



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

**NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
ADMINISTRATION**

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The Morning Star

To: Custer/Gallatin National Forest
Re: CGNF Forest Plan Revision-Species of Conservation Concern
Date: June 19, 2017

Dear Custer Gallatin National Forest,

On behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Cottonwood Environmental Law Center requests that you add the American Buffalo to the list of Species of Conservation Concern for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision.

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.

The American Buffalo is considered a species of high priority for conservation by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. For centuries the American buffalo has been closely tied to the survival, identities, tradition, culture, spiritual beliefs, and religious practices of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and their indigenous ways of life. The Forest Service lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park comprise high-quality native buffalo habitat and the Northern Cheyenne Reservation is located directly adjacent to Forest Service land managed by the Custer Gallatin National Forest that is historic buffalo habitat.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe traditionally hunted buffalo on CGNF lands adjacent to its reservation and Yellowstone National Park. Treaty Rights held by the Northern Cheyenne allow tribal members to continue hunting buffalo in these areas. We ask that the Forest Service add the **LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR – Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.**

American Buffalo to the list of Species of Conservation Concern to ensure the Tribe's Treaty Rights are respected.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact John Meyers with the Cottonwood Environmental Law Center at 406.546.0149 should you have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

L. Jace Killsback, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe