



June 24, 2016

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

Comments on Draft Legislation to Restore the National Bison Range  
To the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Dear Chairman Finley:

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has reviewed the proposed legislation drafted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that would restore the lands of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CSKT-Draft-NBR-Bill-6-6-16.pdf>

NWF supports moving forward with introducing the draft bill in the Congress and endorses its adoption into federal law. Over the last forty years, NWF has been a close observer of the exceptional wildlife stewardship provided by CSKT on the Flathead Reservation. This extensive track record gives us confidence that CSKT will manage the bison and other wildlife of the National Bison Range in a highly professional manner.

Because of the Tribes' cultural and historical connection to bison, we believe CSKT has the background to do an even to a *better* job than current managers of the refuge. No one can tell the story of bison conservation with more passion or authenticity than Native Americans. This close bond with bison is what also gives us complete confidence that conservation of this herd will be a foremost consideration. Moreover, the transfer legislation clearly commits the Tribes to manage the bison and other wildlife for conservation purposes. We believe that providing the Tribes with the opportunity to tell the bison conservation story from their viewpoint is one of the most attractive aspects of this land transfer.

NWF offers its support for this important legislation with the understanding that it is a completely unique situation and should not in any way be construed as a precedent regarding other federal properties. We are pleased to see the proposed legislation makes that explicit. There

MONTANA OFFICE  
240 North Higgins Avenue, Suite 2  
Missoula, MT 59802 - 406-721-6705

OREGON OFFICE  
6641 SE Lake Road  
Milwaukie, OR 97222 – 503-616-3613

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2100 Westlake Avenue North, Suite 104  
Seattle, WA 98109 - 206-285-8707

The National Wildlife Federation, Northern Rockies, Prairies & Pacific Region  
[www.nwf.org/Northern-Rockies-and-Pacific-Region](http://www.nwf.org/Northern-Rockies-and-Pacific-Region)

are several factors that make this situation one of a kind. In particular, it's important to understand that the National Bison Range lies completely within the Flathead Indian Reservation, on lands acquired from the tribe by the U.S. government with minimal compensation. In addition, Tribal members played a critical role in preserving the bison that made up the original herd.

We are also pleased to see that the legislation stipulates that public use of the Bison Range will continue. CSKT has a strong track record of allowing public access on nearly all tribal lands and conservation areas. It's plain to us that the Tribes look forward to the opportunity to showcase their longstanding relationship with bison to the public.

We believe it is helpful that CSKT has proposed a two-year "transition" period designed to ensure that change occurs in as seamless a manner as possible. This will ensure that management differences experienced by the public are minimal.

In sum, NWF has worked closely with CSKT land managers and biologists for several decades and we have complete confidence in their natural resource and wildlife management abilities. The fact that the location of the Bison Range is in the midst of a tribal reservation, coupled with the long tribal history associated with the creation and conservation of this bison herd, can only lead us to conclude that the tribe will be excellent stewards of these bison, as well as other wildlife.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom France". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Tom France  
Regional Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garrit Voggesser". The signature is more stylized and less legible than the one above, with a prominent initial "G".

Garrit Voggesser  
Director, Tribal Lands Program

6/24/2016

To the Bison Range working group:

From Tammy Miller President of the Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition, Inc. Box 111, Ronan, MT 59864

As the President of FRHRC and a 35 year resident on the Flathead Reservation, I have seen many attempts and actions against the sovereignty of the Flathead Nation (the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes).

It is evident that not only is sovereignty not understood, but by some it is met with resistance as evidenced by the talk of dismantling the reservation because it is open, meaning all land is not owned by the tribe and its members, fighting against concurrent jurisdiction of law enforcement, continual complaints by non-Indian residents over purchasing hunting and fishing permits from the Tribe, etc. In addition there have been numerous media and legal campaigns against previous attempts at co-management of the National Bison Range, resistance of the Tribe running Mission Valley Power, taking over management of the dam, the water compact and now the NBR again.

At the heart of these attempts is a lack of understanding and often the same anti-Indian groups or community members, together with national anti-Indian groups who move here to the reservation just to engage in these campaigns and attempt to sow dissension among reservation residents. A government to government arrangement is needed in this case because of the ANTI-Indian activity locally.

I have witnessed excellent tribal management of land and natural resources thru traditional burning and clearing of brush to help reduce impact of wildfires. The air quality we enjoy is rated as pristine and is managed by the tribe. The efforts to minimize further negative impact of lake trout in the lake, and the water quality is managed by the Tribe, as is the wonderful wilderness of the Mission Mountains kept clear of buildings and roads. The Tribe is a good neighbor and supports local fire departments and helps with search and rescue operations, etc.

The tribe managed buffalo since the 1800's and provided some of the stock to start the bison range to begin with. This type of wildlife management is well within the scope historically and presently of the Flathead Nation. This move will also still provide visitation to the NBR by the public, together with added opportunities to learn about Bison from a tribal perspective. I know that Lake County is worried over the loss of tax revenue between this transfer and the **Seli's Ksanka Qlispe' Dam** transfer but those are separate issues and have nothing to do with the ability of the Tribes to oversee the NBR.

We support the National Bison Range Transfer Resolution Act of 2016 and see it as beneficial to the Tribes and to the National Park Service. We have always supported tribal sovereignty and feel that it is necessary to handle this matter at the Federal level government to government.

Yours respectfully,

Tammy Miller  
President, FRHRC



June 30, 2016

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
PO Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

RE: Comments in support of the National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act

Chairman Finley:

One of the core principles of Montana Conservation Voters (MCV) is the protection of our public lands as well as access to those public lands. At the state and federal level, MCV has vehemently opposed efforts to transfer or sell-off public lands to state or private ownership or even to study these misguided proposals. Such an effort would certainly lead to loss of access to pristine public lands and likely mismanagement by states who are inexperienced at multi-purpose land management.

However, MCV stands in proud support of the National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act and supports the Bison Range's transfer to be held in trust by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (the Tribes). The restoration of the Range to the Tribes would return land provided for in the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 and continue the Tribes' proven track record of responsibly managing lands while maintaining public access for the benefit of all Americans.

A look at the Flathead Reservation is enough to show how the Tribes have distinguished themselves as responsible resource managers. The Tribes have established a tribal wilderness area, developed a grizzly management plan, restored endangered bull trout habitat, reintroduced the trumpeter swan, created wildlife corridors, and managed invasive species. The reservation also includes half of Flathead Lake, one of the most popular recreation areas in the state that affects tribal and non-tribal interests alike. In addition, the Tribes have worked in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop the land use plan for the Range and have co-managed the Range alongside USFWS. The Tribes have a proven record to manage the Range and are committed to maintaining public access to the Range so visitors can not only learn about the history of the bison but also the Tribes and their history with the land over the millennia.

While supporters of the idea to transfer federal lands to the state control might point to this proposed transfer of the Range as an argument to transfer more lands to states, it is clear that the Montana Constitution and the U.S. Constitution make this a unique circumstance. Article I of the Montana Constitution declares that "all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States." Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution states that, "The Congress shall have the power ... to regulate Commerce ... with the Indian Tribes." The Range is currently under the jurisdiction of the USFWS within DOI and the transfer authorized by the Restoration Act would simply move that jurisdiction to another part of DOI so the land

could be held in Trust for the Tribes. It is under the purview of Congress to take this action and there is no state interest in this adjustment of jurisdiction.

Enactment of the National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act is an important step to expanding self-determination for the Tribes who have a proven record of managing lands and the Range. We are confident that the visitor experience, opportunities for wildlife viewing and taking in outstanding scenery will be much the same as it is today and even better in many ways. MCV stands ready to help the Tribes bring attention and support to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clayton R. Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Clayton Elliott  
Executive Director  
Montana Conservation Voters

*MCV is a statewide non-partisan membership organization that is dedicated to fighting for Montana's air, water, open spaces, wildlife, and public health. MCV provides voter participation services to over 72,000 Montanans.*



P.O. Box 4310, Whitefish, Montana 59937

Friday, July 15, 2016

Dear CSKT Bison Range Working Group:

*Headwaters Montana*, a non-profit conservation organization based in northwest Montana, fully supports the proposed legislation that would restore the National Bison Range property to the Tribes. This correction is long overdue and we agree entirely with the history cited in the draft legislation. We urge the Montana congressional delegation to act on this proposed legislation this year.

We attended the public meeting on July 12, 2016. The comment form that was distributed at that meeting asked four questions. We will address those four questions here.

- 1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?** We think there are three main issues: 1. Restoration of Tribal ownership of the Range. 2. Restoration of the habitat as cheatgrass seems to be taking over the grasslands of the Range. 3. Designing a sustainable grazing program; it seems to us that the 8 pastures technique (if that is how the Range is currently divided) is not working.
- 2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?** Is there an opportunity to expand the range, or to move bison onto the Ferry Basin Elk Conservation Area? It seems that more area is needed to move toward a more 'free range' management for bison.
- 3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?** We have read the legislation and we would not change anything. We spoke to several Tribal reps at the July 12 meeting and were glad to hear that this legislation has been developed in partnership with the USFWS and in consultation with the Montana congressional delegation.
- 4. Additional comments and/or questions?** We think the proposed legislation moves bison management in the right direction and restores rightful ownership of the land to the Treaty Tribes.

We appreciate the opportunity to comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Hadden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hadden, Director  
406-270-3184 / [info@headwatersmontana.org](mailto:info@headwatersmontana.org)

*Headwaters engages citizens of the Crown of the Continent in the region's critical conservation issues: water and wildlife conservation, and climate change.*

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) CESAR HERNANDEZ  
Email or Mailing Address (optional) [REDACTED]  
Representation (if any) CABINET RESOURCE GROUP AND SELF

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?  
THAT IT IS A PUBLIC RESOURCE DEVOTED TO MAINTAINING & RESTORING AN AMERICAN ICON

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?  
DEFINE FEDERAL TRUST OWNERSHIP VS CURRENT STATUS? IN DEFINITIONS IN LEGISLATION

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

CONCERNED ABOUT OWNERSHIP BUT BELIEVE CSKT IS WELL CAPABLE OF MANAGING RESOURCE.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Dan Decker

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

*restoration of ownership & management to the Tribes*

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

*educational opportunities & management from a Tribal cultural perspective*

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

*more flexibility for the Tribes management wise*

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

*urge this legislation be enacted as law*

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Dennis Clairmont

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) CSKT Council + myself

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

*Restoration of lands to the Tribes and continued management of the range for conservation of bison.*

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

*A Tribal presence for management and public education, An opportunity for the Tribes to tell their story and share their culture, Employment opportunity for the Tribes.*

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

*None*

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

*This is a tremendous opportunity for the Tribes to showcase our management ability and conservation ethics.*

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Jaimie Stevenson

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) none

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

tribally managed, ~~through the classes of~~ with an emphasis on  
conservation, <sup>(+ history)</sup> culture, and ecological sustainability

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

tribal management of the ~~reservation~~ range  
to restore the integrity of the reservation's tribal lands

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

pro-Indian, all day every day!

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

if you want the voices of more tribal youth,  
please contact me or another ~~own~~ teacher at  
Two Eagle — we have young people who  
care deeply about the future  
of ~~reservation~~ <sup>tribal</sup> lands

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Jesse Halden

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) White farmer, Tribal ally, Montana Native.

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

Most important to me is the restoration of all possible land holdings to the tribe

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

An updated management plan w/ better rotational grazing regimes would greatly ~~improve~~ ~~reduce~~ reduce invasives.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

I'm happy w/ it.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) LAURA Monfore

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

The land is in horrible condition. Address the land + waters so they can support the creatures. Paul Stomets (Lungiperfete) my core mediation of soils.

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

is one source. Hopefully good 'management' without politically correct federal interference to heal the land + help the healing of the people.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

Do a NPSA. Gives the tribes a place to start + will help establish a plan.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) MARVIN KASCHKE

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

*Keep in FWS Refuges*

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

*None now*

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

*Drop it entirely*

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Patrick Weasel Head

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) Retiree

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

That ownership will have the best interest and stewardship of the B.R. that generations to come will appreciate.

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

I would hope there is more indigenous aspects that would acknowledge CSKT historical perspective in the management.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

More awareness of the positive aspects of indigenous ownership.

4. Additional comments and/or questions: As I see historical

trends in Indian country, where more and more non-natives are accustomed to being the "leader," I think it is time for indigenous management whereby they can accomplish great things as well.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Paul Berne Burrow

Email or Mailing Address (optional) [REDACTED]

Representation (if any) Yale University

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

Seeing the Bison Range returned to CSKT

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

Increased public access of southside of the range  
Creating job opportunities for tribal members

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

I am not sure it's politically feasible, but it seems like the federal government should cover the operational costs as part of its trust responsibilities.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

If there is anything further I can do to support this, please let me know!

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Pelah Hoyt  
Email or Mailing Address (optional)   
Representation (if any) None

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

Restoring Bison Range to Tribes and continued conservation of natural resources.

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

Incorporating tribal history and culture into Bison Range management and educational opportunities.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

Consider lengthening<sup>time frame</sup> or increasing<sup>amount of</sup> payments in lieu of property taxes to Lake and Sanders Counties.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

I encourage our congressional delegation to support this legislation.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Phil Batson

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

Trying to make it as natural and close to its historical norm.

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

I believe the tribes have better conservation knowledge for the lands they flourished on.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

Change the name to Big Medicine Range.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

Fire used as a conservation tool is natural.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Rhonda Swaney

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

*That access be continued and improved*

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

*Updating facilities, access and advertisement*

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Richard E. Hader

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

*Keep it like it is.*

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

*As long as the tribes manage like it is that's fine.*

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Robert Siler

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

**1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?**

The opportunity to work on/with the Refuge on Conservation  
& other beneficial projects for this area.

**2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?**

I see the opportunity for state & federal programs such as  
Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) ~~to~~ to act as education programs if  
the tribes do not hinder the ability to do so.

**3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?**

I would not include a name change possibility in this legislation.  
This A reason for this would be the remaining of the history  
of this site. Though wrong, this name is also part of this history.

**4. Additional comments and/or questions:**

I would request/include a clause that still encourages state and  
federal programs such as the MCC & Student Conservation Association (SCA)  
ability to perform conservation work when needed instead of regulating it  
to tribal programs/workers

**Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.**

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Steve Woodruff

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) National Wildlife Federation

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

NBR is one of America's best places to view wildlife. It represents a tremendous opportunity to connect people with nature.

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

- ① Connecting Americans with Native cultures as well as with nature.
- ② Improved interpretive opportunity. USFWS focuses on wildlife & habitat. CSKT can take a broader approach - elevating people as a priority along with wildlife and habitat.
- ③ Door to dream: An entrance off Highway 93!

