Public meeting of the
Interagency Bison Management Plan Partners

October 28, 2026

Lead Partner & Host for this meeting: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (contact—Alexander Hancock, Ruckelshaus Institute, 307-766-5050)

Jennifer Siembieda: Acting Director, Ruminant Health Center, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
Tom McDonald: Tribal Council Representative, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Ervin Carlson: President, InterTribal Buffalo Council
Christy Clark: Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Mike Honeycutt: Executive Officer, Montana Board of Livestock
Tahnee Szymanski: State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock
Tim Reid: Chief of Center for Resources, NPS—Yellowstone National Park
Shannon Wheeler: Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, Nez Perce Tribe
Matt Jedra: Forest Supervisor, USFS—Custer-Gallatin National Forest

Meeting location
Copper King
Butte, MT

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For room reservations, call 406-533-6960 or visit copperkinghotel.com

Special rates for Partners and Staff.

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, then develop and apply short- and long-term adaptive management adjustments to the IBMP.

Wednesday, October 28th

Note that agenda times are approximate and for planning purposes only. Actual times may vary depending on partner interaction needs.

Per Partner Protocols (newly revised for two meetings/year on 12/20/21), the overall goal of the fall meeting is:

(1) Reports of subcommittees, if applicable, on proposed new adaptive management activities and continued collection of ideas for adaptive management changes for the following year.
(2) Partners review draft Annual Report; commit to complete any remaining items by December 31.
(3) Partners review and agree to or reject proposed adaptive management changes for the upcoming year.
(4) Final Partner discussion and agreement on the Operations Plan for the upcoming year.

Time	Speaker	Topic
8:30	All	Room opens Coffee and tea provided
9:00	Facilitator	**Invocation, welcome, meeting overview** • Invocation • Opening words from Lead Partner Jennifer Siembieda • Introductions of all present • Meeting logistics, format, process, expectations, agenda modifications • Summary of action items from last meeting • Verification of Partner acceptance of last meeting report ***IBMP Action Item 1***: Vote upon acceptance of last meeting report
9:30	All	**Partner updates** *~3 min per Partner and treaty hunting Tribe to provide a brief summary including legislative, agency, or Tribal Council actions; and other changes since last IBMP meeting, and how those might impact the IBMP* • Begin with host and Lead Partner APHIS • ITBC, CSKT, MDOL/MBOL, MFWP, NPS, NPT, USFS • Blackfeet, CTUIR, Northern Arapaho, Shoshone Bannock, Yakama

10:00	All	**Anticipating the November 2026–October 2027 IBMP year of operations**
		
		• YNP numbers and anticipated operations
		  ○ Presentation from NPS
		  ○ Discussion to follow
		• Hunt safety and implementation
		• Expanded use of the tolerance area
		• Other topics as requested by Partners
		• Potential changes to Ops Plan language in Partner Protocols
		  ○ Introduction by lead partner APHIS
		  ○ Open discussion led by IBMP Facilitator
		
		Discussion continues after break

10:45	Break	Here or as called for by the Partners

11:00	All	**Anticipating the November 2026–October 2027 IBMP year of operations** *Continued from before break* ***IBMP Action Item 2***: Agree upon next steps for Partner Protocol revisions ***IBMP Action Item 3***: Vote on 2026-2027 IBMP Operations Plan
11:45	Public	**Public Feedback Session** *Approximately 4 minutes per person. The facilitator asks that speakers be respectful.*
12:15	Lunch	Lunch on your own
1:30	Facilitator	**Call back to order** *Introductions of anyone newly present.*
1:30	Dr. Michelle Gibison	**Presentation: Dr. Michelle Gibison, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine** *A presentation on the use of dogs to detect wildlife disease by the game commission in Pennsylvania.* Discussion follows, beginning with Partners and then opening to the public.

2:15	All	**Partner Protocols for IBMP Meeting Recordings**
		Lead partner USDA APHIS to introduce proposed adjustment.
		
		• Potential changes to Partner Protocols to clarify responsibilities for recording meetings and for storage of recordings
		  ○ Introduction by lead partner APHIS
		  ○ Open discussion led by IBMP Facilitator
		
		IBMP Action Item 4: Agree upon next steps for Partner Protocol revisions

2:45	Break	Here or as called by Partners

3:00	All	**2025-26 IBMP Annual Report updates** • Update from IBMP Facilitator on status of IBMP Annual Report • Opportunity for Partners to provide outstanding numbers/monitoring metrics
3:15	Facilitator	**IBMP calendar discussion** *Review the calendar for the remainder of 2026, and look toward 2027* • Lead partner transition • Dates and locations for 2027 meetings ***IBMP Action Item 5***: Vote upon dates and locations for 2027 IBMP meetings
3:45	**ADJOURN**	**Please travel safely!**