

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Hall Business Council has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Hall Business Council, acting as the Fish and Game Commission, has determined there is a need to clearly state the Tribes' desire to protect, preserve and enhance populations of wild bison; and

**WHEREAS**, the bison, *bohja*, are a culturally significant species to the Tribes, who still use the animal for subsistence and to carry on our traditional cultural practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoshone and Bannock peoples have utilized our homeland, including the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, to hunt bison from time immemorial, through the present day; and

**WHEREAS**, the remaining wild Yellowstone bison herds are now subject to a series of geo-political boundaries, preventing them from occupying much of their historic range throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous legislative actions from the State of Montana are currently being considered to further restrict bison emigrating from the park and to prohibit their establishment elsewhere in their historic range; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribes are concerned the long-term viability of bison on the landscape may be compromised by these legislative acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana legislature did not consult with or consider the significant concerns identified by the tribes of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming prior to introducing this legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are standing members of the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council and the Montana & Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES**, that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes unequivocally oppose any legislation regarding bison to restrict their range or otherwise remove these animals from the landscape; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes urge all Montana legislators and Governor Steven Bullock to stop these bills from becoming law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, as members of the Montana & Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, support efforts to oppose these legislative acts and protect this sacred species; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will continue to advocate, through any available channel, for bison to migrate freely across their historic range and to enhance the remaining Yellowstone herd.

Authority for the foregoing resolution is found in the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat., 984) as amended and under Article VI, Section 1 (g, r) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation of Idaho.


Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013

  
Nathan Small, Tribal Chairman  
Fort Hall Business Council

SEAL

**CERTIFICATION**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY**, that the foregoing resolution was passed while a quorum of the Business Council was present by a vote of 4 in favor, 2 absent (GF, EDD), and 1 not voting (NS) on the date this bears.

  
Lee Juan Tyler, Tribal Secretary  
Fort Hall Business Council