Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working in the field every day to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone’s wild free roaming buffalo. BFC Volunteers defend the buffalo’s traditional winter habitat and advocate for their protection. Our patrols stand with the buffalo on their native habitat, and document every move made against the buffalo.

Traces
— Katherine Romano
I smelled you yesterday
for the first time
my nose nestled in your soft hair
plucked from the side of a tree
a buffalo smell
I walked in your meadow
it was vacant
but I found traces of you everywhere
in the white bones and poop piles at my feet
in the mountains that have formed
to your contours in the sacred groves
your ancestors have told you about
and in my hand the smell of your hair
thick and almost sweet
it is the scent of what is missing

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers is the fiscal sponsor for Buffalo Field Campaign.

CMCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1990 to promote awareness and citizen involvement in environmental and human rights issues.

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The Buffalo Field Campaign

This year marks the most buffalo killed since the winter of 1996-97: 202 dead buffalo, not counting the unborn bison of pregnant females. The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL), U.S. Forest Service and Fish and Game have returned their focus to zero tolerance and maximum abuse for buffalo on our public lands. All buffalo that have dared to take one step outside of Yellowstone National Park’s invisible (to wildlife) boundary have been either shot or hazed into traps with the destination of the slaughterhouse.

At the beginning of the season the MDOL decided to change how bison are tested for brucellosis so that an already faulty test that measures antibodies to the disease would be even more sensitive to inaccuracies. This test sent more than 70% of all captured buffalo to slaughter. According to the plan they are mandated to follow, the new test was never approved and should have been changed. After numerous groups and concerned citizens brought this illegal action to their attention, the test was changed back. By the end of the season, MDOL quit testing buffalo and all captured were sent to slaughter.

Several incidents of abuse have occurred this year inside the capture facility. We have witnessed and video documented buffalo being hit over the head for 15 minutes straight with 2 x 4’s. We watched Rob Tietjen, the head of MDOL’s operations, stand, beat and molest baby buffalo less than a week old. Another MDOL agent grabbed a yearling by its tiny horns and pulled it for more than 100 feet. When wildlife is treated like domestic cattle, injuries are inevitable. When many buffalo are caught in the capture facility at once, they can gore and trample one another. As long as we allow the MDOL, whose agents have no education in wildlife biology or management, to run these operations, we will see injury and abuse committed by these agents.

This year Buffalo Field Campaign took our message to decision-makers in both Helena, Montana (State Capital) and Washington D.C. Actions and rallies put pressure on our governor and DOL officials at their headquarters in Helena. BFC organized a “Buffalo Stampede” through the streets of D.C. Starting at Department of Agriculture and ending at Department of Interior, bison-possessed protesters marched past the Washington Monument. 500 people attended the stampede, unfortunately 500 of them were police officers.

On the frontlines we have watched law enforcement agencies trample our first and fourth amendment rights to document and bear witness to the buffalo slaughter. The “peace” officers have done their best to keep us in areas where we are unable to view their treatment of the buffalo. Police harassment and random arrests have been protocol this year. The Madison River is one of the most risk of danger areas.

After watching the Bush administration unravel years of environmental progress and swindle its way into the White House and our new Governor, the “lap dog of industry,” take power, our resolve has been strengthened. People from all walks of life are coming together for the future of America’s last wild bison. This year marks the most buffalo killed since the winter of 1996-97: 202 dead buffalo, not counting the unborn bison of pregnant females. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), an agency of the livestock industry, induces the bison’s reproduction through the administration of hormones (MDOL) to the bovine reproductive disease brucellosis, the DOL slaughters buffalo outside Yellowstone. Although there has never been a documented transmission of brucellosis from wild to livestock, the agencies continue to harass and kill bison. Nearly every year a posse of snowmobilers, helicopters and law enforcement vehicles descend on the Madison River to chase bison into the pen at Horse Butte. This year the helicopter used to herd the bison is also vital habitat for elk, moose, bald eagles, grizzly bears, wolves, trumpeter swans and myriad other species. By disturbing their habitat in the heart of winter, DOL operations devastate the wildlife corridor. On the west side of the park, the killing has taken place since 1997, there are no cattle present at the times of year when bison are out of the park. While elk and other wildlife are also considered to carry the disease, only bison are harassed and slaughtered—so far.

