

**From:** [King, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Tribes to Invite to the CCP process  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 1:50:11 PM

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Bernardo,

Thanks for the information. I'm aware that the Blackfeet Tribe doesn't have a historical connection to Flathead, Lake or Sanders counties. I was only thinking of including them because I donate bison to them to augment their herd on a regular basis. They are always interested in receiving bison from NBR if we have any available after roundup. I've not dealt with them outside of donating bison. If the criteria is ancestral lands or interest in this area then I agree they should not be included.

Thanks,

jk

***Jeff King, Project Leader***  
National Bison Range Complex  
58355 Bison Range Road  
Moiese, MT 59824  
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Fri, May 12, 2017 at 2:14 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hello Jeff,

It was good to talk to you yesterday.

During our telephone conference call you mentioned that besides the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, we should invite the Blackfeet Tribe.

I don't have any problem doing that. I just want to alert you that according to my research and the information that I've received from our regional External Affairs chief, the Blackfeet Tribe does not appear as having ancestral lands or interests within Flathead, Lake, or Sanders Counties. The "official" list of tribes with ancestral interests in the planning area include the following:

**For Flathead and Lake Counties:**

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana

**For Sanders County:**

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana

Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation

Coeur D'Alene Tribe

Just let me know how you would like to proceed.

We need to send the letters to the RD's office for signature on Monday, and the invitation letters to the tribes will require DOI review and approval, so we can't delay in determining who all will be invited to the planning process.

Thanks

PS. I was finally able to establish contact, albeit briefly, with Kevin Shinn. He was on his way to some meeting this morning and told me that he would call me back this afternoon. I need to bring him up to speed on yesterday's conference call and have him help me find a place for a public meeting in Kalispell. I'll contact you when I've spoken with Kevin.

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams:

I would like to invite your agency to participate in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties. We are beginning the planning process and request your consideration that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer that your agency not participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

The NBRC, which encompasses the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County, is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) nationwide. The Service has been preparing CCPs for all the units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

We anticipate that the planning process will require three years to complete. There may be as many as five planning meetings per year, with most meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

We will host a kickoff meeting for the CCPs for the units of the NBRC in July 2017 at the National Bison Range headquarters. The meeting may be followed by a tour of some of the units of the NBRC for those interested in participating.

If you would like someone from your agency to attend the kickoff meeting we will gladly send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information. Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have in developing the CCPs for the NBRC.

We will host open house meetings to inform the public about the NBRC and the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the KwaTakNuk Resort in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. The point of contact for Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning is Kelly Hogan, Acting Chief, Branch of Planning, at (303) 236-4355 or via email at [kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Matten, Betsy](#)  
**To:** [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Updated NBR CCP Letters  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:07:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT Tribal invite in Letterhead.docx](#)  
[DRAFT MTFWP Director CCP Development Invite in Letterhead.docx](#)

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See attached.

Betsy

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Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303-236-4307  
[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)



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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are beginning a process to develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana. The NBRC includes National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and our research indicates that your Nation may have aboriginal interest in the area covered in this planning effort. The CCPs are all-encompassing plans that describe management goals, objectives, and strategies for the NBRC in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species, public use, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that all Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process.

We will host a kickoff meeting for the CCPs in July 2017 at the National Bison Range headquarters. The meeting may be followed with a tour of some of the units of the NBRC for those interested in participating. If you or members of your Tribe would like to attend this meeting we will gladly provide you the agenda for the meeting as well as other logistical information. If you are unable to participate in this meeting, but want to be part of the planning effort, we can schedule meetings with representatives from your Tribe in the near future. We will keep you informed of future CCP planning efforts the Service initiates in Montana and other areas where the Service manages public lands. If there is any additional coordination necessary to address issues and concerns of the Tribe, please let us know.

We will host open house meetings to inform the public about the NBRC and the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the KwaTakNuk Resort in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. The point of contact for Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning is Kelly Hogan, Acting Chief, Branch of Planning, at (303) 236-4355 or via email at [kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



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Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams:

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If you would like someone from your agency to attend the kickoff meeting we will gladly send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information. Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have in developing the CCPs for the NBRC.

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Sincerely,

Regional Director

Note to Reviewers,

This folder contains two different draft letters of invitation to participate in the development of comprehensive conservation plans for the units of the National Bison Range Complex.

Letters similar to the one to be sent to the Director of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will also be sent to:

- Flathead County Commissioners
- Lake County Commissioners
- Sanders County Commissioners
- Flathead National Forest Supervisor
- Lolo National Forest Supervisor
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service

Because of ancestral interests, letters similar to the one to be sent to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Chairman will also be sent to:

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
- Kalispell Indian Community of the Kalispell Reservation
- Coeur D'Alene Tribe
- Blackfeet Nation

There will be two public scoping meetings in northwest Montana in early June. The first one will be in Polson and the second one in Kalispell.

The margins and signature lines of these letters will be corrected after the letters have undergone any edits that you request.

Once ready, all the letters of invitation will be sent to the RD's office for signature, and the invitation letters to the tribes will be forwarded to DOI for review prior to being sent to the tribes.

Please let us know of any edits you may have on these letters.

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR Public Meetings  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:32:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT Tribal invite in Letterhead.docx](#)  
[DRAFT MTFWP Director CCP Development Invit in Letterhead.docx](#)  
[Note to Reviewers.docx](#)

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Betsy has reviewed and edited slightly the invitation letters.

Should I move them forward to Bernie and Will for review or wait until you are back in the office?

I'm attaching here the note to reviewers and invitation letters.

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:  
yes

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 3:25 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Are you teleworking Toni?

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 3:23 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Ryan,

I was able to reserve a meeting room at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn, in Polson, MT which I think will be a more appropriate venue than the resort/casino. Here's the meeting info:

June 6, 2017; 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Echo Room  
Red Lion Ridgewater Inn  
209 Ridgewater Drive  
Polson, MT 59860  
ph #406-872-2200

Suggested text for the press release, "Two public scoping meetings are scheduled June 6 and June 7, 2017. These meetings are essential to developing a list of issues that the CCP will address. The meetings will follow an informal open-house format. A brief presentation will be conducted at 6 p.m. each day of the scoping meetings. You are invited to drop by anytime between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to meet with Service personnel, learn more about the CCP process, and provide input."

Feel free to wordsmith however you see fit. Hopefully Bernardo is able to secure a meeting room in Kalispell.

Many thanks,  
Toni

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**



# United States Department of the Interior



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Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

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We will host open house meetings to inform the public about the NBRC and the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. The point of contact for Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning is Kelly Hogan, Acting Chief, Branch of Planning, at (303) 236-4355 or via email at [kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Salem, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#); [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SCHEDULED: Document Number - 2017-10110  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:09:52 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Aaron Mize** <[aaron\\_mize@fws.gov](mailto:aaron_mize@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, May 16, 2017 at 10:54 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: SCHEDULED: Document Number - 2017-10110  
**To:** Cynthia Martinez <[cynthia\\_martinez@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_martinez@fws.gov)>, Shaun Sanchez <[shaun\\_sanchez@fws.gov](mailto:shaun_sanchez@fws.gov)>, Will Meeks <[will\\_meeks@fws.gov](mailto:will_meeks@fws.gov)>, [maureen\\_gallagher@fws.gov](mailto:maureen_gallagher@fws.gov), Jeff Rupert <[jeff\\_rupert@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_rupert@fws.gov)>, Shannon Smith <[shannon\\_smith@fws.gov](mailto:shannon_smith@fws.gov)>, [gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov), Vanessa Kauffman <[vanessa\\_kauffman@fws.gov](mailto:vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov)>, Brian Salem <[brian\\_salem@fws.gov](mailto:brian_salem@fws.gov)>

I was forwarded the same notice that Pablo/Nine Pipe has the same inspection/publish schedule as Bison Range. The two will publish concurrently on May 18, 2017.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Prigan, Sara" <[sara\\_prigan@fws.gov](mailto:sara_prigan@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** May 16, 2017 at 12:24:56 PM EDT  
**To:** Aaron Mize <[aaron\\_mize@fws.gov](mailto:aaron_mize@fws.gov)>, Megan Apgar <[megan\\_apgar@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov)>, Anissa Craghead <[Anissa\\_Craghead@fws.gov](mailto:Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov)>, "Wilkinson, Susan" <[susan\\_wilkinson@fws.gov](mailto:susan_wilkinson@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: SCHEDULED: Document Number - 2017-10110

Thank you,

*Sara Prigan  
Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: BPHC  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3808  
Telephone: 703-358-2508  
Cell phone/text: 301-580-6520*

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [noreply@fedreg.gov](mailto:noreply@fedreg.gov) <[noreply@fedreg.gov](mailto:noreply@fedreg.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, May 16, 2017 at 11:53 AM  
**Subject:** SCHEDULED: Document Number - 2017-10110  
**To:** [fws\\_fedregpub@fws.gov](mailto:fws_fedregpub@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [SMULLIGAN@gpo.gov](mailto:SMULLIGAN@gpo.gov)

Please do not reply directly to this e-mail. If you have any questions or comments regarding this email, please contact [Stacey Mulligan](#).

Attention : Fish and Wildlife Service FWS, (FWS) Fish and Wildlife Service

Document 2017-10110, Category NOTICES has been scheduled to publish on 05-18-2017.

This document will be placed on public inspection on 05-17-2017 08:45:00.

The subject of this document is Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.:

The submitting Agency is (FWS) Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Docket Id is FWS-R6-R-2017-N074; FXRS1261060000-178-FF06R00000.

The RIN is NA.

This document has an effective date of NA.

The comments due date is NA.

The separate part # for this document is NA.

Agency/CFR Title/CFR Part:

(FWS) Fish and Wildlife Service, CFR Title is NA, CFR Part is NA

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-R-2017-N074; FXRS1261060000-178- FF06R00000]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are revising a previously published notice of intent to prepare a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the National Bison Range (NBR), with headquarters in Moiese, Montana. We are revising the original January 2017 Federal Register notice to provide an additional opportunity for input and to share with the public that we intend to move in a different direction than that indicated by the earlier notice. Specifically, due to the variety of information and perspectives received during the comment period and a change in policy direction, we will not proceed with evaluating a preferred alternative of legislative transfer of the NBR. With this notice, we request comments in order to obtain suggestions and information on a revised scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.



# United States Department of the Interior



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

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are beginning a process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana. The NBRC includes National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and our research indicates that your Nation may have aboriginal interest in the area covered in this planning effort. The CCPs are all-encompassing plans that describe management goals, objectives, and strategies for the NBRC in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species, public use, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

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Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Matten, Betsy](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR Letters  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:09:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT MTFWP Director CCP Development Invite in Letterhead \(1\) TG.docx](#)  
[DRAFT Tribal invite in Letterhead TG.docx](#)

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Toni,  
Made one change to each letter, so here are my updates.

Tribal--changed first sentence from "beginning a process to a develop... to beginning a process to develop a.....  
Director--added (Service) behind U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
Betsy

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 1:19 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Betsy,

Here's a revised version with some minor edits. I think it will fit on one page now. I understand there may be additional edits as the package is routed for signature.

Thanks,

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 11:23 AM, Matten, Betsy <[betsy\\_matten@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_matten@fws.gov)> wrote:

See attached.

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303-236-4307  
[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer

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1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams:

I would like to invite your participation in the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties. We are beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

The NBRC, which encompasses the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County, is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) nationwide. The Service has been preparing CCPs for all units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

We anticipate that the planning process will require three years to complete. There will be approximately three to five planning meetings per year, with some meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

We will host a CCP kickoff meeting for the NBRC in July 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend the kickoff meeting we will send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

We will host scoping meetings to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. The point of contact is Toni Griffin, Branch of Planning and Policy, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are beginning a process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana. The NBRC includes National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and our research indicates that your Nation may have aboriginal interest in the area covered in this planning effort. The CCPs are all-encompassing plans that describe management goals, objectives, and strategies for the NBRC in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species, public use, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process.

We will host a kickoff meeting for the CCP in July 2017. If you or members of your Tribe would like to attend the kickoff meeting we will send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information. If you are unable to participate in this meeting, but want to be part of the planning effort, we can schedule meetings with representatives from your Tribe in the near future. If there is any additional coordination necessary to address issues and concerns of the Tribe, please let us know.

We will host scoping meetings to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. The point of contact is Toni Griffin, Branch of Planning and Policy, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NBR Letters  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:18:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT\\_MTFWP\\_Director CCP Development Invite in Letterhead \(1\)\\_TG.docx](#)  
[DRAFT Tribal invite in Letterhead\\_TG.docx](#)

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Hello Toni,

In looking at the very first sentence of the invitation letters, I see that a change was made to read "to develop a Comprehensive...". I'm wondering if this is a typo since we will be doing two CCPs.

Should we leave the sentence as is or rewrite it to read "to develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans"?

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Matten, Betsy** <[betsy\\_matten@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_matten@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 17, 2017 at 8:09 AM  
**Subject:** Re: NBR Letters  
**To:** "Griffin, Toni" <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)>, Bernardo Garza <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)>

Toni,  
Made one change to each letter, so here are my updates.

Tribal--changed first sentence from "beginning a process to a develop... to beginning a process to develop a.....  
Director--added (Service) behind U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
Betsy

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 1:19 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Betsy,

Here's a revised version with some minor edits. I think it will fit on one page now. I understand there may be additional edits as the package is routed for signature.

Thanks,

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 11:23 AM, Matten, Betsy <[betsy\\_matten@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_matten@fws.gov)> wrote:

See attached.

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303-236-4307  
[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303-236-4307  
[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams:

I would like to invite your participation in the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties. We are beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

The NBRC, which encompasses the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County, is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) nationwide. The Service has been preparing CCPs for all units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

We anticipate that the planning process will require three years to complete. There will be approximately three to five planning meetings per year, with some meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

We will host a CCP kickoff meeting for the NBRC in July 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend the kickoff meeting we will send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

We will host scoping meetings to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. The point of contact is Toni Griffin, Branch of Planning and Policy, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Lee Jones](#)  
**Subject:** Quick Question  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 10:04:33 AM

---

Hello Lee,

Hope you are doing well.

In speaking with Jeff King about the development of the NBR CCP, he asked me to contact you to see if you can give me some contact information for the NPS folks that you work with on NBR bison issues.

Jeff wants to invite NPS to be a cooperating agency in the development of the CCP, so we need to send NPS an invitation letter.

If you could give me the contact information of the NPS personnel that you work with, perhaps I can find out to whom we should send the invitation letter.

Thank you

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**



**Billing Code: 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R6–R–2017–N074; FXRS1261060000-178- FF06R00000]**

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the National  
Bison Range, Moiese, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Revised notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are revising a previously published notice of intent to prepare a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the National Bison Range (NBR), with headquarters in Moiese, Montana. We are revising the original January 2017 **Federal Register** notice to provide an additional opportunity for input and to share with the public that we intend to move in a different direction than that indicated by the earlier notice. Specifically, due to the variety of information and perspectives received during the comment period and a change in policy direction, we will not proceed with evaluating a preferred alternative of legislative

transfer of the NBR. With this notice, we request comments in order to obtain suggestions and information on a revised scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received or postmarked on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to comment on the scope of the CCP/EIS, you may submit your comments by one of the following methods:

- **Email:** [scoping\\_NBR@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_NBR@fws.gov).
- **U.S. Mail or Hand-Delivery:** Toni Griffin, Refuge Planner, NBR CCP, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Toni Griffin, Refuge Planner, NBR CCP, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228, or by telephone (303) 236-4378.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are revising the Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the National Bison Range (NBR), with headquarters in Moiese, Montana. With a notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 18, 2017 (82 FR 5597), we initiated a process for developing a CCP for the NBR. We are revising the original notice of intent to provide an additional opportunity for input and to share with the public that we intend to move in a different direction than that indicated by the

January 2017 notice. Specifically, due to the variety of information and perspectives received during the comment period and a change in policy direction, we will not proceed with evaluating a preferred alternative of legislative transfer of the NBR. With this notice, we request comments in order to obtain suggestions and information on a revised scope of issues to be considered in the planning process. The CCP will describe the desired future conditions of the refuge and provide long-range guidance and management direction on how best to achieve refuge purposes.

