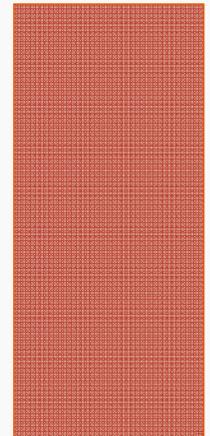




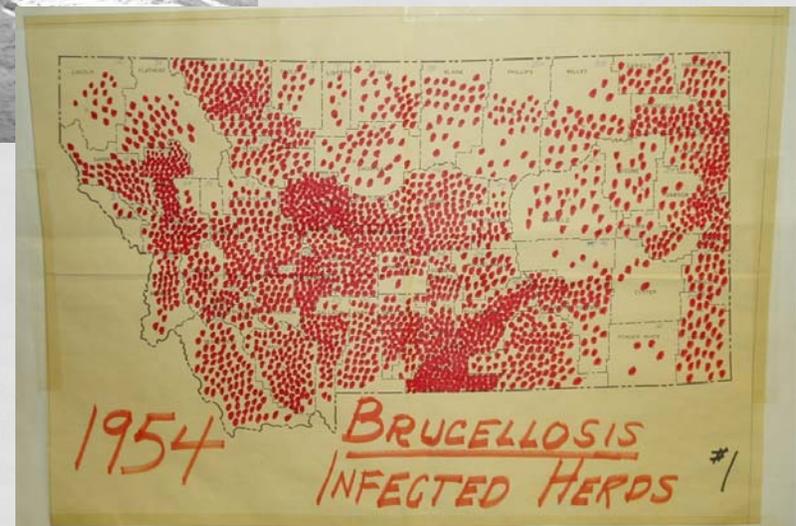
INTERAGENCY BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN HISTORY & OVERVIEW

CHRISTIAN MACKAY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK



LONG TERM CONFLICT

- Bison at brink of extinction in 1905
 - 21 park bison and 25 restored bison making up restoration herd
- Bison intensively managed between 1905-1967
 - Vaccination
 - Testing
 - Slaughter (in park abattoir)
- During same time, MT engaged in aggressive brucellosis eradication effort from cattle



LONG TERM CONFLICT

- Chronic conflict between YNP and Montana leading to court mandated IBMP
 - Conflict over population management, boundary control, and brucellosis prevalence
 - Conflict between Governors & state veterinarians, and National Park Service, USDA, Department of Interior, and Department of Agriculture since 1967.

