals work? (e.g., Where held, tested, &/or moved? How many? Bottlenecks?)3. Other? |
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12:10	<i>***</i>	Lunch (supplied by Nez Perce Tribe; priority to Partners and staff first, please)
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1:30 PM	Public	<p>Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)</p> <p>Public comment -- Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.</p>
2:00	Partners, as shown	<p>Completing the 2021/22 Winter Operations Plan</p> <p>* Brief review of current status, issues in creating Winter Ops Plan (Quincy, Scott)</p> <p>* Partner discussion on completing 2021/22 Winter Ops Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify issues • Develop consensus on how to handle any issues • If unable to create consensus on any issues, develop plan on how to answer those issues (requires problem definition, responsible parties, timeline for completion) <p><< For Partner reference (not to step through): 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>)
3:10	***	<p>Break (<i>here or as called for by the Partners pending Winter Ops discussion</i>)</p>
3:30		<p>Planning for 2021/22 Winter Operations Plan (continued)</p> <p>** Close this topic with agreed upon process, timeline, and responsibilities for completing the 2021/22 Winter Ops Plan</p>
3:45		<p>Planning for 2020 Annual Report</p> <p>Set timeline (including note of Scott planned absence Dec 26 – Jan 17)</p>
4:00	As noted	<p>Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis (if any and if not already covered)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cam—update on new NPS bison EIS 2. Mary—update on CGNF Forest Plan revision effort 3. Mary, Cam—status of lawsuits regarding bison/hunting/neighbors in Gardner Basin 4. Mike, Marty—any updates on bison-related bills considered by the Montana Legislature 5. Marty (Ryan?)—any updates on removing <i>brucella abortus</i> from CDC select agent list 6. Shana Drimal <<i>if anything new to report</i>>—update on bison coexistence/fencing project 7. Partners and staff—questions on status of other ongoing activities?

Review of upcoming 2022 meetings and Lead Partners

1. Deciding on 2022 IBMP meetings; Recall the following

- Lead Partners set, Partner Protocols modified to reflect decisions below — Spring meeting lead is ITBC, summer and fall meetings lead is NPS
- Date changes suggested: a) make Spring meeting later in the year to since many hunts go til Mar 31 so later would give groups more time to collect, analyze, and verify their hunt data; b) move the summer meeting until fall to assure that it comes after the NPS bison count thereby giving the Partners more information upon which to base their Winter Ops Planning discussions.

	2022	when	mtg type (expected)	host	Lead Partner	Facilitation cost\$	mtg location cost\$	mtg date & location
4:30	Scott Bischke							
		• Spring	in -person	ITBC	ITBC	ITBC	ITBC	_date?_ Bozeman?
		• Summer	in-person	CSKT	NPS	NPS	CSKT	_date?_ Pablo?
		• Winter	in-person	NPS	NPS	NPS	NPS	_date?_ Chico?

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

2024 -- per Partner Protocol schedule (USFS is Lead Partner) ...

2. Change of Lead Partner

- Verifying ITBC and NPS leadership for 2022
- Thanks to Quincy (and the NPT team) and chance for his final words as Lead Partner

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)