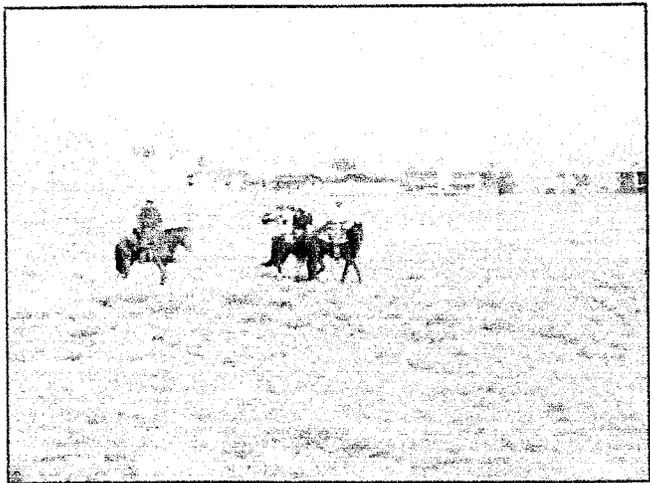




EXHIBIT 2
 DATE 1-29-09
 HB 253



AGENTS MOVING BISON
 RIGHT TOWARD LIZ'S
 HOUSE.



SIDE VIEW JUST BEFORE HERD
 WAS HAZED INTO HER FRONT
 YARD AS YOU CAN
 SEE FROM BOTTOM
 PHOTO.



HERE THEY COME ...

LIZ TOOK THIS
 SHOT FROM HER
 FRONT DECK BEFORE
 BEING FORCED BACK
 INTO HER HOME

PHOTOS
 LIZ KEARNEY

My name is Karrie Taggart. I've owned property on Horse Butte for 15 years and have lived there full-time for 7. I'm also co-founder and coordinator for Horse Butte Neighbors of Buffalo. HOBNOB for short.

In 2003, residents of Horse Butte came to the consensus that we're tired of witnessing the never-ending haze, capture and slaughter of buffalo in our neighborhood and on the adjacent Horse Butte peninsula. We've had helicopters skimming our rooftops and flying directly in front of our homes. We've had armed agents on snowmobiles, ATV's and horseback scouting our backyards. Threats of being placed under arrest when we protest such actions were frequent. We're fed up with the harassment, trespassing and the lack of private property rights.

It wasn't until I found myself in the role of coordinator for HOBNOB that I recognized the importance of educating myself in order to understand both sides. I read nonstop, asked numerous questions and invited guest speakers to our meetings. The more educated we became we quickly realized that when it comes to brucellosis, every single citizen in the state of Montana haven't any private property rights. We also learned that the violations of our constitutional right to private property are based upon antiquated science, rules and regulations that even APHIS has now publicly acknowledged to be true.

HOBNOB initiated petitions calling for an end to the hazing and harassment of buffalo on Horse Butte. We sent letters to participating agencies of the IBMP and to our Representatives and Governors. As landowners, we've been exploited and completely ignored. No one was willing to help us until now.

When HOBNOB first learned about the Montana Wild Buffalo Recovery and Conservation Act, we understood it didn't give us everything we wanted. However, as discerning adults, we understand the complexities of the buffalo controversy and how it relates to the cattle industry. This is why we strongly endorse this initiative because we believe it respects both sides with objectivity and fairness, which is far better than the status quo. To resist or refuse to compromise on our part would be counterproductive.

That brucellosis is something to be feared is a directive that has been driven into the minds of the public for over 30 years so it's understandable people's reluctance for change. However, when fear advances, logic looks away. That's why we have this conflict today. People looked away while new medical advancements and research took place. I respectfully ask that you remove any preconceived ideas you may have had before coming here today and look at the data from a fresh perspective. Do the homework. The interests of Montana ranchers will continue to be regulated by the DOL and Board of Livestock via the Interagency Bison Management Plan. This component shouldn't be ignored. Economically, socially, ecologically, and spiritually this bill just makes good sense.

If we don't take advantage of what the Buffalo Recovery Act offers today, hundreds of like-minded people want to know where you think FWP directors and managers should envision themselves in the near future when it comes to wildlife conservation versus total eradication of the wildlife we've entrusted to their care?

HB 253 1/29/09 HELENA



Horse Butte Bison

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 11:51 AM

From: "Nick Stipanovich" <nick_stipanovich@sdmc.com>

To: karrietaggart@yahoo.com

To whom it may concern:

I and my wife Cynthia are residents of Horse Butte and reside at 428 Pine Needle Rd. West Yellowstone, MT.

It seems apropos that with the situation that the country is in right now, officials are meeting to once again tell us what's "good" for us. This of course is a different scenario but in many ways has parallels. A group that is very influential in the State is dictating policy and the politicians nod their heads and ask how hard they want them to jam it down the public's throat. With no sound biological, historical or geographic reasoning, the DOL will once again harass, chase and kill one of the most noble animals on the North American continent that at one point we cheered on to recovery. In this era of waste, monies will be spent for this, a lot of money that could be put to further uses such as protected zones or vaccinations of cattle and or bison. The objections seem to be the so called expense of protecting the cattle herd from this disease if the Brucellosis Free status is removed. Tough, it's a cost of doing business. Are you destroying gas stations because your fuel costs have doubled?

