

Rebecca K. Smith

From: Darrell Geist [z@wildrockies.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:15 AM
To: publicdefense@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: RE: visit to DOL offices re: RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST

From: "Mackay, Christian" <CMacKay@mt.gov>
To: Darrell Geist <z@wildrockies.org>
CC: "Zaluski, Martin" <MZaluski@mt.gov>, "Merritt, Steve" <SMerritt@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: visit to DOL offices re: RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST
Thread-Topic: visit to DOL offices re: RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST
Thread-Index: AQHMNd64on9Dm9Bxo0WFRchLUSSmYpTUdHGQ
Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2011 15:34:40 +0000
Accept-Language: en-US
x-originating-ip: [10.194.23.1]
Darrell,

EXHIBIT 10

I apologize for not getting back to you. I've been tied up with bison litigation and Beef Council.

The best person to go over this with you is probably me. I am available most of those days with the exception of the morning of the 6th. In any event, either myself, Steve Merritt or Marty Zaluski will be around to go over records with you. I will be your point of contact so give a call when you get a date nailed down.

I can answer some of your questions in general terms. The Department owns two helicopters. These are used for predator control. We have a contract with USDA-Wildlife Services for their operation and maintenance. The operation of these helicopters is paid for by livestock per capita fees. The pilots are federal employees.

For hazing operations, we use a private helicopter service. All bison management activities are funded through a cooperative agreement between MDOL and USDA-APHIS. When a private service is not available, we have used the department helicopter. In that event, WS bills us for the time and we pay that with APHIS funds.

I don't have any record of pilot licenses or incident reports. The MDOL does not employ any pilots.

Dates, times, costs - this is going to take some time to compile. Since I've been with the department, helicopter costs are between \$40k and \$60k per year.

Let me know if you have any other questions before your trip and I'll see what I can put together.

CMack

From: Darrell Geist [\[mailto:z@wildrockies.org\]](mailto:z@wildrockies.org)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 3:57 PM
To: Mackay, Christian
Cc: z@wildrockies.org
Subject: visit to DOL offices re: RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST

Christian, Since I have not heard back from you I would like to let you know I will be stopping by DOL's office sometime after July 4th weekend to inspect records held by your office. I would appreciate being in put in touch with someone who can locate DOL records that are pertinent to my right to know request below. I expect to arrive on one of these days July 6th thru 8th in the afternoon. I will call your office when the date is known for sure.

Darrell Geist
Habitat Coordinator
Buffalo Field Campaign
PO Box 957
West Yellowstone MT 59758
phone: (406) 646-0070
fax: (406) 646-0071
email: z@wildrockies.org
<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/habitat.html>

Are wild buffalo a threat to Montana's economy?
<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/faq/wildeconomy.html>

JUNE 6 2011

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer
Montana Department of Livestock
P.O. Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001
(406) 444-9321 phone
(406) 444-4316 fax
cmackay@mt.gov

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST; CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

Dear Christian Mackay,

On behalf of Buffalo Field Campaign a West Yellowstone based nonprofit incorporated in Montana for public interest purposes, I am making a public right to know request for records under Article II, section 9, MCA 2-6-101.

Specifically, I am seeking records documenting Montana Department of Livestock helicopter use and costs since the Interagency Bison Management

Plan was signed in 2000:

1. Who provides funding for the agency's helicopters?
2. What proportion is paid by Montana taxpayers general revenues/livestock special revenues/Federal government/other? Identify the Dept. of Livestock's funding source(s) to maintain, deploy and operate its helicopter.
3. Provide pilot(s) license(s) for each person operating the helicopter, assigned radio frequencies, and any incident reports filed against the aircraft/pilot for its operations.
4. Dates and durations of helicopter use for each Fiscal Year or season. What are the direct and FTE (employee equivalent) costs of its use. What is the cost of piloting, fueling, renting/leasing for refueling and maintenance, etc? What are the cumulative direct costs?

To reduce waste and cost, Buffalo Field Campaign would like to receive records on CD in electronic form (PDF, Word, etc.). If I can be of assistance in expediting my public right to know request please contact me.

Darrell Geist
habitat coordinator
Buffalo Field Campaign
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West Yellowstone MT 59758
(406) 646-0070
z@wildrockies.org