

PRESS STATEMENTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY RULEMAKING PETITION TO PROTECT BISON

Big Wild Adventures is owned by Howie Wolke and Marilyn Olsen who have guided and outfitted in Yellowstone National Park for 30 years.

"People come from all over the world to experience Yellowstone's unparalleled wildlands and wildlife," says wilderness guide Howie Wolke. "They don't come to see tiny remnant hemmed-in herds; they come to see the real thing, unrestricted, in real wild habitats. It's about time we treated wild buffalo and for that matter all wildlife, as though true wildness and long-term survival really matter."

Robert Hoskins of Gravelbar, a Wyoming based conservation organization.

"What we're actually seeing in Montana is a 21st century range war instituted by ranchers against wild, free-roaming bison. The solution to the so-called brucellosis problem is not to mismanage bison--to treat them like livestock--but to break the political power of Montana's ranchers to "call the shots" on bison management. Only then may wild bison roam free in Montana."

George Nell, Gardiner, MT.

"The people of Gardiner, MT truly enjoy seeing the wildlife that moves in and around their town. But, the sight of bison gives us a feeling of dread instead of happiness with the thought of hazing, capture, testing and a slaughterhouse death. That's what the present Bison Management Plan has brought to this community."

Karrie Taggart, West Yellowstone, MT and President of Horse Butte Neighbors of Buffalo.

"My only wish would be that even the most hardened of hearts and minds could experience living amongst the bison, if only for a day. It changes everything. You learn that the voice of their wisdom is silent, except to the open mind. That the bison have allowed me in their world has been the greatest honor ever granted me. I am one lucky woman."

Glenn Hockett, Volunteer President, Gallatin Wildlife Association.

Bison must be respected as valued native wildlife by both Yellowstone National Park and the State of Montana. We are tired of seeing federal and state government agents needlessly haze, capture and slaughter this magnificent big game species.

Dr. John Grandy, Senior Vice President of Wildlife, The Humane Society of the United States.

"For the National Park Service to condone the slaughter of these majestic creatures without regard for their continued existence is unacceptable," said Dr. John Grandy, senior vice president of Wildlife for The Humane Society of the United States. "Wild bison are magnificent symbols of the American frontier and they deserve our protection."

barb abramo, West Yellowstone, MT

"The fact that Yellowstone National Park participates in the IBMP which has done absolutely nothing beneficial for the buffalo is absolutely shameful. They are acting as the handmaiden of the livestock industry by sending over 1,200 buffalo to slaughter in contradiction to their own mandate to protect wildlife. I weep for the dead buffalo but my commitment to seeing free-roaming, wild buffalo only deepens in light of this current catastrophe."

Louisa Willcox, Senior Wildlife Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council

"Today's petition throws a much need spotlight on the unnecessary and scientifically irresponsible killing of Yellowstone's buffalo. The only way to ensure wild and healthy buffalo herds in Yellowstone is to allow buffalo to migrate to their historic winter foraging habitat."