

5/17/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Briefs on Bison Grazing and Abundance



White, P <pj_white@nps.gov>

Re: Briefs on Bison Grazing and Abundance

1 message

Reid, Tim <tim_reid@nps.gov>

Thu, May 17, 2018 at 9:25 AM

To: "Wallen, Rick" <rick_wallen@nps.gov>

Cc: "White, P" <pj_white@nps.gov>, Dan Wenk <dan_wenk@nps.gov>, "Carpenter, Jennifer" <jennifer_carpenter@nps.gov>, Chris Geremia <chris_geremia@nps.gov>, Pete Webster <pete_webster@nps.gov>, Patrick Kenney <pat_kenney@nps.gov>, Kerrie Evans <Kerrie_Evans@nps.gov>

Dan - just for sake of conversation...attached are copies of documents related to the adaptive change regarding 3,000 as indicator not target. This has been the understanding for the IBMP since that time. A lot of contentious dialogue went in to achieving that understanding.

Tim Reid

Bison Management Coordinator

Yellowstone National Park

O: 307/344-2035

C: 307/281-1343

On Thu, May 17, 2018 at 7:49 AM, Wallen, Rick <rick_wallen@nps.gov> wrote:

PJ, this brief looks good. I added some thoughts to the key points in track changes for consideration. RW

On Thu, May 17, 2018 at 6:52 AM, White, P <pj_white@nps.gov> wrote:
attached

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P. J. White

Chief, Wildlife and Aquatic Resources


Yellowstone National Park


Mammoth, Wyoming 82190

Office: 307/344-2442

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

2 attachments

 **IBMP_Adaptive Mgt Changes 2006 with signatures.pdf**
7215K

 **3,000.doc**
31K

**Issue: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK INTERAGENCY BISON
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Member:

**Question: Why does the Park Service continue to use the 3000 population mark for
Bison in YNP as an action level to start "culling"? Where did this number
come from? Was science behind it?**

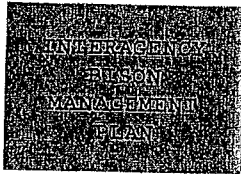
Answer:

Statistics show that bison populations of 3,000 or greater are more likely to respond to severe winter conditions and leave high elevation winter ranges for low elevation winter ranges outside the park.

The number is not a population target or carrying capacity; rather it is a risk management trigger that allows greater discretion within the IBMP to manage the risk associated with significant bison migration out of the park on to adjacent lands where cattle are present.

Background:

- In 1998, the National Research Council published the volume entitled "Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area" and reported statistical analyses that showed that for a bison population greater than 3,000, the number of bison moving out of YNP increases rapidly with increasing winter severity. The IBMP refers to 3,000 as a population target in the sense that when the bison population is greater than 3,000, the probability of large scale bison movement from high elevation winter range to low elevation winter range is more likely per increasing winter severity. Correspondingly, the risk of brucellosis transmission from migrating bison to domestic livestock on lands adjacent to the park would increase.
- In fall 2006 the IBMP partners agreed to three adaptive changes for the 2007 operating season. One of these changes articulated the partner consensus and formal recognition that the 3,000 population number is a risk management trigger; not a "carrying capacity" or population target.



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.

YELL005319

John Allen 11/20/06
for Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor, USFS, Gallatin National Forest

Jerry Diemer 11-20-06
Jerry Diemer, Associate Regional Director, USDA, Animal and
Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services

Pat Flowers 11/20/06
Pat Flowers, Regional Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Tom Linfield, DVM 20-NOV-06
Tom Linfield, State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock

Suzanne Lewis 11.20.06
Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park