

Buffalo Field Campaign
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www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org
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Photo courtesy of Ken Cole, BFC.

Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working 365 days a year to protect the only continuously wild, free roaming and genetically intact population of wild buffalo in the United States. Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers defend the buffalo and their native habitat, and document every move made against them.

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Take Action: Ways to help wild buffalo!

Get Involved!

Contact BFC for information on becoming a front lines volunteer (room, board and gear provided), hosting video showings, circulating petitions, distributing newsletters, sponsoring "Bucks for Buffalo" jars, and other ways to raise awareness and support for BFC and the last wild buffalo. Email us at buffalo@wildrockies.org or call (406) 646-0700.

Contribute to BFC!

Make a tax-deductible donation. Individual donors contribute the bulk of BFC's funding. Make a secure online donation at www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org or mail a check today. Together we will gain lasting protection for the buffalo!

Updates from the Field!

Subscribe to BFC's weekly email newsletter. Send your email address to bfc-media@wildrockies.org or visit www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org for more information.



President Obama can help these magnificent wild buffalo – but he needs to hear from you!

Ask President Obama to protect America's last wild buffalo!

The day has come: there is new leadership in America. Promising change and a new direction, President Barack Obama has the power to help the last wild population of American buffalo in numerous ways. The time is now to call on him. Please take a moment to send a letter or make a phone call to President Obama urging him to take action to protect the buffalo. It is urgent that he hear from you so he knows how important it is to protect America's wild heritage.

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Buffalo Field Campaign 2009

P.O. Box 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758 • (406) 646-0070 • buffalo@wildrockies.org • www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org



The DOL and Park Service haze buffalo and their new calves off of our public lands, through rising rivers, and across dangerous highways. *Bottom right:* One calf broke his leg during the haze. Top left photo courtesy of Lake, BFC; all others © Lance Koudele.

Newborn Buffalo Calves Injured in Hazing, Property Rights Violated

Compared with last winter, when 1,613 of America's only continuously wild population of bison were killed, the winter of 2008-2009 saw few buffalo killed. With more than a third of the herd slaughtered last year, this year's migration didn't begin until spring, when buffalo emerged along Yellowstone's western boundary on their way to their calving grounds on the Horse Butte Peninsula.

This migration crosses Highway 191, and despite the best efforts of Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) patrols to alert motorists, 16 bison were killed by vehicles.

In a sad start to the season, on the north side of Yellowstone a hunter killed a bison on opening day of hunting season, and to the west of the park, government agents shot a bull that had migrated over the continental divide into Idaho.

The real story of the year, however, was the disregard for bison, residents, and the ecosystem on the part of the DOL and the Park Service, who conducted a series of militaristic hazing operations along Yellowstone's western boundary to keep bison off of their native habitat on Horse Butte.

Hazing, which is the harassment and chasing of bison with helicopters, ATVs, snowmobiles, trucks, and horses, is

undertaken for the supposed reason of preventing wild bison from transmitting brucellosis to livestock, something that has never happened. The fact that cattle never occupy any portion of Horse Butte further illustrates the absurdity of the government's ongoing war against bison, which costs taxpayers \$3,000,000 a year.

Hazing inflicts injuries upon the bison, prevents them from accessing critical habitat, and violently disrupts their calving season. In May BFC patrols documented the hazing of newborn calves with broken legs; the separation of calves from their mothers; and the intrusion upon private lands by helicopters against the wishes of landowners (one resident was even threatened with arrest for refusing to allow the DOL on his property). Intensive hazing also occurred on public National Forest lands, and up to 15 miles *within* the borders of Yellowstone National Park, displacing grizzly bears, moose, Sandhill Cranes, and other wild species.

For more information and to view videos and photos of these operations, please visit www.buffalofieldcampaign.org. **Dan Brister** is Executive Director of Buffalo Field Campaign.

Buffalo or Bison?

BOTH! Buffalo is a popular name for North American Bison, whose scientific name is *Bison bison*. Both names are correct and in common usage, and you'll see both throughout this newsletter.

Wild Buffalo: American Icon Under Attack

The buffalo is North America's largest land mammal. Native to most of the continent and especially abundant on the vast prairies east of the Rocky Mountains, buffalo once numbered in the tens of millions. Buffalo are an icon of the wild and sacred, a testament to America's rich past and a source of hope for the future. The buffalo stand as a stark reminder of humanity's destructive powers and as a living embodiment of our greatest potential. Nearly eradicated at the end of the 19th century, 23 wild buffalo survived in the remote interior of Yellowstone National Park, the only place in America where wild buffalo have always lived.



