



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



USDA  
ANIMAL AND PLANT  
HEALTH INSPECTION  
SERVICE



USDA  
FOREST SERVICE



MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF LIVESTOCK



MONTANA FISH,  
WILDLIFE AND PARKS



**Memorandum**

November 20, 2006

To: Administrative Record

From: Interagency Bison Management Plan Partner Agencies

Re: Adjustments to 2006-2007 Interagency Bison Management Plan Operating Procedures

Pursuant to the Federal and Montana Records of Decision of December 2000, the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) is to be put into operation with expected adjustments based on feedback from implementation of a suite of risk management actions. Based upon collective evaluation of prevailing management activities and consideration of the IBMP objectives, the partner agencies have agreed to incorporate the following into the 2006-2007 IBMP Operating Procedures:

1. Strategic Hazing – Bison outside the park between November 1 and May 15 that are subject to hazing under the IBMP could be hazed away from higher risk areas towards area(s) of lower risk outside the park. The Montana State Veterinarian will retain jurisdiction and discretion to implement strategic hazing outside the park.
2. Tolerance of Bull Bison – In recognition of guidelines to implement the Montana bison hunt, bull bison (single to small groups) outside the park between November 1 to May 15 that are otherwise subject to hazing or removal under the IBMP, could be tolerated if deemed of low risk to disease transmission, and public or property safety. The Montana State Veterinarian will retain jurisdiction and discretion to implement such tolerance of bull bison outside the park.
3. Bison Population Guideline - As referenced in the Federal and Montana Records of Decision, a population size of 3,000 bison is defined as a population indicator to guide implementation of risk management activities, and is not a target for deliberate population adjustment.

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