Urge Montana’s Governor to Endorse a Plan that Respects Wild Buffalo Like Wild Elk in Montana

The vicious slaughter and excessive hunting of wild buffalo, and their exclusion from their native habitat in Montana are things that could easily end if Montana endorsed a new plan. The highly controversial and wasteful Interagency Bison Management Plan expired in 2015, though it still dictates bison management. Yellowstone and the state of Montana have developed a new plan, but it mirrors the IBMP and presently isn’t going anywhere.

In response, BFC developed a plan to respect wild buffalo like wild elk in Montana. Wild is the Way – Roam Free! Support BFC!

Individuals like you contribute the majority of BFC’s frugal budget. Donations are tax deductible. Make a secure online contribution at BuffaloFieldCampaign.org or use the enclosed envelope to donate by mail.

Call Gov. Bullock at (406) 444-3111 and then email governor@mt.gov and urge him to endorse a plan that respects wild buffalo like wild elk in Montana. Wild is the Way – Roam Free!

Get Involved & Volunteer!

Contact BFC to learn about volunteering on the front lines, hosting video showings, distributing newsletters, and other ways you can spread the word to save the herds! Call (406) 646-0070 or email info@buffalofieldcampaign.org.

Stay Active & Engaged!

Visit www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org for our complete Take Action page and to sign up for Updates from the Field.

www.facebook.com/buffalowild
www.youtube.com/bfcmedia

Come volunteer and stand with wild buffalo!

A Bad Year for Buffalo: Slaughter and Hunting Decimate the Herds

Buffalo Field Campaign’s twentieth season in the field was one of deep contrasts. This spring, the buffalo enjoyed a second year of peace on their calving grounds at Hebgen Basin’s Horse Butte without haz ing or harassment. New calves born on the Butte were able to grow strong on their own before returning with their families to Yellowstone. Our spring patrols celebrated with these buffalo enjoying and honoring the company of buffalo left in peace to be buffalo. While we revel in this new ground for buffalo, more is needed. Livestock hazing operations chased family groups, heavily-pregnant females, and new calves off their chosen ground, through public lands that never saw cattle, and across rivers to Horse Butte. The tireless work of our patrols and supporters has ended the days of fourteen mile hazes across rivers to Horse Butte. The tireless work of our patrols and supporters has ended the days of fourteen mile hazes far into the park, but even these shorter hazes are harmful, and have no place in the management of wild buffalo. We will continue to fight for new ground for buffalo until haz ing is a thing of the past.

Bad Year, continued inside

Support BFC!

In the Field

Buffalo calves at peace on Horse Butte.
Last of the Wild, continued from front page

Thousands of buffalo have been shot, slaughtered, or otherwise removed from their native ecosystem as they migrated toward or across the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Thousands more have been aggressively chased from their habitat. These unnecessary actions are conducted under the assumption that wild buffalo may transmit the livestock disease brucellosis to cattle, something that has never occurred. Brucellosis is present in many species, including elk. Elk outnumber buffalo and have transmitted brucellosis to livestock, yet elk are allowed free access between the Yellowstone and Montana wildlife corridors. Currently, less than 4,500 wild buffalo remain.

Every winter and spring buffalo migrate from Yellowstone to calving grounds in Montana. Buffalo Field Campaign patrols monitor and document these migrations and work to stop the government’s slaughter and harassment of buffalo. Patrollers and volunteers are members of a variety of coordinated efforts to protect buffalo and their habitat. BFC shares information gathered on patrols with our grassroots network of supporters whose donations fund our programs and whose actions pressure decision-makers to stop the buffalo slaughter and respect this iconic species.  

Twenty Years, continued from front page

all backgrounds comprise BFC’s field patrols, braving some of North America’s most extreme conditions to stand with the buffalo and protect this keystone species from the government.

In May of 2017 volunteers and supporters joined BFC in West Yellowstone to celebrate our two decades in the field and the many victories we’ve achieved. On the Horse Butte Peninsula, on Yellowstone’s western border, buffalo are now left in peace during calving season and are no longer harassed here by livestock agents on snowmobiles, ATVs, horses, and helicopters. Livestock agents no longer trespass at will against landowner wishes to chase buffalo off of and away from buffalo-friendly properties, and the agents no longer shot with impunity buffalo by the dozens in Yellowstone’s gateway communities. But twenty years in, BFC’s work remains as important as ever.

BFC’s goal remains the same: to permanently protect, defend, and the many victories wild bison through a sustained grassroots campaign that forces the government agencies to protect this last wild population. Our constant presence in the field and at every level of the policy arena the videos and stories we gather to share with the public, and the truth of the best available science will ultimately prevail. With your help, BFC will continue to fight for and demand access to the trap. These tours offer us and our supporters a glimpse into the heart of our battle, and they demonstrate our passports will be needed to continue this fight.

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 our newsletter.

Politics & Courtrooms

E &A Legal Case Update

In June 2017 Buffalo Field Campaign, Western Watersheds Project, and Friends of Animals filed a motion for summary judgment to overturn U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s finding that our petition did not present substantial information to list the buffalo as a Distinct Population Segment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wrongfully required proof that extinction would be certain, a standard the Endangered Species Act does not require at the 90-day stage. At this stage the evidence need only show that buffalo “may warrant listing.” The agency failed to consider the best available science that shows government slaughter and harassment threaten the buffalo, and the extinction of the migratory species in 85% of their original range warrants listing. A decision is likely in 2018.

Listing the Yellowstone buffalo as an endangered species is a long-term BFC commitment. Your generous donations support our legal action and give us hope that the Yellowstone buffalo will win the protection they need.

Buffalo Field Campaign Needs You!

The Park Service staff poke and prod at terrified buffalo waiting for access to the trap. These tours and our supporters a glimpse into the heart of our battle, and they demonstrate our passports will be needed to continue this fight.

Twenty Years, continued from front page

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Support

Connect with the buffalo and support BFC! Our 2018 calendar combines beautiful photos, artwork, and fun facts for buffalo lovers and lovers of wild buffalo. Other items include t-shirts, books, stickers, and more. Visit BuffaloFieldCampaign.org/merch.