## **Introduction**

The notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct planning on this refuge and (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of additional issues to consider during development of the CCP. Through the CCP, we intend to evaluate how we will manage NBR. Participation in the planning process will be encouraged and facilitated by various means, including news releases and public meetings. Notification of all such meetings will be announced in the local press and on the NBR website.

## **Background**

### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose of a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year

strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the NWRS was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

We will conduct environmental review pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq.*), by preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The Service intends to invite the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to participate as a cooperating agency as provided by 40 CFR 1508.5.

We will prepare a CCP and EIS which will describe how we will manage NBR over the next 15 years. To facilitate sound planning and environmental assessment, we

intend to gather information necessary for the preparation of the CCP/EIS and obtain suggestions and information from other agencies, municipalities, and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the CCP/EIS. We will separately consider CCPs for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Lake County Wetland Management District and the waterfowl production areas therein, which are also part of the National Bison Range Complex.

### **The National Bison Range**

In 1908, the first purchase of land for the exclusive protection of wildlife occurred when Congress appropriated money for the establishment of NBR. The overall mission of the NBR is to maintain a representative herd of bison, under reasonably natural conditions, to ensure the preservation of the species for continued public enjoyment. The NBR is 18,800 acres and supports between 350 and 500 bison. The National Bison Range lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). Members of the CSKT have a cultural, historical, or geographic connection to the land and resources of the NBR.

### **Additional Information**

The mission for NBR, and purposes for which it was established, are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on the Refuge. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat

while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the Refuges' establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We will conduct a CCP process that will provide opportunity for tribal, State, and local governments; Federal and State agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We are requesting input on issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of NBR.

### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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**Anna Munoz,  
Acting Regional Director,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Denver, Colorado.**

April 26, 2017  
**Dated**

[FR Doc. 2017-10110 Filed: 5/17/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/18/2017]



**Billing Code: 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R6–R–2017–N072; FXRS1261060000–178–FF06R00000]**

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan; Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to gather information necessary to prepare a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and associated Environmental Assessment for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts, all of which are units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The three Refuges and Wetland Management Districts are all part of the National Bison Range Complex. Elsewhere in

this **Federal Register**, we are also publishing a revised notice of intent to prepare a draft CCP for the National Bison Range. We are accepting comments on these two notices simultaneously.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received or postmarked on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to comment on the scope of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment, you may submit your comments by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** [scoping\\_pablo\\_ninepipe@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_pablo_ninepipe@fws.gov).
- **U.S. Mail or Hand-Delivery:** Toni Griffin, Refuge Planner, NBR CCP, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Toni Griffin, Refuge Planner, by mail (see **ADDRESSES**), or by telephone at (303) 236-4378.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to gather information necessary to prepare a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts, all of which are units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The three Refuges and Wetland Management Districts are all part of the National Bison Range Complex. Elsewhere in this **Federal Register**, we are also publishing a revised notice of intent to prepare a draft CCP for the National Bison Range. We are accepting comments on these two notices simultaneously.

## **Introduction**

The CCP for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts, will describe the desired future conditions of the units and provide long-range guidance and management direction to Refuge staff on how best to achieve refuge purposes. The notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct planning on this refuge complex, and (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of additional issues to consider during development of the CCP. Through the CCP, the Service intends to evaluate how it will manage Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts.

This notice is in compliance with Service Refuge Planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process. Participation in the planning process will be encouraged and facilitated by various means, including news releases and public meetings. Notification of all such meetings will be announced in the local press and on the NBR website: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/).

## **Background**

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose of a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the NWRS was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge’s establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

We will conduct environmental review pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq.*), by preparing an

environmental assessment (EA). The Service intends to consult with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) during this process.

The Service will prepare a CCP and EA that will describe how it will manage the units over the next 15 years. To facilitate sound planning and environmental assessment, the Service intends to gather information necessary for the preparation of the CCP/EA and obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the CCP/EA.

### **History of the Refuges and Wetland Management Districts**

Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges were each established as easement refuges in 1921 “as a refuge and breeding ground for native birds,” (Executive Order 3503, Ninepipe; Executive Order 3504, Pablo). Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge was established on August 24, 1999, and became the 519th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was established for use by migratory birds, conservation of fish and wildlife resources, fish and wildlife oriented recreation, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species. Finally, the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts are lands acquired “as Waterfowl Production Areas” subject to “all of the provisions of [the Migratory Bird Conservation Act... except the inviolate sanctuary provisions” (Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718). Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and the portion of the Wetland Management District in Lake County, Montana, lie within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). Members of the CSKT have a cultural, historical, or geographic connection to the land

and resources of the Range.

### **Additional Information**

The mission and purposes for which the units were established are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on the units of the Complex. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the Refuges' establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for tribal, State, and local governments; Federal and State agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We are requesting input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts.

## **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

April 25, 2017

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**Noreen Walsh,  
Regional Director,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Denver, Colorado.**

**Dated**

[FR Doc. 2017-10111 Filed: 5/17/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/18/2017]

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Contact info for NBRC website  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:13:33 AM

---

How does this look for the "Contacts" tab in the NBRC website:

## Contacts

Planning team leader – National Bison Range

Toni Griffin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4378 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

Planning team leader – Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

Bernardo Garza

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4377 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

NBR CCP email

[scoping\\_NBR@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_NBR@fws.gov)

Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs – NW Montana WMDs CCP email

[scoping\\_pablo\\_ninepipe@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_pablo_ninepipe@fws.gov)

Refuge email

[bisonrange@fws.gov](mailto:bisonrange@fws.gov)

Refuge Complex headquarters address

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

Refuge telephone

406 / 644 2211

Refuge Web site

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contact info for NBRC website  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:40:06 AM

---

Looks great

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 11:13 AM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

How does this look for the "Contacts" tab in the NBRC website:

Contacts

Planning team leader – National Bison Range

Toni Griffin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4378 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

Planning team leader – Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and  
Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

Bernardo Garza

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4377 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

NBR CCP email

[scoping\\_NBR@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_NBR@fws.gov)

Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs – NW Montana WMDs CCP email

[scoping\\_pablo\\_ninepipe@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_pablo_ninepipe@fws.gov)

Refuge email

[bisonrange@fws.gov](mailto:bisonrange@fws.gov)

Refuge Complex headquarters address

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

Refuge telephone

406 / 644 2211

Refuge Web site

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

Office (303) 236-4377  
Fax (303) 236-4792

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contact info for NBRC website  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:40:36 AM

---

The schedule too?

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Looks great

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 11:13 AM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:  
How does this look for the "Contacts" tab in the NBRC website:

Contacts

Planning team leader – National Bison Range

Toni Griffin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4378 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

Planning team leader – Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and  
Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

Bernardo Garza

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Branch of Planning and Policy  
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4377 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

NBR CCP email

[scoping\\_NBR@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_NBR@fws.gov)

Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs – NW Montana WMDs CCP email

[scoping\\_pablo\\_ninepipe@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_pablo_ninepipe@fws.gov)

Refuge email

[bisonrange@fws.gov](mailto:bisonrange@fws.gov)

Refuge Complex headquarters address

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

Refuge telephone

406 / 644 2211

Refuge Web site

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

--

**Bernardo Garza**

Planning Team Leader  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region  
Office (303) 236-4377  
Fax (303) 236-4792

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region  
Office (303) 236-4377  
Fax (303) 236-4792

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contact info for NBRC website  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:52:45 AM

---

Yep, schedule looks good too. Thank you.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

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Refuge Planning  
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)

303 / 236 4378 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

Planning team leader – Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

Bernardo Garza

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

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[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)

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NBR CCP email

[scoping\\_NBR@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_NBR@fws.gov)

Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs – NW Montana WMDs CCP email

[scoping\\_pablo\\_ninepipe@fws.gov](mailto:scoping_pablo_ninepipe@fws.gov)

Refuge email

[bisonrange@fws.gov](mailto:bisonrange@fws.gov)

Refuge Complex headquarters address

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

Refuge telephone

406 / 644 2211

Refuge Web site

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

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**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Robert Mansheim](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 12:35:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Information to add to the NBR CCP Webpage.docx](#)

---

Robert,

I'm attaching here the Word document (per your request) with the information that needs to be added to the NBRC webpage.

I added some instructions in red. But if I wasn't clear enough or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm in my office today.

Thanks

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

## Information to add to the NBR CCP Webpage

Main “tab” of the webpage

### National Bison Range Complex - Montana

The Service is developing comprehensive conservation plans (CCP) for the National Bison Range Complex (Complex), which includes:

- Lost Train National Wildlife Refuge
- National Bison Range
- Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge
- Northwest Montana Wetland Management District – Flathead County
- Northwest Montana Wetland Management District – Lake County
- Pablo National Wildlife Refuge

One CCP and an environmental impact statement will be developed for the National Bison Range. One CCP and an environmental assessment will be developed for all the other units of the Complex. The Complex manages public lands in three counties in northwest Montana and the CCPs will set the management and use of all the units of the Complex for 15 years.

Please create a “Refuge descriptions” tab (similar to the one for Benton Lake CCP webpage) with the following information:

### Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge

- Established in 1999
- Located approximately 20 miles east of Kalispell, Montana

Lost Trail was established by Administrative Order under the authorities of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Fish and Wildlife Act, the Refuge Recreation Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and the Endangered Species Act. The purposes of the refuge are for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds; for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources; for the incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, the conservation of endangered species or threatened species; and for the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife. Parts of the refuge are mitigative properties in lieu of losses to Flathead WPA from operations of Kerr Dam. The purpose of those parts is to protect and maintain wetland habitat for migratory birds, other animals, and plants.

### **National Bison Range**

- Established on May 23, 1908
- Located one mile south of Moiese, Montana

Established by Public law 60-136 from unallotted lands within the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana for bison presented to the United States by the American Bison Society. Since that time, the refuge has played an important role in national bison conservation efforts. Executive Order 3596 (Dec. 22, 1921) also reserved the area as a refuge for migratory birds.

### **Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge**

- Established in 1921
- Located 5 miles south of Ronan, Montana

Lands within this refuge's boundary were first withdrawn in 1910 for an irrigation reservoir as part of the Flathead Irrigation Project. Executive Order 3503 established this refuge on this withdrawal, subject to reservoir uses. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes requested the establishment of Ninepipe NWR and the refuge is located on tribal Trust lands. The Tribes manage the fishery resources in the Ninepipe Reservoir. The refuge is an important breeding and staging area for a large portion of the Flathead Valley Canada goose population, as well as for colonies of western grebe, double-crested cormorant, and great blue herons, and for a variety of ducks, and numerous species of other marsh and water birds. The Tribes manage the fishery resources in the reservoir.

### **Northwest Montana Wetland Management District – Flathead County**

- Established in the 1960s
- Located on the north shore of Flathead Lake, approximately 10 miles south of Kalispell, Montana

Established to manage lands purchased under the authorities of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to protect wetland and grassland habitat that is critical to our nation's waterfowl population. Major objectives include wetland preservation, waterfowl and wildlife production, and maintenance of breeding grounds for migratory birds. The district also provides a northern staging area and habitat for migration. This district manages five waterfowl production in the Flathead Valley of Montana.

### **Northwest Montana Wetland Management District – Lake County**

- Established in the 1960s
- Located around the town of Charlo, in Lake County, Montana

Established to manage lands purchased under the authorities of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to protect wetland and grassland habitat that is critical to our nation's waterfowl population. Major objectives include wetland preservation, waterfowl and wildlife production, and maintenance of breeding grounds for migratory birds. The district also provides a northern staging area and habitat for migration. This district manages nine waterfowl production areas and approximately 6,300 acres of conservation easements within the Flathead Indian Reservation in the Mission Valley of Montana.

### **Pablo National Wildlife Refuge**

- Established in 1921
- Located one mile northwest of Pablo, Montana

Lands within this refuge's boundary were first withdrawn in 1910 for an irrigation reservoir as part of the Flathead Irrigation Project. Executive Order 3503 established this refuge on this withdrawal, subject to reservoir uses. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes requested the establishment of Pablo NWR and the refuge is located on tribal Trust lands. The Tribes manage the fishery resources in the Ninepipe Reservoir. Today, the refuge is an important area for the reintroduction of trumpeter swans to the Mission Valley, as well as for a variety of ducks, and numerous species of other marsh and water birds. The Tribes manage the fishery resources in the reservoir.

## **IN-PROGRESS PLAN STATUS**

### ***Spring 2017***

Start Planning  
Notice of Intent in Federal Register  
Gather public input

### ***Summer 2017***

Meet with cooperating agencies  
Develop vision and goals

### ***Fall - Winter 2017***

Develop management alternatives

### ***Spring 2018***

Release draft alternatives and solicit public input

### ***Summer – Winter 2018***

Prepare draft plans and NEPA analysis

### ***Spring 2019***

Release draft plans and NEPA analysis for public review  
Notice of availability in Federal Register

### ***Summer 2019***

Analyze public comments

### ***Spring 2020***

Complete final plans and environmental compliance documents  
Notices of availability in Federal Register

## **Contacts “tab”**

Planning team leader – National Bison Range

Toni Griffin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

toni\_griffin@fws.gov

303 / 236 4378 telephone

303 / 236 4792 fax

Planning team leader – Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

Bernardo Garza

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Branch of Planning and Policy

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bernardo\_garza@fws.gov

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scoping\_NBR@fws.gov

Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs – NW Montana WMDs CCP email

scoping\_pablo\_ninepipe@fws.gov

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bisonrange@fws.gov

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Moiese, MT 59824

Refuge telephone

406 / 644 2211

Refuge Web site

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

**From:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 3:35:27 PM

---

Here is the link. <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

I am working on the accordins opening with the link at the top but this is minor.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)  
303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160  
<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 12:35 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Robert,

I'm attaching here the Word document (per your request) with the information that needs to be added to the NBRC webpage.

I added some instructions in red. But if I wasn't clear enough or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm in my office today.

Thanks

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 4:19:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [Further Info for NBR CCP Webpage.docx](#)

---

Thank you so very much Robert. The webpage is looking great.

If I may, since the webpage has a "tab" that I was not expecting, I have a couple of edits I would like to ask if you could make.

Thank you

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*Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist*

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

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**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**

Further information and edits to the NBRC CCP webpage:

Since there is a tab called "Public involvement" I would like to ask you to please replace the current content of that tab with the following:

The following are the open house public scoping meetings we will host to provide information on the management and resources of the units of the National Bison Range Complex and the planning process. We will also welcome any comments that the public may want to provide for consideration in the development of the CCPs and their NEPA analysis.

### **Public Meetings**

Tuesday, May 6, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Red Lion Ridgewater Inn

Echo Room

209 Ridgewater Drive

Polson, MT 59860

406 / 872 2200

Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Kalispell Public Library

Community Meeting Room

247 1st Avenue East

Kalispell, MT 59901

406 / 758 5820

Also, under the tab named "Documents", I clicked the links for "NOI NBR" and "NOI WMD" and I was not redirected to the said NOIs, but to another FWS page. I don't know if it is by design.

One last thing, if I may. Is it possible to change the "NOI NBR" and "NOI WMD" links names to "NOI National Bison Range" and "NOI Lost Trail, Ninepipe, and Pablo NWRs, and NW Montana WMDs"?