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

Increased transition funding.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

- ① USFWS has done a fine job over the years, but the NBR is one of hundreds of national wildlife refuges. In the scheme of things, NBR does not rate as a high priority for USFWS! But there is no doubt that CSKT will maintain NBR and all its benefits as the highest of priorities.
- ② CSKT has simply demonstrated ample capacity and commitment to assume stewardship of the NBR.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Tony Hoyt

Email or Mailing Address (optional) 

Representation (if any) Arlee, business owner

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

that it be managed based on science

biological studies continual and expanded

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

structure of entrance fees - don't make it too expensive to enter

more biological studies that ~~include~~ will be

decentralized widely to the public

perhaps some more roads access for the public

more cultural native Am info for public

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

① expansion

② Rds opened earlier and stay opened later in season

③ perhaps an entrance on top of Ravalli hill

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

the fee structure to Baker & Sanden co's should be

~~increased~~ increased and for a longer period

It would help with support from Sanden &

Lake Co

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Victoria Hitchcock

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?

that they disallow any mining or tracking  
that they disallow any federal military activity  
that they grow the herd to provide the tribal peoples with  
their traditional food source again, enlarging the area

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?

Do opt out of the vaccination program for the bison  
to allow the herd to grow & augment it  
to provide artistic venues for people & tribal members  
educational & experiential as well as cultural opportunities would  
open up.

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

That the tribes will manage it how they choose to.  
That the tribal people will have a say so in what they  
want to have happen there.

4. Additional comments and/or questions:

Why is the government so interested in giving back the Bison  
Range at this time, why does the government own the other  
wildlife refuges? - Nonprofits - Pueblo?

I would like the Red Oxidite man who started the herd  
taught about in schools & the refuge named after him.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility.  
If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your  
comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a  
comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to  
[BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the  
CSKT website.

Why can't they augment the herd with the Yellowstone Bison?  
Why was Chairman Trahan allowed to have three of the Yellowstone  
bison this tribe received to send them straight to a non-Indian  
slaughter house?

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Draft National Bison Range Restoration Legislation  
July 12, 2016 Public Meeting

Comment Form

Name (please print) Willie Stevens

Email or Mailing Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Representation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

It would be helpful to have your responses to the following:

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?  
Bison preservation & other wildlife management

2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?  
CSKT History & Activities & exhibits

3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?

4. Additional comments and/or questions:  
Move visitor center to top of Ravalli hill for more access exposure.

Please submit this comment in designated boxes located throughout the meeting facility. If you have additional comments after this meeting, or if you would like to submit your comment later, please go to the following CSKT website, where you can submit a comment: [bisonrangeworkinggroup.org](http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org). You can also email comments directly to [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com). The draft legislation can also be found on the CSKT website.

---

**Fwd: BRWG: Comment**

---

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 2:15 PM

From: [BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 10, 2016 at 4:21 PM

Subject: BRWG: Comment

To: [REDACTED]

First Name (required)<br />  
CLOANN

Last Name (required)<br />  
WESTERNMAN

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
CHARLO

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I find it ridiculous that anyone would presume to tell the Tribes that they cannot manage a Bison herd or the Bison Range. The relationship between the Tribes and the Bison existed long before the colonists came to this country. I believe the Bison and all the native animals at the Bison Range will be better taken care of by the Tribes than they are currently. The Tribes have member and non-member Wildlife Biologists that should more than meet the needs for qualifications to run the Range. The Federal and State Governments need to stop thinking they know better than this Tribe and all Tribes taking care of the Buffalo and turn this over to the people who have the best interests of the animals at heart.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



**Fwd: BRWG: Comment**

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>  
Date: Fri, Jun 10, 2016 at 4:35 PM  
Subject: BRWG: Comment  
To: [REDACTED]

First Name (required)<br />  
Robert

Last Name (required)<br />  
McDonald

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Pablo

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The buffalo were on those ranges for centuries and they were always looked after by the tribes in the area. Both the buffalo and the tribes knew the land and took care of each other. There is no reason why it should not be the same now. Outside influences bring outside ideas that are not beneficial to the buffalo. Federal should help but not try to improve standards they know nothing about.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 10, 2016 at 8:22 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Daniel

Last Name (required)<br />  
Tenenbaum

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

It is rather unusual to submit a public comment on this issue. Normally the US government doesn't solicit public comment when negotiating with other sovereign nations. There was no public comment period for NAFTA, the Iran deal, or the TPP. One of the first executive orders President Obama issued was a pledge to deal with tribes as the sovereign nations they are, not as mere interested parties to the actions of a federal agency. That being said, I fully support the return of the Bison Range to tribal trust status.

For non-Native Americans, bison are fun to look at and they give us a hint of what the continent looked like before white conquest. For Native Americans, however, it goes without saying that bison carry a much deeper and lasting meaning. Furthermore, the Bison Range occupies the heart of the Flathead Reservation. If the US government were to continue to deprive the Tribes of control of the heart of their own reservation, it would be run completely contrary to the idea of tribal autonomy. Any outcome short of a complete return of the Bison Range to tribal trust status would be merely the latest chapter in the hideous policy of allotment that has devastated Indian lands, torn apart Indian families, and denigrated Indian cultures. On top of all this, the Tribes have done an excellent job of managing the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness and the portions of Flathead Lake under their jurisdiction. I am excited to see the Bison Range under CSKT control as well.

Again, I support the transfer of the the Bison Range into tribal trust status without qualifications. However I must emphasize my earlier point that neither my opinion nor that of any other private citizen should play a role in this nation-to-nation negotiation.

Danny Tenenbaum, former Arthur C. Helton Global Human Rights Fellow for the CSKT Public Defender  
Missoula, MT

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 10, 2016 at 9:09 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Robert

Last Name (required)<br />  
Fields

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Beaverton

State<br />  
OR

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />  
Who comprises the Bidon Range Working Griup?

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 12:11 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Denis

Last Name (required)<br />

Thane

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Giving the Bison Range to CSKT is not only a good idea, it's justice long delayed. They will do a terrific job managing it, and incorporating it into their cultural heritage. And I'm an old white guy!

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 9:58 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Thomas

Last Name (required)<br />

Ayers

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am a frequent visitor to the bison range and currently access the range using a Senior Pass which I purchased at the visitor center. I would like to hear how fees and passes will be affected by this change.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 10:55 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
jim

Last Name (required)<br />  
floyd

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />  
missoula

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

leave the Bison Range in Federal hands the Indians lazy bastards will just screw it up

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 1:06 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Eldon

Last Name (required)<br />

Mickelson

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Paradise

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Just so we don't need a Tribal Permit  
to get in the Bison Range.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 2:24 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jim

Last Name (required)<br />

Roessler

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I support and hope this restoration of federal trust of the National Bison Range to CSKT is successful. This is a "no brainer" in my mind. And as I read the first paragraph of this website "Background", the paragraph sentence should include not only for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Indian Reservation, but in addition, the peoples' of the United States. This is obvious to me and I believe the Tribes CSKT will add substance and cultural awareness for the US public beyond what the US Fish and Wildlife Service could do.

I am excited to take my next trip through the Bison Range, or whatever the Tribes CSKT decide to name it when this restoration is completed to the Tribes.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Jim Roessler

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 3:37 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

bob

Last Name (required)<br />

kembel

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The CSKT should have to continue paying a fee for using the land just like the federal Government. The CSKT already doesn't pay property taxes on the KwaTaqNuk Resort casino, The Dam, a bank, evaro casino and bigarn casino, Marinas and office buildings. Any less payment to Lake County must be subsidized by the residents. Maybe the US Government should continue paying Lake County residents for the use of the land. Actually since the land and casinos, etc. are held in trusts by the US Government and the US government made the Hellgate Treaty with the native americans ( not the Lake County residents) the government should pay the property taxes That CSKT are not paying. I don't know the language of the treaty but its not fair not paying taxes on commercial enterprises. In the 1800's this couldn't have been the intent of the treaty.

Thanks for listening,

Bob Kembel

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 5:22 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Willis

Last Name (required)<br />  
Sasse

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Kalispell

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I think Sanders and Lake county are entitled to tax the property the same as any other property.  
Not slowly decrease and end up being tax exempt.  
Thank you

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## No to CSKT bison range

1 message

---

**Bret Richardson** [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 11, 2016 at 7:38 PM

To: "BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com" <BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com>

Because of CSKT, poor history of management I would vote no to turning management over to CSKT. Too often it create yet another federal or state subsidized program after their management fails.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sun, Jun 12, 2016 at 2:46 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Kim

Last Name (required)<br />  
Swaney

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Elmo

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

To allow us to take care of what is sacred to us here on the Flathead Reservation would truly be an honor. Having the land held in trust for CSKT will help heal the government's disembowelment done in 1908.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sun, Jun 12, 2016 at 9:34 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Lillis

Last Name (required)<br />

Waylett

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Decatur

State<br />

Texas

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Having read the draft bill, I can think of no reason why any legislator would oppose this transfer. I am a tribal member and understand the history of this unlawful land-taking from my ancestors. It is our land that was set aside in 1908 without the consent of our people and in violation of the Treaty 1855. It has taken this long period of frustrated efforts to make the transfer of it back to our people and we have demonstrated over and over again that we have the means, capacity and system of governance to capably handle the National Bison Range. The fact that the two counties have been compensated for the park being there is completely without logic. Their county lines were also established across our reservation in violation of our treaty, as the result of the unlawful Indian Homestead Act. It is time that counties be phased out of the money paid for the "intrusion" of the Bison Range on their lands. They do not lawfully own any lands on our reservation.

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 2:12 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
JoAnne

Last Name (required)<br />  
Grandstaff

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Browning

State<br />  
Mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

It only makes sense for the tribe to manage the herd of buffalo, bison, located within their treaty lands on the preserve. The Salish and Kootenai have lived alongside bison for millenia.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**Fwd: Bison Range**

1 message

---

To: bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 8:48 AM

resend

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2016 6:45:37 AM  
**Subject:** Bison Range

I am opposed to any transfer of the NATIONAL Bison Range to CSK. The FWS has done a great job managing the Range. These folks are the experts and should continue to manage the Range for ALL the People. This is a NATIONAL range and belongs to all of us. Do Not take the Range out of the hands of the very capable hands of FWS. Toni Burton, Polson, Montana



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 12:27 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Mary

Last Name (required)<br />

Kelly

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I want to applaud the Tribe and our government for putting together this proposal and for working together to ensure that there is a good working relationship and also a guarantee that the National Bison Range will continue to exist. I am a Montanan by birth and have also lived on the Reservation, in Lonepine, for 10 years and have many friends there. My daughter also works in Polson as a Special Education teacher and has a good working relationship with the Tribe and plans for future involvement with them in Special Olympics and other areas of disability needs. I have a strong emotional attachment to the Bison Range and have visited it my whole life. It is a very special place for my family and we will drive through it many times each year, taking a lunch, stopping at the top, and slowly savoring every thing we can while we drive the upper loop and along the bottom, looking for bison, antelope, sheep, coyote, bear, deer, bull elk with their huge antlers, bitterroots, birds. So my concern is that I will continue to be able to enjoy this special place. I realize that funding will probably be an issue, but please put an emphasis on the ability for people like myself to continue to have access to this special place. Thank you, Mary Kelly

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 12:55 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

June

Last Name (required)<br />

McDonald

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Ronan

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Please do not allow this to become a race issue. The People of the CSKT have some of the brightest, dedicated, educated biologists and land managers in the country. Our hearts are close to the land and want to keep everything pristine for future generations.  
It's time.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 5:04 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Kelly

Last Name (required)<br />

Camel

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Yes, the Bison Range should be returned to the Tribal people it was taken from. Thank you for doing the right thing.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 11:30 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Toni

Last Name (required)<br />

Austad

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Lincoln

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I have the utmost respect for the CSKT. I believe you should have full control of the National Bison Range.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 5:18 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Jane

Last Name (required)<br />  
Clairmont

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Polson

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />  
This is an act I never thought I would live to see. It is time.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 2:29 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
David

Last Name (required)<br />  
Daniels

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Berkeley

State<br />  
CA

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

There are many historical injustices that cannot be remedied due to the passage of time or the "march of progress". But when opportunities do exist, they should be taken. For when people refuse to act on righting historical wrongs, they become complicit in the injustices of the past. Our country has an historical obligation to restore lands within the Flathead Indian Reservation to the Confederated Salish, Kootenai, and Pend O'reilles Tribes. Failure to act towards this end only perpetuates the harm and shame associated with federal policies that are best characterized as genocidal and racist.

The land contained within the National Bison Range, the waters that flow through it, the air above, and the minerals beneath the ground, rightfully belong to tribal people. The Indian people of western Montana have already ceded vast tracts of their historical lands. The Salish people had their Bitterroot Reservation lands blatantly stolen from them. The Homestead and Allotment Acts have illegitimately deprived the Salish and Kootenai people of property promised to their tribal members through the Hellgate Treaty of 1855. Repatriating the Bison Range to its rightful heirs is a minor, but significant step, towards creating a more just and equitable society for all Americans.

Most Americans are oblivious to the existence of the National Bison Range. But to people living in the Mission and Jocko Valleys of western Montana, the Bison Range is part of their heritage and landscape. There can be no question about rightful ownership. Granted, the federal government of the United States takes whatever it pleases, anywhere on this earth, and answers to no one to justify its actions. But insofar as public input is sought, and any semblance of right or wrong holds sway, the questions about ownership of the Bison Range is crystal clear. It belongs to the Tribes. The only real question is what role the Federal Fish & Wildlife Service will play as tenants at this facility and whether this federal agency can contain its non-tribal employees who seek to counter the legitimate claims of tribal governments as they seek to protect their own jobs and fan the flames of hatred and racism.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 5:20 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Philip

Last Name (required)<br />

Barney

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Polson

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The National Bison Range(NBR) is managed by the US FWS "for the benefit of PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS". Giving ownership of the NBR to the CSK Tribe would by definition set a precedent of giving a federal wildlife refuge to a non-governmental entity. The NBR is a unique resource for MONTana and the world. It is far more than just bison. Bighorn sheep, whitetail deer, mule deer, antelope and elk and numerous bird species can also be viewed in a 2 hour drive. Only by maintaining federal ownership and management can this opportunity be preserved. Tribal ownership of the Mission Mountain Wilderness has resulted in restrictions on recreation for non-tribal members. Furthermore, there is no evidence that the tribe has management expertise equivalent to the FWS, or that Tribal ownership would be in the public interest. It appears the CSK Tribe is seeking ownership of additional land and the economic benefit of a publicly owned resource at the long term expense of the people of Montana and the US. I strongly oppose this proposed transfer of NBR ownership to the CSK Tribe.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 9:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Carolyn

Last Name (required)<br />

Rusche

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Shepherd

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I think that it is a good idea for local control and that this proposed legislation is a great idea.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 17, 2016 at 10:56 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
james

Last Name (required)<br />  
shelden

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
missoula

State<br />  
mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I am president of the Lake Missoula Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute. This is a private non-profit that works with the US Park Service to develop and promote the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.

The site of the Bison Range is a natural to be a major node and visitor magnet along this trail. At this time of defining the future of the Bison range the time is right to include some verbage recognizing this and authorizing the Bison Range Manager to cooperate and coordinate with the Park Service to the extent they desire and according to whatever agreements are necessary. Including this authorization at the start will recognize the importance of this site to both efforts and save time and effort in accomplishing this service to both publics.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 17, 2016 at 7:28 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
karen

Last Name (required)<br />  
ryan

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Ronan

State<br />  
Montana, USA

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />  
I support the tribe!

