



BUFFALO

FIELD CAMPAIGN

January 21, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of Buffalo Field Campaign and our thousands of supporters across the nation, congratulations on your election victory! We are grateful and eager to be guided by your leadership. We are heartened by your commitment to the conservation and restoration of our nation's wildlife and natural resources. Yellowstone bison management requires a holistic vision such as yours, that provides meaningful participation for the many important stakeholders. Funding collaborative, science-based bison management supports your visionary Building Back America Plan in fundamental ways. I have respectfully attached a list of recommendations for you to consider as you implement your vision for the nation.

Long-neglected priorities governing wild, Yellowstone bison necessitates your immediate intervention. Asserting federal authority for bison management on National trust lands will provide security for the only continuously-wild herd of bison in the lower 48 states. Exercising federal responsibility for bison will provide the flexibility to rebuild the local economy and implement your innovative national strategy to get folks back to work.

Adopting science-based bison management on National trust lands honors our National Mammal, aggressively addresses the ongoing and oncoming impacts of climate change, and contributes to reaching the goals of the 30 by 30 Initiative – to conserve 30% of United States land and waters by 2030. The viability of many plant and animal species benefit from bison's unique forage and migration patterns, thus building resilience against climate change and habitat degradation.

"Protecting the Last Wild Bison"

Bison populations utilize the land in a manner that sequesters carbon, creating a green wave of regeneration for vegetation on a regional scale. Bison can restore the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, enhance the survivability of native species, build resilience against climate change while being protected for the generations yet to come. We believe your Administration can make this happen.

Wild, migratory bison fulfilling the ecological niche in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem also creates opportunity for environmental justice. Tribes possessing treaty-reserved hunting rights and a cultural relationship with Yellowstone bison must have a greater role in their management. A robust bison population fulfilling the ecological niche protects the treaty-reserved hunting rights for over 50,000 tribal people, and increases the potential for bison restoration on tribal and National trust lands. Further, the American people adore bison and the Yellowstone region. Regional tourism and the green economy reflect our collective interest in this beautiful corner of America. A visionary, holistic approach to bison governance would include the priorities of the people, elevate environmental justice for tribes and marginalized communities, and take great strides in implementing the 30 by 30 Initiative.

On behalf of wild, migratory bison, Buffalo Field Campaign celebrates your election to the Presidency of the United States. We look forward to your leadership and guidance. We are grateful for your consideration of our recommendations. Please contact me if your Administration would like to discuss these important recommendations.

May Creator continue to bless you and your loved ones as you assume the helm of our great nation. Qeciyewyew (Thank you).

For the Buffalo,



James L. Holt, Sr.

Executive Director of Buffalo Field Campaign, Nez Perce Tribal Member

“The Earth and I are of one mind” - Chief Joseph