Thank you Robert

**From:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 4:21:22 PM

---

I will make these.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)  
303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160  
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**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
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Thanks

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**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
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**Fax (303) 236-4792**

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**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 4:21:56 PM

---

You are great. Thank you Robert

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 4:20 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:  
I will make these.

*Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist*  
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134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
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**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:28:25 AM

---

Good Morning Robert,

I agree with Bernardo, the website is looking great. Thank you for getting this up and running so quickly!

I noticed a couple small items that need some attention. In the intro text at the top of the page, please change "Lost Train" to "Lost Trail".

Under the **Contacts tab**, I clicked on the link to the NBR field station webpage, and did not see any reference on that page to the CCP process. Can you please edit that page (or let me know who to contact to request these edits) to include a blurb about the CCP process and a link that directs people to the RO Planning page?

Thank you

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

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**Bernardo Garza**  
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Branch of Policy and Planning  
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**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Hogan](#); [Brian Salem](#); [Bernardo Garza](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Jeff King](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FYI: FR Notice: Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the National Bison Range  
**Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:35:51 AM

---

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Ehrhardt, Cheri** <[cheri\\_ehrhardt@fws.gov](mailto:cheri_ehrhardt@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, May 18, 2017 at 7:16 AM  
**Subject:** FYI: FR Notice: Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the National Bison Range  
**To:** Toni Griffin <[Toni\\_Griffin@fws.gov](mailto:Toni_Griffin@fws.gov)>

Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.:  
Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation  
Plan for the National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana,  
Pages 22843-22844  
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-18/html/2017-10110.htm>  
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-18/pdf/2017-10110.pdf>

***Cheri M. Ehrhardt, AICP***

Natural Resource Planner  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
PO Box 2683  
Titusville, FL 32781-2683  
**321.593.2516 cell**  
321.861.2368 office  
321.861.1276 fax

**From:** [Robert Mansheim](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Information to populate NBRC Webpage  
**Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 9:50:04 AM

---

I wasn't able to update the NBR refuge site yet. It will be done today.

***Rob Mansheim / Digital Communications Specialist***

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs

[134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228](#)

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

[303.236.4267](tel:303.236.4267) | c.[720.390.0160](tel:720.390.0160)

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On May 18, 2017, at 8:28 AM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning Robert,

I agree with Bernardo, the website is looking great. Thank you for getting this up and running so quickly!

I noticed a couple small items that need some attention. In the intro text at the top of the page, please change "Lost Train" to "Lost Trail".

Under the **Contacts tab**, I clicked on the link to the NBR field station webpage, and did not see any reference on that page to the CCP process. Can you please edit that page (or let me know who to contact to request these edits) to include a blurb about the CCP process and a link that directs people to the RO Planning page?

Thank you

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 3:34 PM, Mansheim, Robert

<[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:

Here is the link. <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

I am working on the accordins opening with the link at the top but this is minor.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)  
303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160  
<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 12:35 PM, Garza, Bernardo  
<[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Robert,

I'm attaching here the Word document (per your request) with the information that needs to be added to the NBRC webpage.

I added some instructions in red. But if I wasn't clear enough or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm in my office today.

Thanks

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, Mountain-Prairie Region  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

# Mailing List Consent

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

*Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado*

---

## Would you like to be on our mailing list?

Due to the Freedom of Information Act, the mailing list for this comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge must be released to the public on request. Because of this requirement, we must have your written permission to permanently place your name on our mailing list.

If you wish to receive future information about the comprehensive conservation plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, please provide the information requested and return this form to the address below.

Signing up for this mailing list will allow you to receive meeting notices and keep you formally informed throughout the process.

*Yes, I wish to be on the mailing list to receive future information about the comprehensive conservation plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.*

*I understand that names and addresses on Federal mailing lists must be released to the public on request, under the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_ Email: *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form by mail or fax to:*

Bernardo Garza, Planning Team Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225  
Fax 303 / 236 4792

**Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin  
Planning Team Leaders  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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# Planning Update

## *Comprehensive Conservation Plan Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

Issue 1, June 2013



© Rich Keen/DPRA

*Walking Trail at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

### **The National Wildlife Refuge System**

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt established Pelican Island in Florida as the Nation's first bird sanctuary. He went on to establish many other sanctuaries for wildlife during his presidency. This small network of sanctuaries grew to become the largest system of lands in the world dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within the Department of the Interior, administer the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This legislation pro-

vides clear guidance for our management of the National Wildlife Refuge System and includes our mission:

*The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.*

The act directs us to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System as a national system of lands and waters devoted to the conservation of wildlife and the maintenance of the biological integrity of ecosystems.

### **Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge**

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is the nation's premier urban national wildlife refuge. Located just outside of Denver, Colorado, it is approximately 16,000 acres in size and consists of a number of important fish and wildlife habitats, including native shortgrass and mixed-grass prairies, riparian corridors, numerous wetlands, and multiple lakes.

The U.S. Army and Shell have finished their remediation of the site,

which included restoring thousands of acres of native grasslands. We are beginning a new chapter at the refuge by managing the site solely for wildlife conservation. Now bison, deer, bald eagles, Swainson's hawks, burrowing owls, and numerous other wildlife species can be seen there.

Without traveling far, people have a unique opportunity to connect with their natural environment. There are a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the over 300,000 annual visitors. They can hike trails, observe wildlife from the Auto Tour Route or the Wildlife Drive, participate in environmental education programs, and experience one of the best catch-and-release fisheries in Colorado.

---

## What is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

To support and fulfill our mission, the National Wildlife Refuge System

Improvement Act requires that all national wildlife refuges be managed under comprehensive conservation plans. To meet this requirement, we have started work to revise the 1996 comprehensive management plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. A draft plan and accompanying environmental impact statement, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, will describe the management alternatives we considered for the refuge and their effects on the environment.

This 15-year plan will provide long-range guidance and management direction for all of the refuge's programs. The plan will outline a vision statement and supporting goals, objectives, and strategies. It will be a "living" document that is updated every 15 years.

In summary, the final comprehensive conservation plan will do the following:

- Outline a vision for the refuge.

- Guide management decisions.
- Set goals and specify objectives and strategies to achieve the refuge's vision and purposes.
- Provide other agencies and the public with an understanding of the management to be carried out at the refuge.

---

## Reintroduction of the Black-footed Ferret

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is considering reintroducing the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) as a part of its planning process. The black-footed ferret is the only ferret native to North America and is considered to be one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Historically, they lived throughout the Great Plains wherever



USFWS

*Reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret will be considered during this planning process.*

© Rich Keen/DPR



*Bison Calf and Mom at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.) were found. As a specialized predator, black-footed ferrets prey upon prairie dogs and use their underground burrows for shelter. Black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs are part of an ecosystem that has been dramatically altered and reduced in size over the past century. The proposed reintroduction of the black-footed ferret to the refuge is a positive step toward the recovery of this iconic prairie species.

to the planning team leaders (see Contacts).

## Scoping Meeting Schedule

Reunion Recreation Center  
Thursday, July 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
17910 E. Parkside Dr. North  
Commerce City, Colorado

Central Park Recreation Center  
Tuesday, July 30, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
9651 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Denver, Colorado

Commerce City Recreation Center  
Monday, August 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
6060 E. Parkway Drive  
Commerce City, Colorado

## Why Did You Receive This Update?

We are widely distributing this planning update to generate interest in the planning process and to collect ideas and thoughts from the public, State and local governments, organizations, and other partners.

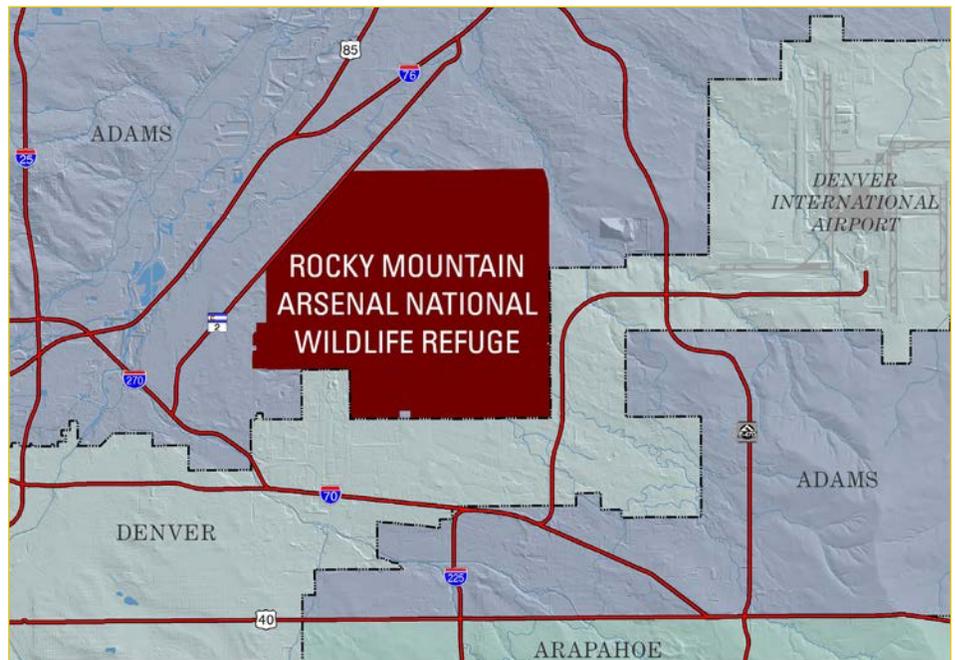
Since the mailing list may be requested by the public under the Freedom of Information Act, your permission is needed for us to place your name on it. If you do not request to be on the mailing list, we will assume that you do not wish to receive further information on this planning process.

If you would like to continue receiving planning updates, please complete the mailing list consent form enclosed and return it to the address noted on the form. You may also phone, fax, or email Bernardo Garza or Toni Griffin (planning team leaders, see Contacts) and request that your name be placed on the mailing list.

## Public Involvement and Scoping

A series of public scoping meetings are scheduled for late July and early August. These meetings are essential for us to develop a list of issues that the comprehensive conservation plan will address. You are invited to drop by anytime after at 5:30 p.m., with each meeting beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. These meetings will provide you with an opportunity to get to know our personnel, learn more about the planning process, and provide input.

We will accept your comments during the scoping portion of the planning process, through October 11. You may submit written letters or emails, and these can be mailed, emailed, or faxed



*Vicinity Map of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

---

## Contacts

Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin  
Planning Team Leaders  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486  
Fax: 303 / 236 4792  
Bernardo's email:  
bernardo\_garza@fws.gov  
Bernardo's phone: 303 / 236 4377  
Toni's email: toni\_griffin@fws.gov  
Toni's phone: 303 / 236 4378

David Lucas  
Acting Project Leader  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal  
National Wildlife Refuge  
6550 Gateway Road, Building 121  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
Fax: 303 / 289-0579  
Email: david\_c\_lucas@fws.gov  
Phone: 303 / 289 0350

---

## Find Out More About the Refuge

[www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal)

[www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/co/rkm/rkm.html](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/co/rkm/rkm.html)

Phone: 303 / 289-0232

---

## Information on the Planning Process

[www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning)

## Planning Timeline

Spring 2013	Preplanning
Summer 2013	Public Involvement and Scoping
Fall 2013	Vision and Goals
Fall 2014	Alternative Development and Analysis
Spring 2015	Public Review of Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
Fall 2015	Plan Completion
Fall 2015	Implementation



*June 2013*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Jeff King](#); [Kevin Shinn](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#)  
**Subject:** Update on the NBRC CCP planning  
**Date:** Friday, May 19, 2017 3:09:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [RMA NWR Public Scoping Meetings Comment Form Revised.doc](#)  
[Reunion Rec.Center Pub Scoping Mtg Sign Up Sheet.doc](#)  
[28008\\_insert\\_mailing\\_list\\_consent.pdf](#)  
[rma\\_planning\\_update\\_1\\_web\\_3.pdf](#)

---



Hello Jeff and Kevin,

Hopefully you're getting the emails from Toni and from me with information on the press release, notices of intent published in the FR, the upcoming public meetings, etc. Here is more information on where we are with the CCP process:

### **NBR Complex Planning Website**

We worked with IT and developed a website for the NBR Complex CCPs. It shows the planning schedule milestones, brief information on the units of the complex, the details of the upcoming public scoping meetings, the press release, and both Notices of Intent published in the Federal Register. The link to that website is:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

You might want to check it out and let me know if there are any mistakes in it or edits that should be made to it. The one typo that we noticed (and which will be corrected momentarily) is "Lost Train" instead of Lost Trail.

Also, IT was able to add a link on the NBR website so that the NBRC planning website can be easily accessed. The link was added with the following information:

***IMPORTANT NEWS!***

*The National Bison Range Complex Is beginning the process to develop comprehensive conservation plans to guide all management activities and programs of the national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts of the Complex. For further information on the planning process, the*

*upcoming public meetings, and how you may become involved in this important planning effort, please follow this link to the National Bison Range Complex planning website.*

### **Cooperating Agencies**

The draft invitation letters to potential cooperating agencies are still being reviewed here in Refuges and in External Affairs as well. We hope that they can be moved to the RD's office for signature early next week, and then transmitted to DOI for final review. Once approved, we will mail them out.

So far, the list of Tribal governments and federal/state/local agencies that will be sent invitation letters includes:

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
- Kalispell Indian Community of the Kalispell Reservation
- Coeur D'Alene Tribe
- Blackfeet Nation
- Flathead County Commissioners
- Lake County Commissioners
- Sanders County Commissioners
- Flathead National Forest Supervisor
- Kootenai National Forest Supervisor
- Lolo National Forest Supervisor
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service

Please let me know if this list is incorrect and needs to be edited.

## **Public Meetings**

Toni and I are beginning to make travel arrangements to visit NBR and will provide you the details once they have been finalized. But, if possible, we want to travel on the morning of Tuesday, June 6 to Missoula so we can be at NBR around 1 pm to meet with you and the rest of the NBR staff prior to that evening's public meeting in Polson. On Wednesday, after the public meeting, we will probably spend the night in Kalispell so we can fly back from there to Denver on Thursday morning.

As you know, the public meetings will take place from 5 pm to 7 pm, with time before and after to set up and clean up. What we typically do is to set up the meeting rooms for an open house style meeting – with chairs and tables on the sides of the room and a projection screen and projector set up for a presentation. We plan on bringing poster-sized maps of all the units of the complex as well as posters explaining the planning process. We normally place the posters in the meeting room walls and the maps on large tables, so the public can easily see them and provide comments and suggestions on the maps.

Right around 6 pm we like to give a short PowerPoint presentation consisting of two parts. The first one is a brief presentation of the refuges/WMDs, with general information on the purposes of the refuge/wmd, its location, habitat and wildlife management and resources, and the available public uses. This part of the presentation should be done by the project leader or refuge manager (if possible). The second part is dedicated to describing the planning process, the overall planning schedule, and the opportunities available to the public to participate in the process. This second part is typically done by the planner. After this, if the public has questions, we may have some time for Q&A. Please let me know if you have a laptop computer and a projector that we may use for the meetings. Otherwise we will need to bring them with us. Also, let me know if you have a PowerPoint presentation that you use when meeting with other agencies or groups and which may be suitable for the scoping meetings. Otherwise a presentation will need to be prepared for use in the scoping meetings. I'm attaching to this email a couple of examples used in previous CCP efforts.

For the meeting in Polson, the hotel will provide water and coffee. For the meeting in Kalispell, there will be no refreshments provided by the library. Any refreshments that you may want would need to be provided by NBR.

