



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/BA/FOIA

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

July 6, 2017

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
962 Wayne Avenue; Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910

REF: FWS-2017-00413

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This letter is in regard to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 6, 2017 for information regarding the preparation of Federal Register notice FWS-R6-R-2016-N221; FXRS12610600000-178- FF06R00000. Specifically, you are requesting the following:

- 1. All communications or records of communications, including but not limited to emails, letters, and notes or reports of telephone conversations and meetings, between officers and employees of the FWS or the Department of Interior concerning the development and the decision to issue this Federal Register notice.*
- 2. Any communications between FWS or Interior officials and members of the public, members of Congress or staff to members of Congress or congressional committees, and members or officers or representatives of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), which concern or reference any proposal, or any proposed legislation, to transfer the National Bison Range. This item is limited to materials generated on or after August 1, 2016.*
- 3. Any analysis, comments, memoranda, or other writings concerning any proposal, or any proposed legislation, to transfer the National Bison Range to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CSKT generated on or after August 1, 2016.*
- 4. All documents concerning staffing plans for the National Bison Range for FY 2017 and 2018, including any analyses of planning Bison range staff levels relative to those of other comparable refuges or other refuges in that region. This item is limited to materials generated on or after December 1, 2015.*

We are enclosing a DVD containing one-hundred ninety-two (192) documents (1459 pages) responsive to your request, which are being released to you in their entirety. We are continuing to review additional documents that may be responsive to your request. Once that review is complete, we will send you our final response.

You may appeal this partial response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the Service's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the Service concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the Service's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the Service will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

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

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770

Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of 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.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Carrie Hyde-Michaels; Chief, Branch of FOIA, Records, Privacy; 703-358-2291.

If you have any questions, you may contact me by phone at 303-236-4473, by email at Stacey_Cummins@fws.gov, or by mail at 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228.

Sincerely,



Stacey Cummins
Region 6 FOIA Coordinator

Enclosure