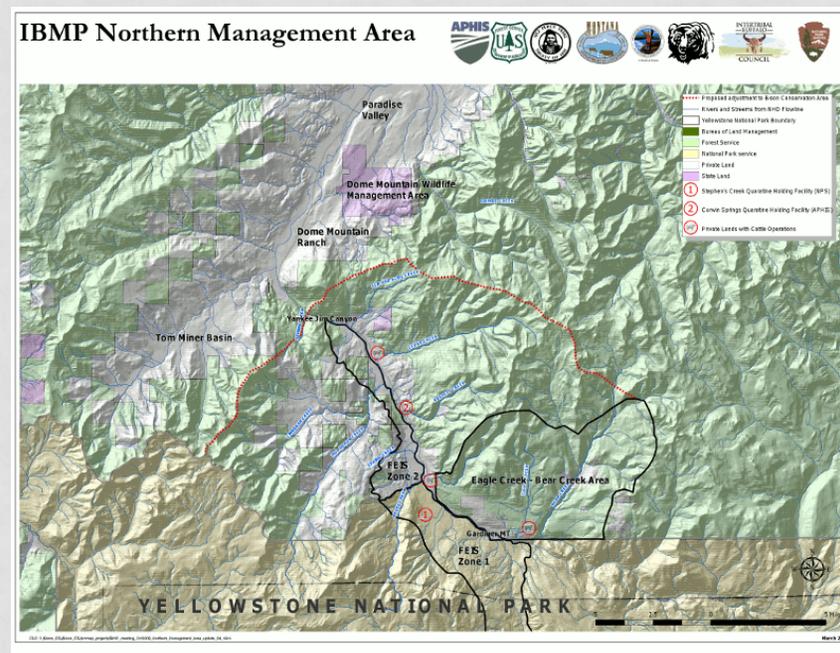
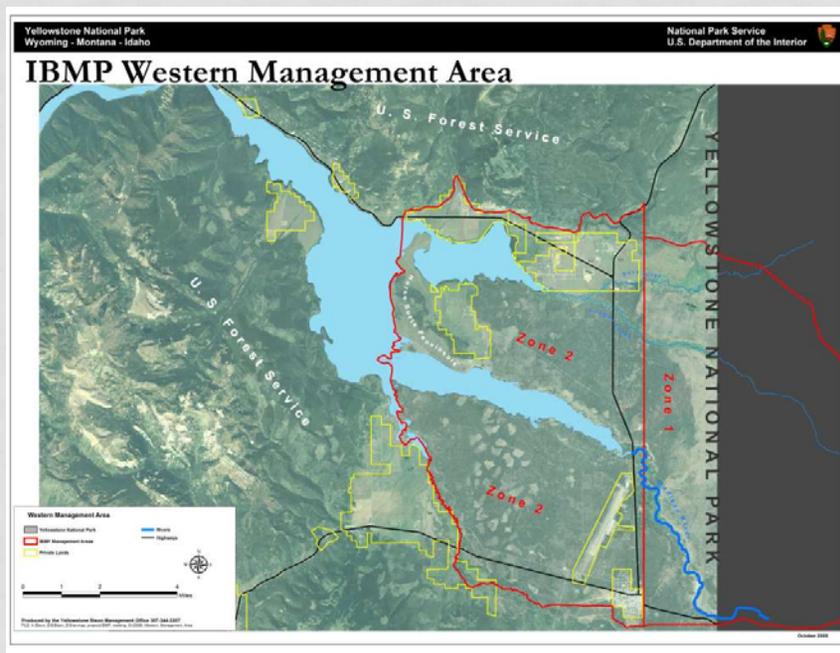
LONG TERM CONFLICT

- IBMP is Record of Decision (ROD) providing for:
 - Goal of maintaining free ranging bison (within boundaries) and preventing transmission of brucellosis
 - Partnership between 5 agencies (2 state, 3 federal)
 - Three step plan of reducing prevalence leading to increased tolerance for bison outside YNP
 - Three tribal representatives (CSKT, Nez Perce tribe, ITBC) join in 2009

