The government’s harassment and slaughter of wild bison costs the U.S. $3 million annually, a financial and ecological waste that abuses wild bison at taxpayer expense. Tell Congress to redirect funding away from the Interagency Bison Management Plan as a way to even a “skewed sex ratio” created by their own slaughter operations. Fortunately for the bison, public outcry and favorable spring weather helped to avert such a mass and calculated killing.

As we entered the 2012-2013 field season, Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) braced for an especially difficult winter. Government agencies had announced plans to kill approximately 500 bison, including 400 females that they wanted to slaughter as a way to create an even “skewed sex ratio” created by their own slaughter operations. Fortunately for the bison, public outcry and favorable spring weather helped to avert such a mass and calculated killing.

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Hunting and Hazing Used as Weapons Against Wild Buffalo in Montana

We are certain that hearing from so many of you gave the Superintendent second thoughts about his killing plans. In February we learned that the Stephen’s creek buffalo trap, located inside Yellowstone, was being readied for use. With hundreds of bison in the area and the Park’s stated intentions fresh in our minds, we feared the worst. But the buffalo had other plans. As if knowing what the work at the trap site meant, all at once more than 400 bison headed away from the trap and deeper into Yellowstone where they were safe. No buffalo were captured and sent to slaughter this winter. Government agencies, pressured by Montana’s livestock industry to kill buffalo, have been increasingly relying on state and tribal hunters to do their dirty work. More buffalo were killed through hunting this year than in any year since hunting was first reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after the hunt was reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after hunting. We are certain that hearing from so many of you gave the Superintendent second thoughts about his killing plans. In February we learned that the Stephen’s creek buffalo trap, located inside Yellowstone, was being readied for use. With hundreds of bison in the area and the Park’s stated intentions fresh in our minds, we feared the worst. But the buffalo had other plans. As if knowing what the work at the trap site meant, all at once more than 400 bison headed away from the trap and deeper into Yellowstone where they were safe. No buffalo were captured and sent to slaughter this winter. Government agencies, pressured by Montana’s livestock industry to kill buffalo, have been increasingly relying on state and tribal hunters to do their dirty work. More buffalo were killed through hunting this year than in any year since hunting was first reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after hunting. We are certain that hearing from so many of you gave the Superintendent second thoughts about his killing plans. In February we learned that the Stephen’s creek buffalo trap, located inside Yellowstone, was being readied for use. With hundreds of bison in the area and the Park’s stated intentions fresh in our minds, we feared the worst. But the buffalo had other plans. As if knowing what the work at the trap site meant, all at once more than 400 bison headed away from the trap and deeper into Yellowstone where they were safe. No buffalo were captured and sent to slaughter this winter. Government agencies, pressured by Montana’s livestock industry to kill buffalo, have been increasingly relying on state and tribal hunters to do their dirty work. More buffalo were killed through hunting this year than in any year since hunting was first reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after hunting. We are certain that hearing from so many of you gave the Superintendent second thoughts about his killing plans. In February we learned that the Stephen’s creek buffalo trap, located inside Yellowstone, was being readied for use. With hundreds of bison in the area and the Park’s stated intentions fresh in our minds, we feared the worst. But the buffalo had other plans. As if knowing what the work at the trap site meant, all at once more than 400 bison headed away from the trap and deeper into Yellowstone where they were safe. No buffalo were captured and sent to slaughter this winter. Government agencies, pressured by Montana’s livestock industry to kill buffalo, have been increasingly relying on state and tribal hunters to do their dirty work. More buffalo were killed through hunting this year than in any year since hunting was first reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after hunting. We are certain that hearing from so many of you gave the Superintendent second thoughts about his killing plans. In February we learned that the Stephen’s creek buffalo trap, located inside Yellowstone, was being readied for use. With hundreds of bison in the area and the Park’s stated intentions fresh in our minds, we feared the worst. But the buffalo had other plans. As if knowing what the work at the trap site meant, all at once more than 400 bison headed away from the trap and deeper into Yellowstone where they were safe. No buffalo were captured and sent to slaughter this winter. Government agencies, pressured by Montana’s livestock industry to kill buffalo, have been increasingly relying on state and tribal hunters to do their dirty work. More buffalo were killed through hunting this year than in any year since hunting was first reinstated in 2005. Many buffalo were shot right on Yellowstone’s border. Some ran into the park after hunting.
Buffalo Field Campaign continues to advance our goal of securing legal protection for buffalo as a native wildlife species and for critical habitats the migratory species can freely roam. Many thanks to our supporters, pro-horn attorneys, partner groups, and law firms who make this critical work possible. Thank you!

In January 2013, a favorable ruling by Montana District Court Judge E. Wayne Phillips protected additional habitat for wild buffalo to roam in Gardiner basin, critical wintering range and spring calving grounds. Park County and the Montana Farm Bureau have appealed his decision to the Montana Supreme Court where BFC will continue to represent the buffalo and their local supporters.

BFC settled a Freedom of Information Act dispute with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) over the public’s timely access to agency records on using population control, quarantine, and other controversial measures on wild public buffalo. The settlement requires APHIS— or any other federal agency — to respond within 20 days to the public’s requests for records. For months, APHIS simply delayed responding to BFC’s requests by giving itself extensions not permitted by the law.

