



BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN

P.O. BOX 957

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA 59758

(406) 646-0070 PHONE (406) 646-0071 FAX

<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org>

buffalo@wildrockies.org

March 19, 2013

Chairman John Brenden and members of the Senate Fish and Game committee, Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Fish & Game committee,

On behalf of Buffalo Field Campaign I am submitting testimony on HB 328. Mr. Chairman, I would also request that my testimony be shared with committee members and entered into the hearing record. Thank you.

Buffalo Field Campaign is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild buffalo herd, protect the natural habitat of wild free-roaming buffalo and native wildlife, and to work with people of all Nations to honor the sacredness of the wild buffalo.

Buffalo Field Campaign is located in West Yellowstone, Gallatin County, Montana, and is supported by volunteers and citizens in Montana and by people from around the world who value America's native wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend, and enjoy the natural wonders of our irreplaceable public lands.

As an organization and on behalf of our members, Buffalo Field Campaign is concerned and actively involved with protecting the last remaining descendants of indigenous buffalo in North America to occupy their original range, and securing long-term protection for viable populations of wild buffalo and year-round habitat.

Buffalo Field Campaign is adamantly opposed to HB 328, for many reasons.

HB 328 repeals Montana's 'fair-chase' hunt by repealing the prohibition on state officials identifying "the actual physical location" of migratory buffalo to be hunted.

Have we forgotten the national firestorm that led the Montana legislature to pass this prohibition into law?

The feeble rationale offered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks does not pass the smell test.

Ostensibly, repealing the prohibition on identifying the actual physical location of buffalo will conform to an informal policy adopted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks of disclosing such information to Treaty Tribe hunters.

We do not believe the Montana legislature and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks fully understands that it is jeopardizing the state's buffalo hunt by repealing this common sense prohibition.

Montana can resolve this issue by adopting a policy that conforms to state law in a manner that treats all hunters equally.

If the Montana legislature wishes to avoid bringing national opprobrium upon the state once again, it needs to follow, in all instances, the prohibition on state officials identifying "the actual physical location" of migratory buffalo to be hunted.

Daniel Brister, MS
Executive Director
Buffalo Field Campaign
PO Box 957
West Yellowstone MT 59758
phone: (406) 646-0070
fax: (406) 646-0071
email: bfc@wildrockies.org