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## Bison Range Proposal

1 message

---

Dale Ferguson <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Jun 18, 2016 at 12:29 AM

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

Transferring the Bison Range to CSKT is a proposal that is long overdue. About ten years ago, or more, someone suggested in a letter to the editor that we move the National Bison Range off the Flathead Reservation, split the herd, and give the present facilities to the Tribes.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) has strongly opposed any tribal involvement at the Bison Range. In my opinion, based on some of their past comments, they are really concerned about their jobs, and rightly so. Splitting the herd should solve that problem.

Surely, somewhere in Montana, are a few square miles of Federal land that would make a suitable bison range. Then we maybe could have a real wildlife refuge. By no stretch of the imagination could the present Range be called a wildlife refuge. The bison are herded, fenced, and even have their own Medicare program. It's a government-operated ranch.

The Tribes claim that their heritage and experience qualifies them to manage Bison. OK, let them demonstrate it! Maybe PEER and the Tribes could compete to see who is more environmentally responsible.

I proposed this idea last February and sent it to several individuals and groups. The only response I got was from Senator Daines, and he likes the idea.

Dale P. Ferguson

[REDACTED]  
Polson, MT  
[REDACTED]



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 9:46 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Cindy

Last Name (required)<br />  
Bras-Benson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Hot Springs

State<br />  
[REDACTED]

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Proposed legislation to restore the lands of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Indian Reservation would be a good management decision for the National Bison Range, CSKT, Montana, and others who care about this national treasure. The tribes should have the long over due honor of managing this national site for all of the reasons listed in the draft legislation especially the fact that the Bison Range was carved out of the reservation without permission those many years ago. Bison are a part of the history of tribes of this area. It is time to put the tribes in the position of management which they have proven they are very capable of doing.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## Bison Range

1 message

---

Cynthia Bras <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 10:12 AM

Reply-To [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

The proposed legislation to restore the lands of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Indian Reservation is a long over-due good management decision for the Bison Range, CSKT, and others for the reasons listed in Section 3 of the bill. Bison are a traditional and religious part of the history of the tribes of this area. The land was carved out of the reservation without permission. The tribes should have the honor, have a right, and are very capable of managing the Bison Range. The tribes have been very successful as managers of other entities and have a very competent Wildlife Staff that can oversee and manage the Bison Range.

Thank you for your time.

*You do not cease to fish because you get old, You get old because you cease to fish!* unknown

Cindy Bras-Benson





Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 10:10 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Chauncey

Last Name (required)<br />  
Means

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Polson

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I fully support the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes taking over the Bison Range.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 4:51 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Mary

Last Name (required)<br />  
Stranahan

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Arlee

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Thank you Sally Jewel for igniting this action and thank you CSKT for being so patient. It is past due you took over the management of the Bison Range.

Mary Stranahan  
Good Works Ventures  
High Stakes Foundation

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 5:34 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Paul

Last Name (required)<br />  
Lodge

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
St. Ignatius

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

NO!... I have cherished memories of seeing the White Buffalo (Big Medicine) in the 50's, and numerous visited with friends and family since. I strongly oppose ANYTHING with potential of reducing, diminishing or removing say in the continued used by ALL citizens of the United States as a whole. This priceless gem is for everyone, not for any one group or interest to have a power to effect any future determinations which may not always be to the benefit and greater good of the total population. Be it the Nature Conservatory, or other willing or qualified organizations, the ultimate ownership should remain with the citizens as a whole.

Also, who pray tell is the ultimate source of funding for the current revenue-sharing losses (for a limited time)? We will be paying ourselves or a short term loss? To much smoke on numerous details here.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

---

**transfer**

1 message

---

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com

Wed, Jun 22, 2016 at 8:47 AM

I vehemently oppose the transfer of the NATIONAL Bison Range to CSKT. This Range is part of the NATIONAL Refuge System and is currently maintained by very competent federal employees and should not be transferred to CSKT. The bison never roamed freely in this area and the fact that many many years ago one Tribal member and Failed to raise bison here does not make it part of the Tribes' cultural heritage. The Bison Range is for ALL the people and should stay that way. Toni Burton, Polson



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jun 22, 2016 at 3:22 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Maylinn

Last Name (required)<br />

smith

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Arlee

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I support the draft legislation. It recognizes the capabilities of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to effectively management the National Bison Range. Return this land to tribal control is not only the right thing to do but it would also recognize the debt owed to the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille people for protecting the bison from extinction more than 100 years ago. This is the type of long range management skills need for conservation purposes. As a resident of the Flathead for more than two decades I have witnessed the Tribes' ability to work with a variety of interests and addresses the legitimate concerns of both the Indians and non-Indians residing on the reservation. The Tribes are an excellent example of how local governmental control can effectively be utilized for conservation and preservation of programs within their area of influence. It is time to more this restoration project forward.

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 23, 2016 at 2:23 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Gordon

Last Name (required)<br />

Warrington

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Saint Ignatius

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

National Bison Range draft bill – Suggested addition to said bill

Findings:

There are unique natural geomorphic features [strand (shore) lines, erratic's, etc.] created by the presence of the Ice Age Glacial Lake Missoula that were documented by J. T. Pardee in 1910 and again in 1942.

Purpose:

To protect the geomorphic and geologic features for observation, instruction and research;

Reference:

Pardee, J.T. 1910. The Glacial Lake Missoula. The Journal of Geology, Vol. 18, No. 4 (May-June., 1910), pp. 376-386.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30079348?origin=JSTOR-pdf>

Pardee, J.T., 1942. Unusual Currents in Glacial Lake Missoula, Montana. Bulletin of the Geological Society of America, Vol. 53, pp. 1569-1600 Nov 1, 1942.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

**From:** Gale Decker [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2016 2:39 PM

**To:** [BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com).

**Cc:** [REDACTED].

**Subject:** Public comment on National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act of 2016

June 23, 2016

I have read the Draft Bill that would “restore the lands of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation, and related purposes,” and would like the comment on the draft bill.

At this time, I am opposed to this transfer. I will summarize the reasons behind my opposition briefly in the bullet points below. I regret that the Tribal Council elected not to include Lake County in discussions leading to the drafting of the restoration legislation. The National Bison Range is a county, state and national treasure and all governments and all people should be provided the ability to have input into a potential transfer.

My opposition to the transfer at this time includes the following points:

- The inability to negotiate a funding agreement between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the CSKT after several years of work appears to be a tactic employed by the CSKT to drive FWS to the transfer offer. A February 13, 2016 article in the Daily Missoulian states that one reason for the offer of potential transfer was the “elusive nature of workable annual funding agreements that can survive both on the ground and in the courts.” An unwillingness to negotiate an agreement should not be the primary driver of the transfer.
- Lake County has been disenfranchised from the transfer discussions from the onset. The CSKT have not invited Lake County to the table to discuss and provide input into the transfer talk. When the Lake County Commissioners inquired as to the state of the transfer talks at our Quarterly Meeting with the Tribal Council on April 20, 2016, we were told we would be provided the details when the transfer was completed.
- Who are the members of the “working group” that has been established to facilitate the transfer of the NBR to the CSKT? Lake County and other residents have been told that this group has been established, but only the CSKT appear to have knowledge of who comprises this “group.” Even after a meeting in the Commissioners’ Chambers on June 20<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the CSKT, it is still unclear as to who composes the “working group.”
- The Draft Bill carries no provisions as to who will manage the Ninepipes, Pablo, and Swan Wildlife Refuges in Lake County that are currently managed by FWS employees headquartered at the NBR, but media reports have made it clear that the other refuges are not part of the transfer.
- The status of current FWS employees at the NBR has not been addressed. The same Missoulian article referred to above, quotes a FWS administrator as saying, “the Bison Range employees would remain valued employees of the Service.” The spokesperson declined to answer further questions about staffing. Current employees of the NBR need to know specifically what the plans for their continued employment with FWS are.
- I have serious concerns about the CSKT’s ability to manage noxious weeds if a transfer takes place. Currently, the NBR has an extensive and comprehensive invasive plant control program in

place. The CSKT, along with Lake County, have not proven capable of managing noxious weeds on significant portions of their lands. It has been publicly stated by a tribal representative that the Tribe does not have the resources to manage noxious weeds on property it currently manages, how will CSKT have the capacity to manage noxious weeds on an additional 18,000 acres?

- The CSKT have stated that they will not pursue funding from outside sources to help with the current yearly funding amount of \$737,000 to manage the NBR. What guarantees will be put in place to assure that the CSKT funds the NBR at its current level and provide for future increases that will be necessary?
- Pages four and five of the draft bill describes a plan devised to mitigate the revenue lost by Lake and Sander's counties if a transfer is to occur. The draft bill states that the Secretary (of the Interior) will make the payments. Again, our county had no input into this plan or discussion. My position is that any plan to mitigate revenue loss to our county should have been provided to us for comment previous to the drafting of the bill. Again, a Missoulian article states that the Tribe believes the lost revenue amount to Lake County to be about \$8,000. Lake County financial records show that the County receives \$37,218 annually through the Federal Refuge Revenue Sharing Act for the NBR and three other much smaller refuges in Lake County. The Tribes have been unable to explain to Lake County how the \$8,000 amount was determined.
- At what level will maintenance of the NBR Visitor Center, road through the range, and historical and geological informational sites be maintained? The Tribe has elected to do little trail and signage maintenance, or wildfire mitigation work in the Mission Mountain Wilderness Area. Will the same approach be taken with management of the NBR? The draft bill provides for public access to the range if the transfer should occur, but at what level will the public be able to access and enjoy the range?
- The draft bill makes no mention of repayment by the CSKT of dollars received previously for the land of the NBR. Should the Tribe get the NBR land and assets (including the bison herd), and also keep the money they received?
- The only platform established for public comment on the transfer has been a site created by CSKT. This site has a disclaimer saying that all comments may not be made public, and previous comments cannot be accessed. The FWS has not solicited, nor desired, any public comment on the potential transfer. What assurances are in place to make sure that all public comments are heard and are available to other members of the public?

I desire a strong and comprehensive working relationship with the CSKT. I ask that we be included in any further discussions of transfer of management of the NBR to your government. As an elected representative of our citizens I cannot sit on the sidelines as federal agencies transfer ownership of significant Lake County lands to the CSKT with no loss of revenue mitigation to our county.

Lake County Commissioner Gale Decker



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 23, 2016 at 5:44 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Alice

Last Name (required)<br />

Cochrane

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Kalispell

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The Nation Bison Range should not be given to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes under any circumstances. This is a national park for our nation and should not be under any other control. This bill must not pass.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jun 23, 2016 at 7:06 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

James

Last Name (required)<br />

Jensen

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Helena

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The Montana Environmental Information Center wishes to respectfully support the proposed legislation. Any request for help MEIC can provide will be favorably received.

James D. Jensen  
Executive Director

Montana Environmental Information Center

[REDACTED]  
[www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org)

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 11:38 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Clinton

Last Name (required)<br />  
Nagel

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Bozeman

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft legislation designed to transfer the National Bison Range (NBR) from the ownership of the Federal Government as managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). I am extremely concerned about the future of this land, this herd of bison, and the precedent which would be set if this transfer were to take place. I have read the draft legislation and I find that there are some serious omissions.

But before I get into those, I would like to criticize the length of the comment period and the way the public release announcement was made. Two weeks' time is not enough for the public to be aware of this proposed action, let alone even to respond to this draft legislation. I believe there is a thinking out there that this issue has been in the public's consciousness for some time and that they are aware of the issue. Well, that may be true in Missoula or in the Flathead Region of Montana, but I can assure you that that is not the case statewide, let alone across the country. Do I need to remind all involved that the NBR is a national treasure, not just for those of us within Montana? This land and this herd belong to the people of the United States. They have a right to comment on this proposed action as it is their taxpayer dollars which have helped shape, protect, and manage this land of the National Wildlife Refuge System over the past 108 years. I strongly urge the comment period be greatly extended in time and in scope before any further action is taken.

The first overwhelming concern I have, in spite of the statements to the contrary contained in the draft legislation, is the precedent setting tone of this action. Even though Section 4, line (l) states the following:

"The provisions of this Act are uniquely suited to address the distinct circumstances, facts, history, and relationships involved with the subject bison, lands and Tribes. These provisions are not intended, and shall not be interpreted, as precedent for any other situation regarding federal properties or facilities."

This does not mean this Act won't be precedent setting or that it won't be used for precedent use in the future. We should know by now that "good intentions" gets us "nowhere" and that the phrase "shall not" doesn't mean that "it won't be." There is no guarantee that other causes or actions won't be tried by others for other reasons. The truth be known, if it has been done once, it will be tried again. There is no way around that fact and to state otherwise is just wishful thinking. Other tribes, activists, or even by other Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could explore this option in the future.

Another omission is the amount of money which has already been spent by the Federal Government on the land, the herd, the

infrastructure improvements over the 108 years of ownership, and the annual costs of operation and maintenance by the American taxpayer over these past 108 years. How are these costs recouped? Or are they? This is a total land and money giveaway costing the American taxpayer multi-million dollars. Who knows how much? The American people need to know: What is to become of their investment?

Omission #2 is perhaps the saddest or most important to me. What is to become of the herd itself? We are talking about living and iconic creatures of this land that have perhaps a more pure genetic makeup than ourselves. This is the real danger of the land and bison transfer. This is why the need for the continuation of the NBR exists. Even though the population numbers of bison is obviously far greater today than it was during the time of the NBR's establishment, it is the genetic makeup of this species or that of any other species that really determines the health and diversity of that species. And this reason alone justifies the need for the continuation of the NBR. The draft legislation does not provide details of what is to become of the bison herd or any other species contained within the borders of the NBR. What is to become of the research done on the genetics of this herd? Will it continue? What will happen with the documentation of what has already been done? There are too many questions and not enough answers contained within the draft legislation.

Another omission is what happens when and after the federal dollars run out. It states within the legislation that the Federal Government will not subsidize the operation and maintenance of the NBR. This means that the CSKT will have to fund the management and operation of this land and of this herd itself. How is that going to be accomplished? The draft legislation says nothing at all about this. How the funding of this work will be continued and from what source this funding will be derived from will determine what this land and this herd will look like in the future. Again, the draft legislation says nothing at all about this future outlook.

In spite of what is said within the draft proposal, there is no assurance that any of these proposed intentions can or will be met. There is no documentation that provides confidence that any of these questions have even been thoughtfully addressed. There is no documentation to suggest the future of the land. Will there be other construction taking place on the land that may be counter to the mission at hand? Again, a lot more questions and fewer answers are how I would describe this draft legislation. And it is for this reason and for the reasons stated above that I strongly urge a "no" vote on this proposal. The proposal is incomplete. The USFWS must do an Environmental Impact Statement as it is the requirement by law to do so. Perhaps then a lot more answers will be forthcoming.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 1:50 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Michael

Last Name (required)<br />  
Billington

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Hot Springs

State<br />  
Montana (USA)

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

### Becoming Sovereign

Driving by a wheat field near one of my hometowns, I saw a cloud of dust floating through the air. It was the children's inheritance. A tractor was seeding wheat, an annual crop. For over 80 years this piece of land was seeded in annual crops, every year a cloud of the children's inheritance was lost to the wind. It's like we pretend that the dust bowl didn't happen. That Farmer needed to plant wheat so he could feed his family. It's not that the wheat itself was going to his family, the wheat was destined to be sold on the global trade market. He needed to sell the 80 acres of wheat to pay off the seed and tractor loans so he could hopefully put away enough dollar bills to pay for the land taxes and his families needs. Every year looked like this, all of the effort he put in to grow crops and make money that would be lost to the wind, just like the soil. If 80 years ago, when that land was first being plowed, that person driving the tractor wasn't in a choke hold to pay off outstanding debts then they would have the luxury of asking "what crops can I plant this year for the years to come?" If someone had asked that question and answered it then today the current farmer would not have to work tirelessly to squeeze another annual crop out of the weary soil. The farmer of today would instead have an abundant landscape full of 80 year old trees that built soil instead of lost it. The farmer of today would be tending to the gift of his predecessors as opposed to stealing the gifts of his followers.

