

Buffalo Field Campaign
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Photo courtesy of Kim Kaiser

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.

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) 646-0070.

Contribute to BFC!

Make a tax-deductible donation. Donors like you contribute 70% of BFC's budget. Make a secure donation at www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org or mail a check today. We can't protect the buffalo without you!

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.



Photo courtesy of Dru Dixon, BFC

Take action today and help spare this little guy from harassment tomorrow!

Contact Congress and MT Senator Jon Tester

For the first time ever, BFC maintained a permanent presence in Washington DC this winter and spring, working with other nonprofits, members of Congress, and the Executive Branch on initiatives to protect the buffalo and their habitat. While these efforts are in the early stages, we need you to contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative to urge them to protect the wild bison of Yellowstone National Park and Montana.

📞 **Call the Capitol Switchboard!** Ask to speak to your Senators and Representative: 1-800-839-5276 or visit: www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/actnow/politicians.html

📞 **Call MT Senator Jon Tester:** Federal protection for bison will be very difficult without his support. Call him today: 202-224-2644 or email him at: www.testersenate.gov/contact

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Born and Hazed in Montana

On May 8, 2010 a group of Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) volunteers gathered along highway 287 to witness the miracle of a bison calf coming into the world. A small herd, including several newborns, had been grazing near the BFC cabin and we'd been admiring them on our way to and from patrols.

While we marveled at the birth, the Montana Department of Livestock and other agencies were aggressively implementing the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) in a different area, chasing buffalo with a helicopter, horses, and ATVs from public and private lands toward Yellowstone National Park. As we basked in the joy of the new life taking shape before our eyes, our hearts were heavy with what we knew this new calf and his family would endure.

The mother lay panting. Suddenly the placenta emerged from below her tail. Just as quickly it came free, resting on the ground. A chorus of "Ooohs" and "Ahhs" escaped our mouths, reverent whispers reflecting the sacredness of the moment. The life within began to writhe and wiggle, a tiny hoof poked out, and the placenta fell away to reveal the world's newest gift. The mother rested for a moment, stood, and licked her calf clean.

We'd been on our way to complete a barbed-wire fence removal project on National Forest land. Another group of volunteers, including children and their moms, were headed



Photo by Stephany Seay, BFC

Montana Department of Livestock; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; National Park Service; and U.S. Forest Service agents working together to harass wildlife on our public lands.



Photo courtesy of Kim Kaiser

This striking photo of a snow-encrusted bull is one of many incredible shots included in our new 2011 Wild Bison Calendar.

out to set up BFC's annual Mother's Day community outreach event. Still more BFC volunteers were with different groups of buffalo, documenting a hazing operation along the Madison River.

After cleaning her newborn, the mother turned and ate the afterbirth. An hour later members of the herd could still be seen licking the grass and dirt, cleaning up every last trace. Montana bases the hazing and killing of wild buffalo on fears that they could transmit brucellosis to livestock, something that has never happened. By consuming her afterbirth, the mother and her herd ensured that no brucellosis remained in the ecosystem.

Minutes after birth the calf tried to stand and we laughed as his shaky legs sent him to the ground. We weren't laughing on his next try, when he fell through the strands of a high-tension fence. When the calf finally took his first step

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 he found himself separated from his mother, whose milk he needed.

This was only the first of many human-induced trials the calf would face. Montana's livestock industry has forced the IBMP upon state and federal agencies. As a result Yellowstone bison, America's only continuously wild population, endure hazing, capture, slaughter and other horrors whenever they migrate to Montana. Nearly 4,000 wild bison have been needlessly killed during the Plan's first decade.

The calf struggled to reach his mother, pressing face and body against the fence. We began to worry, knowing that he needed to nurse if he was to live.



Photo by Stephany Seay, BFC

A low-flying MT Department of Livestock helicopter trespassing over the private lands of Yellowstone Ranch Preserve, where buffalo are welcome and hazers are not.

The mother hooked a horn on the fence and lifted, making more room between the strands. Another buffalo reached her head through and gently nudged the calf.

Instead of celebrating the beautiful calves coming into the world each spring, we find ourselves bearing witness to intensive operations against the buffalo. We document as entire herds are chased dozens of miles, newborns suffer broken legs, and mothers lose their babies in the chaos. Sometimes we videotape as livestock agents gun buffalo down or chase them into traps and ship them to slaughter.

The calf's persistence and the help of his herd paid off when he fell back through the fence and joined his mother. Standing between her legs he nestled his head in her underbelly and sniffed around until he found her milk. We breathed a sigh of relief, exchanged hugs, and went on our way. Later that morning, freeing the land of fences, I thought about the

calf's first hours and the importance of our work.

