



## BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN

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APRIL 29, 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,

This is a follow-up to our letter dated April 26, 2012 informing you of evidence of threatened Yellowstone grizzly bear activity in the Hebgen Basin. This letter presents documentation of various grizzly bear sightings and grizzly bear sign sightings in the Hebgen Basin. These observations begin March 31, 2012, demonstrating that grizzly bears have been active in the Hebgen Basin since early spring.

We have also included news releases, articles, bear closures, and food storage enforcement language from Yellowstone National Park and Gallatin National Forest's Hebgen Lake Ranger District, which demonstrates that IBMP partner agencies are not only aware that grizzly bears are active in the Hebgen Basin as early as March, but have actively been informing the public. On April 29, Gallatin National Forest Hebgen Lake Ranger wildlife biologist Courtney Frost reports, "Grizzly bears are VERY active in the Basin right now, and we're hearing lots of reports of sightings. Please be on the highest level of alert... There is much we can do to limit our impacts on grizzly bears as we learn to share space with them..."

We communicate this to you as a reminder 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 11, 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.

The numerous recent observations of grizzly bear activity in the Hebgen Basin included with this letter supports evidence of active grizzly bears in the area and that evidence is confirmed by at least two IBMP partners, the MDOL and MFWP. 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.

Please contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Mease  
President, Board of Directors  
Buffalo Field Campaign