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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 Qlispé' 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