

What can Barack Obama do to help Yellowstone's wild buffalo?



As President of the United States, Barack Obama is in a powerful position to stop the slaughter and hazing of the wild buffalo in and near Yellowstone National Park, where more buffalo were killed in 2007-8 than at any time since the 19th century.

Buffalo are managed under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP); of the five agencies that are partners of the IBMP, three are federal agencies under direct control of the President (the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service). This plan has killed thousands of America's largest wild herd at great cost to taxpayers under the guise of preventing the spread of brucellosis from bison to cattle - something that has never happened, something that cannot happen in areas where cattle don't even exist, and something that if it did happen would not cost anywhere near as much as what it does to kill and torture these wild animals.

As you read this, Yellowstone's buffalo are in danger again this winter. Under the IBMP, hundreds more buffalo can be killed, threatening the genetic viability of the herd. While other issues are certainly important and need federal attention, let us not forget about these uniquely iconic American animals - President Obama could help.

Please ask President Obama to commit to the following steps for the buffalo:

- 1. End the hazing and slaughter of Yellowstone's bison populations immediately by withdrawing federal support for the IBMP.**
- 2. Re-negotiate a bison management plan with the state of Montana and indigeous peoples that respects buffalo as wildlife first and not as a disease control issue.**
- 3. Increase range and habitat for bison populations outside of Yellowstone National Park.**
- 4. Work with Montana's ranchers and citizens to ensure win-win solutions - like fences and cattle vaccinations so that all interests are met.**
- 5. Involve true bottom-up input (as Obama's rhetoric promises) from the public in policymaking.**

What can we in Bozeman do for the buffalo?

Buffalo in Yellowstone is a local issue for those of us in the Gallatin Valley; if change truly does come from the bottom up, then we have a remarkable opportunity to do right by the buffalo.

We meet a lot of people who know what is happening to the buffalo is wrong but feel powerless to do anything about it. We created a new group - Buffalo Allies of Bozeman - to give people opportunities to take effective action on behalf of the buffalo.

On Saturday, December 6, at Noon, at the Bozeman Public Library, we are going to hold an educational event on the basics of the Yellowstone buffalo situation, as well as how to volunteer with Buffalo Field Campaign, who are out there in the field every year doing their best for the buffalo. We are also working to help people take other kinds of action, like engaging in media work (like writing letters to the editor), online advocacy, and many other things besides. We are creating more and more ways for you to take action right here in the Gallatin Valley, and we would like for you to get involved. We have **meetings open to the public every Wednesday at Montana State University's student union building in the 2nd floor cafeteria (NW corner) at 7 PM.** If you don't want to commit to meetings, get to know us a little better at one of our regular events or by checking us out on the Web.

Barack Obama and the federal and state governments won't get the message unless we do more. We need your help; the buffalo in Yellowstone need your help. If you have the inclination to do something, it can be done. **Join us as we take action.**

See the back of this flyer for more information about Buffalo Allies of Bozeman.



www.buffaloallies.org - Buffalo Allies of Bozeman