Photo courtesy of Tara, BFC.



BFC volunteers are in the field daily with the buffalo documenting their harassment and slaughter or alerting motorists on highways that bisect migration corridors. Left photo © Lance Koudele, Ion Imagery; right photo courtesy of Darrell Geist, BFC.



While today's wild population numbers more than 3,000, its future is threatened by a government plan forced upon state and federal agencies by Montana's powerful livestock industry. The Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), which authorizes hazing, shooting, capturing, and slaughtering to keep buffalo confined within the arbitrary borders of Yellowstone National Park, has resulted in the death of nearly 3,600 buffalo since 2000.

BFC ardently opposes the IBMP and has been working in the field

and on every level of the policy arena to have it replaced with a plan that respects the buffalo and their inherent wildness. Believing that change will only come about through an informed and active citizenry, we have dedicated ourselves since 1997 to providing timely and accurate information through video, still photos, and writing. Our grassroots approach and our time in the field with the buffalo have made BFC America's premier wild buffalo conservation organization.

Dan Brister is Executive Director of BFC. ☐

We are here once again to pray for the Pte Oyate, the four-legged relatives that have perished in Yellowstone and for the little ones born here into suffering... Let it be known that the habitat of the wild buffalo is sacred ground, a SACRED SITE for the Lakota, for all native people, and for all humanity who hold reverence for Creation... With deepest respect for the challenges of leadership, we call upon another relative, President Barack Obama, to join us to begin shaping a Nation-to-Nation agreement for the Yellowstone buffalo."

—Excerpted from a statement made by Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe, at a May 31, 2009 ceremony held on the Horse Butte Peninsula in honor of wild buffalo. (Please visit www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/bisonhonoring.html to read his statement in its entirety.)



Photo courtesy of Darrell Geist, BFC.

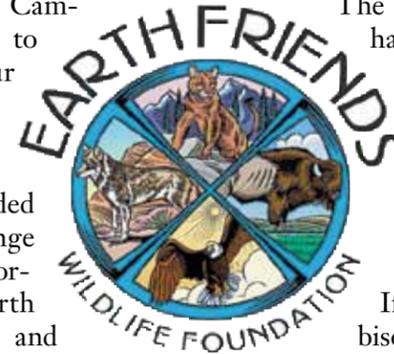


Photo courtesy of Darrell Geist, BFC.

Support Buffalo Field Campaign Today!

Rise to the Challenge: Extend Your Donation with Earth Friends

Buffalo Field Campaign is happy to announce our renewed partnership with Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation, which has awarded us a coveted Challenge Grant for 2009. In order to meet the Earth Friends Challenge and receive the grant, BFC needs to raise \$75,000 from new and existing supporters by December 31, 2009. No donation is too small.



The economic downturn has reduced funding at a time when we are poised to realize many of the gains we have been working so hard to achieve for over a decade. If you believe wild bison should be treated with respect and value the importance of BFC's work, please donate and help us rise to meet the Earth Friends Challenge. ☐

BFC Policy Achievements

- ☐ Successfully advocated for greater tolerance for wild bison on Horse Butte Peninsula. BFC will not rest until bison are allowed year-round access on these cattle-free lands.
- ☐ Organized a strong presence in Helena to press Montana lawmakers to divest livestock interests of management authority and permit bison on private lands where they are welcomed.
- ☐ Strengthened our collaboration with American Indian representatives to protect wild bison and their habitat, and to honor the sacredness of wild bison.
- ☐ Advocated Montana's use of federal stimulus money for safe wildlife passages across HWY 191.
- ☐ Launched an initiative to persuade President Obama to provide lasting protections for wild bison and their habitat.



Support Buffalo Field Campaign! Buy a "Save Wild Buffalo" bumper sticker, or order a "Room to Roam" BFC t-shirt!



We Need Your Help to Protect America's Last Wild Buffalo

Please make a tax deductible donation to Buffalo Field Campaign today!

Your donations feed, clothe, equip and house volunteers; support our public education and outreach efforts; sustain our legislative and legal campaigns; and help us protect wild buffalo in their native habitat!

Thank You!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

I am enclosing: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

- Send me a receipt for my tax-deductible donation.
- Add me to your confidential weekly email update list.

My email address is: _____

- Let me know about other ways I can help the buffalo.
- Please send me _____ newsletters to distribute.

BFC Merchandise (shipping included in price)

- Notecards: \$18/pack of 10
- NEW design T-shirts: \$23 each (circle size: S M L XL)
- BFC DVD's: \$12 each
- NEW "Save Wild Buffalo" bumper stickers: \$2 each

Send check or money order (no cash please) to:

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