

Public meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners



DECEMBER 1ST, 2016

**LEAD PARTNER & HOST FOR THIS MEETING: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
(CONTACT—MARTY ZALUSKI [406] 444-0782)**

Donald E. Herriott: District Director, Veterinary Services; Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Leonard Gray: Tribal Council Representative; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Ervin Carlson: President; Inter Tribal Buffalo Council

Sam Sheppard: Region 3 Supervisor; 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, Montana**
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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.

Thursday, December 1st

**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	Emily Kaleczyc, MDOL to lead	Discussion and preparation for 2016/2017 Winter IBMP Operations Plan Partners will have had the draft Winter Ops Plan prior to the meeting. We will step through the bulleted items below with a request if there is need for discussion. If so, Partners will go through 4-step discussion process: (1) review draft Ops Plan highlights for that topic, (2) Partner discussion and concerns, if any, (3) remedy concerns in place, (4) no remedy forthcoming, Partners assign group to come to recommendation for decision by Partners post meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall removals versus Plan (MDOL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hunt results (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) ○ Evaluation of bison distribution (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) ○ Culls/transfer of bison to processing facilities (NPS, CSKT, ITBC, others?) • Hunt planning meeting outcome — May 2016 (MFWP, CSKT, CTUIR, NPT, SB) • Bison harvest planning (NPS) — 60 min • Ramifications of newly adapted (May 2016) changes from Montana EA • Process for preparing of 2016/17 Winter Ops Plan (MDOL)
9:00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of bison (who gets bison; part of Winter Ops plan) • Transfer of bison to research facilities (APHIS) • Transfer of bison to Tribal groups • Shipment of bison for processing
9:45		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items required to complete 2016/17 Winter Ops Plan • Method and timeline for completion of 2016/17 Winter Ops Plan, including signing process
10:00	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
10:20	Roy Renkin	Summary on the 2016 fire activity in and near Yellowstone National Park Roy is YNP's Fire Ecologist
11:00	Rick Wallen Chris Germania	Bison grazing effects on Yellowstone grasslands The NPS will present findings from monitoring production, consumption, and stimulation at numerous grassland sites during 2011-2016.
12:00 PM	***	Lunch (on your own)

Call back to order / Introductions of anyone newly present (Scott Bischke)		
1:20	Public	Public comment Typically 2-4 min per person, depending on level of sign-up sheet. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.
1:50	MDOL/APHIS	Review and discussion of quarantine protocols
2:50	***	Break (here or as called for by the Partners)
Status of ongoing activities related to Yellowstone bison and brucellosis		
3:10	As noted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer—Status of new EIS process and Udall Institute progress (including report on Sep 26 webinar) 2. Jennifer—Status of lawsuit regarding access to Stephens Creek facility 3. Jennifer— NPS Quarantine Environmental Assessment: Final decision, and what happens from here? 4. PJ—Status of lawsuit suing USFWS over not listing Yellowstone bison under ESA 5. Sam—Status of development of <i>Landowners: Living with Bison</i> educational handout 6. Ken McDonald <tentative>—Status of Montana State-wide Bison Management Plan 7. Don—Update on NAS review of brucellosis in wildlife in the GYA 8. Mary—Status of North-side and West-side CGNF habitat studies 9. Shana Dunkley <if anything new to report>—Update on bison coexistence/fencing project 10. Marty—update on Beaverhead County voluntary screening 11. Marty—Proposed removal of <i>Brucella abortus</i> from the CDC select agents list 12. Marty—Update on proposed management action to vaccinate bison in the western management area
3:40	ITBC, Matt Skoglund	Is there an on-going role for the Citizens' Advisory Group? Following short presentations, an open discussion.
Preparation of 2016 IBMP Annual Report		
4:10	Scott, Emily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner comments, review, concerns • Any issues to resolve? • Steps for completion
Administrative items: Transition to new Lead Partner, 2017 meeting scheduling, ...		
4:40	Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Marty • Welcome to Mary and CGNF • Related—quick question on Partners + seconds email list makeup • Discussion of transition to new EIS • Scheduling time and location for 2017 IBMP meetings
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.