I for one do not want DOL on my property. We are not so called "tree huggers" or members of PETA. We hunt, we fish and we love Montana but the wanton waste of such a valuable resource is inexcusable and frankly a crime. If someone could give me one logical argument why this is necessary on Horse Butte, I'll listen but if not, then I recommend that we do the same as I would with the other crisis- clean house with the people in office now that allowed this to happen.

Nick Stipanovich
Cynthia Stipanovich

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**Bison Management**

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 1:40 PM

From: "Joanne Mayo" <pwrdrunner@hotmail.com>

To: "Taggart, Karrie" <karrietaggart@yahoo.com>

Karrie,

Please include these remarks amongst those presented at the meeting scheduled for Oct- 2-3. Thank You, Joanne

To Whom It May Concern,

As a former resident and current Mountain Vista and Whiskey Jug Rd. property owner, I have an interest in the current discussions in regard to bison management on Horse Butte, MT. Please consider the following points in your discussions.

My concerns for the heritage of the American bison as related to Yellowstone National Park and its legacy include the potential for loss of genetic diversity as a consequence of the current management policies. The continued hazing and slaughter of these wild animals seems completely inappropriate to me in consideration of the recent changes to the situation on Horse Butte.

The concern for commingling of cattle and bison has become a nearly nonrelevant issue as there is no longer private grazing property on the Butte. As the remaining acreage has been acquired by parties interested in conserving the area for bison habitat, it would behoove us to attempt a solution to accommodate that goal. My belief is that there is nearly unanimous support by residents for retaining/instituting bison habitat on the Butte. Most residents would welcome the peaceful activities of the wild bison in preference to the arrogant, intimidating demeanor of the MT Department of Livestock. My experiences with bison have been pleasant, while I cannot say the same for encounters with DOL personnel. Their consideration of property rights and wishes of residents is appalling and has in instances created dangerous potential for animal-human conflict.

My desire would be to see that monies expended in the execution of the current management plan be redirected and focused on the development of an effective vaccine for domestic animals and updating of the APHIS brucellosis related science. In addition MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks should be managing these animals as any other wildlife. As we are all now aware, the brucellosis reservoir in elk is a concern that must be addressed as well. Do we feel that the DOL should have jurisdiction over the MT elk population as well?

Please recognize the evolving conditions on this unique landscape: permanently retire the Horse Butte grazing allotment administered by Gallatin National Forest and develop a plan by which human and bison can be respected.

There is an opportunity to create a realistic, progressive plan; your efforts to do so will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Joanne E. Mayo
P. O. Box 1192
West Yellowstone, MT 59758



Bison on Horse Butte

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 1:50 PM

From: "amkinney" <amkinney@peoplepc.com>

To: "karrie taggart" <karrietaggart@yahoo.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of 485 Old Horse Butte Trail, located on Horse Butte, near West Yellowstone, MT, I would like to make the following points in regard to the current discussion regarding bison management in the area.

My neighbors and I are accustomed to roaming bison year round in the area. None has ever had a problem with shring the environment with the bison, to my knowledge, we all feel they are an asset.

My understanding had been that the Horse Butte grazing allotment had been retired. If this is not the case, my recommendation would be that this done in order to avoid further question or conflict in view of the transfer of grazing property on the Butte.

Having observed MT DOL in its efforts to "manage" bison on the Butte; my feeling is that the funds expended for this activity would be better utilized in attempting other solutions to the problem. Those would include concentration on an improved vaccine and delivery to domestic animal; and current, updated brucellosis science from APHIS.

The genetic diversity of bison in lowering numbers is a concern, and the continued penning, hazing, and slaughter of bison cannot be tolerated. Please return the management of these YNP wild animals to the MT FWP and remove jurisdiction from the DOL.

Your efforts to construct a viable plan to accommodate bison on Horse Butte seem a logical solution to a portion of an admittedly larger problem. In view of the current circumstances, let's take this opportunity to provide a common sense plan.

Thank you for your attention.

Anne Kinney

PeoplePC Online
A better way to Internet
<http://www.peoplepc.com>

4/08

TO: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: NORVAL * SHIELEY W. ARMSTRONG
296 PINE NEEDLE ROAD, HORSE BUTTE
P.O. BOX 175
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT. 59758

WE ARE 15 YEAR RESIDENTS OF HORSE BUTTE.
EACH YEAR WE HEAR THE SAME OLD STORY ABOUT
BISON INFECTIVE CATTLE WITH BRUCELLLOSIS.
NO PROOF OFFERED ———— EVER.
THE AREGO GUNT DOL CONTINUE TO HAZE
AND SLAUGHTER. THEY ROUGH-STEPD OVER OUR
PRIVATE PROPERTY. THIS HAS TO STOP. WHAT
HAPPENED TO OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS?
IT WAS A DISGUSTING SIGHT TO SEE THE
HELICOPTER HAZING BISON OFF THE PRIVATELY
OWNED HORSE BUTTE RANCH.
LET THE FWP MANAGE THE WILD ANIMALS.