In a five-month period in 1997 nearly 70% of the herd was lost, 1,084 animals were gunned down when they entered Montana and a comparable number died from the harsh winter. It was the worst year for buffalo since the 19th century. Concerned citizens organized the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) the following winter to protect the buffalo and advocate on their behalf. BFC is a grassroots effort whose survival depends on you. As you read this newsletter, turn the page or read this document to learn more about BFC activities and about the buffalo slaughter in and around Yellowstone National Park.

With the buffalo, Michael S. Meese, BFC Field Coordinator

Yellowstone and the Buffalo Slaughter
— Dan Brister and Pete Leusch, BFC Coordinators

Fifty million buffalo once graced North America. Migrating with the seasons, rain, and growth of grasses, they were the largest concentration of mammals ever known to exist. Millions were gunned down in the second half of the 19th century. By the early 1900’s all but a few of the once teeming herds were gone. By 1992 only 12 wild buffalo survived, taking refuge in the remote Yellowstone backcountry. Their descendants, the only continuously wild population in America, are alive today and in and around Yellowstone National Park. In the year 2001, 202 dead buffalo, not counting the unborn bison of pregnant females. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) is the agency of the livestock industry, induces the bison’s reproduction through the administration of hormones to the bovine reproductive disease brucellosis, the DOL slaughters buffalo outside Yellowstone. Although there has never been a documented transmission of brucellosis from wild to livestock, the agencies continue to harass and kill bison.

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critical habitat. Tactics range from research, administrative process, public, outreach, education, videography, to litigation.

America’s last wild bison are hounded by snowmobilers, helicopters, and AVs; trapped and confined in cattle pens; and shot dead on their native range. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), an agency of the livestock industry, induces the bison’s reproduction through the administration of hormones to the bovine reproductive disease brucellosis, the DOL slaughters buffalo outside Yellowstone National Park. Despite the Bush administration’s unraveling of years of environmental progress and its short-sighted efforts to livelivestock by DOL and new Governor, the “lap dog of industry,” take power, our resolve has been strengthened. People from all walks of life are coming together for the future of America’s last wild bison. This year marks the most buffalo killed since the winter of 1996-97: 202 dead buffalo, not counting the unborn bison of pregnant females. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) is the agency of the livestock industry, induces the bison’s reproduction through the administration of hormones to the bovine reproductive disease brucellosis, the DOL slaughters buffalo outside Yellowstone. Although there has never been a documented transmission of brucellosis from wild to livestock, the agencies continue to harass and kill bison.

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Email Updates

To receive the “Stop-the-Slaughter” Email Update list, go to the following URL and sign up: www.wildrockies.org/Buffalo/politk99/stssign.html

Email Updates

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Endangered Species Lawsuit

In May 2001 Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, Buffalo Field Campaign, and The Ecology Center Inc. filed suit in federal court against the State of Montana and the federal government for illegally harming threatened bald eagles, migratory trumpeter swans and their habitat.

The lawsuit centers on Montana Dept. of Livestock operations to haze and capture wild buffalo migrating to Horse Butte Peninsula. Horse Butte and the Madison valley provide winter range and spring calving habitat for this last wild population of buffalo to occupy their native range. These spectacular wild lands provide habitat for bald eagles, Grey wolves, grizzly bears, moose, elk, boreal owl, wolverine, red fox, migrating ducks, geese and trumpeter swans.

The Montana Dept. of Livestock, U.S. Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service are charged with violating the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Protection Act, and Administrative Procedures Act for:

- Undertaking prohibited activities in bald eagle nesting territories such as hazing buffalo with helicopters; hazing buffalo near Madison Arm/Hebgen Lake; using ATV's and shooting "cracker rounds" in restricted closure areas; and increased use of and disturbance to wildlife by snowmobiles.
- Failing to take the required hard look and analyze cumulative effects of hazing buffalo in bald eagle territories and establish an environmental baseline to monitor impacts to endangered, threatened and sensitive species.
- Operating under illegal Annual Operation Plans and in violation of the Special Use Permit terms and conditions set forth in Fish & Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion to allow the buffalo capture facility in bald eagle habitat.
- Disturbing and displacing trumpeter swans and protected migratory birds from their habitat.
- Failing to consult on biological impacts to Canadian lynx and their habitat.

