



Toni Griffin  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Branch of Planning and Policy  
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
scoping\_NBR@fws.gov

June 21, 2017

Dear Ms. Griffin,

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local chapter with deep concern for our environment. Our members are long-time and regular users of the National Bison Range. We submit the following comments for the scoping notice for the development of the comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the National Bison Range.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' culture and history should play a major role in the interpretation and management on the Bison Range, and they should be deeply involved in the planning and execution of any resulting plans. Flathead Audubon supported the proposed transfer of the Bison Range back to the Tribes and even though political decisions have blocked that transfer, it should still be possible to include them much more deeply in the interpretation, programs, and management on the Bison Range. The Tribes have a much longer history with bison than the FWS and that history should be an important part of the message conveyed to visitors.

Flathead Audubon would like to see the bison on the Bison Range managed more like wildlife and less like domestic animals as is currently done, where population size, sex ratio, and age structure are intensively controlled by the managers. If this is not possible due to space (acreage) limitations or other factors, then it should be prominently explained.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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