[No Subject]

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 6:47 PM

From: "Janice and Scott" <carsley@wyellowstone.com>

To: karrietaggart@yahoo.com

80 Pine Needle Rd
Horse Butte
N. of West Yellowstone
October 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Bison were once near extinction due to poaching, and were repopulated at Yellowstone's Lamar Buffalo Ranch in the 1900's. 100 years later we are repeating historic mistakes, only now it's our government condoning and funding the slaughter.

Bison hazing, trapping and slaughter on the Horse Butte peninsula is disturbing on a variety of levels. It's expensive, inhumane, maddening and creates distrust of our public agencies' motives and competence.

The ridiculous amount of money state and federal agencies spend to haze, herd, capture, and kill bison should be better spent. I've heard the cost last year was \$5,000,000, true or not the real cost isn't readily reported to the tax payers, and do people in other states know someone's being paid to harass and exterminate their bison?

Domestic cattle don't inhabit Horse Butte so brucellosis transmission is not a threat to Montana cattle there. The Montana Department of Livestock Mission Statement is: "To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals."*(Montana) None of the DOL's help is needed on Horse Butte as their missions are not represented here. DOL funding should eradicate animal diseases not animals.

Hazing trapping and killing bison is inhumane and disturbing. The Bison are terrified by hovering helicopters, being forced into pens and trailers and sent off to slaughter. The dates chosen to haze, catch calving females and newborn calves in the turmoil of stampeding bison and screaming helicopter blades feet above their heads. How far do they have to run? My family is disturbed to see the hazing, and horrified to see pools of blood where dozens of bison were slaughtered within 10 yards of the Rainbow Point Road. When the spring thaw comes there are yard wide puddles of bloody water.

Representatives of the DOL act arrogantly, disrespectfully, and are bullies who trespass and try to intimidate.

I support legislation that allows bison to roam on the Horse Butte peninsula with people, pets, foxes, elk, deer, moose, bears, birds and numerous other creatures that live on this diverse strip of land. Please repeal this expensive, purposeless bison plan.

Sincerely,
Janice Carsley

Works Cited



My comment about calving on Horse Butte

Friday, September 26, 2008 7:10 AM

From: "Apowderriver@aol.com" <Apowderriver@aol.com>

To: karrietaggart@yahoo.com

If Bison are left alone on the Horse Butte Peninsula to calve and graze they wouldn't then be calving or grazing in a cattle pasture. If they enter a cattle pasture that will actually have cattle on it THEN and only THEN haze off that cattle pasture. Every calf born or aborted on the Horse Butte is one less that might have been done in a cattle pasture. The less Human intervention, the lower the stress. Do your testing on the North side leave the Horse Butte alone, save some money for research or testing costs of the Rancher.

Quit ignoring Private Property rights when there is NO risk of any disease transmission. The people on the Horse Butte have accomplished more(at less cost to the Tax-payer) for Bison habitat than the entire States of Montana, Wyoming Or Idaho. There is NO conflict with Bison and Cattle period, ever on that chunk of ground surrounded by a lake on three sides and the Park on the fourth. Quit trying to play God, or save 'face' or whatever you are trying to prove.

The IBMP plan as it is now, is like a fish net strung across a river trying to dam it. You need to close some holes before you get anywhere.

Work with the infected cattle. Get your vaccines improved before you try to vaccinate an entire eco-system. It's already come to light the latest vaccine is losing it's affect. Had this been wildlife you would have had to recapture and vaccinate everything again. Why not just work with the cattle. If you are working on some equipment, or a fence, and get a gash on your arm from something with manure or rust on it, you normally go and clean and dress the wound, THEN go repair whatever cut you. You don't let yourself (or the wound) get infected. So FIX the cattle since that is the 'wound'. Partial protection leads to infection. The wound is where the 'sore' spot is so fix the sore spot. Brucellosis in Bison and Elk has no effect on humans. People are harvesting them, the numbers are thriving, as your slaughter practices have proven. Or so YOUR stats claim.

That brings another question WHY is APHIS still treating it like it is an UNKNOWN? It's time to admit things need updated. Quit trying to cover-up what is common knowledge. That Brucellosis is NOT the threat it once was.

Why not let APHIS buy the infected cattle from the Rancher, let the University in Wyoming or Montana study that herd and see how long or IF cattle can build their own resistance to the disease like Bison and Elk seem to have. Not like you can tell an infected animal from a non infected with out extensive tests.

Ann Stovall
PO Box 863
Horse Butte
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
(406)646-9612