The federal lawsuit is before Judge Charles Lovell and seeks to void MDOl's Special Use Permit allowing operation of Horse Butte buffalo capture facility to provide an injunction prohibiting use of the capture facility, and require an environmental analysis that complies with federal law. The suit will be heard in fall 2002 in Helena, Montana.

Horse Butte Capture Facility, Project Lighthawk, BFC Photo

We need your support!

Please make a stand with the buffalo at Horse Butte.

Your contributions will support the Horse Butte Wildlands Protection Project and legal efforts to protect this unique area.

Mature and immature bald eagles (above). — USFWS photos.

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Mature and immature bald eagles (above). — USFWS photos.
We were blessed in 1999 with a very mild winter when few buffalo left the park. For most of that winter there was only one bull out of the park. This one huge buffalo became our dear friend and we playfully nicknamed him “Houdini” for his uncanny ability to disappear from the Department of Livestock (DOL). You would think that with only one buffalo out of the park the DOL would take some time off and stop wasting tax payers’ hard earned money. Instead, they attempted to haze that lone bull eight times in January and February. Houdini’s favorite habitat is a grassy meadow about a mile outside Yellowstone. This meadow is on the Gallatin National Forest in an area where there is no cattle. Snowmobiles are the DOL’s tools of choice for harassing and agents illegally ride where they shouldn’t be, off road through creeks and tributaries.

Houdini is aware of snowmobile’s limitations and when he hears them he always heads for the thick timber. The snowmobiles on his trail often get stuck in the deep snow between the trees. The DOL agents spend their energy digging one another out as Houdini hides in the woods and watches from a safe distance. This was the case during all of 1999.

On a spring day in that year Houdini suddenly left the meadow. He walked about a quarter mile out of the park, rubbing against many of the trees along his path. He spent a total of four hours in the park before returning to the meadow. Within a week more than 150 buffalo had come out of the park along his trail. Older buffalo often lead the way for the herd doubling in size. The DOL showed their usual lack of tolerance for them and resumed its tortuous tactic of trying to haze them back to the Park. On days when we know that the DOL are coming to harass them we sometimes give the buffalo a warning by moving them to safer areas. This means slowly walking the buffalo into thick woods where DOL snowmobiles cannot penetrate.

On days when the DOL is not around we sit near the buffalo undisturbed, making camp several hundred yards away. We check on the buffalo several times each patrol, observing their behavior without bothering them. On one of the hazing days we had just shepherded 14 buffalo into the woods when six DOL agents arrived on snowmobiles. The agents went into the woods after our friends and the circus was in full swing. Several DOL snowmobiles went through a tributary and continued into the woods, searching for the elusive buffalo. Just out of sight and behind them came Houdini, walking along the tributary and into the woods. Just behind him were seven younger bulls, following his lead and leaving no doubt to the DOL. After six unsuccessful hours, the DOL gave up.

We returned to our camp near the meadow. Just before sunset of the 14 of bulls came within 20 feet of our camp on their way back to the meadow. Each one stopped as they passed, glanced in our direction and shook his head, as if to say, “we know you are watching us.”

For the second performance, an all-species parade march through the park. The parade was led by Elmo, a twenty-foot tall puppet, and was accompanied by a two-person life-sized buffalo, and a grimm reaper agent from the Department of Livestock (DOL) that held Marionettes of the Forest Service and Park Service in his hands.

The puppets first performed in March on the steps of the Montana capitol building in Helena, when a group of buffalo supporters completed a seven-day hunger vigil and rally. The performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz to see the buffalo remain wild, the performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz, to see the buffalo remain wild, the performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz, to see the buffalo remain wild, the performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz to see the buffalo remain wild, the performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz, to see the buffalo remain wild, the performance involved citizens pleading to the Montana Governor Judy Martz.

The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair. The puppets were then invited to the Montana State Fair.

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Seeds of Peace

Perhaps the greatest feat of the Campaign is the feeding of the hungry orphans of volunteers heading in and out of the field, requiring nourishment enough to fuel bodies in consistently subzero temperatures, with appetites created by miles of skiing, snowshoeing or post-holing through the snow. Demanding stomachs are not quiet, and year after year the Seeds of Peace collective exceeds the demand, nourishing every volunteer. Accommodating the full spectrum, from morning-to-meat-eater, and every cheese lover or “freegan” in between, Seeds conscientiously and deliciously dishes out amazing meals every day. They are an integral force in the Campaign, allowing BFC to survive, and the cooks often pull full field patrols between meals.

