

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/19/2019 1:04:31 PM

First name: Patricia

Last name: Parker

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 211 N 2nd ST

Address2:

City: Lewisburg

State: PA

Province/Region: PA

Zip/Postal Code: 17837

Country: United States

Email: pparker2112@gmail.com

Phone: 5705236416

Comments:

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team

P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock)

Bozeman, MT 59771

Re: Preservation of the last wild herd of American bison

As you know, the only remaining wild herd of American bison has been under attack for many years. These attacks, including hazing, caging, and slaughter have been carried out by the agriculture and livestock agencies of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, with the quiet consent of the U.S. Government.

There are apparently no laws in place to preserve this last wild herd of American bison. They're safe only when inside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Once they step over the borders of the park, they're hazed with helicopters, caged, and often slaughtered.

These things are done to the bison when all they're doing is following their ancient migration routes-routes that are far older than the human borders over which they cross without knowing that the human beings waiting for them on the other side are waiting to eradicate them.

For example:

*American bison that cross Targhee Pass on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest into the geothermal basin of Henry's Lake and Island Park can be eradicated under Idaho Code § 25-618(1).

*Bison migrating along the Shoshone River into the State of Wyoming are managed in restricted ranges in limited numbers for removal on the Shoshone National Forest. With a phone call, the Wyoming Livestock Board can order Game & Fish to remove migratory bison found in the state. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 23-1-302(a)(xxvii); Wyo. Game & Fish Dept. 2008.

*In Montana, bison migrating along the Yellowstone and Madison rivers are managed in restricted ranges in limited numbers for removal on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Under Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-120, the state veterinarian and the livestock department are firmly in control of the wild species under the Governor-approved plan the statute calls for: the outdated Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Far from "conserving" this last wild herd of bison, these states seem to be trying to kill them off. One of the reasons for this slaughter, which has been proven scientifically irrelevant, is a brucellosis bacteria many bison carry which can cause death in other bovine species. However, not one single case of transference of brucellosis to cattle has ever been recorded after years of study, experimentation, and bison abuse.

I urge you to preserve this precious American treasure and allow the bison to roam safely along their ancient migration routes. They hurt nothing.

Fear and panic on the part of cattle ranchers should not be the reason that these bison are being hassled and destroyed.

As an American citizen and taxpayer, I would like to know that my taxes are going toward preserving one of my country's most magnificent creatures. Not destroying them.

Thank you.

Cc Senator Patrick Toomey; Senator Robert Casey