We will prepare comment forms, mailing consent forms, sign-up sheets, and a planning update to distribute at the meetings. Some examples of these, and of a presentation, are included with this email.

Well, this is all for now. Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope you have a great weekend.

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

## OPTIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

---

**Thank you for helping us plan...**your comments are very important to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) effort. The purpose of this form is to provide an additional opportunity for you to express your ideas and provide input for the future management and activities of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Please submit your comments by **October 13, 2013**. *[Attach additional comments on a separate sheet of paper if needed.]*

### **Qualities**

---

What do you like the most about Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge?

### **Topics**

---

What do you think should be addressed in the new plan for Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge?

### **Opportunities**

---

How do you think we should manage for wildlife habitat, provide \*priority wildlife-dependent public uses, and develop partnerships with the community?

\* priority wildlife-dependent public uses : *hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation*

### **Additional comments...**

---

We appreciate you providing any issues, input, and ideas to be considered in planning for the Refuge's new Comprehensive Conservation Plan!

**Mailing List**

If you wish to be on our mailing list to receive more information about the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge CCP, please provide the information below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:** Please note that the names on the CCP Mailing List become part of the public record for this project. The Service must release the names, if requested, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. To be placed on our mailing list, we need your permission. Please sign below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for your contribution to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's planning effort. Please fold this letter in half, tape closed, and send via post by October 13, 2013.



Postage  
Required

**MAIL TO:**

**Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin, Planning Team Co-Leaders  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486



© Paul Kerris

t a p e c l o s e d

**From:** [Matten, Betsy](#)  
**To:** [Mogadam, Roya](#); [Toni Griffin](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR Letters  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 1:59:02 PM

---

Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin in Refuge Planning are working on the letters for the NBR CCP, so they will be your contacts. I cc'd them on this email.

Betsy

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 1:50 PM, Mogadam, Roya <[roya\\_mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:roya_mogadam@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Betsy-

I made some edits to the tribal letter, but was running out of time for the other one. I made edits to the tribal letter so that it would be ok for the other tribes but we will need to draft something different for CSKT. I am not sure I am going to be able to draft that here but the folks in Refuges should have a letter we have sent to CSKT in the past and could lift language from. Let me know who I should talk to if they need more info.

-Roya

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 12:15 PM, Matten, Betsy <[betsy\\_matten@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_matten@fws.gov)> wrote:

Here you go.

Betsy

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 12:06 PM, Mogadam, Roya <[roya\\_mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:roya_mogadam@fws.gov)> wrote:

Would you please send me the electronic copies of these letter so I can make edits and send back to you?

--

Roya Mogadam  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, CO 80228

[Roya\\_Mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov)

(303) 236-4572

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
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134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303-236-4307

[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

--

Roya Mogadam  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs  
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303-236-4307

[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

**From:** [Mogadam, Roya](#)  
**To:** [Matten, Betsy](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR Letters  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 2:07:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT Tribal invite in Letterhead EA Edits.docx](#)

---

Thanks Betsy-

Attached is the tribal letter with track changes and a few comments. I would recommend we have a third letter for CSKT. The text for the standard tribal letter does not take into account how much we have worked at NBR with CSKT and their connection to the Refuge. I would mirror some of the language in the press release in a separate but similar letter to them:

The National Bison Range lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). As part of the planning process, the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range. Accordingly, the CSKT will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the development of the CCP and EIS. In addition to their wildlife conservation experience and expertise, members of the CSKT have a cultural, historical, and geographic connection to these lands.

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 1:58 PM, Matten, Betsy <[betsy\\_matten@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_matten@fws.gov)> wrote:

Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin in Refuge Planning are working on the letters for the NBR CCP, so they will be your contacts. I cc'd them on this email.  
Betsy

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 1:50 PM, Mogadam, Roya <[roya\\_mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:roya_mogadam@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Betsy-

I made some edits to the tribal letter, but was running out of time for the other one. I made edits to the tribal letter so that it would be ok for the other tribes but we will need to draft something different for CSKT. I am not sure I am going to be able to draft that here but the folks in Refuges should have a letter we have sent to CSKT in the past and could lift language from. Let me know who I should talk to if they need more info.

-Roya

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Here you go.  
Betsy

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 12:06 PM, Mogadam, Roya <[roya\\_mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:roya_mogadam@fws.gov)> wrote:

Would you please send me the electronic copies of these letter so I can make edits and send back to you?

--

Roya Mogadam  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs

Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, CO 80228

[Roya\\_Mogadam@fws.gov](mailto:Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov)  
(303) 236-4572

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
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[Betsy\\_Matten@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Matten@fws.gov)

--

Roya Mogadam  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
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134 Union Boulevard  
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(303) 236-4572

--

Betsy M. Matten, Administrative Officer  
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134 Union Blvd.  
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--

Roya Mogadam

Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs  
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(303) 236-4572



## United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

~~We, t~~The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service); ~~are is~~ beginning a process to develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana to guide management over the next 15 years.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and ~~our research indicates we understand~~ that your Nation-Tribe may have aboriginal interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These goals guide the management of each refuge or district for the next 15 years. For the ~~The~~ CCPs are all encompassing plans that describe management goals, objectives, and strategies for the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

~~Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process.~~

~~We~~ The Service will host a CCP kickoff meeting in July 2017. If you or members of your Tribe would like to attend the kickoff ~~meeting~~ meeting, please let us know and we will send you the meeting agenda and other logistical information. If you are unable to participate in this meeting, but want to be part of the planning effort, we can work to schedule find a mutually agreeable time to meetings with representatives from your Tribe ~~in the near future. If there is any additional coordination necessary to address issues and concerns of the Tribe, please let us know.~~

We will also host scoping meetings to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. These meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at

**Commented [RCM1]:** We should send a different letter to CSKT. They are our partner at NBR and we have said we will be including them in the planning process. This letter reads more appropriate for tribes we have not worked with extensively in this area.

**Commented [RCM2]:** What is a CCP kickoff meeting? This is outside of the scoping meetings? Is this for tribes only? Recommend changing this language to better explain what this is in reference to.

the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

[If you have any questions please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at \(303\) 236-4510 or via email at \[anna\\\_munoz@fws.gov\]\(mailto:anna\_munoz@fws.gov\). The point of contact is Toni Griffin, Branch of Planning and Policy, at \(303\) 236-4378 or via email at \[toni\\\_griffin@fws.gov\]\(mailto:toni\_griffin@fws.gov\).](#)

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Robert Mansheim](#); [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** NBR websites  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 2:24:35 PM

---

Bernardo and Robert,

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**From:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 2:26:28 PM

---

I will fix the other Lost Trail. But the link is there you have click on the headline.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)  
303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160  
<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:24 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

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**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 2:49:16 PM

---

Thanks for the clarification Robert.

Perhaps it's just me, but I'm not sure that embedding the link in the headline is intuitive. I think some folks may look for a more traditional link. Is it possible to add the link at the bottom of the note?

**Toni Griffin**  
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Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**From:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 2:58:16 PM

---

Fixed it. Just have to wait for the server sync.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)  
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**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Mansheim, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 3:17:34 PM

---

Oh, I just noticed if you click on [read more](#) it takes you to the RO Planning website too. I think we're covered, even for non-tech savvy folks like me. :)

Thanks again for all your help.

**Toni Griffin**  
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Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:57 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:  
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**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**  
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs  
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Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**From:** [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**To:** [Toni Griffin](#); [Robert Mansheim](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NBR websites  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:21:12 AM

---

Thanks, Rob!

Thanks,  
Ryan

Ryan Moehring  
Public Affairs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
303-236-0345

**From:** Griffin, Toni [mailto:[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 3:18 PM  
**To:** Mansheim, Robert  
**Cc:** Bernardo Garza; Kelly Hogan; Ryan Moehring  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites

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134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**From:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Trip to NBR  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:51:01 AM

---

Yes, sorry Bernardo. Got side tracked trying to get my new computer working....which is still not working.

Plan on you, Toni, Me, Matt and Brian (if he wants to go).

K

On Tue, May 23, 2017 at 8:49 AM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hello Kelly,

Were you able to chat with Will about who could accompany us to NBR for the meeting with the staff and help with the scoping meetings?

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Trip to NBR  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:51:49 AM

---

OK. Thanks

On Tue, May 23, 2017 at 8:50 AM, Hogan, Kelly <[kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov)> wrote:

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# Mailing List Consent

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

*Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado*

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## Would you like to be on our mailing list?

Due to the Freedom of Information Act, the mailing list for this comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge must be released to the public on request. Because of this requirement, we must have your written permission to permanently place your name on our mailing list.

If you wish to receive future information about the comprehensive conservation plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, please provide the information requested and return this form to the address below.

Signing up for this mailing list will allow you to receive meeting notices and keep you formally informed throughout the process.

*Yes, I wish to be on the mailing list to receive future information about the comprehensive conservation plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.*

*I understand that names and addresses on Federal mailing lists must be released to the public on request, under the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_ Email: *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form by mail or fax to:*

Bernardo Garza, Planning Team Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225  
Fax 303 / 236 4792

**Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin  
Planning Team Leaders  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# SIGN-IN SHEET

## Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR CCP

July 25, 2013 Public Scoping Meeting, Reunion Recreation Center

**NAME**

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS or EMAIL ADDRESS**

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# Planning Update

## *Comprehensive Conservation Plan Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

Issue 1, June 2013



© Rich Keen/DPRA

*Walking Trail at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

### **The National Wildlife Refuge System**

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt established Pelican Island in Florida as the Nation's first bird sanctuary. He went on to establish many other sanctuaries for wildlife during his presidency. This small network of sanctuaries grew to become the largest system of lands in the world dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within the Department of the Interior, administer the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This legislation pro-

vides clear guidance for our management of the National Wildlife Refuge System and includes our mission:

*The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.*

The act directs us to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System as a national system of lands and waters devoted to the conservation of wildlife and the maintenance of the biological integrity of ecosystems.

### **Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge**

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is the nation's premier urban national wildlife refuge. Located just outside of Denver, Colorado, it is approximately 16,000 acres in size and consists of a number of important fish and wildlife habitats, including native shortgrass and mixed-grass prairies, riparian corridors, numerous wetlands, and multiple lakes.

The U.S. Army and Shell have finished their remediation of the site,

which included restoring thousands of acres of native grasslands. We are beginning a new chapter at the refuge by managing the site solely for wildlife conservation. Now bison, deer, bald eagles, Swainson's hawks, burrowing owls, and numerous other wildlife species can be seen there.

Without traveling far, people have a unique opportunity to connect with their natural environment. There are a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the over 300,000 annual visitors. They can hike trails, observe wildlife from the Auto Tour Route or the Wildlife Drive, participate in environmental education programs, and experience one of the best catch-and-release fisheries in Colorado.

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## What is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

To support and fulfill our mission, the National Wildlife Refuge System

Improvement Act requires that all national wildlife refuges be managed under comprehensive conservation plans. To meet this requirement, we have started work to revise the 1996 comprehensive management plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. A draft plan and accompanying environmental impact statement, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, will describe the management alternatives we considered for the refuge and their effects on the environment.

This 15-year plan will provide long-range guidance and management direction for all of the refuge's programs. The plan will outline a vision statement and supporting goals, objectives, and strategies. It will be a "living" document that is updated every 15 years.

In summary, the final comprehensive conservation plan will do the following:

- Outline a vision for the refuge.

- Guide management decisions.
- Set goals and specify objectives and strategies to achieve the refuge's vision and purposes.
- Provide other agencies and the public with an understanding of the management to be carried out at the refuge.

---

## Reintroduction of the Black-footed Ferret

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is considering reintroducing the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) as a part of its planning process. The black-footed ferret is the only ferret native to North America and is considered to be one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Historically, they lived throughout the Great Plains wherever



USFWS

*Reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret will be considered during this planning process.*

© Rich Keen/DPR



*Bison Calf and Mom at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.) were found. As a specialized predator, black-footed ferrets prey upon prairie dogs and use their underground burrows for shelter. Black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs are part of an ecosystem that has been dramatically altered and reduced in size over the past century. The proposed reintroduction of the black-footed ferret to the refuge is a positive step toward the recovery of this iconic prairie species.

to the planning team leaders (see Contacts).

## Scoping Meeting Schedule

Reunion Recreation Center  
Thursday, July 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
17910 E. Parkside Dr. North  
Commerce City, Colorado

Central Park Recreation Center  
Tuesday, July 30, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
9651 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Denver, Colorado

Commerce City Recreation Center  
Monday, August 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
6060 E. Parkway Drive  
Commerce City, Colorado

## Why Did You Receive This Update?

We are widely distributing this planning update to generate interest in the planning process and to collect ideas and thoughts from the public, State and local governments, organizations, and other partners.

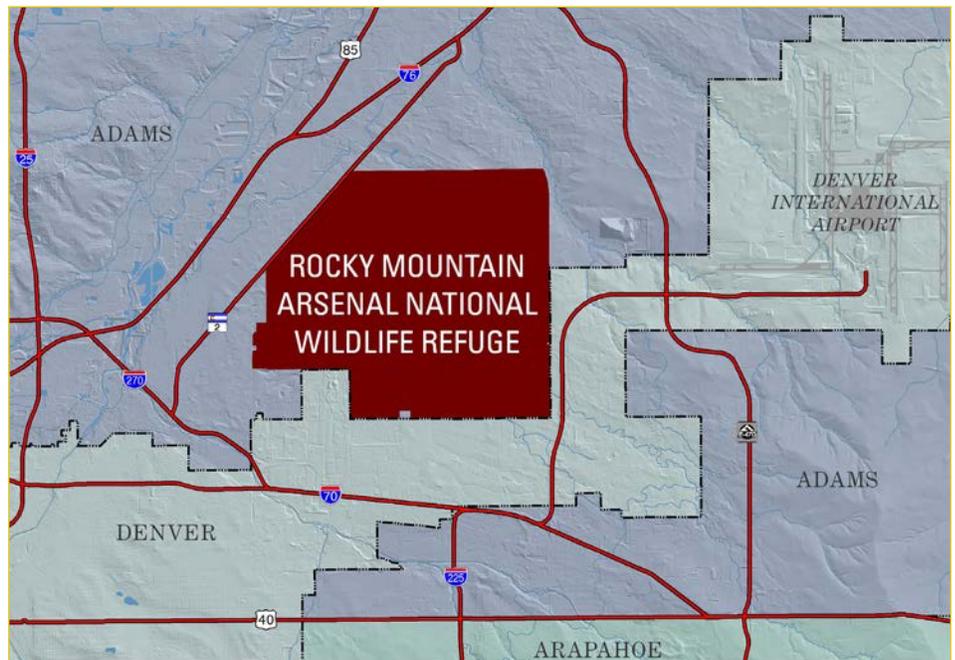
Since the mailing list may be requested by the public under the Freedom of Information Act, your permission is needed for us to place your name on it. If you do not request to be on the mailing list, we will assume that you do not wish to receive further information on this planning process.

If you would like to continue receiving planning updates, please complete the mailing list consent form enclosed and return it to the address noted on the form. You may also phone, fax, or email Bernardo Garza or Toni Griffin (planning team leaders, see Contacts) and request that your name be placed on the mailing list.

## Public Involvement and Scoping

A series of public scoping meetings are scheduled for late July and early August. These meetings are essential for us to develop a list of issues that the comprehensive conservation plan will address. You are invited to drop by anytime after at 5:30 p.m., with each meeting beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. These meetings will provide you with an opportunity to get to know our personnel, learn more about the planning process, and provide input.