Seeds of Peace is a collective providing food and logistical support and acting as a human rights issues. If you need help on your action or project or you’d like to make a donation please get in touch: Seeds of Peace PO Box 8896 Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 549-8863; seedsofpeace@wildrockies.org

The buffalo of Yellowstone don’t need much, really, just a place to graze and to give birth to the next generation. The defenders of the buffalo aren’t asking anything for themselves, which is unusual in a time of self and wealth and comfort. All they ask for is for the buffalo to have a place to graze and to give birth to the next generation. What is hard about that?

My deepest gratitude to BFC for their dedicated service to the buffalo. — Rosalie Little Thunder

A Story...
— By Scott Frazier, BFC Board member

This past spring I was involved in a conference about environmental issues in Native Peoples communities. The conference was over four days and included a visit to Sacred Sites. It has come to light that many Native Sacred sites have been violated due to flooding, drilling or what ever the government has chosen to do.

Flo Gardipee came to talk about buffalo DNA issues and the effect that the current slaughter has on the gene pool of all the buffalo. Many people, let alone Native People, do not know or understand the vast manipulations that have already occurred in our natural resources, nor do they realize the small amount of variation that is in our populations.

I was standing outside one of the conference doors when two men approached me from the Shoshone tribe. These men had come to the conference to ask that locations of sacred sites not be given to the public for fear that the sites would be exploited. They had waited two days to be heard but no at time they were allowed to speak.

As I listened to them I felt a great closeness to the many people who wish the world could listen but weren’t willing to raise their voices because of respect for tradition. As I stood with them I asked why did the buffalo leave the park in the spring, because these men were my elder, I simply replied by asking them.

They told me something very interesting. They said the reason the buffalo leave the Park in the spring is to find the medicine plants they need to become healthy from the long winter. They come out of the park to find a certain plant. Once they eat enough of the plant, then they would go back where they were safe. These are old buffalo teaching young buffalo tradition and herbal knowledge. These are great spirits seeking sacred sites for healing.

There are many people on this turtle island. Many people won’t speak out until they are affected because of customs. The Field Campaign is being the voice for many for many, yet the sacred buffalo is bleeding still.

The buffalo are our sacred resource and our operations must stop before our hope is lost. Please help us all by speaking up for the buffalo.

— Ahó, Ehmanni.  

(eds. note: Botanists working on BFC’s Horse Butte Wildland Protection Project have confirmed two sensitive plants on the Butte as of mid-June 2002.)

Coming to Yellowstone... A lesson
— By Emily Kodama

In the chill pre-dawn hours, my patrolmates and I strap on our backpacks and snowshoes and head off into the dim forest. It is April, but spring comes late here on the western border of Yellowstone National Park, the coldest spot in the lower forty-eight, and the temperature hovers in the 20s. As we weave our way through the snowy woods, our tracks cut into a covering of sage and red River, where it flows out of the Park, we stop and pull out binoculars, scanning the valley. The mist shifts slightly, and the silhouette of a bison, his fur silvery with frost, emerges across the river. As first light breaks, we can see six more bull bison standing nearby. It is a romantic sight, but our purpose this morning is somber and practical: to watch over these buffalo and, if necessary, do what we can to discourage them from walking the few hundred yards out of the park. Neighboring Montana is hostile territory, and for the last 17 years Yellowstone bison have suffered lethal wildlife “management” at the hands of the state. And tipis, and are equipped for long hours out in the field in temperatures that can dip as low as 20 below zero. The campaign was an exorcism of wearing ages and back- grounds, but we all share a love for the buffalo and a firm commitment to non-violence.