Buffalo Field Campaign's presence on the landscape and our work in the media, courts, and halls of Congress are making a difference. People are taking notice and action, and the tide is turning. Residents are welcoming wild bison on their lands and prohibiting livestock agents from harassing them. Courts are issuing bison-friendly decisions. With your continued support, we will celebrate together as free-born calves and their families grace the landscape, unrestrained by the nightmares of the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Dan Brister is Executive Director of BFC.

Buffalo or Bison?

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



Photos by Stephany Seay, BFC

The brand-new buffalo calf is licked clean by his mother. Just two days later the tiny calf was hazed. Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers were on hand to document both the birth and the subsequent hazing – your support and only your support keeps our patrols in the field.

Support Buffalo Field Campaign Today!

Buffalo Field Campaign Can't Exist Without Your Support

Buffalo Field Campaign works in the field and on the policy front to stop the slaughter and harassment of native bison. BFC is the leading source of news, information, and activism on wild buffalo and the dangers of the current management plan. Your support will fund our work to implement a more common-sense approach to bison management. Your donations keep patrols in the field and the pressure on the government to abandon the failed Interagency Bison Management Plan in favor of a plan that recognizes and protects America's only continuously wild population of bison. We rely on our grassroots network of supporters to take action for the buffalo and financially support our programs. **Please use the enclosed envelope or visit BFC's website to make a tax-deductible contribution or merchandise purchase. We cannot help the buffalo without you.**



Wild Bison

2011

Connect with the buffalo and support BFC! Our 2011 Calendar combines superb photos, artwork, facts, stories, and poems to convey the spirit of wild bison. In addition to the new calendar we have a BFC logo Kleen Kanteen water bottle, a new sticker, a new DVD and many other items you can purchase to support our work online at: www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org/merch.html

Defending Wild Bison in the Courts

Buffalo Field Campaign is working with Western Watersheds Project on legal challenges to the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) and Montana's agreement to commercialize quarantined Yellowstone bison. Both suits have already brought increased scrutiny to the government's mismanagement of American bison and greater citizen involvement in management decisions.

• Bison Habitat Lawsuit

The habitat lawsuit names the Park Service for slaughtering more than 3,300 bison and the Forest Service for failing to manage National Forest habitat for native wildlife. Before litigation, BFC and others requested that the agencies prepare a new Environmental Analysis, but they refused. We are asking the court to ensure the agencies protect viable populations of bison in Yellowstone and on National Forest lands.

• Public Trust Litigation

BFC's public trust litigation aims to stop the privatization and commodification of Yellowstone bison. After promising for five years that bison completing Montana's quarantine experiment would be managed as public wildlife on public and tribal lands, the state made an eleventh-hour deal with a private corporation, Turner Enterprises, who agreed to hold the bison in exchange for ownership of 75% of their offspring.

• Montana Stockgrowers Lawsuit

In May 2010, Montana District Judge John Brown ruled against the Montana Stockgrowers, whose lawsuit argued that the state must kill or remove all wild bison in Montana by May 15 of each year. It is not yet clear how this ruling will affect bison, but it could help in the future, as the Stockgrowers' can no longer claim that Montana has to be bison-free by May 15.



Photo by Stephany Seay, BFC



Photo by Carlos Morales, BFC

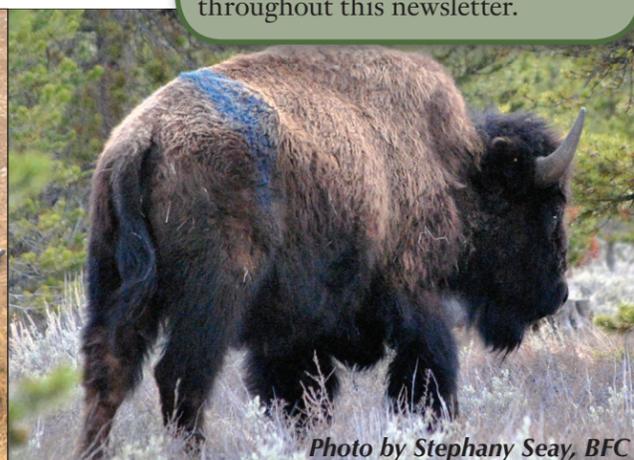


Photo by Stephany Seay, BFC

This spring the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) tranquilized and ejaculated 39 bull bison to determine if their semen contained brucellosis. Because wild bison don't mate with domestic cattle, the study is irrelevant. After taking semen, scientists painted the buffalo with blue stripes, revived them with reversal drugs, and left them to wander – confused, agitated, and alone. The APHIS study was suspended after two bulls had an adverse reaction, became uncharacteristically aggressive, and were killed. Contact MT FWP! Urge them to permanently rescind APHIS' permit for the study: Joe Maurier, 406-444-3186, jmaurier@mt.gov