Indigenous people have always been sovereign. The life sustaining provisions of indigenous communities had to come from their own hands or be obtained by trading with goods gathered and crafted by their own hands. There was no other option, if you didn't provide for yourselves then no one else would. The world today is very different.

To participate in the economy you have to provide for others or else you won't get any money. If you don't trade time, goods, or services for money then you will have no money for food, water, or shelter. In some cases people receive money without exchanging time, goods, or services because they are considered to be in need of external support. In either situation there is no motivation to provide for your own food, water, and shelter. The economy of the modern world is based on giving away your goods so that you can buy the goods that others are giving away. This undermines Sovereignty.

Outside forces have stolen the abilities of Tribal Nations to care for themselves, thier Sovereignty has been stolen. This is an unspeakable crime that is slowly coming to justice. Empowerment is a song being sang to the beat of the drum all across Indian Country today. Spiritual Sovereignty has kept indigenous communities alive and resilient to the onslaught of robbery and wrong doings that have been forced upon them. It is that Spiritual Sovereignty that is leading to the Physical Sovereignty the Tribal Nations of today.

Physical Sovereignty does not mean to exist as an island, it is quite the opposite. Physical Sovereignty, like Spiritual Sovereignty, is only possible through relations. Primarily with the Earth as the source of all provisions, Second with family as the source of strength and ability, and finally with extended communities as a source of that which cannot be obtained without

their support. Sovereignty means being responsible for your own needs and well being while taking care of the relationships that support you.

To improve the Sovereignty of the Selish, Qsanka, and Qlespe nations these three relations must be fortified. This writing is only intended to speak to the fortification of that primary relation, with the source of all Provisions, Earth. And food ways are the most intimate way of building relation with Earth.

When we go outside we build intimacy and relation with the environment by being in it. When we eat we build intimacy and relation with the environment by it being in us.

Buffalo have been a source of Spiritual and Physical Sovereignty for the Indigenous people of Turtle Island since time immemorial. To have the tribes gain responsibility over the bison range is to bring one of the oldest relations of Turtle Island back into right relation. Bison movements across the landscape, if responsibly guided, can regenerate landscape well being. I believe it is possible for the movements of the Bison to be used as a management tool to reestablish the once abundant traditional food plants of this reservation. If the tribes can effectively utilize Traditional Ecologic Knowledge as anecdotal evidence data to inform the land management strategies, something rarely employed by federal land management entities, then the well being of the landscape encompassed by the Bison Range could dramatically improve.

It makes sense for the tribes to maintain primary responsibility of the Bison based on there location on the reservation alone. If the time came, then the proper steps could be taken to migrate the Bison around the reservation to model there natural movement patterns.

This would be a massive step forward in the tribes pursuit to provide for its people. The well being of the economic and nutritional state of the Tribes people could improve dramatically as a result of this. This is a step towards Health and Sovereignty for the people who are inherently responsible for this landscape.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 1:53 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
David

Last Name (required)<br />  
Ronniger

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Hot Springs

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

In my humble opinion, if President Theodore Roosevelt authorized funding and agreed upon with the full senate and house of representatives in 1908 it is good enough for me.

If white people cannot understand the law of this they should look into there own hearts, as good neighbors we would see the truth in the matter. Let the people manage the Bison Range as it was promised in 1908. Its that simple.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 2:30 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
James

Last Name (required)<br />  
Rogers

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Polson

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />  
24 June, 2016

Dear Bison Range Working Group,

The Mission Mountain Audubon Society supports returning the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. This should have been done a long time ago.

The Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille, and Salish peoples clearly know how to manage bison and history is on their side; in fact, a tribal member is responsible for saving the original bison calves from the plains that grew into the herd we enjoy today. Always planning for seven generations ahead, the tribes have skillfully demonstrated that their thoughtful and sustainable stewardship of the land and its natural resources has made the Flathead Indian Reservation a great place to live for everyone, tribal and non-tribal people alike.

Indeed, the Bison Range is a popular wildlife watching destination that is frequented by many Mission Mountain Audubon members and we welcome the increased Tribal management of all of its flora and fauna. Significantly, the proposed legislation guarantees that public access will continue which is an important consideration to our membership.

But that's not the only reason. Mission Mountain Audubon applauds the Salish and Kootenai Tribes' reintroduction of the Trumpeter Swan. Just yesterday, for example, I helped with the release of six Trumpeter swans into the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to the Tribes' progressive conservation efforts, the Trumpeter population inhabiting the Flathead Indian Reservation has increased from zero to approximately 150 to 180 birds over the past 20 years. And not only did the Tribes successfully reintroduce the Peregrine Falcon, but they intend to bring back the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse once they have restored the appropriate habitat.

For thousands of years, the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai peoples have depended on the land for food, shelter, and inspiration. Although each of the tribes are culturally unique, they all share a strong spiritual connection to the environment including a deep respect for bison. A quick look at the map of the Flathead Indian Reservation shows four Conservation Areas dedicated to Bighorn Sheep, Elk, and Grizzly Bear, two Tribal Primitive Areas, and the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness that reveals their strong commitment to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources as well as the

preservation of their cultures.

Plainly put, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have earned the right to manage the bison. Furthermore, this an opportunity to correct a historic injustice when land from the Flathead Indian Reservation was taken- without their consent- to create the Bison Range. Now is the time to makes things right.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Rogers

President, Mission Mountain Audubon

Polson, MT

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## National Bison Range

1 message

Joyce Evelyn <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 3:27 PM

To: "bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com" <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

Comment : The National Bison Range is wonderfully managed by the U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service. The land which the National Bison Range is located was purchased twice by the Federal Government from the CSKT's. It was first purchased in 1904 under the Allotment Act. The second payment came in 1971, when CSKT won its lawsuit in Federal U.S. Claims Court, Docket # 50233 and received an additional \$ 22,204,007 for the National Bison Range's 18,524 acres. By accepting this payment CSKT have abandoned any future claims to this land. How many times can you sell the same land?

The FWS has failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. This federal law requires FWS to analyze impacts of proposed actions, provide a range of alternatives, and fully inform the American Public of the impacts of the proposals. Among these impacts of a transfer, would be a permanent loss of tax income to Lake and Sanders Counties. FWS have failed to inform local county government and have conducted negotiations with CSKTs in secrecy. Any plans for transfer of management and lands conducted in secrecy have deprived the public of it's lawful right to know about the future of the National Bison Range. Any plans for change need to be done in the public view and comply with all federal laws.

Bison have recently been declared the National Mammal. Lets keep the National Mammal in our National Bison Range.

David Kaestner and Joyce Evelyn

[REDACTED]

Heron, Montana [REDACTED]



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**(no subject)**

1 message

---

jeff <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 4:52 PM

To: "bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com" <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

I'm all for the tribes to take over management!

Jeff Morrow

Niarada



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 5:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Deena

Last Name (required)<br />

Mansour

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am writing in support of the draft legislation to restore the lands of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the benefit of the Confederated and Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

In my work at the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana, I bring international visitors to Montana to learn best practices in a variety of areas, including natural resources. The multi-million dollar grants I generate to support our local communities hinge on the ability to provide substantive learning experiences. CSKT is at the centerpiece of my programming due to the Tribes' established track record of achievement: not only in regard to natural resource management, but in a variety of areas, including its tribal college, its effective system of governance, and its ability to build relationships with communities and other governments. We have brought hundreds of professionals and students from around the world to learn about the good work that the Tribes have done and continue to do. Their forward-thinking planning and care for the land is particularly evident in their protection of wilderness areas. They are truly a People of Vision.

The achievements of CSKT have had a significant impact on a range of people, from cabinet level Cambodian government officials to young students advocating for good governance and natural resource protection. Many of these students have traveled to the U.S. under the White House Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). These young leaders are in part chosen for their potential to drive positive change in their communities for decades to come. Bringing them to a Bison Range under local control, demonstrating positive government relationships, and good stewardship of wildlife and natural resources will truly make a global impact. I look forward to that day.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jun 24, 2016 at 11:22 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Stephany

Last Name (required)<br />

Seay

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Moiese

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I am in complete solidarity with the CSKT and fully support the transfer of the National Bison Range from federal to Tribal hands. I visit the bison range often in the summer. I have a full view from where I live, and from where I work. That is meaningless to the whole, but important to me, and this transfer is important beyond words. This is a sacred place, and this endeavor to return these lands, and the buffalo, to the Tribes has been a long, long time coming. This should not even be a question. It is the right thing to do. Period. I want to be kept informed, so please keep me updated. To the CSKT: please contact me if you need any support. Thank you.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 5, 2016 at 12:39 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jim

Last Name (required)<br />

Taylor

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I am not a tribal member, but I worked for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for 9 years, from 1996 until 2005, when I left the Tribes for a teaching position at the University of Montana School of Law. While working for the Tribes, I ran the Tribal Defenders Office, a combination legal services and public defender office. It was one of the best and most collegial working experiences I have ever had. During the 9 years I ran the Tribal Defenders Office, I was given complete autonomy in how it operated. I never had a Tribal Council member try to influence the decisions we made, even though we did many high profile and difficult cases. I was always treated fairly by the Tribal Council, the Tribal Courts, and other employees that were tribal members. I was never judged on whether I was a tribal member, but instead on whether I was honest, worked hard, and was competent at my job. Any intimation or speculation that the Tribes do not treat non-member employees fairly is without merit.

I also have had the opportunity to observe how the various Tribal departments operate within CSKT, and they compare very favorably with any other governmental agency I have seen, either state or federal. The CSKT departments that deal with natural resources, forestry and wildlife have been exceptional in their performance. I recently had the opportunity to work with the CSKT Legal Department, and CSKT Fish and Game officials in coordinating a presentation for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks hunter education instructors, and I was impressed the expertise and professionalism of the CSKT officials.

I have no reservations about turning the bison range management back to the CSKT. They certainly have the technical expertise to carry out the mission. There are no legitimate concerns about how they treat non-member employees. Without the work of the Tribes and tribal members, we would not have the bison herd that is there now. Especially given the nature of the historical relationship between the federal and state governments with the CSKT, returning the management of the bison to them is the right thing to do.

Thank you for considering my comments.



---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 6, 2016 at 7:21 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
PAUL

Last Name (required)<br />  
OKERBERG

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />  
Whitefish

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

As presented, I do not believe this is a good idea without a lot more conditional clauses added. I do not understand why there is this sudden shift by FWS. It has been just a short time ago (2007-2008) wherein there were considerable hostilities between FWS and CSKT on their agreement (or lack thereof) and respective roles of managing NBRC. And a lot of those hostilities did not foster a good image or promise for good management of NBRC. Its too special a place and my fear is that it will not thrive as it has for decades and become nothing more than a petting zoo with high entrance fees. This is nothing against CSKT - they have proven to be competent and well organized with respect to tribal interests and ownership in many arenas.

This draft legislation is weak and does nothing to provide safeguards for such an important piece of just not tribal history; but of national pride and the integrity and long-time preservation of NBRC itself. I do not buy that FWS is initiating this out of concern for tribal self-governance or conserving their limited resources. Having worked for the government and the Department of Interior for a number of years, there are a lot of questions unanswered, unknowns, etc and no assurances that NBRC held in trust can be trusted.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 7, 2016 at 3:17 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Alice

Last Name (required)<br />

Cochrane

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Kalispell

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

As a citizen of the state of Montana I do not agree with or support the decision to transfer the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe. The National Bison Range is a national range for the national public owned and controlled since 1908. It is wrong to take it from the citizens of the U.S. and give it to an individual group. It should continue to belong to all our people.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**bison range**

1 message

---

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jul 8, 2016 at 10:23 AM

To: bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com

The NATIONAL Bison Range at Moise is one of the 562 Refuges within the USA managed by the USFWS. The 18,500 acre Range was purchased in 1908 for \$50,000 at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt in order to create the National Bison Range. This was considered fair market value at the time. 34 head of bison were purchased by the American Bison Society from the Conrad Estate in Kalispell. Additional bison were donated after that time. The Range was stocked with 37-40 head in 1909.

The Tribe sued in 1972 for more money for the purchase of the Range and was eventually awarded \$6 million plus interest. Much of the money was distributed to the tribal residents on the Reservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have diligently and very successfully managed the Range for over 90 years. The Bison Range is an integral member of the NATIONAL Wildlife Refuge System and favorite destination for tourists and local residents. Known as a Bison Range it is also home to Pronghorn, Elk, Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Black Bear, Mountain Lions, Bighorn Sheep, Coyotes and other small mammals and wild birds.

The Refuge is for ALL the people of the United States of America and visitors to our Country. The budget for the Department of Interior in 2016 is 13.4 Billion dollars of which 2.9 Billion is designated for the Fish and Wildlife Service. To suggest that the American tax payer would save a guesstimated \$750,000.00-1 Million dollars by giving up the Range is ludicrous. Any monies "saved" would certainly be used elsewhere within the USFWS system. Ultimately though a person cannot ever put a dollar amount as to the value of the Range in the minds and hearts of the American People. This Range should never be sold/bargained or given away to any other entity including the SK&C. The Tribe has actually been compensated twice for the property and has no legitimate claim to the land. In my opinion turning over the management of this Refuge and holding it "in trust" for the Tribe would be doing a great injustice to the American People and to the National Bison Range.



---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 8, 2016 at 10:19 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Victoria

Last Name (required)<br />  
Hitchcock

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
ronan

State<br />  
mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Once again I am disappointed by the legislation the tribes propose in some important matters. Although I think it is very good the tribes will getting back this stolen part of their reservation and plan on continuing with the protection and preservation of the bison and other wildlife as the state has done for the last 108 yrs. I think the opportunity this presents for the tribal members needs to be clarified as well. This legislation does not include and financial information except to state it will no longer be receiving and federal funds in which to manage it according to the dictates of those who stold it in the first place. This is highly unusual. The tribal members have the rt to know how it will be funded. What profits may b expected from it. What potential benefits will they now be able to enjoy from the return of these lands? Will it be protected from mining interests? Can it be enlarged to incorporate a breeding program to greatly enlarge the herd with the addition of Yellowstone prime breeding stillock which would refresh the available generic material to eventually be able to provide bison meat to the tribal people thereby restoring sumthing of vital importance to the tribal people that was also stolen from them. Their most important food source along with many other needs which the bison provided for them since time immemorial. All sovereign nations must first be able to feed itself

And secondly must be able to deal with its enemies in a timely manner. The fact that the 'tribes' have allowed any members of 'per' and ' the United Clans of america' to reside within the exterior bounds of this reservation when their treaty of Hellgate clearly give them the power to evict any such persons. To disallow their entrance completely. And to expect the u.s. gov. To assist them in dealing with all outside aggressive forces is known to all and yet never used . id like to know how and why this is going on. Who- what attorneys- r refusing to protect the tribes? When that is the number one job of the tribal members elected representatives and their employees such as atilomeys. And everyone who is employed by the tribes .