Volunteers are provided communal meals and accommodations in a large log cabin upstairs and gored each other in panic. In a single winter (1996-97) the state of Montana killed nearly 1100 buffalo, over one-third of the entire Yellowstone herd. BFC, we learned, is a grassroots campaign dedicated to documenting the slaughter and doing whatever possible to stop it. Volunteers are out in the field with the buffalo 365 days a year documenting, grassroots campaign dedicated to documenting the slaughter and doing whatever possible to stop it. Volunteers are out in the field with the buffalo 365 days a year documenting, andtipis, and are equipped for long hours out in the field in temperatures that can dip as low as 20 below zero. The campaign was an exorcism of wearing ages and back- grounds, but we all share a love for the buffalo and a firm commitment to non-violence.

I am by nature a cautious person; direct action is challenging. Action is frightening, raw, exhilarating, messy, joyful, frustrating and liberating. It scares me and feeds my spirit grounds, but we all share a love for the buffalo and a firm commitment to non-violence.

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What is Brucellosis?

- Brucellosis is a disease caused by a gram-negative bacteria, characterized by an undulating body temperature. It was unknown in this country before the introduction of European cattle. Although debilitating, it is rarely fatal. The Center for Disease Control does not require testing of buffaloes to determine if they have brucellosis. When the disease is diagnosed, it requires reporting of it, and current statistics show a low incidence in human beings.
- Brucellosis may be transmitted to wildlife and domestic livestock through contact with aborted fetuses, placentas, and milk of infected animals. Infected animals do not show clinical signs of disease during breeding. Humans may contract brucellosis by contact with infected tissues, flies, or dust from an infected animal. Initial symptoms may include fever, headache, and malaise. These symptoms may last for several weeks and may resolve spontaneously or recur after a brief remission. Persistent brucellosis produces a chronic fever that may last for months or years.

What is the NRAMP 1 Gene?

- Current research has discovered that some buffalo possess a gene called NRAMP 1 (Natural Resistance Associated Macrophage Protein 1), which enables bison to develop resistance to not only brucellosis but to a wide range of other infectious agents.

Are Elk Next?

- In Dec. 2001, USDA gave permission to MDLP to implement a new testing methodology called the Fluorescent Polarization Assay (FPA). This test was based on using a more sensitive and selective test for detecting IgG antibody levels to Brucella abortus. The test proved even less accurate for diagnosing infection than culture techniques.
- The FPA test was also less expensive, and had a much shorter turn-around time compared to culture techniques. However, the FPA test has been used to test for the presence of IgG antibody, which is called the "positive" test. This test results in about 80% of the bison needlessly sent to slaughter. The FPA test was used to begin to vaccinate bison for Brucella abortus. Further manipulation can result in gel-like substances which can be read as positive.
- This test detects only long-term immunization in the form of IgG antibodies. Yet the DOH relies on this test to reach its results and conclusions.

What is Brucellosis?

- The CARD Test vs. Culture Techniques.

- The CARD test is only valid as a positive or negative result. It cannot be correlated to a level of IgG antibody. The test should be run at a room temperature, and the sample must be tested within 50 minutes of collection. If the test is not run within this time frame, 10% of the samples may be spurious. If performed on a properly calibrated centrifuge designed specifically for the CARD test, the test sensitivity is quite high, but there is a 5% false positive rate. In a study performed on 190 bison, 21 were seropositive. Of those 21, only 23 cultures were positive. The level of culture positives drops sharply off after age three. This means that when a buffalo is exposed to brucellosis during its first breeding season, they are developing immunity to the disease. However, when exposed to brucellosis during the second breeding season, the majority of the seropositive bison have already developed long-term immunity to brucellosis.
- Other factors can affect the interpretation of these testing methods both in food and culture techniques. The CARD test is only qualitative — macroscopically read as a positive or negative result. It cannot be correlated to a level of IgG antibody. The test should be run at a room temperature, and the sample must be tested within 50 minutes of collection. If the test is not run within this time frame, 10% of the samples may be spurious. If performed on a properly calibrated centrifuge designed specifically for the CARD test, the test sensitivity is quite high, but there is a 5% false positive rate. In a study performed on 190 bison, 21 were seropositive. Of those 21, only 23 cultures were positive. The level of culture positives drops sharply off after age three. This means that when a buffalo is exposed to brucellosis during its first breeding season, they are developing immunity to the disease. However, when exposed to brucellosis during the second breeding season, the majority of the seropositive bison have already developed long-term immunity to brucellosis.
- Because of the low sensitivity of the CARD test, the CARD test is not sensitive enough to detect early infections. False positives can occur with cross reactions. Therefore, to verify a positive test result, the CARD test must be followed up with culture techniques. Culture techniques are sensitive to early infections and to verify positive CARD test results.
- The results of culture techniques are not conclusive. Brucellosis is a chronic disease, and culture techniques can only determine if infection is present. This can only be done by determining if the infectious agent is still present.

