



BUFFALO
FIELD CAMPAIGN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Project Name

Threats Analysis for the Distinct Population Segment of Yellowstone Bison

Point of Contact

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Background/Introduction

Buffalo Field Campaign is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 1997 to stop the harassment and slaughter of Yellowstone's wild buffalo herds; protect the natural habitat of wild, free-roaming buffalo and other native wildlife; and work with all people—especially Indigenous Nations—to honor and protect the sacredness of the wild buffalo. buffalofieldcampaign.org/mission-vision-values.

Since 2014, Buffalo Field Campaign and our partners Western Watersheds Project, and attorneys from Friends of Animals, have been working through the courts to advance our 90-day petition to list the Distinct Population Segment of Yellowstone bison under the Endangered Species Act. A second successful judicial ruling in our legal case requires the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to make a new 90-day finding in 2022. buffalofieldcampaign.org/endangered-bison-endangered-migration.

"Protecting the Last Wild Bison"

Anticipated Schedule

Proposals are being accepted anytime. Buffalo Field Campaign anticipates selecting a candidate to begin the threats analysis in 2022.

Project Goals

Buffalo Field Campaign is seeking candidates to conduct a threats analysis and prepare a report on the migratory species' ability to self-sustain a wild bison population with distinct breeding herds in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

The threats analysis is a critical review of adverse factors operating on the distinct population of Yellowstone bison, and a forecast of the ability of the migratory species to naturally adapt in the wild as a viable, self-sustaining population over the long-term (centuries).

The threats analysis will consider all factors increasing the risk of extinction for Yellowstone bison in the wild such as significant loss of range and habitat, population isolation, loss of migration corridors and connectivity to habitat, use of livestock and veterinary practices (domestication), the absence of State conservation measures, ineffective federal management actions, and rapid climate change.

Scope of Services

The candidate will work with Buffalo Field Campaign staff to evaluate, and develop a report on, factors threatening or endangering Yellowstone bison using the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Species Status Assessment Framework (August 2016).

Tasks to be performed by the candidate include:

- Reviewing source material, data, and documentation.
- Identifying information gaps and collecting data.
- Initiating development of the 3-stage assessment using the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Species Status Assessment Framework.
- Producing work product for each stage of the 3-stage assessment for independent review.
- Producing a final report for independent review.

Proposal Elements

A brief description of the candidate's qualifications and credentials applicable to successfully completing the project, e.g., expertise or experience studying American bison, or conducting threats assessments of wildlife species.

A brief statement of the candidate's commitment of availability to complete the project, and ability to produce work product on time or on schedule.

A timeline for project development and production of work product following the tasks outlined above under Scope of Services, including approximate dates for beginning work on each of the 3-stages in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Species Status Assessment Framework.

A budget outlining costs, and any plan for leveraging additional funding (in-kind contributions, grants, etc.).

Resources available from the Buffalo Field Campaign include an extensive publications database, and a research assistant to find additional publications and source material, prepare and submit requests for data, and prepare additional documents relevant to preparing and producing the threats analysis.