



McCone County

Circle, Montana 59215

COMMISSIONERS

Box 199
485-3500
485-2689 (Fax)

September 9, 2015

CLERK & RECORDER

Box 199
485-3505
485-2689 (Fax)

Bison Conservation and Management EIS
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

CLERK OF THE COURT

Box 199
485-3410
485-3436 (Fax)

To Whom It May Concern:

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Box 58
485-3530
485-2306 (Fax)

We support the "No Action" alternative being analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Bison Conservation and Management in Montana.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Box 192
485-3548
485-2689 (Fax)

McCone County is a rural county with an agriculturally based economy. The reintroduction of bison would adversely impact the quality of life for our citizens and negatively impact the economy.

SHERIFF

Box 201
485-3405
485-3464 (Fax)

The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #15-04-13B, A Resolution Requiring County Commission Authorization For Any Translocation of Bison Into McCone County by Montana FWP or USFWS in April, 2015. The Board approved Resolution #10-11-15, Buffalo Designation as Domestic Livestock in McCone County in November, 2010. The "No Action" alternative would support our resolutions and help protect the economy and residents in McCone County.

**TREASURER/
SUP. OF SCHOOLS**

Box 180
485-3590
485-2689 (Fax)

Currently agriculture producers in McCone County build and maintain fences to keep their livestock contained on their property. The reintroduction of bison would force producers to rebuild their fences in order to keep the bison from straying onto their property. The cost for new fences would be prohibitively expensive. There is also great concern that free range bison would roam onto state and county roads leading to vehicle accidents. An increase in vehicle accidents would be difficult for our county to handle due to the large area of the county, low population and long distances to higher levels of medical care.

Local agricultural producers are concerned about the transmission of Brucellosis or other diseases from bison to the local cattle herds. The introduction of bison would reduce the carrying capacity of any land associated with the bison. Fewer cattle reduces the amount of taxes paid to McCone County and results in less revenue for the

local producers. Free range bison also eat planted crops and hay fields which will reduce income from crop production.

We strongly recommend the selection of the "No Action" alternative.

Sincerely,

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
McCONE COUNTY**



Janet Wolff, Presiding Officer



James D. Moos, Member



Alan Stempel, Member