



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS: STREET LOCATION:
Post Office Box 25486 134 Union Blvd.
Denver Federal Center Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

March 22, 2016

Via email: jruch@peer.org

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
962 Wayne Street, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910

REF: FWS-2016-00479

Dear Mr. Ruch:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Mountain Prairie Region received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 18, 2016 for records pertaining to:

- 1. A copy of the proposed transfer legislation, outline of its provision or any other summary or description provided by FWS to the CSKT or to any member of Congress or staff of any member of Congress;*
- 2. A copy of the decision document authorizing FWS to state its support for this transfer legislation, together with any records detailing the rationale for that decision;*
- 3. Documents reflecting FWS compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements relating to recommendations or proposals for legislation which may have a significant impact on the human environment;*
- 4. Documents describing or discussing the future role that the FWS envisions for the National Bison Range and the bison on the Refuge for bison conservation in the U.S. after transfer to the CSKT;*
- 5. Records describing the "landscape-scale conservation efforts" referenced in both emails to which the FWS now intends to shift its focus; and*
- 6. Documents relating to the future placements for FWS employees now assigned to the National Bison Range, together with any information provided these employees about referenced "options and opportunities" for their future employment in FWS.*

Enclosed is an electronic binder containing eighty-nine (89) pages (forty-five (45) documents) which is being released to you in its entirety. There may be additional document(s) not included

in this response as we are continuing to review records that may be responsive to your request. Once that review is complete we will provide you with our final response.

You may appeal this partial response to the FOIA Appeals Officer. The FOIA Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal no later than 30 workdays from the date of this letter responding to your FOIA request. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. E.T., Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday. Your appeal must be in writing and addressed to:

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information:

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

You must include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the bureau concerning your FOIA request, including a copy of your original FOIA request and this response letter. Failure to include this documentation with your appeal will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal. The appeal should be marked, both on the envelope and the face of the letter, with the legend, "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your letter should include in as much detail as possible any reason(s) why you believe the bureau's response is in error."

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration
Rm. 2510
8601 Adelphi Rd.
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 301-837-1996
Facsimile: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006

& Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 303-236-4325 or by email at Cathey_Willis@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Willis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Willis
FOIA Officer

Enclosure