What about Elk?

- It is interesting to note that the same tests have shown that most of the 250,000 elk in the state of Montana are not infected. However, due to the impact of their interactions with cattle, elk are at greater risk for the development of antibodies to Brucella abortus.
Bucks for Buffalo collection jars by Roger Parchen, Ad-Art Imaging. Frank Consentino photo.

Buffalo Bull

wild buffalo herd:

Plan B, the Buffalo’s Alternative

Where the Buffalo Roam

Our Buffalo, Our Choice

Bonus videos:

ROAM

Department of Livestock. (8:07 VHS)

stone ecosystem. (6:30 VHS)

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers has a compilation video on native wildlife that include five videos on Yellowstone's Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, PO Box 7941 Missoula MT . 59807. 406-728-0867. cmcr@wildrockies.org

If you would like a copy of this compilation video contact:

is a children's video created by Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers. (11:45)

is a documentary combining video footage shot in the field over the past ten years with interviews of Buffalo Field Campaign's efforts to protect Yellowstone's buffalo from the Montana

is a pilot video on the 1996-1997 slaughter of Yellowstone's buffalo. (17:20)

is a scientific, biologically-based plan to allow buffalo to roam free in the Yellowstone ecosystem. (6:30 VHS)

Our Buffalo, Our Choice is a pilot video on the 1996-1997 slaughter of Yellowstone's buffalo. (17:20)

ROAM is a children's video created by Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers. (11:45)


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Yellowstone Buffalo Video

Online at: www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/video.html

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers has a compilation video on native wildlife that include five videos on Yellowstone's wild buffalo herd:

Buffalo Bull is a documentary combining video footage shot in the field over the past ten years with interviews of local residents, politicians, activists, spiritual leaders, and government officials. (50:05 VHS)

Where the Buffalo Roam profiles Buffalo Field Campaign's efforts to protect Yellowstone's buffalo from the Montana Department of Livestock. (8:07 VHS)

Plan B, the Buffalo’s Alternative is a scientific, biologically-based plan to allow buffalo to roam free in the Yellowstone ecosystem. (6:30 VHS)

Our Buffalo, Our Choice is a pilot video on the 1996-1997 slaughter of Yellowstone's buffalo. (17:20)

ROAM is a children's video created by Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers. (11:45)

Bonus videos: A Future for the Grizzly? (10:30 VHS) and The Big Bad Wolf (10:30 VHS).

If you would like a copy of this compilation video contact:

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, PO Box 7941 Missoula MT 59807. 406-728-0867. cmcr@wildrockies.org

International Buffalo Petition Drive Update

During the past three years over 100,000 people signed a citizens petition requesting the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior put the interests of wildlife first on our public lands. We still need and fear signatures in hope that officials will listen.

The petition is a common sense grassroots solution to a complex problem. It requests a simple action: turn 4 federal grazing allotments over to buffalo and wildlife as intended when the Gallatin National Forest was created. This would save millions of taxpayer dollars and the lives of buffalo. The petitions were re-presented in a collaborative Buffalo Stampede in Washington, D.C. on April 4th.

