

9/8/20

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

September 8, 2020

Migratory American Bison are NOT Cattle

The fatally flawed 2020 Environmental Impact Statement for the {why Custer?} Gallatin National Forest is a politicized farce of Trump stooges BLM Pendley and DOI Zinke/Bernhardt who ordered Yellowstone National Park to manage native bison like cattle on a ranch. (Were any of Zinke's directives issued from his armored phone booth I wonder?) And let's not forget Donald Trump whose only experience of nature is a golf course, who must be shown photos of public lands, who cannot pronounce Yosemite and who is under the impression that Yellowstone is a uranium mining operation.

Of course the Forest Service kowtowed. Here in New Mexico they are ripping out native forests of Pinyon Pine and replacing them with exotic livestock forage. {Custer} Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone National Park and the Montana Department of Livestock have regressed to the mindset that slaughtered 60 to 70 million buffalo between 1865 and 1885. The Forest Service 2020 Land Management Plan is the replay of an historical tragedy with the same ignorant murderous buffoons at the helm. Their procedure for dissent that you can only be an objector if you have previously been an objector is Putinesque. You can only object forever with no result if you have already objected with no result in an apparently predetermined process. Or should I say Kafkaesque as with Putin, like Trump, there is no dissent. I have previously objected with no result. This would qualify me as a constant objector.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the 2020 Land Management Plan for the {Custer} Gallatin National Forest is well researched for lynx and grizzly bears. This makes it all the more incomprehensible that the Forest Service has denied migratory American bison habitat protections they need for survival. You have to look no further than the word "migratory" to understand why Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson has refused to include standards conserving their habitat in the {Custer} Gallatin National Forest land management plan, why she has made the decision to stop evaluating wild bison as a species of conservation concern and remove the native species from further consideration.

American bison also need to be listed as a species of conservation concern in the Forest Service's Northern Region, but this has been denied to them by Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten in spite of objections by thousands of tribal advocates and members of environmental groups. "American Bison: A Species of Conservation Concern" is one objector document that made the case for not replacing bison with grazing permittees that have no place on public lands. Barbed wire and cattle of European settlers destroyed the West contrary to their mythologizing. Starving out indigenous nomadic people as part of a genocidal policy and clearing the way for railroads were the death blow for American bison. The Forest Service is continuing on this ignominious trajectory.

Responsible or I should say irresponsible parties are: Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson who is responsible for approving the final record of decision for the {Custer} Gallatin National Forest's land management plan.

Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten, who is responsible for identifying species of conservation concern in the Northern Region, is also responsible for reviewing Supervisor Erickson's final decision for the {Custer} Gallatin National Forest's revised land management plan.

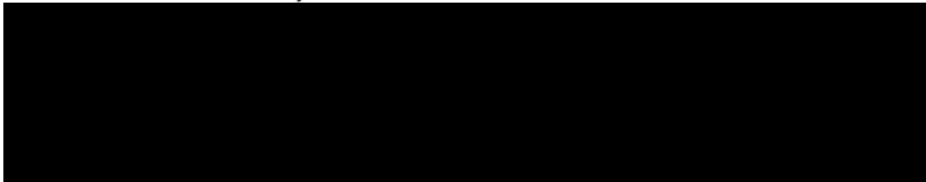
The Chief of the Forest Service, Vicki Christiansen, is responsible for reviewing Regional Forester Marten's decision listing species of conservation concern.

Under court order, Yellowstone National Park recently released records the park had fought to withhold from the public on how the park manages buffalo under their protection. The park's release of records stems from a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit decided earlier this summer by U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy who sided with Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) and ordered Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cameron Sholly's office to make them public. Respected Superintendent Daniel Wenck was replaced by Zinke over bison migration and relocation. The newly released records can be found on BFC's [Freedom of Information Act web page](#). Attorneys Daniel Snyder of the Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, P.C., and Tim Bechtold of the Bechtold Law Firm, successfully argued the case on BFC's behalf.

Higher ups in the park suppressed an unpublished manuscript that blew the whistle on the "myths and misperceptions" perpetuated by the livestock industry to gain control over buffalo as a betrayal of the public and tribal trust. Another briefing memo recounted how: *"Yellowstone's Superintendent was informed that the Secretary of the Interior wanted . . . Yellowstone bison managed more actively like cattle on a ranch, and . . . the Bureau of Land Management to conduct an assessment of the number of bison the park could support using the animal unit month (AUM) concept . . . used to manage forage use by grazing livestock."*

Zinke's orders to turn Yellowstone National Park into a cattle ranch threaten the country's remnant population of indigenous American buffalo. Managing buffalo roaming Yellowstone National Park like cattle on a ranch describes policy put in place by the State of Montana decades ago. The business of trapping buffalo for slaughter and quarantine, harassing buffalo from National Forest habitat, deploying fencing and vaccination schemes, enclosing their range, stopping migrations continues. Tens of millions of dollars have been swindled from the public purse to keep up the delusion of managing wild buffalo like cattle in place.

You have blood on your hands.



PS. There is no urban wilderness interface, only destruction of wilderness.