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sun, Jul 10, 2016 at 9:32 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Harold

Last Name (required)<br />

Johnson

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Plentywood

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am against the transfer of public land to a private entity (the tribe in question). This is public land that has essentially been paid for twice with tax payer dollars and put aside for the enjoyment of all. Giving this land to the tribes, or even selling it to them, would be an injustice to all.

Be it a reservation system, or a group supported by millionaires dollars, or a special interest group, privatizing public land is a bad thing. I do not believe the Salish and Kootenai Tribes will manage the land for the benefit of the wildlife or the public.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Sun, Jul 10, 2016 at 4:05 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Alvina

Last Name (required)<br />  
Teigen

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Ronan

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I don't think the council should have anything cause they ran down Blue Bay and Hot Springs bath house. Watch we probably won't get any more per-capta in the future, cause Kerr Dam. They bought the Kerr Dam when it was run down. They sure make a lot of sence. Where's our \$10,000.00 in the councilmans pocket. We would be a rich tribe if they knew how to make the casino's pay. for everything plus our per-capta . The council should serve two terms and let the younger generation run for councilman, and serve two years.. The councilman get new cars, new houses. And there ones one councilman had skc housing fix his house..

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 8:36 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Rex

Last Name (required)<br />

smith

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Eureka

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

leave the range alone, I do not trust the tribe to manage the bison. This range and the Bison belongs to everyone, not just the tribe.. HANDS OFF

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 10:26 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Whisper

Last Name (required)<br />

Camel-Means

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Polson

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am in favor of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes assuming responsibility for the management of the National Bison Range. CSKT is entirely capable of managing this refuge in a holistic manner that includes CSKT culture and Tribal views, sound and current biological practices and protections, and outreach activities with information that is place based and relevant to CSKT's relationship to bison. I think this plan has wording that does a good job of conveying the ability of the Tribes to manage this resource, as well as conveying the desire to make changes that are appropriate to the successful future of the range and public access. I hope to see this transfer happen in 2016.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
William

Last Name (required)<br />  
Hays

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Shelby

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The Federal Government hasn't been proven to be a good steward of the land. The Aboriginal tribes have demonstrated that they are terrible caretakers of bison herds in Montana. Best we take the land back from the U. S. Government and let the Indians do their 'thing' on their reservations.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:06 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Dennis

Last Name (required)<br />  
Fyler

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Judith Gap

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I see no reason not to pass this. The tribe is very capable of over seeing this land and wildlife.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Benny

Last Name (required)<br />

Lewis

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Laurel

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I would agree to this if we put a trial time frame on it, say a 5 year period.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:09 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Mark

Last Name (required)<br />  
Palen

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Just as long as common sense and common civility prevail and not somebody getting a HUGE "payday", things should work out!

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:13 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Cindi

Last Name (required)<br />

Laukes

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am in full support of CSKT management of the Bison Range, in light of the Tribe's time-honored care and respect for the bison, and cultural significance to the CSKT people. Thank you for allowing for public comment.

~

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:28 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
James

Last Name (required)<br />  
Johnson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Brunswick

State<br />  
GA

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

This land should in no way be put under federal regulation. I have received too many emails saying Obama is taking Federal control over different lands throughout the country. That is NOT his place or business to do! The lands should ALL be left as they are. Obama is a thief and a traitor to America!!!

Angry Patriot,  
James Johnson

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:45 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Gayle

Last Name (required)<br />

Siemers

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Polson

State<br />

Mt

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Thank you for reaching out to inform me of this meeting and your presence there. I would like to attend and comment but due to being employed at SKC I feel I cannot comment without having repercussions taken against me. I am a firm believer that this tribe is one of the finest and best educated tribe that I have witnessed. They are progressing in the right direction. The organization and management of entities that I've witnessed is still not acceptable in present day economies. I would hope that the Bison range is kept at its present modus operandi and that a joint board operates this if there is to be any change.

Thank you for your service Ryan

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:49 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Robert

Last Name (required)<br />  
Schweitzer

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
I believe CSKT can manage the Bison Range very well. Let's let them do it.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:56 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Louie

Last Name (required)<br />  
Sharp

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Billings

State<br />  
Mt.

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I don't support the transfer of public lands or public historical land marks to the Confederate Salish Kootenai tribes. Teddy created these lands for all Americans to enjoy. We pay for the maintenance and improvements of these lands with our taxes. The Indian tribes would lock these lands up and deny access to the general public. I have driven through many of the reservations in this State and my observation has been that they let everything run down with little or know maintenance or improvements.

The United States Government has done both the tribes and the American public a disservice by with their implementation of the so called "special relationship" with our Native American brothers and Sisters. The massive Government subsidizing of all the Native Americans to force them to assimilate into our ancestral culture has been a disaster. They exhibit no motivation to lift themselves out of poverty or ignorance.

It's true. The treaties we made with the N.A. have been broken and the special interest land barons of the 1800's took advantage of their lack of understanding and cultural misconception of land ownership but Public Lands are just that "Public Lands". They were established to be enjoyed by all of the American general public. Again! I do not support the transfer of these public.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Bob

Last Name (required)<br />  
Petersen

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Evergreen

State<br />  
Mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I'm in favor of putting Bison back on the land whenever and wherever possible and the First Nations should be the stewards of these Bison. Fish and Game, whether State or Federal Agency have mismanaged these magnificent animals. The health of the Bison herd is an excellent predictor of the health of our Nation. Thank You. BTW, this is not to shoulder the Nations with the burden of financing-The Federal government owes this much for the numerous broken treaties and violated Trust.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 3:11 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
John

Last Name (required)<br />  
Wachsmuth

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

If it isn't broken why fix it ? If the US FWS is doing a job managing the Bison Range why transfer the management responsibility ? This is huge responsibly of land and resource management authority that has been carried out by a US govt agency that has the man/ woman professional workforce to do so.  
If as I stated earlier there hasn't been a problem with management I see no reason to transfer that authority .

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 3:15 PM

Reply-To

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Bernard L

Last Name (required)<br />

Rathie

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Columbus

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Would be happy to find The American Bison under the watch of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 3:25 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Beverly

Last Name (required)<br />  
Hartline

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Transferring the Bison Range to the Cskt is an excellent idea. They have generations of experience managing bison and can be trusted to take excellent care of the land and the animals.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 4:39 PM

Reply-To [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Frank

Last Name (required)<br />

Chesarek

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

Billings

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

While I can't really point to anything the federal government has managed well, the tribes have an even more dismal record. Perhaps we should leave things alone.

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 5:09 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Anthony

Last Name (required)<br />  
Reed

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I support the transfer of the National Bison Refuge to the tribes. I believe they have a positive track record managing wildlife on the reservation. It is my hope that if the tribe were to manage their own herd, it would in turn ease hunting pressure from the Yellowstone bison herd, who are desperately in need of protection.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 5:19 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Ruth

Last Name (required)<br />

Swaney

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

St. Ignatius

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I support the proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to transfer ownership and control of the National Bison Range (NBR) to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes) of the Flathead Nation.

The Tribes enjoyed centuries of existence supported by hunting bison as evidenced by their expeditions east of the Continental Divide. After the bison population began declining, tribal members began managing bison on the Flathead Reservation with the founding of a herd in the late 1800's. This herd, which later came into the ownership of Miche! Pablo and then jointly owned with Charles Allard, is the genetic foundation for the bison herd in Yellowstone Park and the National Bison Range.

The conveyance of the NBR land back to the Tribes will make right a century of wrong. The NBR is located on original Flathead Reservation land, and had land allotments to Indians at the time the NBR was created. The Tribes would have been perfectly happy to maintain the Pablo-Allard herd had the Reservation not been illegally opened to allotment and then homesteading, which forced the sale of the herd due to the loss of open range. It is right and just that the 18,000+ acres of the NBR be restored to Tribal ownership.

In the modern day, the Tribes have ample capacity to manage the bison range as a wildlife refuge for all to enjoy. It is my hope that the Tribes will integrate the management of the Bison Range into all of its resource, cultural, and educational agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's emphasis is on migratory birds, not in fenced animal operations such as the NBR. Under the Tribes' management, I foresee vast improvements to the integration of resource management and a fuller, more complete historical and cultural perspective into how the Bison Range came to be and why bison are significant to our tribal people.

Based on the Tribes' past experience in managing operations at the NBR, there would need to be assurances of federal funding to carry out the mandate for continued public access and continued maintenance of the NBR as a wildlife refuge. The upkeep of fencing, roads and other infrastructure, range management, and wildland fire protection necessitate adequate resources in order to maintain the NBR in safe and adequate condition.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

---

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

---



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 6:16 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Ardelle

Last Name (required)<br />

Hart

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

Outlook

State<br />

Mt.

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

leave the Bison range as it is!! If you guys are to lazy to manage it turn it over to the state of Mt. not the tribes!!! They don't have a very good record of taking care of their own herds!! Remember the ones that died from no water last summer???? Sincerely, Ardelle

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 6:58 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Maureen

Last Name (required)<br />  
LaChere

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Helena

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The plan sounds reasonable to me. However, how about a trial run for 5 or 10 years to see how things work out for both sides. Then a permanent decision can be made after that. I just would hate that a plan will be signed off on, and then down the line either side is not satisfied with how things are working. Just seems like a lot less stressful way to work on this. This way the kinks, so to speak, are ironed out in the end. The native peoples are so connected to the land and the animals. Seems to me they would care for them with pride and dignity.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:19 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
John

Last Name (required)<br />  
Koslosky

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Great Falls

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The Bison Range should not be transferred to the Tribe. It is Public Land now and should remain that way. John Koslosky

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:24 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Ryan

Last Name (required)<br />  
Severson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Ronan

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />  
Please do not turn over the Bison Range over to any Tribal or other organization.  
Thank You

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:32 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Roy

Last Name (required)<br />  
Albertus

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Kalispell

State<br />  
MT>

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSFER. IT WAS BOUGHT TO BE HELD BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THAT IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:40 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
eruk

Last Name (required)<br />  
williamson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Poison

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I fish the Jocko river and Mission creek adjacent or within the Bison range. I am hoping that access will continue to these waters under the new proposal.

There are also sections that prohibit access. I am wondering if that will remain or be treated as other tribal/ trust lands and allow access.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:48 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
CB

Last Name (required)<br />  
McMillan

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Helena

State<br />  
Mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />  
It would be my wish for the CSKT to have total control over the said Bison Range

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 7:53 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
eruk

Last Name (required)<br />  
williamson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Polson

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Regarding the gentleman who wrote an an opinion piece in the Polson paper in opposition to the land transfer proposal. I do not have his range management credentials , but I disagree concerning management of Tribal/ Trust lands for wildlife habitat. I feel these properties are a treasure for those who value abundant, intact wildlife populations. Where grazing is allowed, the numbers of livestock and timing seems to be at least as good as federal lands that allow grazing. I don't know if this is relevant, but was mentioned in the opinion piece.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 9:05 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
KEITH

Last Name (required)<br />  
YANCY

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Frenchtown

State<br />  
MONTANA

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I do not think it,s a good idea so far they have not shown a good handle on the working of the range and people that come in contact with them on a one to one they come off rude and aloof and do not like to be troubled with questions about the range or the history of the range or their history with the range and you can feel the tension with the rangers it is uneasy at almost all times i take all my friends from out of state to see the range and all the critters that are their i almost always go in the old jeep so its open so the pictures are great even in the cold mos they just love it but some time the tension in the visitors center can be cut with KNIFE I SORRY JUST MY TAKE GOOD FAITH ONLY GOES SO FAR AND I THINK IF IT GOES THROUGH AS SOON AS IT DOES IT WILL GET WORSE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 9:08 PM

Reply-To [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jesse

Last Name (required)<br />

Pitt MD

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

No one with any experience with the tribe has any hope that this public input will have any effect on the transfer of control over the Bison Range. If the tribe were sincere in it's "endeavor," the meeting would be held in a more neutral, less hostile location. This action is just more vote pandering by Bullock & Obama & his Democrat party. The actions of F.A.R.M further illustrate this, as outside "dark" money was used to illegally fund & facilitate seizure of water rights from non-tribal members & affect those who do not even live on the reservation. The Democrat party used the very method of political funding of which they accuse Republicans. The governor's lapdog, Motl, "investigated" every Republican that he could, but found only one minor infraction by a lone Democrat. There was no significant punishment, as expected. This "survey" of public opinion is superficial & intended to not divulge the deep feelings of the public over how our public lands are being handled.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 10:02 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Dennis

Last Name (required)<br />

Skinner

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

-Didn't we try this before and it did not work. What is different this time.?

-Where do I go to find out the details on this proposal?-

-Will hunting be allowed?- Will it be opened to the public every day like it is now.? Who will maintain the roads? Who will pay for that?

-Will a Federal Wildlife Officer still patrol the Bison Range?-

-Will my National Park Pass still get me into the Bison Range. If not how much will it cost?-

-If the Bison Range is mismanaged what will happen?

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 10:50 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
ELDON

Last Name (required)<br />  
KRAFT

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Billings

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Keep it in Federal hands, but DON'T give the Indians control of any and all wildlife species on OUR land. Thank You Ryan and keep up the good work.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**comments on the proposal to transfer management of National Bison Range to CSKT**

1 message

---

John Weaver [REDACTED] >  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 12:07 AM

Here are my comments in SUPPORT of the proposal. Please include these comments in the formal record.

Thank you.

John L. Weaver, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]  
Saint Ignatius, MT [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

---

 National BisonRange\_CSKT\_Weaver.docx  
31K

**“National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act of 2016”  
Proposal by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)**

**Comments by John Weaver, Ph.D.**

**As a professional wildlife biologist for nearly 50 years and a local citizen, I support the proposed transfer of the National Bison Range and its management to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).**

**Whereas**

1. The National Bison Range was established in 1908 from lands wholly within the Flathead Indian Reservation, which had been reserved for the Salish and Kootenai people in the Hellgate Treaty of 1855. Under this proposal, management of the National Bison Range would be transferred to the CSKT, while ownership of the land would be held by the United States government in federal trust for the tribes.
2. Historically, the bison or buffalo was THE key animal in the life and livelihood of the native people of the Plains and Plateau of North America. The iconic bison holds immense cultural and spiritual significance for these tribes, including the CSKT.
3. Nearly all of the National Wildlife Refuges across the United States have been established for the purpose of waterfowl production and conservation. The National Bison Range is one of the few anomalies in the present Federal wildlife refuge system. The proposed legislation would expressly state that transfer of these lands back to the CSKT (a sovereign nation) would not constitute a precedent in the transfer of federal properties or facilities.
4. The CSKT has been nationally recognized as a leader in conservation of fish and wildlife and lands. Examples include the (a) designation of the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness Area – the first tribal wilderness in the country – and a Grizzly Bear Conservation Zone to provide security for bears in a key area on a seasonal basis , (b) designing and monitoring 43 wildlife crossing structures on busy U.S. Highway 93 through the Reservation, which has been very successful in minimizing vehicle collisions with wildlife and affording safe passage, (c) creating an award-winning 5-part educational series on bull trout and restoration of its aquatic habitat in the Jocko River on the Reservation, and (d) purchasing key lands on the Reservation for conservation of fish and wildlife habitat. CSKT has a staff of very capable fish and wildlife biologists and wardens.
5. Various elements of management under the CSKT (such as continued public access, conservation of the bison/other wildlife/natural resources, education and interpretation, law enforcement, etc) would be clearly articulated in the enabling legislation.