We will accept your comments during the scoping portion of the planning process, through October 11. You may submit written letters or emails, and these can be mailed, emailed, or faxed



*Vicinity Map of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*

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## Contacts

Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin  
Planning Team Leaders  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486  
Fax: 303 / 236 4792  
Bernardo's email:  
bernardo\_garza@fws.gov  
Bernardo's phone: 303 / 236 4377  
Toni's email: toni\_griffin@fws.gov  
Toni's phone: 303 / 236 4378

David Lucas  
Acting Project Leader  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal  
National Wildlife Refuge  
6550 Gateway Road, Building 121  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
Fax: 303 / 289-0579  
Email: david\_c\_lucas@fws.gov  
Phone: 303 / 289 0350

---

## Find Out More About the Refuge

[www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal)

[www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/co/rkm/rkm.html](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/co/rkm/rkm.html)

Phone: 303 / 289-0232

---

## Information on the Planning Process

[www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning)

## Planning Timeline

Spring 2013	Preplanning
Summer 2013	Public Involvement and Scoping
Fall 2013	Vision and Goals
Fall 2014	Alternative Development and Analysis
Spring 2015	Public Review of Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
Fall 2015	Plan Completion
Fall 2015	Implementation



*June 2013*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Jeff King](#); [Kevin Shinn](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Update on the NBRC CCP planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 4:10:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [RMA NWR Public Scoping Meetings Comment Form Revised.doc](#)  
[Reunion Rec.Center Pub Scoping Mtg Sign Up Sheet.doc](#)  
[28008\\_insert\\_mailing\\_list\\_consent.pdf](#)  
[rma\\_planning\\_update\\_1\\_web\\_3.pdf](#)

---

Good afternoon gentlemen,

I'm wondering if you received and had an opportunity to read my email of last Friday (shown below).

I'm writing to find out if you have any questions about the contents of that email, and specially in what I wrote about the scoping meeting presentation:

*"Please let me know if you have a laptop computer and a projector that we may use for the meetings. Otherwise we will need to bring them with us. Also, let me know if you have a PowerPoint presentation that you use when meeting with other agencies or groups and which may be suitable for the scoping meetings. Otherwise a presentation will need to be prepared for use in the scoping meetings."*

I am in the process of preparing the planning/scheduling section of the presentation. But I need for either one of you to prepare the refuge/wmd background information section of the presentation. I'll call both of you tomorrow to find out about the presentation.

I will be on leave starting May 25 and will not return to my office until June 5 (the day before I leave for MT to meet with you and carry out the public scoping meetings) because I need to travel to be with my mother as she undergoes surgery. So it is very important that I prepare things for the public scoping meetings before I go on travel.

Also, I want to share the details of the itinerary that those of us from the RO will follow as we travel to MT to meet with you and carry out the public scoping meetings.

Thanks,

Bernardo

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Garza, Bernardo** <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, May 19, 2017 at 3:09 PM  
**Subject:** Update on the NBRC CCP planning  
**To:** Jeff King <[jeff\\_king@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov)>, Kevin Shinn <[kevin\\_shinn@fws.gov](mailto:kevin_shinn@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Toni Griffin <[Toni\\_Griffin@fws.gov](mailto:Toni_Griffin@fws.gov)>

 [IRMA\\_PRESENTATION\\_v2.pdf](#)

Hello Jeff and Kevin,

Hopefully you've getting the emails from Toni and from me with information on the press release, notices of intent published in the FR, the upcoming public meetings, etc. Here is more information on where we are with the CCP process:

### **NBR Complex Planning Website**

We worked with IT and developed a website for the NBR Complex CCPs. It shows the planning schedule milestones, brief information on the units of the complex, the details of the upcoming public scoping meetings, the press release, and both Notices of Intent published in the Federal Register. The link to that website is:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

You might want to check it out and let me know if there are any mistakes in it or edits that should be made to it. The one typo that we noticed (and which will be corrected momentarily) is "Lost Train" instead of Lost Trail.

Also, IT was able to add a link on the NBR website so that the NBRC planning website can be easily accessed. The link was added with the following information:

***IMPORTANT NEWS!***

*The National Bison Range Complex Is beginning the process to develop comprehensive conservation plans to guide all management activities and programs of the national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts of the Complex. For further information on the planning process, the upcoming public meetings, and how you may become involved in this important planning effort, please follow this link to the National Bison Range Complex planning website.*

### **Cooperating Agencies**

The draft invitation letters to potential cooperating agencies are still being reviewed here in Refuges and in External Affairs as well. We hope that they can be moved to the RD's office for signature early next week, and then transmitted to DOI for final review. Once approved, we will mail them out.

So far, the list of Tribal governments and federal/state/local agencies that will be sent invitation letters includes:

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
- Kalispell Indian Community of the Kalispell Reservation
- Coeur D'Alene Tribe
- Blackfeet Nation
- Flathead County Commissioners
- Lake County Commissioners
- Sanders County Commissioners
- Flathead National Forest Supervisor
- Kootenai National Forest Supervisor
- Lolo National Forest Supervisor
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service

Please let me know if this list is incorrect and needs to be edited.

### **Public Meetings**

Toni and I are beginning to make travel arrangements to visit NBR and will provide you the details once they have been finalized. But, if possible, we want to travel on the morning of Tuesday, June 6 to Missoula so we can be at NBR around 1 pm to meet with you and the rest of the NBR staff prior to that evening's public meeting in Polson. On Wednesday, after the public meeting, we will probably spend the night in Kalispell so we can fly back from there to Denver on Thursday morning.

As you know, the public meetings will take place from 5 pm to 7 pm, with time before and after to set up and clean up. What we typically do is to set up the meeting rooms for an open house style meeting – with chairs and tables on the sides of the room and a projection screen and projector set up for a presentation. We plan on bringing poster-sized maps of all the units of the complex as well as posters explaining the planning process. We normally place the posters in the meeting room walls and the maps on large tables, so the public can easily see them and provide comments and suggestions on the maps.

Right around 6 pm we like to give a short PowerPoint presentation consisting of two parts. The first one is a brief presentation of the refuges/WMDs, with general information on the purposes of the refuge/wmd, its location, habitat and wildlife management and resources, and the available public uses. This part of the presentation should be done by the project leader or refuge manager (if possible). The second part is dedicated to describing the planning process, the overall planning schedule, and the opportunities available to the public to participate in the process. This second part is typically done by the planner. After this, if the public has questions, we may have some time for Q&A. Please let me know if you have a laptop computer and a projector that we may use for the meetings. Otherwise we will need to bring them with us. Also, let me know if you have a PowerPoint presentation that you use when meeting with other agencies or groups and which may be suitable for the scoping meetings. Otherwise a presentation will need to be prepared for use in the scoping meetings. I'm attaching to this email a couple of examples used in previous CCP efforts.

For the meeting in Polson, the hotel will provide water and coffee. For the meeting in Kalispell, there will be no refreshments provided by the library. Any refreshments that you may want would need to be provided by NBR.

We will prepare comment forms, mailing consent forms, sign-up sheets, and a planning update to distribute at the meetings. Some examples of these, and of a presentation, are included with this email.

Well, this is all for now. Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope you have a great weekend.

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

--

**Bernardo Garza**

**Planning Team Leader**

Branch of Policy and Planning

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**

**Office (303) 236-4377**

**Fax (303) 236-4792**

## OPTIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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**Thank you for helping us plan...**your comments are very important to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) effort. The purpose of this form is to provide an additional opportunity for you to express your ideas and provide input for the future management and activities of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Please submit your comments by **October 13, 2013**. *[Attach additional comments on a separate sheet of paper if needed.]*

### **Qualities**

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What do you like the most about Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge?

### **Topics**

---

What do you think should be addressed in the new plan for Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge?

### **Opportunities**

---

How do you think we should manage for wildlife habitat, provide \*priority wildlife-dependent public uses, and develop partnerships with the community?

\* priority wildlife-dependent public uses : *hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation*

### **Additional comments...**

---

We appreciate you providing any issues, input, and ideas to be considered in planning for the Refuge's new Comprehensive Conservation Plan!

**Mailing List**

If you wish to be on our mailing list to receive more information about the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge CCP, please provide the information below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:** Please note that the names on the CCP Mailing List become part of the public record for this project. The Service must release the names, if requested, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. To be placed on our mailing list, we need your permission. Please sign below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for your contribution to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's planning effort. Please fold this letter in half, tape closed, and send via post by October 13, 2013.



Postage  
Required

**MAIL TO:**

**Bernardo Garza and Toni Griffin, Planning Team Co-Leaders  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuge Planning  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486



© Paul Kerris

t a p e c l o s e d

**From:** [FWS Region 6](#)  
**To:** [bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:41:36 AM

---

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# News Bulletin

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2017

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts

**Contact:** Ryan Moehring, (303) 236-0345; [Ryan\\_Moehring@fws.gov](mailto:Ryan_Moehring@fws.gov)

**DENVER** – As part of its ongoing efforts to protect America’s national mammal, the American bison, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is inviting the public to attend two scoping meetings to help shape future management options for the National Bison Range Complex in western Montana.

This invitation follows an [announcement made last week](#) in which the Service published a revised notice of intent to prepare comprehensive conservation plans (CCPs) and accompanying environmental analysis for the National Bison Range and the rest of the units that make up the National Bison Range Complex. That announcement opened a 30-day public comment period, which began on May 18, 2017.

Once finalized, the CCPs will outline the resource management goals and wildlife-dependent visitor recreational opportunities for the National Bison Range and the other units that make up the Complex over the next 15 years.

Information about each meeting is as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Red Lion Ridgewater Inn, Echo Room

Address: 209 Ridgewater Drive, Polson, MT 59860

Venue Phone: 406-872-2200

Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kalispell Public Library, Community Meeting Room

Address: 247 1st Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901

Venue Phone: 406-758-5820

Both meetings will follow an informal open-house format. Brief presentations will be given at 6:00 p.m., but attendees are invited to arrive anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to meet with Service personnel, learn more about the CCP process, and provide input.

To learn more about the National Bison Range visit: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.*

*For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie), and connect us at [www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie](https://www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie), [http://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie](https://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie), [www.youtube.com/usfws](https://www.youtube.com/usfws) and [www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnprairie](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnprairie).*

–FWS–

**Disclaimer:** This email was sent to [bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)  
Meltwater Group, 225 Bush St, San Francisco, CA 94107, United States  
[\[Unsubscribe\]](#)

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [fw6media@fws.gov](mailto:fw6media@fws.gov); [Ryan Moehring](#); [Robert Mansheim](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:02:57 AM

---

Yay! Thanks for getting this out to the public so they have ample notice of the meetings.

Robert, can you post this press release on the NBR Planning website please?

Thank you!

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 10:40 AM, FWS Region 6 <[news@meltwaterpress.com](mailto:news@meltwaterpress.com)> wrote:

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# News Bulletin

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2017

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.*

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie), and connect us at [www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie](https://www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie), [http://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie](https://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie), [www.youtube.com/usfws](https://www.youtube.com/usfws) and [www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnpairie](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnpairie).

–FWS–

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Meltwater Group, 225 Bush St, San Francisco, CA 94107, United States  
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**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Jeff King](#); [Kevin Shinn](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:47:10 AM

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FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** FWS Region 6 <[news@meltwaterpress.com](mailto:news@meltwaterpress.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 24, 2017 at 10:40 AM  
**Subject:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Host Two Public Meetings for National Bison Range Planning Efforts  
**To:** [bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# News Bulletin

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2017

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–FWS–

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**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Miyamoto, Kate](#)  
**To:** [Ryan Moehring](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#); [Robert Mansheim](#); [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 3:01:41 PM

---

Hi All, I made the edits and posted the news release under Documents. Please let me know if you catch any edits.

Thanks,  
Kate

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Ryan Moehring <[ryan\\_moehring@fws.gov](mailto:ryan_moehring@fws.gov)> wrote:

+Kate, who is backing up Rob while he is out.

Kate,

Could you please update the following page to reflect "Lost Trail" instead of "Lost Train" (near the middle of the page in the center, white portion)? <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

Also, on that same page, could you please add a link to today's news release under the "Documents" section at the bottom of the page, above the 5/17/17 news release?

Thanks,

Ryan

Ryan Moehring

Public Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mountain-Prairie Region

303-236-0345

**From:** Griffin, Toni [mailto:[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** Mansheim, Robert  
**Cc:** Bernardo Garza; Kelly Hogan; Ryan Moehring  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites

I checked the NBR webpage again this morning. The intro text still reads Lost Train NWR. The correct name of the refuge is Lost Trail NWR.

This error needs to be corrected asap please. Thank you.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 3:17 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Oh, I just noticed if you click on read more it takes you to the RO Planning website too. I think we're covered, even for non-tech savvy folks like me. :)

Thanks again for all your help.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:57 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:

Fixed it. Just have to wait for the server sync.

***Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist***

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs

134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:49 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for the clarification Robert.

Perhaps it's just me, but I'm not sure that embedding the link in the headline is intuitive. I think some folks may look for a more traditional link. Is it possible to add the link at the bottom of the note?

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:25 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:

I will fix the other Lost Trail. But the link is there you have click on the headline.

***Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist***

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs

134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:24 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Bernardo and Robert,

I just checked the RO Planning website and noticed the intro text still reads "Lost Train" which should be **Lost Trail NWR**.

I also visited the NBR field station website. Although the note about the CCP process has been added, the link to the RO Planning website is not there. The NOI that was published in the Federal Register last week refers people to the field station website to provide comments so it's critical the link to the RO planning website is present and working properly.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

**Mountain-Prairie Region**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

--

**Kate Miyamoto**  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
(303) 236-9898



**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Miyamoto, Kate](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Moehring](#); [Robert Mansheim](#); [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NBR websites  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 3:09:32 PM

---

It looks great. Thank you Kate!!

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 3:01 PM, Miyamoto, Kate <[kate\\_miyamoto@fws.gov](mailto:kate_miyamoto@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi All, I made the edits and posted the news release under Documents. Please let me know if you catch any edits.

Thanks,  
Kate

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Ryan Moehring <[ryan\\_moehring@fws.gov](mailto:ryan_moehring@fws.gov)> wrote:

+Kate, who is backing up Rob while he is out.

Kate,

Could you please update the following page to reflect "Lost Trail" instead of "Lost Train" (near the middle of the page in the center, white portion)? <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>

Also, on that same page, could you please add a link to today's news release under the "Documents" section at the bottom of the page, above the 5/17/17 news release?

Thanks,  
Ryan

Ryan Moehring

Public Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mountain-Prairie Region

303-236-0345

**From:** Griffin, Toni [mailto:[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:56 AM

**To:** Mansheim, Robert

**Cc:** Bernardo Garza; Kelly Hogan; Ryan Moehring

**Subject:** Re: NBR websites

I checked the NBR webpage again this morning. The intro text still reads Lost Train NWR. The correct name of the refuge is Lost Trail NWR.

This error needs to be corrected asap please. Thank you.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 3:17 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Oh, I just noticed if you click on [read more](#) it takes you to the RO Planning website too. I think we're covered, even for non-tech savvy folks like me. :)

Thanks again for all your help.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:57 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:

Fixed it. Just have to wait for the server sync.

***Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist***

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs

134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:49 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for the clarification Robert.

Perhaps it's just me, but I'm not sure that embedding the link in the headline is

intuitive. I think some folks may look for a more traditional link. Is it possible to add the link at the bottom of the note?

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

### Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd

Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:25 PM, Mansheim, Robert <[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)> wrote:

I will fix the other Lost Trail. But the link is there you have click on the headline.

**Rob Mansheim | Digital Communications Specialist**

USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs

134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228

[robert\\_mansheim@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mansheim@fws.gov)

303.236.4267 | c.720.390.0160

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie>

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:24 PM, Griffin, Toni <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)> wrote:

Bernardo and Robert,

I just checked the RO Planning website and noticed the intro text still reads "Lost Train" which should be **Lost Trail NWR**.

