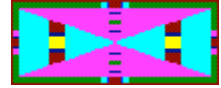


Little Big Horn College  
8645 South Weaver Drive  
P.O. Box 370  
Crow Agency, MT 59022  
Phone: (406) 638-3100



January 9, 2018

Custer Gallatin National Forest  
Attn: Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson  
P.O Box 130  
10 E Babcock Ave  
Bozeman, MT

Dear Mary,

On behalf of the Little Big Horn College chartered by the Crow Tribe of Indians located on the Crow Indian Reservation in Crow Agency, Cottonwood Environmental Law Center is requesting you to add the American Buffalo to the list of Species of Conservation Concern for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision.

As I am sure you are well aware, the Apsaalooke hunted buffalo in this area on our land for years before Treaty's and National Parks existed. To this day because of Treaty Rights many tribally enrolled members are allowed to continue hunting the buffalo in this area. With all due respect, we ask that the Forest Service add the American Buffalo to the list of Species of Conservation Concern to ensure the Tribe's Treaty Rights are also respected.

According to the attached Forest Service document:

A "Species of Conservation Concern" is a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area (the Custer Gallatin Forest lands) for which the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area.

The Species of Conservation Concern document also states that "[s]pecies identified by Federal, State, or Tribal entities as high priority for conservation" will be considered for the list. We hope that you will consider this request whole-heartedly. I can be reached directly at (406) 638-3131 or via email at [leftbandfv@lbhc.edu](mailto:leftbandfv@lbhc.edu) should you have any questions or concerns about this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Frederica V. Lefthand, MS  
Dean of Academics