Federal agencies and officials have failed to prepare legally sufficient environmental documentation analyzing all environmental impacts of buffalo management, and to prevent impacts on imperiled species. NEPA analysis currently is underway on these allotments. A federal magistrate has suspended their use until the NEPA analysis is complete. Forest Service lands should be used for wildlife as intended by law. Current grazing allotments on public lands on Horse Butte should become buffalo habitat. BFC will continue to follow through on the EIS process and keep citizens informed with good science and facts of how they can effectively comment on this process.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth was the Region One Forester that received the petitions and was the direct supervisor of the Gallatin NF employee that reissued the permit. So he is very familiar with the Yellowstone buffalo issue. He can cancel this allotment with the stroke of a pen. Federal agencies and officials have failed to prepare legally sufficient environmental documentation analyzing all environmental impacts of buffalo management, and to prevent impacts on imperiled species. NEPA analysis currently is underway on these allotments. A federal magistrate has suspended their use until the NEPA analysis is complete. Forest Service lands should be used for wildlife as intended by law. Current grazing allotments on public lands on Horse Butte should become buffalo habitat. BFC will continue to follow through on the EIS process and keep citizens informed with good science and facts of how they can effectively comment on this process.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth was the Region One Forester that received the petitions and was the direct supervisor of the Gallatin NF employee that reissued the permit. So he is very familiar with the Yellowstone buffalo issue. He can cancel this allotment with the stroke of a pen. It is necessary to stop wasting taxpayers dollars. It is time that public servants take personal responsibility and serve their public and address these issues and protect a national heritage - the Yellowstone bison. Please take a moment and send an email from: wildrockies.org/buffalo/petition.html or write a letter to the folks listed in the "Speak out for the Buffalo" section of this newsletter and voice your concerns.

Join us on the Front Lines! Support us from Afar!

We are on patrol all day, everyday, defending the buffalo on their critical habitat outside Yellowstone National Park and documenting every action taken against them.

We have immediate openings for field volunteers.

All volunteers are provided room and board in a log house on Hebgen Lake, near West Yellowstone, Montana.

Please contact us for volunteer information or with questions.

email: buffalo@wildrockies.org

Buffalo Field Campaign

Help Protect Americas Last Wild Buffalo!

Put your spare change towards real change.

Support the Buffalo Field Campaign.

I'm the only grassroots group in the field protecting wild buffalo 365 days a year.

P.O. Box 207
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

P.O. Box 957
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Support our front-line work to defend the buffalo and look great in a new Tee Shirt, too!

4 Sizes: S, M, L, XL XL’s are BIG!

Specify color and size when ordering. Colors available include natural, blue, and grey.

Only $20 (includes shipping and handling) Proceeds support our front-lines work to protect Yellowstone's native, wild buffalo herd!

earth friendly tees organic cotton!

See this design online at http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/teez.html

Just send us a check or money order or use the coupon on the reverse side. Check back with us later, or see the website, for new designs.

Kids

Send us your artwork or poetry about wild buffalo, their home and/or friends and we'll enter you in a contest for a t-shirt and maybe print your work if you want! Send it to: Kid's Art: POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT. 59758.

Be creative!

Notecards!

“Whatever becomes of the buffalo, becomes of us…”

Set of 10 cards & envelopes

Only $15

earth friendly greeting cards

100% recycled paper

Order yours today

(coupon on reverse side)

Design by Flo Gardipee

“Whatever becomes of the buffalo, becomes of us…”

Support us from Afar!

Every letter and phone call makes a difference.

If you would like to volunteer or make a contribution, please contact us for volunteer information or with questions.

email: buffalo@wildrockies.org
What You can do to Help Save the Last Wild Buffalo

In communities worldwide, people are rallying to support the last wild buffalo by organizing peace marches, public presentations, letter writing campaigns, drum circles, concerts and other forms of non-violent action to raise awareness. On April 4th 2002 in Washington, D.C., supporters dressed in buffalo costumes led a stampede from the U.S.D.A. to the U.S. Department of the Interior, receiving national media coverage. The Buffalo Field Campaign has publicized the proposal to limit cattle grazing on public lands. The three-week stallion count on the Yellowstone Herd will allow us to be on the frontlines and for your letters of support and donations – we couldn’t do it without all of you!

Accomplishments:
- Volunteers from across the country and around the world come to West Yellowstone to join us on our daily patrols.
- Our media and networking efforts have helped to raise awareness of this issue around the globe. Every new person who learns of the buffalo’s plight and speaks out brings them closer to protection for future generations.
- We also follow up with other “big picture” strategies such as litigation that holds public agencies accountable for their actions. (see our legal update article).
- We maintain our vigil in the field, document management violations and follow up with long-term protection strategies.
- We witness the destructive effects of current buffalo policy on the Yellowstone ecosystem as a whole. An incredible diversity of plant and wildlife species and habitat types thrives in this ecosystem. By building a broad base of public involvement for not only the plight of the buffalo but the impacts that public policies have on all the species, we are strategically moving towards true protection.
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