I also visited the NBR field station website. Although the note about the CCP process has been added, the link to the RO Planning website is not there. The NOI that was published in the Federal Register last week refers people to the field station website to provide comments so it's critical the link to the RO planning website is present and working properly.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning

Mountain-Prairie Region

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Lakewood, CO 80228

Office Phone: 303/236-4378

Telework: Tuesday, Friday

--

Kate Miyamoto  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
(303) 236-9898





**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Jeff King](#); [Kevin Shinn](#)  
**Cc:** [Toni Griffin](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** CCP Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:47:51 PM

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Gentlemen,

Here is some information on where we are:

The NBRC planning website is up and running and all the obvious "glitches" have been corrected. The website is not perfect, but it does provide important information to the public. We will continue to update the website as needed.

The EA office issued today a second press release to inform media and the public of the upcoming public meetings. We hope that local papers will carry the news so that we have a robust public participation during the scoping meetings.

The CCP invitation letters (for 6 tribes, 2 BIA regional offices, BOR, MTFWP, NPS, 3 national forests, and 3 Counties) are in the process of being reviewed in HQ and DOI. Once cleared, the letters will be forwarded to the RD's office for signature and mailing. We hope that happens soon.

Toni has developed a planning update that is being prepared for printing in the next few days. The planning update will be distributed at the scoping meetings.

Toni, Kelly and I have made arrangements to travel to MT. We are inviting Bernie, Brian Salem (planning), and Matthew McCollister (wildlife biologist assisting us with CCPs) to travel with us to MT. We'll see if they are able to participate as well.

We should land in Kalispell on the early afternoon of June 6 and drive to Polson. We would like to meet with you and your staff @ 3:30 pm at the Red Lion hotel in Polson to talk about the scoping meeting of that evening and begin to set up the meeting room.

On Wednesday morning and/or afternoon, if possible, perhaps we would like to visit a couple units of the complex (e.g., NBR, Pablo NWR, Ninepipe NWR, NW MT WPAs), and afterwards maybe we can meet with you to talk about the CCPs, the scoping meetings, and the kickoff meeting of July. Later in the afternoon we will travel to Kalispell in time to set up the meeting room in the public library for that night's meeting. We will spend that night in Kalispell.

Our flight back to Denver will depart Kalispell @ 2:30 pm on Thursday. But we would like to visit Lost Trail NWR during the morning so we can see part of the refuge and perhaps meet with you address any questions or concerns you might have.

Per previous emails and voice mails, I have developed the part of the public scoping meetings PowerPoint presentation dealing with the planning process and schedule. But I need you to develop the part of the presentation dealing briefly with the background of each of the units of the complex, with information such as: establishment dates, purpose(s), approximate size, public use opportunities, location, etc. Once you have that part of the presentation ready, please send it to Toni Griffin via email so she can add the information to the part of the

presentation that we've prepared already.

Please let me know if you have a laptop and projector that we may be able to use during the public scoping meetings. Otherwise we'll need to bring them from Denver.

Our GIS expert is working on developing the maps that we will use for the scoping meetings. We will print those maps here and bring them with us when we travel to MT.

I will be on annual leave starting tomorrow and will not be back in the RO until the morning of Monday, June 5. I need to travel out of the country to be with my mother as she undergoes surgery. So please contact Toni with any questions or issues you might have, and provide the PowerPoint presentation to her as soon as you can.

Thanks

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region  
National Bison Range Complex  
58355 Bison Range Road  
Moiese, Montana 59824

### MEMORANDUM

To: Bernie Petersen, Refuge Supervisor (MT, CO, WY, UT)

From: Jeff King, Project Leader, National Bison Range Refuge Complex

Subject: Comprehensive Conservation Plan Proposals

Date: May 26, 2017

Bernie,

I am writing you to request that you immediately intervene in the proposal to initiate two concurrent Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP) processes for the National Bison Range Refuge Complex (refuge complex). It has been proposed, without my input, that we immediately start preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/CCP for the National Bison Range (NBR) and a separate Environmental Assessment (EA)/CCP for the remaining complex units. This separate EA/CCP process is proposed to include Pablo and Ninepipe Refuges and both the Lake and Flathead county portions of the NW Montana Wetland Management District. It has also been decided that the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge CCP will be revised and included in this same EA process, even though this plan doesn't expire until 2020. As you know we are currently in the process of restoring a historical stream and associated wetlands including relocating a road in a multi-million dollar project and partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Flathead County. This restoration work required the preparation of a stand-alone planning and NEPA process and we won't be finished with the construction phase of this project until 2018. We have been collecting biological data (before and after) and will be summarizing this and monitoring changes once the restoration is complete. This CCP revision is very premature and it is completely unnecessary from a legal perspective since the current plan meets all policy and legal requirements.

I am proposing that all plans for public outreach stop immediately. According to our planning policy and our experience and history of doing other CCPs in Region 6, we are required to first establish a planning team and do preplanning including internal scoping of issues. We are supposed to use this team and process to determine the appropriate level of NEPA analysis. This should be done well before we approach the public in any way. It is a waste of the public's time to attend a public meeting or provide comments before we have completed our own internal scoping and preplanning. We should be

providing the public and our partners with something to respond to in order to make the most of their efforts.

Also, until we do more internal and external scoping, I see no reason why the NBR CCP would require an EIS. We do not have any significant issues that I'm aware of and the controversy of past proposals (AFA and transfer), which should not be subjects of this CCP, is not justification for such an analysis or significant added cost. I also believe when we do start this process that it should be a refuge complex CCP vs. concurrent but separate plans. Many of the stakeholders and visiting public have interest in all units within the refuge complex, given their close proximity. In addition, doing separate stand-alone plans certainly doesn't support the concepts of landscape planning.

I could spend this entire memo discussing the tremendous workload and burden this will be placing on me and my few remaining staff. I have shared with you and Will repeatedly of the devastating affects this continuous limbo has caused as a direct result of leadership's decisions not to fill vacant positions following the failed Annual Funding Agreements, 4-year AFA EA process, and the more recent transfer proposal. This limbo has also included excluding the refuge complex from all Region 6 realignment discussions. In my tenure, this 'wait and see attitude' has continued for 7 years. I have shared with Region 6 leadership that we are pass the muscle and bone and in to the marrow on our ability to even manage our highest priorities and even those things are suffering. A clear example is the devastating loss of our bighorn sheep population, over 80% based on most recent estimates. If you now compound this with dual CCPs, one an EIS, on the heels of the turmoil and uncertainty created by the transfer proposal, you have placed us in situation that will almost certainly put us in a position to continue failing and struggling, on many levels.

As has been the case on most decisions related to the future of the National Bison Range Complex, I have been completely left out of all planning and discussions leading to this decision. I was notified after the decision had already been made to initiate these plans and after a communication plan, news release, NOI, and even planning schedule had been developed. Despite my concerns about workload and timing, the process is proceeding and I believe it is already out of compliance with not only our policy, but just good common sense. As described in policy we have not even taken the first step to establish a planning team and we are already starting the public scoping process, including announcing public meetings. We should have contacted our state, county, and tribal entities before we ever announced this to the public. Also, the articles written by our local media, which are few, are confusing and appear to be more about discussing Secretary Zinke's decision not to transfer the NBR vs. starting discussions about what is best for the future management of the entire refuge complex. As a result, I am anticipating that much of the discussion at any public meetings will be more about the transfer decision vs. a future CCP. Also, I have heard from both our State and County partners that they were not contacted directly and are also confused as to what we are now doing. My state partner notified me that they have no intention to provide scoping comments since it is unclear to them what we are even proposing. Unfortunately, I am having a difficult time trying to justify how this has been handled since I believe their confusion and frustration is warranted.

Much of this could have been avoided if I had been consulted in any way prior to this proposal being discussed and executed. As you have stated, the lawsuit is driving these decisions; however, I think this is very short-sighted and a poor excuse to continue impacting the NBR resources. I am certain

that even the litigants would agree that the highest priority is to produce a quality document that not only meets the intentions of the law, but allows us to effectively address many of our long standing questions and challenges in a strategic and well planned process with full involvement from all our partners and the public. I would add that this decision is also a symptom of the continuous lack of inclusion and respect that plagues any decisions related to the management and future of the National Bison Range.

cc: Kelly Hogan, Acting Planning Chief, R6  
Toni Griffin, Natural Resource Planner, R6  
Bernardo Garza, Natural Resource Planner, R6



**From:** [King, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Bernie Petersen](#)  
**Cc:** [Kelly Hogan](#); [Griffin, Toni](#); [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** My concerns ref NBRC CCP  
**Date:** Friday, May 26, 2017 4:18:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [NBR CCP concerns King 5-26-17.pdf](#)

---

Bernie,

See attached.

Thanks,

jk

***Jeff King, Project Leader***  
National Bison Range Complex  
58355 Bison Range Road  
Moiese, MT 59824  
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

**From:** [Kevin Shinn](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: CCP Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 10:28:03 AM

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Beverly,

Can you put together the information requested in the ninth paragraph (dates, purposes, size, etc.) for LTR and WMD. I can look it over and edit it tomorrow before sending to RO.

This email summarizes the plan for next week.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2017, at 4:47 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Gentlemen,

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Thanks

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Brian Upton](#); [gkrueger@flathead.mt.gov](#); [pholmquist@flathead.mt.gov](#); [pmitchell@flathead.mt.gov](#); [lakecommissioners@lakemt.gov](#); [commissioners@co.sanders.mt.us](#); [leigh@fs.fed.us](#); [jtockman02@fs.fed.us](#); [Stanley Speaks](#); [Darryl LaCounte](#); [Lorri Gray](#); [fwpgen@mt.gov](#); [chip.weber@fs.fed.us](#); [chris.savage@fs.fed.us](#); [timothy.garcia@fs.fed.us](#); [Elaine Leslie](#); [cbrooker@co.sanders.mt.us](#); [Vernon.Finley@cskt.org](#); [mwilliams@mt.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeff King](#); [Kevin Shinn](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Maureen Gallagher](#); [Will Meeks](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** National Bison Range Complex - Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
**Date:** Friday, June 2, 2017 3:37:22 PM

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Dear Conservation Partners:

As many of you are aware, we have re-initiated the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process for the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC). As part of this process we will host scoping meetings in several communities throughout Montana to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. The first of these meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be announced in the near future. We intend to continue our public scoping efforts throughout the development of the draft CCP/NEPA documents.

As valued partners, we are seeking your assistance as Cooperating Agencies to help guide completion of the CCP/NEPA documents. Official letters inviting you to participate in the CCP/NEPA process should reach your office in the near future. If you agree to participate as Cooperating Agencies, we anticipate holding our first Cooperating Agency meeting in August and will work with all interested agencies to establish a date, time, and place that works best for everyone's schedule. We estimate the CCP/NEPA process will last for approximately 3 years. This robust planning process will provide ample opportunities to provide meaningful input into the future management of the NBRC.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov) or by phone at (303) 236-4378. We look forward to working with all of you as we shape the future of the National Bison Range Complex.

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Druliner, Pam](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cooperating Agency for CCP/NEPA  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2017 4:52:47 PM

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Hi Pam,

Thank you for contacting me. I will be on leave June 13-21, so am forwarding your message to Bernardo Garza, who is a co-lead for the National Bison Range planning effort.

Bernardo is familiar with the units that will be involved in the planning process and should be able to answer your questions. It's my understanding that the BOR nexus to this planning effort concerns the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge and the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge which are BOR irrigation projects.

Kind Regards,  
Toni

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, Jun 5, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Druliner, Pam <[pdruiner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruiner@usbr.gov)> wrote:

Hi Toni - I'm with the Pacific Northwest Region of the Bureau of Reclamation and I was given the letter you sent to Lorri Gray regarding request for cooperating agency status for the National Bison Range Complex CCP/NEPA. I'm following up a phone message I left you just now. I was tasked with figuring out if we need to be involved at the cooperating agency level or not. I'll be in Portland for meetings most of the week but if I get some free time I'll try calling you back. Basically I would just need to understand if there is any nexus with the BOR that I need to be aware of and then we'll go from there. I'm doing a bunch of NEPA for Hungry Horse but other than that I'm not too familiar with the area (I just came over to BOR from FWS in September, so I'm playing catch up!).

I'll try calling you later this week. Thanks, Pam

--

Pam Druliner  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region

1150 N. Curtis Road, Boise 83706

[pdruliner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruliner@usbr.gov)

208-378-6214

**From:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contracts  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2017 1:23:53 PM

---

Perfect. I have been working on the NBR letters and they are on their way back upstairs. We can also catch up tomorrow.

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 1:22 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

A woman from Contracting (Kelly Ferguson) is trying to schedule a quick meeting with me regarding the NEPA contract we sent them last week. We've been exchanging calls and I'm currently awaiting her reply because she has questions.

After I meet with her I could meet with you regarding the writing/editing contract if that is alright with you.

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contracts  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2017 1:24:32 PM

---

NO WAY!!

Again?!

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 1:23 PM, Hogan, Kelly <[kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov)> wrote:

Perfect. I have been working on the NBR letters and they are on their way back upstairs. We can also catch up tomorrow.

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 1:22 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:

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**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Contracts  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2017 1:26:57 PM

---

Yep...went all the way to DOI and back again. Hopefully this time we will not see them again.

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 1:24 PM, Garza, Bernardo <[bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov)> wrote:  
NO WAY!!

Again?!

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 1:23 PM, Hogan, Kelly <[kelly\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov)> wrote:  
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# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 29 2017

Board of County Commissioners  
Flathead County  
800 S Main Street  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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It is anticipated that the planning process will require three years to complete. There will be approximately three to five planning meetings per year, with some meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

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announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Flathead County to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "N".

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Board of County Commissioners  
Lake County  
106 4th Avenue E  
Polson, Montana 59860

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Lake County to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

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Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Carol Brooker, Presiding Officer  
Sanders County Board of County Commissioners  
1111 West Main Street  
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873

Dear Presiding Officer Brooker:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Sanders County Board of County Commissioners to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

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Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Stanley Speaks, Regional Director  
Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
911 Northeast 11th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

Dear Regional Director Speaks:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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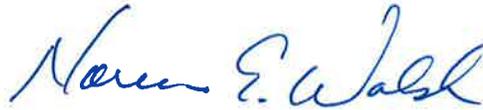
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Sincerely,

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Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Darryl LaCounte, Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
2021 4th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Regional Director LaCounte:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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Regional Director



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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Lorri Gray, Regional Director  
Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Regional Director Gray:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:  
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Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

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Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
911 Northeast 11th Avenue  
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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:  
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Darryl LaCounte, Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
2021 4th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Regional Director LaCounte;

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Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
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# United States Department of the Interior



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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams;

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Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



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

Board of County Commissioners  
Flathead County  
800 S Main Street  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear County Commissioners;

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The Service has been preparing CCPs for all units of the National Wildlife Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The NBRC is part of the Refuge System and includes the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

It is anticipated that the planning process will require three years to complete. There will be approximately three to five planning meetings per year, with some meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

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To begin the process, we will host scoping meetings in several communities throughout Montana to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. The first of these meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be announced in the near future.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Flathead County to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Chip Weber, Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest  
650 Wolfpack Way  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Supervisor Weber;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Flathead National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Chris Savage, Supervisor  
Kootenai National Forest  
31374 US Highway 2  
Libby, Montana 59923-3022

Dear Supervisor Savage;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Kootenai National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Board of County Commissioners  
Lake County  
106 4th Avenue E  
Polson, Montana 59860

Dear County Commissioners;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Lake County to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Timothy Garcia, Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
24 Fort Missoula Road  
Missoula, Montana 59804

Dear Supervisor Garcia;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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The Service will host a cooperating agency CCP meeting for the NBRC in August 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend this inaugural meeting we will be glad to provide you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

To begin the process, we will host scoping meetings in several communities throughout Montana to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. The first of these meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be announced in the near future.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Lolo National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Elaine Leslie, Chief  
Biological Resources Division, National Park Service  
1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 200  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Dear Chief Leslie;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Biological Resources Division, National Park Service to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Carol Brooker, Presiding Officer  
Sanders County Board of County Commissioners  
1111 West Main Street  
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873

Dear Presiding Officer Brooker;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Sanders County Board of County Commissioners to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley;

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and request that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, if you deem it appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we can include you on the mailing list.