**I support the proposed transfer of management of the National Bison Range and its federal ownership in trust to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).**



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 12:48 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jo

Last Name (required)<br />

Smith

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Billings

State<br />

MONTANA

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

After reading the draft legislative language I believe it would be wise to maintain the Bison Range in the manner that was set up by Congress in 1908 under the leadership of President Theodore Roosevelt. Section 4 - C seems to narrow the project. I do not believe President Roosevelt and the Congress intended for the bison to vanish from Federal responsibility. Thank you for accepting my comment. JS

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 10:26 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Dean

Last Name (required)<br />

Hazuka

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Marion

State<br />

Mt.

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

It was a total mess when tried a very few years ago. What has changed???

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 11:29 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Angie

Last Name (required)<br />

Mock

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Charlo

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I had the pleasure of touring the Bison Range for the first time in September 2000. My family has made the Bison Range apart of our family traditions. My children have grown up viewing the wildlife and natural beauty and learning to compare it with our drives, camping, and hunting trips in other areas of Montana. Every time we have embarked on a drive through the range, we have planned with anticipation of seeing awesomeness.

Amidst all of the greatness we have experienced is also a feeling contempt and disgust. There was an observable difference on the range between the time before the first transfer to tribal management and the time during tribal management. Weeds became the main visible plantlife, replacing a large area of what was natural prairie grass used for consumption and added to the natural environment and ecosystem. The numbers of animals declined at a rapid rate as well. We use to keep track of animal species and the numbers we observed with our kids. One such trip could accumulate to over 100 whitetail deer, 80 muledeer, 65 elk, etc. and in comparison, it dropped to 25 whitetail, 12 muledeer, 15 elk, etc. During the time of the tribal management, there were visible holes in the fences, and upon numerous occassions, we would see headlights on unused service roads after nine or ten o'clock at night. There was also a parade of several large bull elk being driven through Charlo in the middle of the day, in the back of the range pick-up trucks. What was the purpose for this? Breeding selection? Did they all die of old age at the same time? There is no justification of culling out prime bulls of any herd, other than trophy purposes.

I have had the pleasure of hearing the tribal spokesman Rob McDonald calling Charlo residents prejudiced and it being the "white community" while sitting in a room with professionals. My prejudice comes from people abusing their position for their own gain or to cover up others actions under the guise of "management" or "tribal interest." This tribe has a reputation for saying one thing while doing something differently than portrayed or intended. This is across many areas of it's "management" and subsequently, the tribe is not trusted.

With another possible era under tribal management, I fear for the overall integrity of the preserve including the tenuous balance the ecosystem maintains with support and human interference for stability. Without federal coffers provided by tax payers, the range will decline and be lost to future generations. Without unbiased personnel and mangement the range will decline as proven during the most recent tribal management attempt.



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 12:51 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Rick

Last Name (required)<br />

Estabrook

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Butte

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

CSKT was already given the opportunity to properly manage the game range and were unable to fulfill their obligations. What guarantee do we have that they will be able to do so this time? Also when ownership of Kerr Damn was passed to the CKST they elected to stop paying county taxes that previous owners had been obligated to pay. What assurance do we have that the public will continue to have access and entrance fees won't escalate excessively?

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 3:28 PM

Reply-To:

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Thomas

Last Name (required)<br />

Humphreys

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Noxon

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am generally in favor of giving ANYTHING BACK to the Indians, after all we have taken from them. My only question is this: Do the Indians really WANT this, and WHY? Is the federal government mis-managing the Bison Range in some way? Can the Indians provide better management, and will it benefit them financially and spiritually to do so. If the answers to all this is that such a move would benefit the Bison, the Indians and the Range, the obvious endorsement is YES!

Thomas B. Humphreys

Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 4:48 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

John

Last Name (required)<br />

Turcotte

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Billins

State<br />

M

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

In my opinion the tribes have a most difficult time trying to take care of themselves, I HAVE NO FAITH IN THEM TO MANAGE THIS LAND AND THESE ANIMALS. What I see is a private hunting preserve and white people are not allowed might take them a couple years with the idiots we have in Congress but I can assure you some person with an agenda will somehow give it all away and it will then be gone forever. You talk racist then you need to look at Native Americans, etc. NO NO NO NO NO remember the game warden out of chinook, and the boat docks on flathead lake.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 6:01 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Ward

Last Name (required)<br />

Hanning

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Late notification on the comment period via the news seems a bit underhanded. Like comments were not wanted. Will the Parks Pass still be valid if transferred? Who will have the say on how much it will cost? If the transfer impacts these items then I don't support the transfer at all. It seems as if it is a grab for control of a resource that belongs to all of us, not just the native peoples.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 7:23 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Joseph

Last Name (required)<br />  
Mazzoni

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Rancho Murieta

State<br />  
CA

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I am adamantly opposed to the proposal to move the Bison Range out of the National Wildlife Refuge System and give it via an exclusive trust to the tribes. As a former manager of the NBR, I am fully aware of its successful 108 year history as a truly iconic unit of the NWRS, it's importance to the national effort to preserve remnant populations of Americas national mammal...the American Bison.... and its multiple wildlife, scientific, educational and recreational values to the American public. The proposed action would set a terrible precedent for the future of the Refuge System and there are other, far more appropriate and existing mechanisms for the tribes to contribute to the management of the Bison Range. Preserving the Bison Range within the National Wildlife Refuge System should continue to be an important part of maintaining our national wildlife and wildlife habitat preservation legacy. This refuge is and should remain the property of all Americans. Do the American public a favor: withdraw from this proposal and pursue a cooperative agreement that allows the tribes to participate as a contributing, supportive partner in the future management of the National Bison Range within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 7:49 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Philip

Last Name (required)<br />  
Gregory

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Condon

State<br />  
Montana (MT)

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Congressman Zinke,

Thank you for this opportunity. I will come directly to the point. We (the governments of the US and Montana) have already given the two Indian Tribes the Kerr Dam and as I understand it, every drop of water that flows into and out of Flathead Lake, including the tributaries that flow into the Flathead River. What did the two Indian Tribes pay for this? NOTHING! What did they do to deserve this gift? NOTHING! There is no reason to feel guilty for the clash of cultures between the White race and the Indians. This clash of cultures has been happening since the dawn of civilization. In fact, if it wasn't for the clash of cultures, as ugly as it is, most of the world's people would still be living in caves. This country has made it possible for all the Native People of this country to live a better life than they would have ever developed on their own. And most of them have squandered that opportunity. All of them draw more money from the federal government, just for being an Indian, than I draw in a military retirement and Social Security together. And I paid of my social security benefits and I earned my military retirement. Now "we" are going to give them the management of all the natural resources on the Bison Range? Why? White guilt? When is this going to stop? Are we going to pay all Black Americans for what their predecessors of five or six generations ago suffered? Tell the minority people who live in this country to get off their ass, get an education or trade and make a living like the rest of us have done or are doing! Or, if they would rather live in another country, the government will pay for a one way airplane ticket. See how many of them will accept that offer!

Am I bitter and angry? Yes! Do I dislike minority people? NO! I am simply tired of my country giving everything this country has away. We are 19 Trillion dollars in debt trying to buy votes, or make people like us. I don't give a damn if someone likes me or my country. The sacrifices that have been made by white people for 240 years are what has made this country great. I know there have been others who have contributed and sacrificed for this country, but they are not the ones standing in line with their hands out.

I urge you to not support giving more away to those who have not earned it in the name of white guilt.

Thank you for your time.

Philip Gregory

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 8:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Lynn

Last Name (required)<br />

Delecaris

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I think that U.S. Fish & Wildlife should just leave the National Bison Range Management just the way it is. Because if the CSKT becomes managers of the NBR what geranties will there be that the tribe will keep on taking care of the bison who call the NBR home along with the million of other animals that live there.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 8:40 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
JP

Last Name (required)<br />  
Lindenau

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Strange that Zinke had us send this to you, but since this is my only choice: You know the negative ramifications. Shame on you – this America, NOT the Indian nation. What if this plain ol' white boys took over? Whoops we can consider that, can we?!

–

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 10:29 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Lyle

Last Name (required)<br />  
Lallum

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Helena

State<br />  
Mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

My wife and I are totally against the transfer of these lands or the oversight thereof.

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 10:43 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

DAGMAR

Last Name (required)<br />

RIDDLE

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Whitehall

State<br />

MONTANA

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

Give the National Bison Range to the CSKT as,

1. It was their land until Colonialism their removal , AND THEY HAVE A MORAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT TO IT
2. They have had a Spiritual, hunting, dependent on bison, relationship since time immemorial
3. They use management of bison, given to them by their forefathers, in a traditional way that gives good strong herds,
4. Gives them self supporting subsistence, living off the land, feeding their people in the ancient, traditional way
5. It is their traditional Treaty right
6. Because it is the right thing to do
7. It saves the state of Montana money and personnel
8. It gives them back their pride and a sense of self determination
9. Because they have a Spiritual relationship with the buffalo, as well as everything in their/our world

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 2:44 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Shelton

Last Name (required)<br />

Ferguson

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Stevensville

State<br />

Mt

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

They should give the land back and 100% control of it to the tribes...

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 8:32 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

David

Last Name (required)<br />

Rockwell

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Dixon

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I heartily support this legislation for the following reasons:

- (1) the Tribes have an extraordinarily unique relationship and history with the range and the bison that occupy it;
- (2) the land was essentially stolen from the Tribes so returning it is the only just thing to do;
- (3) the Tribes have the capacity to manage the land in even a better fashion than the Feds (the history of fish and wildlife conservation and environmental protection on the reservation is remarkable by any measure. I cannot think of any other government in the western US — county, state, federal or tribal — that has demonstrated a stronger commitment to conservation or that has protected a higher percentage of its land base through various special designations); and
- (4) people from around the country and the world would be much more interested in visiting a bison range managed by tribal people that have a deep connection to the place, to the bison, and to bison hunting than they would one managed by a generic staff of federal employees. The richness of the Tribes' relationship to bison would deepen and enrich the visitor experience.

I believe, like Terry Tanner, that opposition to the proposal is based on fear and ignorance.

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 9:37 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Anita

Last Name (required)<br />

Matt

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Moiese

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

USFWS approached CS&KT in February 2016 with the option to transfer 18,700 acres back to Tribal ownership. The Tribes have offered to pay revenue of 90%, 75% and 50% to counties for 5 years. It is our aboriginal land. Yet we offer to keep it open "as is" to the public.

There is fear about Tribes buying lands and we have since 1934 with the Indian Reorganization Act. But we have had to pay competitive prices just like any other non-member and pay taxes until we were able to transfer into Trust ownership. At one time we were the highest paying tax payer. At one time our land base was down to 30% on our own reservation. We have now returned 62%. These lands have been purchased with the Tribes own revenues. Some has been purchased with mitigation dollars which places "restrictions" but the lands are reserved and protected. Some was exchanged for Fee lands for State lands to prevent further trespass and easement issues.

People fear what we will do with the land. Looks around and see that we could look like "Lake Tahoe". But we have protected our land. Lands that people drive thru here to see.....Drive Highway 93 from June thru September. You can hardly get off the roads. They are seeing what we have protected. Yes, we do need to find more funds for weeds and management. But we have managed to works with other organizations within cooperative agreements to work together to protect and enhance our lands.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 10:05 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Nadine

Last Name (required)<br />

Rusk

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I don't think the national Bison Range should be given to anyone including the tribes. It belongs to everyone including the tribe. There is nothing in this agreement that says it must remain open. It seems the tribe gets everything and is not financially responsible for anything. When senator Bums made the original pact with the tribe, he did this behind closed doors with no comment from the public. It's a bad idea and sets a precedent whether you say it does or doesn't . I'm not in favor of this at all. It puts the tribes totally in charge and leaves the rest of the USA out. Let them run it but don't give it away.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 10:57 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Mike

Last Name (required)<br />

Hashisaki

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

This will offend the tribal members I'm afraid but I'm a firm believer that our system of "private governments within the U.S." referring to tribal reservations, has unjustly held American Indians back from realizing their full potential as human beings. So, like the late Senator Conrad Burns, I think it's time that reservations be abolished, tribal members fully assimilated into American society as a whole, including paying their fair share of taxes. If one would fairly look at the reservation system, they would see a failed model that accurately depicts the effects of socialism. A few very wealthy individuals with most living at or below the poverty level. And that is abundantly demonstrated on every reservation within the boundaries of the state of Montana. Because of that, I see no reason the National Bison Range should be turned over to the tribe for management. I drove through it yesterday, an annual trek, and as always, was very pleased with what I observed. If it ain't broke folks, don't fix it. The Bison Range isn't broke and it needs no changes. Very much unlike the reservation system which is severely broken.

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 12:24 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Jack

Last Name (required)<br />  
Chambers

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

1. Since the CSKT has been paid for the land twice, will the \$259,274.96 be repaid?
2. Will the weed problem be addressed with the property being run by CSKT?
3. I would support the transfer if these two issues were addressed and the property remain OPEN to the public.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 2:55 PM

Reply-To [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Alfred

Last Name (required)<br />  
Somerville

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Marion

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

As a senior citizen, all I would ask is that the federal senior passes for national parks will continue to be honored under tribal management. For me, and other Montana seniors on fixed incomes, the passes are a welcome benefit that we would hate to lose for such an important site.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 5:44 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

MIKE

Last Name (required)<br />

LANG

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Malta

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I feel the national bison range should be managed as it has been and the Salis

Kootenai tribe should not be given ownership or management responsibilities of the bison range.

If it goes forward, the Kootenai tribe should not receive US federal dollars for management.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 6:03 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Loretta

Last Name (required)<br />

Stevens

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Libby

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Turn it back over to the Tribe. It was illegally taken from the beginning. The tribes have proven to be excellent managers of their land, that wouldn't stop with the Bison Range. If anything, I'm sure the management will improve. Give it back to the Tribes. It's theirs.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 8:33 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Shawn

Last Name (required)<br />

Dowdy

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The Great Bison Hunt outside of glacier Park ` last year signifies what will happen to the "Bison Range"... When the Tribes got permission for a Moose hunt to celebrate their religious beliefs, they totally wiped out the entire Moose population in the Rock Creek Drainage. Cows, calfs ... nothing was off limits. Demanding rename this historic place, where we have taken our families for decades, then God knows what else they will change ... My family is of Native origins, and I do not believe this in the long term benefit Montana or it's citizens, or our Nation as a whole.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 8:50 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Michael

Last Name (required)<br />  
Kustudia

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I write in support of the draft legislation transferring the National Bison Range back to the CSKT. Generations ago tribal members had the vision to protect the herds and today the Tribes have the capacity and expertise to manage them for generations to come.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

**[BRWG Website]** <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 9:23 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Sharon

Last Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Peralta

Email Address (required)&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Street&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

City&lt;br /&gt;

Springvale

State&lt;br /&gt;

ME

Zip Code&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Phone&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Comment&lt;br /&gt;

Hello,

I have only been a visitor to the bison range and am a resident in the state of ME. However, I also have re-learned a bit of history since school and feel that no matter how many years have passed, the US government should honor promises made. Native peoples were badly treated and deprived of all ways of life they knew and the impacts have been decimating. It would be my hope that if Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were given these lands that they might preserve and learn again ancient wisdom and have respect which they once had. As much as I would hope that the area might still allow visitors from the general population, it is not my conviction that we can put these requirements on what is yours. I hope that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes might claim this land and its resources and preserve it for future generations. It is the least we owe you.

