



BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN

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APRIL 26, 2012

RE: Evidence of threatened grizzly bear activity in Hebgen basin, south side of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake, South Fork Madison River, Horse Butte Peninsula

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To the Interagency Bison Management Plan Agencies,

We are writing to inform you of evidence of threatened Yellowstone grizzly bear activity in Hebgen basin. We also write to remind of the IBMP agencies' prior commitments to cease government hazing operations of bison if grizzly bears are active in the area. The IBMP specifically states "Currently, hazing operations would cease if there was evidence of grizzlies being active in the area."

Since April 14, 2012 the IBMP agencies have conducted on-going hazing operations in several attempts to forcefully remove bison in habitat occupied by threatened Yellowstone grizzly bears. Your prior NEPA analyses guessed that there would not likely be grizzly bears present in April during government agency hazing operations. Your prior NEPA analyses promised to the public and taxpayers that are funding your operations that hazing activities would cease if grizzly bears were in fact present.

We know of several recent observations of grizzly bear activity in the Hebgen basin including:

1. South side of the Madison Arm Hebgen Lake near Madison Arm resort – April 16 Buffalo Field Campaign volunteer Brandy Bowmaster reported grizzly bear tracks near Madison Arm road near mile marker 5.
2. Horse Butte Peninsula, Yellowstone Village – April 25 report of an attempted entrance by a grizzly bear to a garage on a residence located in Yellowstone Village. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Game Warden Jim Smolyzinski investigated the incident.
3. Madison Arm road near HWY 20 near South Fork Madison River – April 25 Montana Dept. of Livestock agent Rob Tierney who was returning to HWY 20 along the Madison Arm road informed Stephany Seay of Buffalo Field Campaign of grizzly bear tracks.

Thus, there is evidence of active grizzly bears in the area and that evidence is confirmed by at least one IBMP partner, the MDOL. Because grizzly bears are currently active in the area where hazing operations are occurring the IBMP agencies must honor their promises to the public to cease government agency hazing operations in the area.

Additional documentation will be forthcoming of threatened grizzly bear activity in Hebgen basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Brister". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Brister, MS
Executive Director
Buffalo Field Campaign