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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director





# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Chairman Finley:

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announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being the most prominent.

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
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Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Chip Weber, Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest  
650 Wolfpack Way  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Supervisor Weber:

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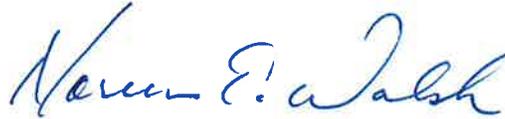
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Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Flathead National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "N".

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
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Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Chris Savage, Supervisor  
Kootenai National Forest  
31374 US Highway 2  
Libby, Montana 59923-3022

Dear Supervisor Savage:

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announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Kootenai National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Timothy Garcia, Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
24 Fort Missoula Road  
Missoula, Montana 59804

JUN 21 2017

Dear Supervisor Garcia:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for all units of the National Wildlife Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The NBRC is part of the Refuge System and includes the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. As part of the planning process for the National Bison Range, which lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

It is anticipated that the planning process will require three years to complete. There will be approximately three to five planning meetings per year, with some meetings lasting more than one day. Each member of the planning team is asked to attend these meetings.

The Service will host a cooperating agency CCP meeting for the NBRC in August 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend this inaugural meeting we will be glad to provide you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

To begin the scoping process, we hosted listening sessions to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide their initial thoughts. The first two meetings were held in Polson and Kalispell, Montana on June 6 and 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be

announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Lolo National Forest to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



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134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

JUN 21 2017

Martha Williams, Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 E Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Dear Director Williams:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

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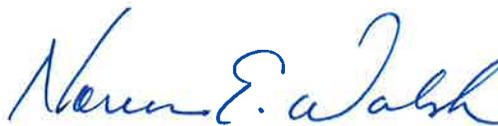
The Service will host a cooperating agency CCP meeting for the NBRC in August 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend this inaugural meeting we will be glad to provide you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

To begin the scoping process, we hosted listening sessions to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide their initial thoughts. The first two meetings were held in Polson and Kalispell, Montana on June 6 and 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be

announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Regional Director



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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

JUN 21 2017

Elaine Leslie, Chief  
Biological Resources Division, National Park Service  
1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 200  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Dear Chief Leslie:

I would like to invite your agency's participation in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning this planning effort and requests that personnel from your agency participate in the planning process, as you deem appropriate. If you prefer not to participate in the planning process, but would like to be kept informed, we will include you on the mailing list.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for all units of the National Wildlife Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The NBRC is part of the Refuge System and includes the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. As part of the planning process for the National Bison Range, which lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

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The Service will host a cooperating agency CCP meeting for the NBRC in August 2017. If a member of your agency would like to attend this inaugural meeting we will be glad to provide you the meeting agenda and other logistical information.

To begin the scoping process, we hosted listening sessions to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide their initial thoughts. The first two meetings were held in Polson and Kalispell, Montana on June 6 and 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be

announced in the near future. The information gathered at these initial listening sessions will provide valuable information as we come together as a team of cooperating agencies.

Please let us know the type of involvement that you would like the Biological Resources Division, National Park Service to have in developing the CCP for the NBRC. If you have any questions please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, at (303) 236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

JUN 21 2017

Chairman Bobby Komardley  
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1330  
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Chairman Komardley:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. For the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units. As part of the planning process for the National Bison Range, which lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range.

To begin the scoping process, we hosted listening sessions to inform the public about the

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If you have questions about the CCP process, please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, by phone at 303-236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov). If you wish to engage in consultation with us on this topic, please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at (303) 236-4510 or via email at [anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "N".

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



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134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

JUN 21 2017

Chairman Harry Barnes  
Blackfeet Nation  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, Montana 59417

Dear Chairman Barnes:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. For the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units. As part of the planning process for the National Bison Range, which lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range.

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Sincerely,

  
Regional Director



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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Chairman James Allan  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
850 A Street  
Plummer, Idaho 83851

Dear Chairman Allan:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. For the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units. As part of the planning process for the National Bison Range, which lies entirely within the boundary of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Department of the Interior is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to participate in the future management of the Range.

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If you have questions about the CCP process, please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, by phone at 303-236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov). If you wish to engage in consultation with us on this topic, please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at (303) 236-4510 or via email at [anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Noreen E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 29 2017

President Mark Azure  
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, Montana 59526

Dear President Azure:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

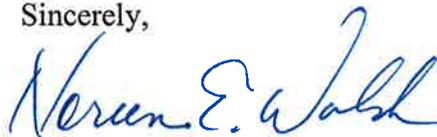
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If you have questions about the CCP process, please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, by phone at 303-236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov). If you wish to engage in consultation with us on this topic, please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at (303) 236-4510 or via email at [anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Regional Director



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Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

JUN 21 2017

Chairman Glen Nenema  
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation  
P.O. Box 39  
Usk, Washington 99180

Dear Chairman Nenema:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman E. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "W".

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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Chairman Bobby Komardley  
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1330  
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Chairman Komardley:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These goals guide the management of each refuge or district for the next 15 years. For the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

To begin the process, we will host scoping meetings in several communities throughout Montana to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. The first of these meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be announced in the near future.

If you have questions about the CCP process, please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, by phone at 303-236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov). If you wish to engage in consultation with us on this topic, please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at (303) 236-4510 or via email at [anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov). Based on the response received, we will engage with you on a level that meets your Tribe's needs.

Sincerely,

Regional Director



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Chairman Harry Barnes  
Blackfeet Nation  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, Montana 59417

Dear Chairman Barnes:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

The Service has been preparing CCPs for units of the Refuge System since passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. These 15-year plans identify specific goals to achieve the purpose and vision for the refuge or district and meet the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These goals guide the management of each refuge or district for the next 15 years. For the NBRC the CCP will outline goals in the areas of wildlife and habitat management, threatened and endangered species conservation, public use opportunities, partnerships, cultural resources, research, and science. The planning process will also review existing and new uses of the NBRC units.

To begin the process, we will host scoping meetings in several communities throughout Montana to inform the public about the planning process and invite the public to provide us their comments. The first of these meetings will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and at the Public Library Community Meeting Room in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Additional meetings will be announced in the near future.

If you have questions about the CCP process, please contact Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, by phone at 303-236-4378 or via email at [toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov). If you wish to engage in consultation with us on this topic, please contact Anna Munoz, Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs at (303) 236-4510 or via email at [anna\\_munoz@fws.gov](mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov). Based on the response received, we will engage with you on a level that meets your Tribe's needs.

Sincerely,

Regional Director



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Chairman James Allan  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
850 A Street  
Plummer, Idaho 83851

Dear Chairman Allan:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

The NBRC includes: the National Bison Range, Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana Wetland Management District (WMD) - Flathead County, and Northwest Montana WMD - Lake County. The NBRC manages public lands in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties in Montana and we understand that your Tribe may have interest in the area covered in this planning effort. Because of the Service's trust responsibilities, we want to ensure that Tribes with interest in the planning area have an opportunity to participate and offer comment. If your Tribe has an interest in how the NBRC is managed, we would be pleased to have you participate with us in this process. Additional information is available on our Refuge Planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrc.php>.

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Regional Director



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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

President Mark Azure  
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, Montana 59526

Dear President Azure:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

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NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Chairman Glen Nenema  
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation  
P.O. Box 39  
Usk, Washington 99180

Dear Chairman Nenema:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering federally recognized Indian Tribes the option to consult with us on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Montana.

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Sincerely,

Regional Director



**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Jeff King](#)  
**Subject:** Invitation Letters  
**Date:** Friday, June 23, 2017 2:19:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [BCC Flathead Co Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[BCC Lake Co Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[BCC Sanders Co Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[BIA NWRO Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[BIA RMRO Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[BOR PNWRO Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[CA final letters \(1\).pdf](#)  
[CSK Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Flathead NF Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Kootenai NF Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Lolo NF Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[MFWP Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[NPS BRD Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Apache Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Blackfeet Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Coeur Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Fort Belknap Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Kalispel Tribe Inv Ltr.pdf](#)  
[Tribal final consul letters \(1\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Jeff,

Just wanted to let you know that the invitation letters (attached) to the 6 Native American tribes, 3 national forests, 3 counties, and other federal agencies were sent out today, via USPS certified, return-receipt mail.

I hope you have a great weekend

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Druliner, Pam](#)  
**Cc:** [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cooperating Agency for CCP/NEPA  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 11:20:43 AM

---

Hi Pam,

Thank you for contacting me. It's nice to hear from a fellow FWS employee! Sorry we've been playing tag. I was in MT for public meetings in early June and then took some leave for our family vacation. I'll be around thru July 7 and then will be heading to the Nat'l Park Service for a 120-day detail. I was hoping we can visit before I leave to figure out if there is a BOR nexus to the National Bison Range Complex CCP planning effort.

It's my understanding the Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges are part of the Flathead Irrigation Project. I know the CSKT (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) play a major role in the irrigation project, and they will be a Cooperating Agency for this CCP, but I am not clear on the role of BOR in the irrigation project. A link to the refuge websites is below which may provide some helpful information as a starting point:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Nine-pipe/about.html>

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Pablo/about.html>

If you are available for a phone call this week or next week let me know. My schedule is pretty open. In case we are not able to connect with each other before July 7, my co-team leader and point of contact during my absence is Bernardo Garza, [bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov), ph: 303.236.4377.

Best,  
Toni

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

On Mon, Jun 5, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Druliner, Pam <[pdruliner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruliner@usbr.gov)> wrote:

Hi Toni - I'm with the Pacific Northwest Region of the Bureau of Reclamation and I was given the letter you sent to Lorri Gray regarding request for cooperating agency status for the National Bison Range Complex CCP/NEPA. I'm following up a phone message I left you just now. I was tasked with figuring out if we need to be involved at the cooperating agency level or not. I'll be in Portland for meetings most of the week but if I get some free time I'll try calling you back. Basically I would just

need to understand if there is any nexus with the BOR that I need to be aware of and then we'll go from there. I'm doing a bunch of NEPA for Hungry Horse but other than that I'm not too familiar with the area (I just came over to BOR from FWS in September, so I'm playing catch up!).

I'll try calling you later this week. Thanks, Pam

--

Pam Druliner  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region  
1150 N. Curtis Road, Boise 83706

[pdruliner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruliner@usbr.gov)  
208-378-6214

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Matthew McCollister](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cooperating Agency CCP/NEPA  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:41:22 PM

---

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Druliner, Pam** <[pdruliner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruliner@usbr.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 28, 2017 at 2:36 PM  
**Subject:** Cooperating Agency CCP/NEPA  
**To:** Toni Griffin <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sonja Kokos <[skokos@usbr.gov](mailto:skokos@usbr.gov)>, "Sechrist, Juddson" <[jsechrist@usbr.gov](mailto:jsechrist@usbr.gov)>

Hi Toni - We do not have a federal nexus to your project at this time. Although we were involved (built) facilities for the Flathead Irrigation District, BIA now administers and manages operations and maintenance of those facilities. We do not currently provide water from Hungry Horse to support that project. At this time we would not be interested in being a cooperating agency for the National Bison Range Complex. Thanks for considering us.

Pam

--

Pam Druliner  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region  
1150 N. Curtis Road, Boise 83706

[pdruliner@usbr.gov](mailto:pdruliner@usbr.gov)  
208-378-6214

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Matthew McCollister](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reply to your Letter  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2017 2:23:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Savage, Christopher S -FS** <[csavage@fs.fed.us](mailto:csavage@fs.fed.us)>  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 2:21 PM  
**Subject:** Reply to your Letter  
**To:** "[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)" <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Anderson, Jeremy L -FS" <[jlanderson@fs.fed.us](mailto:jlanderson@fs.fed.us)>, "[ben\\_conard@fws.gov](mailto:ben_conard@fws.gov)" <[ben\\_conard@fws.gov](mailto:ben_conard@fws.gov)>

Toni, thank you for your letter in asking what involvement you may want to see from the Kootenai NF related the development of your CCP for the units of the National Bison Range Complex. For the Kootenai, we don't see any real direct or indirect tie since there are no NFS lands that adjoin to any of the refuges or other areas you mention in your letter. Hopefully you have reached out to the Lolo and the Flathead NF, since they may have more of an interest in this than us.

Good luck in preparing your CCP and thanks again for considering us.



**Chris Savage**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**Forest Service**

**Kootenai National Forest**

p: 406-283-7763  
c: 406-291-9982  
[csavage@fs.fed.us](mailto:csavage@fs.fed.us)

31374 US Hwy 2  
Libby, MT 59923  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)



**Caring for the land and serving people**

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**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Hogan](#); [Matthew McCollister](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** NBRC Work Plan  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2017 5:39:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [NBR\\_WORK\\_PLAN\\_07072017.docx](#)

---

Howdy,

A draft Work Plan is attached for your review and use. Please feel free to modify this to suit your needs. I purposefully left some areas blank as it would be good to develop the Work Plan with the assistance/input of Refuge staff.

In identifying the Core Planning Team I took the approach that including everyone is preferred over leaving someone out unintentionally that may like to participate (especially all NBRC staff, including maintenance dept).

I've had maintenance staff that have contributed greatly to the CCP process, and other projects with little to no participation from maintenance staff. If you can encourage their participation I find they have a lot to contribute because they are so familiar with the resources and management issues. The approach that most project leaders seem to take is to include everyone on staff at the beginning (identifying special values, issues, vision, goals) and then participation tends to drop off during alternatives development and impacts analysis.

Hope you have a great summer!

Take care,  
Toni

**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

**Work Plan**  
*Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Environmental Documentation*  
*National Bison Range Complex*

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
Toni Griffin, Planning Team Co-Leader Date

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bernardo Garza, Planning Team Co-Leader Date

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff King, Project Leader Date

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bernie Petersen, Refuge Supervisor Date

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Hogan, Refuge Planning and Policy Acting Branch Chief Date

**WORK PLAN**  
Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Environmental Documentation  
National Bison Range Complex

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this work plan is to ensure that the Project Leader and Refuge Planning and Policy Branch agree on the direction for preparation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and Environmental Documentation (ED) for the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC). In addition, the Refuge Supervisor will provide overall leadership to ensure that NBRC staff dedicates the necessary time allotted to complete their work in a timely manner. This work plan provides a brief background about the NBRC planning process; details a scope of work including: major issues to be addressed, available data and mapping information as well as deficiencies and needs, a public involvement strategy, products to be prepared; roles and responsibilities; and a schedule. All parties involved in the preparation of the NBRC CCPs agree on the work items contained in this work plan. If there are extenuating circumstances that change the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, and/or schedule of the CCPs, then an amendment to this work plan will be prepared.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all units of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) be managed in accordance with an approved CCP which, when implemented, will achieve the purposes for each unit of the Refuge System; help fulfill the Refuge System mission; maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each unit of and the Refuge System overall; help achieve the goals of the Wilderness Preservation System; and meet other mandates. The CCPs will guide management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies to accomplish these ends. The CCPs will be prepared in accordance with the final Refuge Planning Policy approved May 25, 2000, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the National Historic Preservation Act; and other applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

**BACKGROUND**

Work on this planning effort began with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a CCP in the Federal Register on January 18, 2017. A revised NOI was published in the Federal Register on May 18, 2017 to provide an additional opportunity for input and to share with the public that we intend to move in a different direction than that indicated by the earlier notice. Specifically, due to the variety of information and perspectives received during the comment period and a change in policy direction, we will not proceed with evaluating a preferred

alternative of legislative transfer of the National Bison Range. Additionally, a NOI to prepare a CCP for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management District was published in the Federal Register May 18, 2017. Public meetings were held in Polson and Kalispell, Montana June 6 and 7 respectively. An additional public meeting will be held in Missoula, MT during the scoping period.

