



BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN

P.O. BOX 957 WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA 59758

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

<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org>

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Chairman Taylor Brown and members of the Senate Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation committee, Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN COMMENTS ON SJ 11 – DO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and
Irrigation committee,

On behalf of Buffalo Field Campaign I am submitting testimony on SJ 11. I
request that my testimony be entered into the hearing record. Thank you.

Buffalo Field Campaign encourages consideration of an amendment by
the committee to clarify that, in the case of wild buffalo, transmission of
brucellosis to cattle has never been documented in the wild in Montana,
Idaho, or Wyoming.

For nearly a century this fact has held true for wild buffalo even without
the destructive, wasteful, and costly taxpayer funded Interagency Bison
Management Plan being in place for the past 15 years.

Scientific evidence exists indicating wild elk have been implicated in
transmitting brucellosis to cattle in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming (Beja-
Pereira 2009).

The documentary record also indicates brucellosis would not exist at all
in our region's wild buffalo and elk had not exotic cattle been introduced
that carried the disease and infected native species (Meagher and Meyer
1994).

Please see BFC's attached handout on SJ 11 for further information and documentation of our sources.

BFC encourages the committee to consider amending SJ 11 to clarify that wild buffalo have not infected cattle with brucellosis in the wild. Such an amendment should be adopted with a do pass recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

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



About Buffalo Field Campaign

Buffalo Field Campaign was founded in 1997 to protect the natural habitat of wild migratory buffalo and native wildlife, to stop the slaughter and harassment of America's last wild buffalo as well as to advocate for their lasting protection, 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, Idaho and Wyoming, 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 deeply concerned and actively involved in protecting the last remaining descendants of indigenous buffalo in North America to occupy their original range.

Buffalo Field Campaign publicizes the plight of the buffalo, works to end their slaughter by government agencies, and advocates for the long-term protection of viable populations of wild buffalo and year-round habitat.

Buffalo Field Campaign actively engages the American public to honor and protect our cultural heritage by allowing wild buffalo to exist as an indigenous wildlife species fulfilling their ecological role on their native landscape.

Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers patrol habitat where buffalo migrate within the Yellowstone and Madison River drainages. These direct experiences with buffalo on their native habitats inform our actions and strengthen our commitment to gaining permanent protections for America's last wild buffalo.