TWO THEATERS OF OPERATION

Western MDOL lead agency

YNP lead agency



LONG TERM CONFLICT

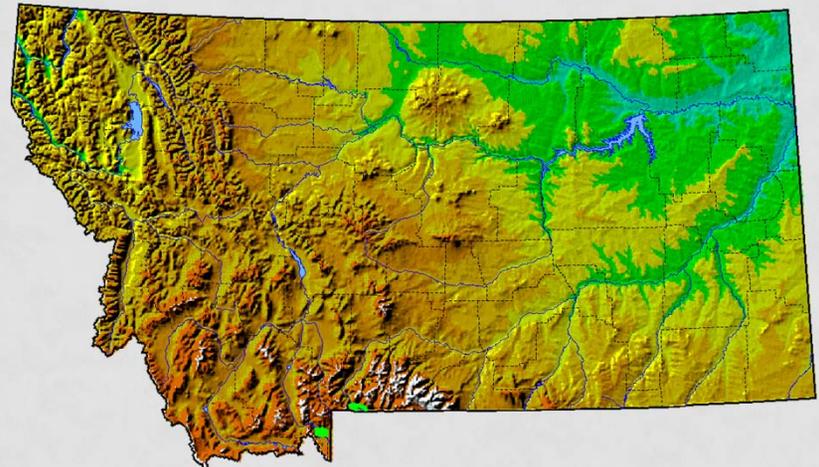
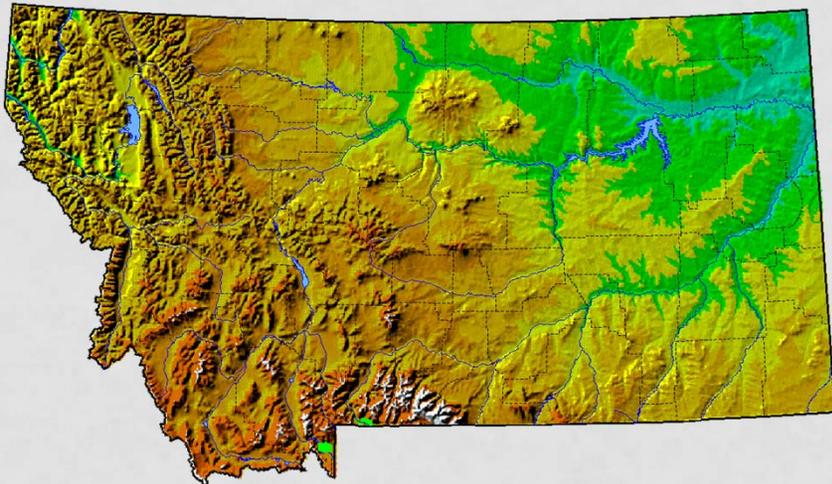
- Bison Quarantine Feasibility Study
 - Producing disease free bison
 - Relocation of bison highly controversial
 - **Total of 180???** (Fort Peck, Turner Enterprises)
 - National Bison Range
- Governor Schweitzer Executive Order(s)
 - Eliminate shipping to slaughter in 2011
 - Exec. Order 16-2011 limiting transport of federal wildlife across Montana by permission only. **This order stands.**

- BQFS bison – Corwin Springs



LONG TERM CONFLICT

- IBMP managers expand tolerance area in North Management area near Gardiner
 - Decision get litigated by Farm Bureau, Park Co Stockgrowers and Park County in 2012 and State wins on all counts in January 2013