Since then, invitation letters were mailed to various agencies including federal, state, tribes, and local governments inviting them to be a cooperating agency in the planning process. Letters of invite were sent to X tribes and pueblos, the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Lake, Flathead, and Sanders County to serve as cooperating agencies on the planning team.

The CCP/ED will be prepared by a planning team made up of Service staff and agency representatives listed above. A core team of refuge and regional office staff will be responsible for writing the plan. Input will be obtained, as needed, from other individuals, groups, and agencies throughout the planning process.

**Establishment Purposes**

[add information here]

**SCOPE OF WORK**

The following major items are required to complete the CCP/ED for the NBRC. The ED will be incorporated as part of the draft CCP. After the Record of Decision and/or Finding of No Significant Impact is issued, the final CCP will be stand-alone documents without the ED. A brief summary document will also be produced. The Core Planning Team members, guided by FWS policy, NEPA and other policies will determine the level of detail for the CCP/ED.

**Major Issues to be addressed**

The following list of issues is a brief list and is intended to provide an indication of the level of work required to complete the CCP/ED.

- [add list of issues here]
- 

Other important issues include invasive species management, preservation of cultural resources, the role of fire on the landscape (prescribed fire and wildfire suppression), and visitor services.

## INFORMATION SOURCES

Refuge and regional office staffs will be primarily responsible for collecting and analyzing historical, biological, and socioeconomic information needed for development of the CCP. The regional office GIS specialist will coordinate with the refuge biologists in the collection of geospatial information and will oversee most of the Geographic Information System (GIS) activities. The division of education and visitor services will be included in the development of goals, objectives, and strategies for the visitor services section of the CCP. **The USGS biological resources division will provide assistance, particularly developing goals, objectives, and strategies and as such will provide information as needed.** The planning team will make arrangements to obtain necessary data to complete the EDs as needed. A HGM (hydrogeomorphic) analysis was completed during preplanning in order to gain a better perspective of historic conditions of the National Bison Range.

**Commented [GT1]:** Need followup as not sure if there is a contract in place with USGS for this work.

## PUBLIC SCOPING

The External Affairs program prepared an Outreach and Communications **Plan** to assist providing information to the federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and the public who have an interest in the planning process. Formal public scoping meetings will be held in Polson, Kalispell, and Missoula, Montana. The number of meetings and locations of meetings could be revised throughout the process based on need. The anticipated format for the public scoping meetings would likely consist of a combination of open house with a formal presentation. Other forms of media include the project website, press releases, newspaper advertisements, and briefings which may be utilized during the scoping process. Local, regional, state and national groups and organizations will be encouraged to provide suggestions and comments.

**Commented [GT2]:** Posted on P drive in nbrc folder

Public input will continue to be solicited and accepted throughout the planning process. The most important aspect of public involvement will be ensuring that all publics and stakeholders who want to be involved are involved. This will require identifying individuals, groups, organizations, and governments at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Refuge managers, along with planning branch assistance, will determine the degree of outreach that is appropriate for this planning effort. It is anticipated that additional public workshops will be held after alternatives are developed. This will enable the public to provide input prior to the development of the draft CCP/ED. Once a public review draft of the CCP/ED has been prepared, another round of public meetings will be held. Providing information, and more importantly, receiving feedback from the public will be critical to the success of public involvement. All appropriate techniques will be utilized to obtain public input. Due to the controversial and

complex nature of this planning project, public meetings at the draft stage may be more formal than at the scoping stage.

The draft CCP/ED will be made available for public review. Public suggestions will then be incorporated into or responded to in the final CCP.

## **PRODUCTS**

The following will be produced by the Refuge Planning and Policy Branch in support of the CCP:

1. Notice of Intent to prepare CCP/ED in the Federal Register ; briefing statements for Washington office
2. Public involvement materials as needed for each phase (includes Public Involvement Plan, Planning Updates, briefing papers, powerpoints, press releases, press releases, and materials for public meetings)
3. Briefing statements to Washington office as needed
4. Internal review Draft CCP/ED
5. Notice of Availability in Federal Register for Draft CCP/ED; briefing statement for Washington
6. Public review Draft CCP/ED
7. Internal review Final CCP/ED including Responses to Comments
8. Notice of Availability in Federal Register for Final CCP/ED; briefing statement for Washington
9. Final CCP including responses to comments
10. Notice of Availability in Federal Register for Record of Decision; briefing statement for Washington
11. Record of Decision and/or Finding of No Significant Impact
12. Stand alone CCP
13. Summary of Final CCP

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The refuge will write much of the CCP/ED with assistance from the Planning and Policy Branch and other support. Individuals will be assigned specific sections of the document based on expertise, need, time availability, and interest. Several workshops (Purpose/Vision/Goals, Alternatives Development, and Objectives/Strategies) requiring the participation of all planning team members will be held. It is also anticipated that a biological subgroup could be needed in order to address the biological objectives and strategies. This subgroup will likely need to meet

on several occasions. The refuge supervisor will work closely with the project leader to ensure that the CCP/ED development receives the priority needed to follow and achieve the scheduled milestones and tasks. The refuge supervisor will find ways to help refuge staff adapt their regular workloads to allow adequate time to be dedicated to CCP/ED development.

**Core Planning Team**

Name(s) & Title(s)	Responsibilities
Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader	NBR CCP/EIS - Project coordination, facilitation, writing, review, etc.
Bernardo Garza, Planning Team Leader	Northwest MT WMD and Pablo, Lost Trail, Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges CCP/EA - Project coordination, facilitation, writing, review, etc.
Jeff King, Project Leader	Management ideas, staff leadership, reviewer
Kevin Shinn, Wildlife Refuge Manager, Federal Wildlife Officer	Management ideas, staff leadership, law enforcement expertise, reviewer
Amy Lisk, Wildlife Biologist	Biological expertise, writer, reviewer
Beverly Skinner, Wildlife Biologist	Biological expertise, writer, reviewer
Mike Koole, Federal Wildlife Officer	Law enforcement expertise, writer, reviewer
Darren Thomas, Heavy Equipment Operator	Facilities and Operations expertise, writer, reviewer
Francis Cahoon, Maintenance	Facilities and Operations expertise, writer, reviewer
Brent Woodger, Maintenance	Facilities and Operations expertise, writer, reviewer
Marlin McDonald, Maintenance	Facility and Operations expertise, writer, reviewer
Matthew McCollister, Wildlife Biologist	Biological support, writer, reviewer
Mary Danno, Visitor Services Manager	Public use expertise, writer, reviewer
Dean Vaughn, Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Biological support, writer, reviewer
[add others as identified]	

Commented [GT3]:

Name(s) & Title(s)	Responsibilities

**Others acting as support to the CCP effort (i.e., commentators, reviewers, publishers):**

Name(s) & Title(s)	Responsibilities
Kelly Hogan, Acting Branch Chief, Refuge Planning and Policy	General oversight and facilitation
Bernie Petersen, Refuge Supervisor	Management ideas, staff leadership
Keenan Adams, Regional Biologist	Commenter, Review Biological Resources
Diane Emmons, Branch Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach	Public use expertise; reviewer
Meg Van Ness, Regional Historic Preservation Officer	Advise/comment on cultural resources
Linda Moeder, Cartographer	Mapping support
Richard Steery, Fire Ecologist	Advise/comment on fire program
Endangered Species	Advise/comment on ecosystem effects and endangered species
Fisheries	Advise/comment on fisheries issues
Water Resources	Advise/comment on Water Use/Management
TBD	Workshop and public meeting facilitation, NEPA expertise and environmental document production
[add others as identified]	

Commented [GT4]: NEPA Contractor to be determined

## Schedule Milestones

The following schedule provides an overall timeline for the project which is subject to change upon the agreement of the concurring and approving signatures.

Schedule Milestones	
TASK	Target Completion Date
<b>Preplanning and Scoping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publish Notice of Intent</li> <li>- Invitation to State, Tribes, and Cooperating Agencies</li> <li>- Initial meeting with Cooperating Agencies</li> <li>- Work Plan</li> <li>- Public Involvement Plan</li> <li>- Scoping Meetings</li> <li>- Scoping Report</li> <li>- Vision and Goals Workshop</li> </ul>	October 1, 2017
<b>Alternatives Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternatives Development Workshops</li> <li>- Public Input on Draft Alternatives</li> <li>- Briefing Statements to Regional and National Directorate</li> </ul>	March 1, 2018
<b>Development of Draft CCP/EIS/EA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objectives and Strategies Development Workshop</li> <li>- Environmental Analysis</li> <li>- Internal Review Draft CCP/EIS/EA</li> <li>- Meet with Cooperating Agencies; respond to comments</li> <li>- Notice of Availability; briefing statements</li> <li>- Public Review of Draft CCP/EIS/EA</li> <li>- Public Meetings</li> </ul>	March 1, 2019
<b>Development of Final CCP/EIS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respond to Public Comments</li> <li>- Internal Review Final CCP/EIS</li> <li>- Notice of Availability; briefing statements</li> <li>- Publication of Final CCP/EIS; 30-day waiting period</li> <li>- Draft Record of Decision</li> <li>- Final Record of Decision</li> <li>- Notice of Availability of ROD</li> <li>- Printing of Final stand-alone CCPs</li> <li>- Completion of Administrative Record</li> </ul>	May 1, 2020



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Northwest Regional Office

911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

JUL - 6 2017

In Reply Refer To:  
Regional Director

Noreen E. Walsh  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Post Office Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

Dear Regional Director Walsh:

Thank you for the invitation to include the Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, to participate in the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the units of the National Bison Range Complex (NBRC) in Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties, Montana.

I have assigned Mr. David Redhorse, Natural Resources Manager, to serve as the representative of the Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, to participate in the planning and development of the CCP.

Mr. David Redhorse can be contacted by phone at (503) 231-6883, or via email at [david.redhorse@bia.gov](mailto:david.redhorse@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Northwest Regional Director

**From:** [Griffin, Toni](#)  
**To:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [Kelly Hogan](#); [Matthew McCollister](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fish and Wildlife - CSKT Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 7:39:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [CCP Flathead.pdf](#)

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**Toni Griffin**  
Refuge Planning  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Office Phone: 303/236-4378  
Telework: Tuesday, Friday

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Speaks, Stanley** <[stanley.speaks@bia.gov](mailto:stanley.speaks@bia.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 5:45 PM  
**Subject:** Fish and Wildlife - CSKT Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
**To:** Toni Griffin <[toni\\_griffin@fws.gov](mailto:toni_griffin@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bodie Shaw <[bodie.shaw@bia.gov](mailto:bodie.shaw@bia.gov)>, David Redhorse <[david.redhorse@bia.gov](mailto:david.redhorse@bia.gov)>, Cheryl Finley <[cheryl.finley@bia.gov](mailto:cheryl.finley@bia.gov)>

Flathead CCP for National Bison Range.

--

Stanley Speaks  
Northwest Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
[Stanley.speaks@bia.gov](mailto:Stanley.speaks@bia.gov)  
503-231-6702

**From:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Bernardo Garza](#); [McCollister, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Comments...quickly please.  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:23:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [NBR Update.docx](#)

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# INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

**DATE:** June 12, 2017

**FROM:** Will Meeks, ARD-Refuges, 303-236-4303

**SUBJECT:** Status update of National Bison Range CCP

## I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This memorandum is intended to provide the Regional Director, Region 6, USWFS with an update of the current status of planning efforts related to the National Bison Range Complex Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

## II. BACKGROUND

On May 18, 2017 the Service published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to inform the public of the Service's intent to prepare CCPs for units of the National Bison Range Complex in Montana. The May 18, 2017 NOI also revised a previous NOI published on January 18, 2017 and clarified that the Service intended to prepare two planning documents; a CCP/Environmental Impact Statement for the National Bison Range, and a CCP/Environmental Assessment for Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts

## III. DISCUSSION

Publication of the NOI began the public scoping process for the CCPs. To date, two public scoping meetings have occurred; one in Polson MT on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and the other in Kalispell MT on June 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition, invitation letters soliciting participation as cooperating agencies in the National Bison Range CCP/EIS were sent to other Federal agencies, the State of Montana, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and local governments (Flathead, Lake and Sanders counties). We have also provided an invitation to five Native American Tribes to begin government to government consultation regarding development of the CCPs.

## IV. NEXT STEPS

- Meetings with the Service's CCP planning team will occur in late July/early August
- Draft Work Plan, Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperating Agencies, and agenda for the initial Cooperating Agencies Meeting (scheduled for the end of August) are in preparation.
- Contracts to provide support for document preparation, meeting facilitation, and writer/editor services are completed and we expect to screen likely contractors in August.

**From:** [Hogan, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Bernie Petersen](#); [Bernardo Garza](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Lake County  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2017 7:50:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Lake county Response.docx](#)

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Bernie/Bernardo

Rough draft of response to Lake County. Ok, I only had one cup of coffee before I wrote this so feel free to edit harshly.

K



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/NWRS/Planning  
NBR Complex CCP 5.0  
Mailstop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

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

Board of County Commissioners  
Lake County  
106 4th Avenue E  
Polson, Montana 59860

Dear Chairman Decker, Commissioners Stipe and Barron;

Thank you for your letter of July 7, 2017 and your willingness to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the development of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for the National Bison Range Complex. It is my understanding that Chairman Decker and Commissioner Stipe had the opportunity to speak with Refuge Supervisor Bernie Petersen on July 12 regarding the status of the CCP planning process and the tentative scheduling of future Cooperating Agency team meetings.

To summarize, the Service intends to hold an internal scoping meeting with the staff at the National Bison Range Complex in late July. The main focus of this meeting will be to assemble background information about the refuges, a preliminary list of key resource and visitor use issues, and develop an agenda for the first Cooperating Agency meeting. We anticipate holding the Cooperating Agency meeting in late August. During the first week of August the Lake County Commissioners will receive an information packet that includes a copy of the proposed agenda, a draft Memorandum of Understanding for your consideration, and a list of potential locations, dates, and times for the meeting.

As the Service anticipates the planning process will require three years to complete, I want to once again thank the Commissioners for their willingness to engage in this planning process with us. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance now or at any time during preparation of the National Bison Range Complex CCPs. If you have general questions about the refuge or Service policy please feel free to contact Refuge Supervisor Bernie Petersen at (303) 236-4310 or via email at [bernie\\_petersen@fws.gov](mailto:bernie_petersen@fws.gov). If you, or your staff, have specific questions about the CCP planning process please feel free to contact Planning Team Leader Bernardo Garza at (303) 236-4377 or via email at [bernardo\\_garza@fws.gov](mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

**From:** [Garza, Bernardo](#)  
**To:** [Matten, Betsy](#)  
**Subject:** Lake County letter  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2017 8:40:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [Lake county Response.docx](#)

---

Here you go Betsy

--

**Bernardo Garza**  
**Planning Team Leader**  
Branch of Policy and Planning  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region**  
**Office (303) 236-4377**  
**Fax (303) 236-4792**



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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STREET LOCATION:  
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Sincerely,

Regional Director