

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3.3.05
SB 91

Senate Bill 91
March 3, 2005
Presented by Larry Peterman
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am, Larry Peterman, Chief of Operations for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP recognizes the traditional relationship between Montana's Native Americans and bison. We share Native Americans' vision of restoring healthy free-ranging bison to the plains ecosystem in places where these large, mobile ungulates can fit on the landscape. We also share Native Americans' interest in hunting bison as a source of food, materials and cultural enrichment.

The allocation of Montana's wildlife resources is a complex public policy issue. FWP respects the legislature's authority in this area and will do our best to implement whatever direction this body provides.

We had several questions on the original bill. The bill currently as amended answered those concerns.