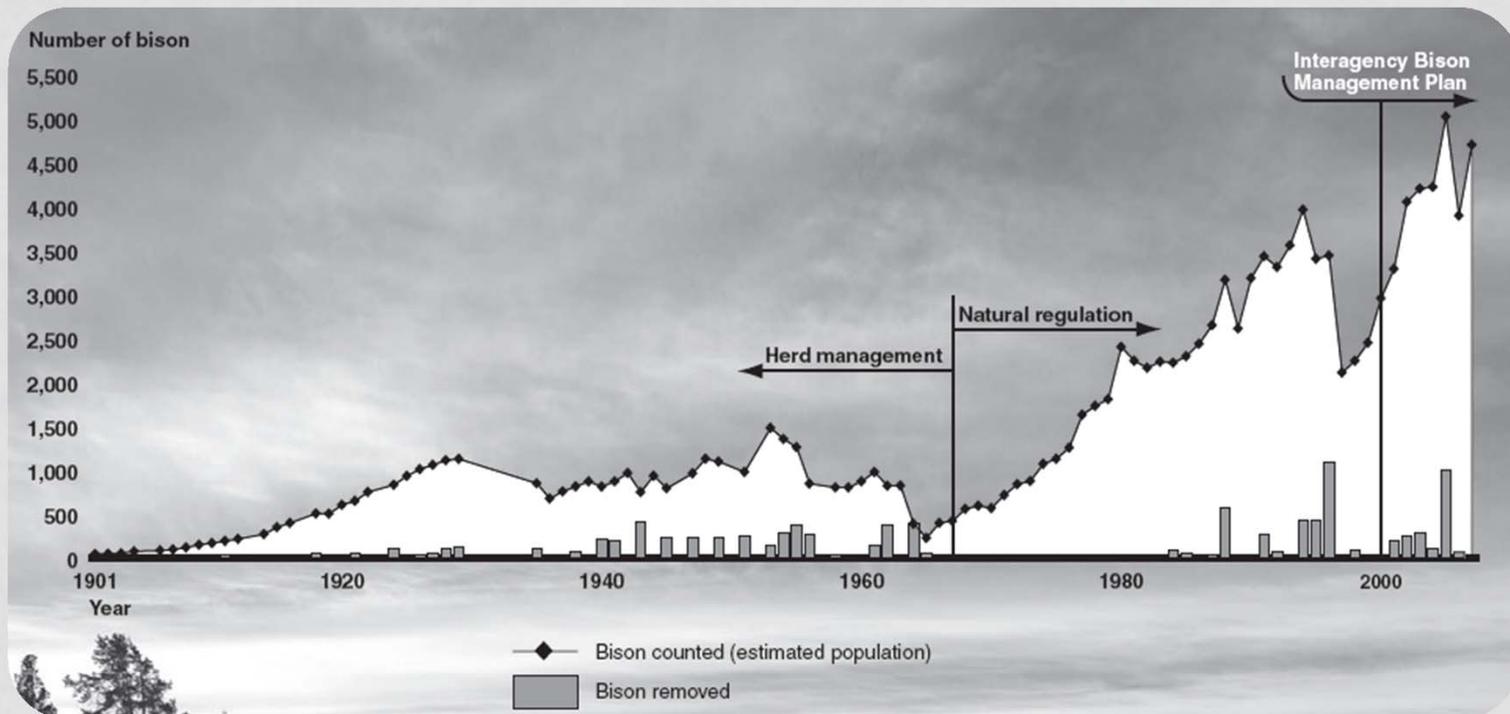
“BIG” ISSUES

- Conservation of YNP bison
 - Genetic diversity
 - Population
- Disease reduction from current 50% rate of brucellosis
 - Vaccination
 - Captured bison
 - Remote vaccination
 - Removal of seropositives



BIG ISSUES (2)

- Continual struggle with bison population control
 - Population more important than brucellosis??

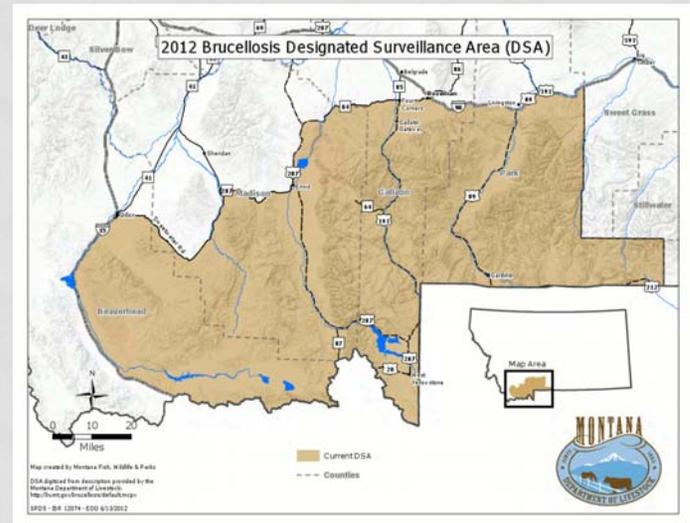


BIG ISSUES (2)

- Continual struggle with bison population control
 - Immunocontraception
 - Temporary sterilization of bison
 - Prevent transmission
 - Reduce population growth
 - Governor Schweitzer proposed hunting inside YNP
 - Allow hunting during desirable time of year
 - Allow “fair chase” hunt
 - Restore aboriginal harvest and customs

BIG ISSUES (3)

- Complication of elk
 - Montana elk have brucellosis up to 17% in southern Park County
 - Wyoming winter feeds elk like cattle
 - Feed grounds have 30-60% brucellosis
- Montana's brucellosis program
 - IBMP participation (DOL, FWP)
 - Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)
 - Surveillance and marketing program for cattle
 - 5 affected herds since 2007 (none between 1985—07)



WHERE TO NEXT?

- Promote population reductions to minimize boundary conflicts
 - Hunting (outside and within the park)
 - Transport to processing
- Support disease reduction
 - Aggressive vaccination (outside and inside YNP)
 - EA on remote vaccination – YNP
 - Immunocontraception

THE END