Sincerely,

Sharon

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

**[BRWG Website]** <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 10:14 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Lee

Last Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Griswold

Email Address (required)&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Street&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

City&lt;br /&gt;

Kila

State&lt;br /&gt;

Montana

Zip Code&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Phone&lt;br /&gt;

Comment&lt;br /&gt;

I am not in favor of the government turning over control to the Tribes. I live on a fixed income, and visit the range fairly often. I am able to use my Golden Age Passport for admittance, and fear that once the Tribe assumes control of the refuge this will no longer be honored. All one has to do is look at how much Tribe charges for a fishing license now...it is unaffordable unless one plans to do a large amount of fishing on the reservation. I don't believe that the Federal Government should subsidize the Tribe to run the refuge if it is turned over, and I just can't visualize how the Tribe can run the refuge without Federal assistance or charging higher admittance fees. Also, history indicates that the last time the Tribe had a buffalo herd they ended up selling them off. If it weren't for the Federal Government there wouldn't be a National Bison Range or buffalo herd. I just don't see how the public can benefit by having the Tribe assume control.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 10:33 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

James

Last Name (required)<br />

Habeck

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The entire reservation was indeed awarded..given to... the W MT tribes back in the 1850's..for their use. The big [historically the biggest] problem started with a 1908 Congressional Bill written by MT's Senator Dixon that opened up the reservation lands for homesteading by non-Native peoples. Slipped into that bill was a few lines that included giving the State of Montana 160 acres of reservation lands for a new biological station [shifted from leased land in Big Fork, to become state owned lands to be selected by U MT's biology Prof Morton Elrod which included Yellow Bay and Wildhorse Island].

Nearly the same time reservation lands were also selected by the American Bison Society...[Boston, Mass] as a potential "save-the-species" bison refuge locality. This Society asked Prof Elrod to examine two [2] reservations in MT, the Flathead [W MT] and the Crow [E MT]. Elrod, with the help of Duncan McDonald, looked at 4 sites on the Flathead, and they both agreed on the Ravalli Jct & Moeise location....BUT...Elrod never did what the Bison Society contracted him to do..he never examined the Eastern Montana Crow Reservation...even though, ecologically, the E MT grasslands had a much better natural grass cover to maintain large bison herds..and that's where, I think, the bison refuge should have be placed. N ID & W MT, with its bunch grass prairie vegetation did not...does not..have the winter nutritional value..to develop & support large bison herds... as do the short grass prairie species have in E MT. Why do you think Indians in N ID & W MT had to risk their lives traveling over to, & getting bison meat east of the Continental Divide? Too few W of the Divide! Anyway bison did well [but not huge herd build up] enough when widely scattered..ranging freely all over the Flathead Reservation...but finally were necessarily rounded up and sold to Canada when the white homesteading activities started up and ownership fences built...and free range disappeared. Having said all this, I have no objection to shifting bison refuge management to tribal managers; but everyone ought to understanding the correct history of the chain of events. Theoretically UM's Yellow Bay Biological Station lands should also be returned to tribal ownership-management. based on the semi-sneaky 1908 way it was taken via a few lines inserted deep [embedded] within in the Congressional Homestead Act's language. Best wishes, Dr. Jim Habeck [UM Prof emeritus of plant ecology and wildlife biology, 1960-1995]

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 12:59 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Linda

Last Name (required)<br />

Cox

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Polson

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I oppose the transfer of the National Bison Range to the CSKT. I have lived on the CSKT Reservation most of my life and my son-in-law and grandchildren are tribal. As a sovereign nation, the tribe can and does have preferential hiring practices and other discriminatory processes that favor one person's race over another. This is against my belief that all people are equal. Tribal members are Americans, too. I support their right to enjoy the Bison Range or any other federal or state park. So why change ownership? This is a sad bureaucratic takeover that will, despite assurances otherwise, create a precedent that threatens every public holding. Let's just be Americans and live together.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 11:19 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Greg

Last Name (required)<br />  
Gardner

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Polson, Mt 59860

State<br />  
Mt.

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

The Tribe does not manage the rangelands currently under their control. The weeds, sulfur cinquefoil, toadflax, knapweed, leafy spurge, whitetop etc. are a disgrace as I showed Senator Daines representative, Kyle Schmauck, on 7-12-16 in the Irvine Flats area between the Polson Airport and Buffalo Bridge Road. This would be an easy area to spray aurally, but it is not a priority. Hence the private landowners adjoining the Tribe are continually battling weeds that are invading their property. Have the Tribe properly manage the land entrusted to them currently under their management, before turning over a National Park i.e. Moise Bison Range. Thank you Greg Gardner: G&G Livestock Irvine Flats

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 1:43 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jack

Last Name (required)<br />

Stults

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Helena

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

The bison range should be turned over to the tribes without any attachments on the land. The only requirement should be the perpetual maintenance of the bison herd's genetic purity and capacity to provide seed stock for establishment or augmentation of other herds.

-  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 4:15 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Kari

Last Name (required)<br />

Eneas

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Polson

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

1. What is most important to you about management of the Bison Range?  
The welfare and health of wildlife within the refuge, as well as continued visitor viewing opportunities.
2. What new opportunities do you see for the Bison Range?  
Increased education with local cultural ties to Salish and Kootenai tribes (place names, animal names, histories, how tribes used/lived with spp. ext) and evening "chats" or presentations from biologists with visitors once a month?
3. What changes would you propose for the draft legislation?  
N/A
4. Additional comments and/or questions:  
N/A

---

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 4:21 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Martin

Last Name (required)<br />  
Halko

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Florence

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I do not agree with the proposal to transfer the Bison Range to the Reservation. Why are we creating a problem where none exists. Members of the Tribe can enjoy the Bison Range just as any other citizen of the United States can. There are many other animals of importance on the Range other than bison such as antelope, Elk, big Horn sheep, and deer. What about their future?

After review of the draft legislation, I find there are no consequences for the Tribe. They are given the land, all the buildings and wild animals that belong to the State of Montana. It states that the tribe will make the Range available to the public. I see nothing in the legislation would bring binding action if the Tribe decides to slaughter bison, elk, antelope or limit public access. Yes, it states the land would be held in trust as part of the Reservation, but how much of the Reservation is now off limits to the public

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 10:17 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
michael

Last Name (required)<br />  
ober

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
kalispell

State<br />  
mt

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I wish to urge the Fish Wildlife Service to deny the Flathead Indian tribes attempt to take over the Bison Range. Under no circumstances must this valuable national treasure be allowed to be taken, FOR FREE, lands that have been responsibly managed by the current federal agency. And if, as legislation works its way through Congress, the bison is designated our national mammal, such an animal needs to be managed by a national agency, not just a local tribe. The history of a "shared" management concept was tried recently and failed badly. Other histories of tribal management of federal funds and programs also show poor management track records. Look closely at the Rocky Boy Reservation which seems to be in the news consistently for tribal managers embezzling money, being convicted of fraud, theft and conspiracy among many other crimes. Simply put, Indian tribes and their members are just unable and unwilling to properly protect a species like the bison. Please. Deny the "taking" of the bison range by the Flathead Indian tribe. Thank you.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 10:53 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Angela

Last Name (required)<br />

Helvey

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Helena

State<br />

Montana

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

Hello,

In our opinion, the management of the bison on the National Bison Range should be transferred to the Salish-Kootenai Tribe. Historically, these animals were central to the spiritual life of these people. It's about time this transfer was made.

Sincerely,

The Helvey Family

Patrícia, John, Angela, and Curtis

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 10:23 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Lisa

Last Name (required)<br />

Geiger

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I am extremely concerned about the tribe wanting to take over management of the Bison Range in view of the fact that we, the American taxpayers, paid an outlandish amount of money for the land that the range occupies. I wouldn't sell someone a house but then come back and demand to be given rights to live in and run it. Are we going to be given back the many millions of dollars that we have paid? Are we to continue footing the bill for this range while you run it? I'm sorry but I think this is ludicrous and it makes zero sense and I, like so many taxpaying residents of Montana, am getting tired of the tribes demanding things to which you are not entitled.

--  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 12:34 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Clinton

Last Name (required)<br />

Nagel

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

Bozeman

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

I want to make sure that you receive my comments. I believe I have sent these in before, but just in case I am resending. But I also want to convey that I am extremely disappointed in the way this comment period is being undertaken. It is way too brief and the public is not being informed on the issue. This comment period cannot meet the NEPA process standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft legislation designed to transfer the National Bison Range (NBR) from the ownership of the Federal Government as managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). I am extremely concerned about the future of this land, this herd of bison, and the precedent which would be set if this transfer were to take place. I have read the draft legislation and I find that there are some serious omissions.

But before I get into those, I would like to criticize the length of the comment period and the way the public release announcement was made. Two weeks' time is not enough for the public to be aware of this proposed action, let alone even to respond to this draft legislation. I believe there is a thinking out there that this issue has been in the public's consciousness for some time and that they are aware of the issue. Well, that may be true in Missoula or in the Flathead Region of Montana, but I can assure you that that is not the case statewide, let alone across the country. Do I need to remind all involved that the NBR is a national treasure, not just for those of us within Montana? This land and this herd belong to the people of the United States. They have a right to comment on this proposed action as it is their taxpayer dollars which have helped shape, protect, and manage this land of the National Wildlife Refuge System over the past 108 years. I strongly urge the comment period be greatly extended in time and in scope before any further action is taken.

The first overwhelming concern I have, in spite of the statements to the contrary contained in the draft legislation, is the precedent setting tone of this action. Even though Section 4, line (i) states the following:

"The provisions of this Act are uniquely suited to address the distinct circumstances, facts, history, and relationships involved with the subject bison, lands and Tribes. These provisions are not intended, and shall not be interpreted, as precedent for any other situation regarding federal properties or facilities."

This does not mean this Act won't be precedent setting or that it won't be used for precedent use in the future. We should know by now that "good intentions" gets us "nowhere" and that the phrase "shall not" doesn't mean that "it won't be." There is

no guarantee that other causes or actions won't be tried by others for other reasons. The truth be known, if it has been done once, it will be tried again. There is no way around that fact and to state otherwise is just wishful thinking. Other tribes, activists, or even by other Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could explore this option in the future.

Another omission is the amount of money which has already been spent by the Federal Government on the land, the herd, the infrastructure improvements over the 108 years of ownership, and the annual costs of operation and maintenance by the American taxpayer over these past 108 years. How are these costs recouped? Or are they? This is a total land and money giveaway costing the American taxpayer multi-million dollars. Who knows how much? The American people need to know: What is to become of their investment?

Omission #2 is perhaps the saddest or most important to me. What is to become of the herd itself? We are talking about living and iconic creatures of this land that have perhaps a more pure genetic makeup than ourselves. This is the real danger of the land and bison transfer. This is why the need for the continuation of the NBR exists. Even though the population numbers of bison is obviously far greater today than it was during the time of the NBR's establishment, it is the genetic makeup of this species or that of any other species that really determines the health and diversity of that species. And this reason alone justifies the need for the continuation of the NBR. The draft legislation does not provide details of what is to become of the bison herd or any other species contained within the borders of the NBR. What is to become of the research done on the genetics of this herd? Will it continue? What will happen with the documentation of what has already been done? There are too many questions and not enough answers contained within the draft legislation.

Another omission is what happens when and after the federal dollars run out. It states within the legislation that the Federal Government will not subsidize the operation and maintenance of the NBR. This means that the CSKT will have to fund the management and operation of this land and of this herd itself. How is that going to be accomplished? The draft legislation says nothing at all about this. How the funding of this work will be continued and from what source this funding will be derived from will determine what this land and this herd will look like in the future. Again, the draft legislation says nothing at all about this future outlook.

In spite of what is said within the draft proposal, there is no assurance that any of these proposed intentions can or will be met. There is no documentation that provides confidence that any of these questions have even been thoughtfully addressed. There is no documentation to suggest the future of the land. Will there be other construction taking place on the land that may be counter to the mission at hand? Again, a lot more questions and fewer answers are how I would describe this draft legislation. And it is for this reason and for the reasons stated above that I strongly urge a "no" vote on this proposal. The proposal is incomplete. The USFWS must do an Environmental Impact Statement as it is the requirement by law to do so. Perhaps then a lot more answers will be forthcoming.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**Bison range**

1 message

---

Linda Boehm <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 1:03 PM

To: "BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com" <BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com>

I have been attempting to send a comment to your comment site. It's 11:00 AM...one hour before closing. Apparently it has closed to comment already. I want to know what the intent is for the other animals on the range, outside of the bison. Are you going to let tribal memberships in and harvest them? If there is no provision for them, I will vehemently oppose any federal funding to assist in your operation of the range. If you want it, you should find it!!!



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**bison range**

1 message

---

Nancy Schultz email <[REDACTED]>  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 1:37 PM

Please accept my comments on transferring the National Bison Range to the CSKT.

July 15, 2016

I oppose transferring the National Bison Range to the CSKT. I understand the land will be held in trust by the Federal Government but all management would go to the CSKT. In essence, federal land managed by a sovereign nation. I see how this is a benefit to the CSKT, but I can't see how this is a benefit to the American people. Our national mammal, on our National Bison Range totally managed by one tribal nation is not an acceptable outcome.

Theodore Roosevelt established the National Bison Range in 1908 with hopes of preserving an American icon from going extinct. The National Bison Range (NBR) is one of the oldest and most popular members of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The National Bison Range was the very first time Congress appropriated funds to buy land for conservation and wildlife purposes. The NBR is visited each year by 200,000 people with most being out of state, pumping an estimated \$12.5 million a year into the local economy, of which the CSKT is a large recipient.

This land is public land with this herd being a public herd, all owned by you and me. The assets of the NBR are worth nearly \$100 million. The CSKT has received two payments for this land over the past century totaling nearly \$23 million. Those payments negate any treaty issues here.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, a federal agency has to complete an environmental impact analysis on any proposed action which would forever change the environmental value to the public. It is this law which provides public comment

All Americans are best served by preserving our natural heritage, the land and its respective herd of bison. The situation is this; the proposed transfer would place this land into federal trust; the United States would remain the owner of the estate, but the CSKT would take on all management of the property and species on the premises

If we lose NBR management and control of the bison, the precedent is set. What is to stop future transfers of federal lands or federal lands put into trust without management capabilities? This action is being requested by one tribal nation, what can the 600 plus other tribal nations request?

It has been 108 years since President Roosevelt signed legislation establishing the NBR. What is the life expectancy of our heritage?

