

APPENDIX A

Introduction

This document outlines the actions necessary to implement the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) as set forth in the federal and state Records of Decision signed in 2000 and modified by adaptive management adjustments in 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2011-2012. The principle purpose for action described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the IBMP was “to maintain a wild, free ranging population of bison and address the risk of brucellosis transmission to protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in Montana.” The signatory agencies agreed to nine objectives that would guide them in accomplishing this purpose:

1. Address bison population size and distribution; have specific commitments relating to size of bison herd.
2. Clearly define a boundary line beyond which bison will not be tolerated.
3. Address the risk to public safety and private property damage by bison.
4. Commit to the eventual elimination of brucellosis in bison and other wildlife.
5. Protect livestock from the risk of brucellosis.
6. Protect the state of Montana from risk of reduction in its brucellosis status.
7. At a minimum, maintain a viable population of wild bison in Yellowstone National Park, as defined in biological, genetic, and ecological terms.
8. Be based on factual information, with the recognition that the scientific database is changing.
9. Recognize the need for coordination in the management of natural and cultural resource values that are the responsibility of the signatory agencies.

Members involved with the IBMP include the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), National Park Service (NPS), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Operating procedures for the IBMP were originally developed in December 2002 and have been updated in November 2007 and 2009. The updated operating procedures outlined in this document will remain in effect until replaced by subsequent updates. All actions described in this document are consistent with the analyses of impacts included in the federal and state Final Environmental Impact Statements for the IBMP that were completed in 2000 to comply with the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts.

Jurisdiction and Legal Mandates

The federal and state agencies agreed on a plan to manage bison in Yellowstone National Park and Montana as set forth in the IBMP and the associated Records of Decision adopted in 2000. The CSKT, ITBC, and NPT joined the IBMP after the plan was approved, but work within the management framework described in the plan. The NPS has lead responsibility for implementing bison management actions inside the park, while MDOL has lead responsibility for implementing bison management actions outside the park. The NPS and MDOL may request assistance from the other IBMP members. Property damage issues on private lands will be the responsibility of MFWP. MDOL may assist upon request of MFWP. USFS law enforcement