With BFC photos and video, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies secured a temporary court injunction in the spring of 2012 thwarting the Montana Dept. of Livestock from using a helicopter to harass buffalo in threatened grizzly bear habitat. In the spring of 2013, U.S. District Court Judge Charles C. Lovell dismissed the injunction. The Alliance is appealing in an effort to get federal government to abandon the failed Intergagency Bison Management Plan in favor of a vision that recognizes and protects the United States’ only continuously wild population of bison. buffalo relies on our grassroots network of supporters to take action for the buffalo and contribute to our work. 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. Thank you!

BFC is in court to try to keep the promise made and broken by Montana that all buffalo taken from Yellowstone for quarantine would be protected as public and Tribal wildlife. Instead, Montana brokered a deal with Turner Enterprises Inc. to turn the public’s buffalo into private livestock.

In the spring of 2013, Montana District Court Judge Holly Brown dismissed BFC’s public trust litigation to stop Montana from privatizing and commodifying America’s last wild buffalo.

Working for the Buffalo from Montana to Washington D.C.

Buffalo Field Campaign works hard advocating for buffalo policy and legislative changes from Helena, Montana to Washington, D.C. We are committed to working with our grassroots supporters to change laws and funding policies to protect buffalo and the habitats critical to their recovery.

BFC continues to dialogue with members of the U.S. Congress to ensure that the story of the buffalo, and the sensible, respectful, and practical solutions we advocate, are reaching the ears of our nation’s decision makers. To this end, your continued support in contacting your U.S. Senators and Representative as well as the new Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, is vital to changing federal law and policy that will benefit the buffalo today and for future generations. See the Take Action section of this newsletter and our website for information on how you can help.

In Helena, the 2013 Montana Legislature introduced a dozen of any buffalo bills backed by the cattle lobby.

Issue in Brief, continued from front page

Sadly, the future of this irreplaceable population is at risk. Since the year 2000 the Montana and federal governments have killed more than 4,900 bison as they migrated near Yellowstone’s borders. Thousands more have been “hazed,” or aggressively chased, from their habitat, which includes public lands. These brutal actions are blamed on Montana’s unfounded fears that wild buffalo will transport the deadly disease brucellosis to cattle, something that has never happened. Many species carry brucellosis, including elk, yet only buffalo are targeted. There are far more elk than buffalo in the ecosystem and elk have been implicated in transmitting brucellosis to cattle. Yet elk are allowed to leave the park while buffalo are killed, captured, or hazed when they approach its arbitrary border.

Buffalo Field Campaign’s (BFC’s) field patrols monitor and document bison migrations and fight hunting and hazing. BFC’s field patrols are targeted. There are far more elk than buffalo in the ecosystem and elk have been implicated in transmitting brucellosis to cattle. Yet elk are allowed to leave the park while buffalo are killed, captured, or hazed when they approach its arbitrary border.

Buffalo Field Campaign’s (BFC’s) field patrols monitor and document bison migrations and fight the buffalo’s freedom to roam. Patrols provide volunteers with a direct connection to the buffalo, informing and inspiring a range of efforts designed to protect buffalo and their habitat. Information and documentation gathered on patrols is shared with BFC’s network of supporters, who contact decision makers, take grass roots actions, and contribute the funds that make every aspect of our work possible.

The local Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks game warden aggressively chases buffalo through a public campground.

Working for Tribes Nations for the Buffalo

Buffalo Field Campaign is supporting resolutions of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and the National Congress of American Indians that call on the U.S. government to convene a Buffalo Summit and to protect wild buffalo populations as a treaty and trust responsibility.

Hunting and Hazing, continued from front page

being hit, where they died or became walking wounded, the hunter free to kill another buffalo to fill their tag. A new law, passed by the 2013 Montana legislature, will allow game wardens to tell hunters the exact location of any buffalo outside the park. So much for Montana’s much-touted “fair chase” that is defined by the Office of State Livestock as killing buffalo with the greatest effort and largest expense at the least possible risk. A new law, passed by the 2013 Montana legislature, will allow game wardens to tell hunters the exact location of any buffalo outside the park. So much for Montana’s much-touted “fair chase” that is defined by the Office of State Livestock as killing buffalo with the greatest effort and largest expense at the least possible risk.

While capture, slaughter, and hunting receive much of the attention, the Montana Department of Livestock’s annual “hazing operations,” in which hundreds of wild buffalo are repeatedly chased from Montana, have had a far greater impact in recent years. The Montana Department of Livestock, with assistance from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; National Park Service; U.S. Forest Service; and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; aggressively hounded hundreds of buffalo from their chosen habitat this spring using horses, ATVs, and a helicopter. Because these operations take place at the height of calving season, newborn bison calves often suffer life-threatening injuries, separation from their mothers and famines resulting from their exhaustion.

BFC has been working in the field and at every level of the policy and legal arena since 1997 to put a stop to these abusive actions and to protect the buffalo and their habitat. As someone who values wild bison and understands the importance of BFC’s mission, you play a crucial role in the buffalo’s future. Thank you!