Nancy Schultz  
[REDACTED]

Bozeman, MT [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 1:38 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
glenn

Last Name (required)<br />  
monahan

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Bozeman

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I am opposed to USFWS relinquishing any management/ownership of the Moeise NBR to any entity including the CSKT.

The NBR has been owned by the American public for over 100 years, and the tribes have been fairly paid for the land. Despite promises from the tribe, I am concerned about the future of the NBR in regards to access for all Americans. The tribes are entirely capable of creating significant roadblocks that could impact access to the NBR for non-tribal members, including exorbitant entry fees.

The boundaries and lands of the CKST reservation have been fixed for many decades, and should remain as such. I believe that it is a dangerous precedent to begin "giving back" land to tribes. I am sorry about what happened to Native Americans in the past, but our world has gone through many such conquests, as we advance from the stone age into today's modern technological age. I feel it is folly to think that we should try to reverse this. As a nation what century do we wish to go back to? The 15th century? What's done is done, and we cannot undo the past.

The bison in the NBR should be managed for genetic purity, and the tribes may not pursue this goal.

In the recent past, the tribes were given an opportunity to manage the NBR, and they failed miserably, leading to a revocation of the management change.

As a "sovereign nation" the tribes do not have to act in the best interests of anyone but themselves, and I believe that this status will negatively affect the NBR, as well as the American public, who is the rightful owner/manager of this national treasure.

If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it.

I strongly oppose USFWS transferring the NBR to the CSKT.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 1:48 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Jamie

Last Name (required)<br />

Iguchi

Email Address (required)<br />

[REDACTED]

Street<br />

[REDACTED]

City<br />

Missoula

State<br />

MT

Zip Code<br />

[REDACTED]

Phone<br />

[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I support the transfer of the Bison Range back to the CSKT. It is the right thing to do in terms of both morality and ecology.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 1:53 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />

Dustin

Last Name (required)<br />

Monroe

Email Address (required)<br />

Street<br />

City<br />

State<br />

Zip Code<br />

Phone<br />

Comment<br />

"I support this legislation. The tribes have a proven track record of management and the land taken from them should be returned. I look forward to the continued public access guaranteed by this legislation. All of Montana is bettered by the local control of this range on the reservation."

—

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Roberta

Last Name (required)<br />  
Crane

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I think it is very important that the bison range be managed in a way consistent with the interests of the Confederated Salish Kootenia tribe. The tribe should definitely be the ones making decisions regarding the bison range.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



Bison Range Working Group <bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com>

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 2:02 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Thomas

Last Name (required)<br />  
Arvidson

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
Montana

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

I think the tribe is the rightful operator of the Bison Range. They brought some of the last wild bison across the mountains and saved them in the Mission Valley, it was their land that was used for the range, they should operate it.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



---

## BRWG: Comment

1 message

---

[BRWG Website] <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 2:08 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)<br />  
Rodney

Last Name (required)<br />  
Petersen

Email Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]

Street<br />  
[REDACTED]

City<br />  
Missoula

State<br />  
MT

Zip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]

Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment<br />

As a senior citizen who frequents the National Bison Range I oppose turning it over to the Tribe. I used to hunt and fish on State and Federal lands within the boundaries of the Reservation. Over the years it has become too costly for me to continue this form of recreation. Between State, Federal and Tribal licenses I can no longer afford it. Seniors are granted access to the refuge using our Golden passports which I suspect will no longer be honored when the tribe takes over. The Bison Range would not exist today had the Federal Government not had the foresight to set it aside for its citizens many years ago. The Tribe has had the ability to establish a Bison herd at any point on the reservation but hasn't. It's sad to see that the day has come that our Government is willing to sell off National treasures that so many of us enjoy. Given the logic being used here, all non Indians should be moving out of the country and returning all lands back to the Native Americans. I appreciate that all Native Americans as well as Americans can enjoy this treasure together.

—  
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)



## Comments of draft NBR restoration legislation

1 message

Pat Jamieson <[REDACTED]>  
To: bisonrangeworkinggroup@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 3:09 PM

Comments on the  
Draft Proposal of the National Bison Range Transfer and Restoration Act of  
2016

Pat Jamieson  
[REDACTED] Dixon, MT [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal. I have also attached this as a Word document in case you find that easier.

To start with, what is most important to me about management of the National Bison Range is that it stays a National Wildlife Refuge, building on its 100+ years of conservation history.

However, I think the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes) could/should be pursuing an effort to establish a bison herd of their own without the controversy of trying to transfer a National Wildlife Refuge to the Tribes. As stated in Section 3(a)(12), "the Tribes have extensive experience in wildlife and natural resources management", listing a number of examples, including special management areas for other large animals (such as elk and bighorn sheep). With the ability to obtain bison from Department of Interior (DOI) herds (including, but not limited to, the National Bison Range) as well as assistance, training, expertise, and, I suspect, funding, the Tribes could start this process almost immediately. Plus, the DOI would benefit because there would be another separate herd that could be considered as genetic stock to supplement their conservation efforts (see the DOI Bison Report: Looking Forward of June 2014). And it would be a particular benefit to the National Bison Range as staff and equipment could be shared for special events (as is now done at the annual bison Roundup with Tribal staff and volunteers working alongside Refuge staff and volunteers). I would support and encourage such an effort on part of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. How cool would that be!

I also would like to make the point that the National Bison Range would not be the special place it is today if President Theodore Roosevelt had not designated it a National Wildlife Refuge in 1908 nor if private citizens had not made the effort to raise funds to purchase bison to donate to the Government. This achievement needs to be acknowledged and recognized. I cannot speculate if bison would still be part of the valley if the Flathead Indian Reservation had not been opened to homesteading. But the Reservation WAS opened with lands allotted to Tribal members and other lands opened to homesteaders. I can speculate, based on current uses, that if the lands of the National Bison Range had not been designated a National Wildlife Refuge prior to opening of homestead claims, it would look similar to the other lands nearby (such as the Moiese Hills and Round Butte) much of which are held in private hands and used for ranching, farming, and homes. The lands of the National Bison Range would not be a large piece of intermountain prairie with an abundance of native plants, birds and mammals still associated with it. It would not have become a home to a genetically-important bison herd. The National Bison Range is special because it is a National Wildlife Refuge – otherwise it would have no more or less special import to anyone, Tribal and non-tribal, than other lands of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

&#8195;

With that said, here are some specific comments to the Draft Proposal, if the Tribes plan to continue with its submission:

The first sentence: While I encourage and support any type of partnership that would benefit the Tribes, please remember that the Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to "administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans", including but not exclusive to all Native American tribes.

Section 3(a)(1): I have been told over and over by many people of different Native American tribes that every tribe is different and that they do not want to be "lumped" with generalizations. Please note that some Native American tribes did not recognize bison as significant, even if they traded for and used bison in their lives.

Section 3(a)(4): While the Tribes never wanted to have their lands of the Flathead Reservation, opened to homesteading and taken out of Trust, they did accept compensation in 1971. Would these be returned if the land of the National Bison Range is returned?

Section 3(a)(7): Please include also the well-documented history of Samuel Walking Coyote, a Pend d'Oreille who brought some bison calves over from eastern Montana. I have heard different versions of his story – the calves were orphaned after a hunt and followed and/or were encouraged to come with group; they were captured deliberately as a gift and/or compensation to people back home on the Flathead Indian Reservation. None of the versions I have heard/read mentioned a conservation motive but it may not have been something folks talked about in the mid-1800s. I do want to mention I had never come across the story of Little Falcon Robe (as well as Atatice and Latati) until fairly recently (15 years or so) and wonder why it had not been documented earlier, since the stories of Samuel Walking Coyote were told and written down as early as the Federal Writers Project in the 1930's under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration.

I know both Michel Pablo and Charles Allard were Native American and were married to CSKT Tribal members but were they themselves members of this Tribe?

Section 3(a)(8) and Section 3(a)(9): The history of the nucleus of the National Bison Range bison herd is quite complex and needs to be covered by more than one sentence. I'll try to be concise –

Michel Pablo and Charles Allard ran a bison herd together on the open range of the Flathead Indian Reservation, of which part of the herd was from animals obtained from Samuel Walking Coyote. When Charles Allard died in 1896, his heirs sold his half of the famous Pablo/Allard herd, some going to Charles Conrad of Kalispell to be part of his bison herd. When the Flathead Indian Reservation was opened to homesteading and Pablo had to sell his herd of bison, he ended up selling to Canada as the U.S. Government declined to purchase the bison. The American Bison Association, crucial to raising private funds to purchase bison for the newly established National Bison Range, was not established early enough to purchase any of the Pablo bison, a situation they regretted (see their first, second and third annual reports – available at the University of Montana Library Archives). However, they were pleased to be able to work with Conrad to purchase animals from the Allard line. (As a side note: just this spring, the Blackfeet Nation worked with Canada to purchase back bison of the Pablo line to start a "wild" herd on their reservation, thus completing the circle since some of the Pablo/Allard herd came from eastern Montana, brought over the divide by Samuel Walking Coyote and/or Little Falcon Robe.)

Section 3(a)(12): As stated at the start of this comment, the Tribes, with their qualifications and expertise, are quite able to establish a bison herd of their own.

Section 3(a)(16): I will quote from the DOI Bison Report: Looking Forward (Natural Resources Report NPS/NRSS/BRMD/NRR-2014/821), page 1, paragraph 3, sentence 1 -

"Looking ahead, we must first recognize that existing DOI bison resources are crucial to the long-term conservation of the species, and the Department has an obligation to maintain the conservation status and value of the approximately 10,000 bison supported on 4.6 million acres of DOI and adjacent lands."

So, while bison are no longer critically endangered, every DOI herd is crucial to the continued conservation of the public herds.

Section 4(b): Since the Tribes received compensation for the National Bison Range lands in 1971, I feel that in all fairness, the money should be returned upon transfer of lands. Also, since the structures and other properties were paid with U.S. taxes, fees and donations, then the U.S. citizens should be compensated for these items. The nucleus of the bison herd was paid for by donations from U.S. citizens and also need to be compensated for in the event of a transfer.

Section 4(c): Please refer to the comments on Section 3(a)(16) and the quote from the DOI Bison Report about all DOI bison herd being crucial to future conservation. This herd should not be relinquished to any entity outside of DOI. If the argument posed is that it would be Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is part of DOI, then it needs to be specifically stated as such and managed as a DOI herd.

Section 4(d): This proposal sadly negates the proud 100+ year history of the National Bison Range and its dedicated employees, volunteers and supporters. Again, as I stated at the start of this document, the National Bison Range is a special place because it was established as a National Wildlife Refuge. If the Tribes were to establish their own herd, they could begin their own proud history and reflect that in any name they choose.

Section 4(e): The Tribes have stated they are quite capable of managing resources (Section 3(a)(12) and I feel they are solvent enough to manage funding for the National Bison Range on their own without further involvement by DOI. Also, in referring to comments on Section 3(b), the National Bison Range and its real and personal properties belong to U.S. citizens and they have a right to receive compensation.

Section 4(g): Since the Tribes have the expertise to request the transfer of the National Bison Range, they should take full responsibility and not rely of the DOI to cover liabilities.

Section 4(j): Of course other entities (Tribal, state, county, city, private) will look to this if they also wish to have public lands transferred via legislation. What reality was this written in?

#### Comments on the FAQ?

Paragraph 1 – you need to clarify by what you mean by “No other federal property is similarly-situated to the NBR.” If you mean no other federal property is within the boundaries of a Indian Reservation, then that is incorrect. There are a few National Park Service (DOI) lands located within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation (Canyon De Chelly National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Hubbell Trading Post). I name these off the top of my head as I once worked in the Four Corners area near the Navajo Nation. There could be others.

2nd Point – all versions of this story should be referenced. Please refer to comments on 3(a)(7-9) above.

4th Point – this may be a small point, but acknowledge that it was the lands that became the National Bison Range that were removed. It took a

100+ year history to make the National Bison Range what it is today.

5th Point – when Michel Pablo had to sell his herd because the Reservation was opened to homesteading, he no longer was partnered with Charles Allard, who had passed away in 1896, nor were any of "Allard's" bison in the herd as his heirs sold his half of the bison. See comments on 3(a)(8-9) for clarification.

9th Point – As the Tribes' Natural Resources Department has extensive expertise, they should look into establishing a bison herd of their own. That would be so awesome!

10th Point - By establishing a bison herd of their own, the Tribes would truly add a dimension of partnership and conservation with the DOI, the UFSWS, the National Bison Range, and local residents (tribal and non-tribal). Then we'd have both. See the very first point I make at the start of this document.

---

 **Comments.Draft proposal for Transfer of NBR to CSKT.Pat** Jamieson.docx  
23K

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

**[BRWG Website]** <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 5:41 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.com

First Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Mike

Last Name (required)&lt;br /&gt;

Mease

Email Address (required)&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Street&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

City&lt;br /&gt;

West Yellowstone

State&lt;br /&gt;

MT

Zip Code&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Phone&lt;br /&gt;

[REDACTED]

Comment&lt;br /&gt;

I am writing in support of transferring the National Bison Range from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, over to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Please keep me posted.

Thank you.

-

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Bison Range Working Group (<http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>)

---

**BRWG: Comment**

1 message

---

**[BRWG Website]** <wordpress@bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2016 at 9:42 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: BisonRangeWorkingGroup@gmail.comFirst Name (required)<br />  
LoriLast Name (required)<br />  
ParrEmail Address (required)<br />  
[REDACTED]Street<br />  
[REDACTED]City<br />  
St. IgnatiusState<br />  
MTZip Code<br />  
[REDACTED]Phone<br />  
[REDACTED]

Comment&lt;br /&gt;

As a local citizen of the south Mission Valley, I support the proposed transfer of the National Bison Range and its management to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

I purchased a 20 acre parcel in 2005. I've lived full time in the Mission Valley since 2012 and visited frequently from Missoula since '05. This is land that I plan to build a house, live out my life and die on (I am 52.)

Since that time, and as I have come to learn about the tribe whose land I steward I have been proud and supportive of the way the tribe conducts itself in the manner of land (wildlife bridges and tunnels), animal (established grizzly bear habitat), and water (educational series on bull trout and restoration of aquatic habitat) stewardship.

A big reason why I chose land in this valley is because I value the fact that neither the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness Area nor the National Bison Range will ever display the pock mark of so called civilized society. Both are left to the wild things. Each has intrinsic value for their magnificent views let alone knowing what the folds in the landscape protect and contain.

Aside from the great team of capable CSKT biologists and wardens on staff this takes great wisdom and foresight, which only Native peoples seem to have in regard to protecting the Earth. I come from Salt Lake City whose population has nearly gobbled up every last precious inch of wild space, and spent 20 years in Missoula. Missoula is growing beyond the infrastructure's capacity. In both places, Nature has been loved near to death. Once it's gone you can't get it back, you can't undo development.

I was surprised to find out that the tribe was not in charge of the Bison Range. The Bison Range is the heart of the CSKT reservation. It has some of the purest strain of Bison on the planet. The bison is an integral cultural and spiritual symbol of the CSKT and North American tribes.

It only makes sense that the CSKT be in full control of the heart of their reservation.

I support the proposed transfer of management of the National Bison Range and its federal ownership in trust to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Lori Parr