

From: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Michelle Hizon](#)
Subject: FW: My concerns ref NBRC CCP
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:23:21 AM
Attachments: [NBR CCP concerns King 5-26-17.pdf](#)

Michelle,

Maureen asked me to send this to you so you have a copy.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Bernie Petersen
Cc: Kelly Hogan; Griffin, Toni; Garza, Bernardo
Subject: My concerns ref NBRC CCP

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



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: [Mike Koole](#); [Darren Thomas](#)
Subject: Fwd: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:23:49 PM

Mike and Darren,

Due to the conflict with the CCP internal scoping meeting that is scheduled for next Tuesday, the safety inspection has been postponed until a later date.

This will free both of you up to attend the CCP meeting.

I'll provide additional information as it becomes available.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, MT 59824
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

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

From: **Jim Chandler** <jim_chandler@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 1:06 PM
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
To: Kevin Shinn <kevin_shinn@fws.gov>, Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>
Cc: Barry Oelrich <barry_oelrich@fws.gov>, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov>, Bruce Kelly <bruce_kelly@fws.gov>

I just talked to Bernie . . . and was also able to talk to Barry who is already up in Montana on annual leave with his wife. They were at Ennis NFH helping with some spawning work – total coincidence I was able to talk to him.

Based on everything going on I have decided to cancel next week's visit – I think it will take some pressure off of everyone. Hopefully we can reschedule next week at a time that works better. We'll include Bernie in our coordination.

Thank you for letting me know about the conflict as soon as you did, I appreciate that.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6

134 Union Blvd., Suite 210

Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

Preferred Method of Contact/Quickest Response is email: jim_chandler@fws.gov

Phone: (303) 236-8193

Cell: (303) 406-8770

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From: Kevin Shinn [mailto:kevin_shinn@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:29 AM

To: King, Jeff

Cc: Jim Chandler; Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly

Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

All,

I will be out of town Thursday and Friday. I could squeeze in some time before the safety inspection on Monday or Tuesday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2017, at 11:08 AM, King, Jeff <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Jim.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:07 AM, Jim Chandler <jim_chandler@fws.gov> wrote:

Jeff,

I just spoke with Bernie – he is going to talk with Kelly Hogan and try to get the CCP meeting changed to Thursday, if possible. I hope so – it will be very difficult to change our itinerary at this point.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6

134 Union Blvd., Suite 210

Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

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From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Oelrich, Barry

Cc: Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Jim Chandler; Bruce Kelly

Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Jim,

A conflict has come up with the NBR safety inspection scheduled for next Tuesday. We are trying to have a CCP internal scoping meeting on that day which would include all staff from NBR and Lost Trail. Is there any options to conduct the NBR safety inspection later in the week, perhaps Thursday? Let me know asap.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex

58355 Bison Range Road

Moiese, MT 59824

(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 8:21 AM, Oelrich, Barry <barry_oelrich@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Attached is the signed Inspection Notification Letter for your upcoming audit. Jim has set up permissions for you to access your folder to upload the requested

documents, the due date for these documents is July 12, 2017.

The pre-inspection checklist has been added to your folder or is accessible under the Inspection tab on the Safety page.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

--

[Barry Oelrich](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

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From: [Garza, Bernardo](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Fwd: NEPA/Facilitation Contractor Conference Call & Purposes, Vision and Goals Workshop
Date: Friday, October 6, 2017 12:46:47 PM

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

From: **Garza, Bernardo** <bernardo_garza@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2017 at 1:58 PM
Subject: NEPA/Facilitation Contractor Conference Call & Purposes, Vision and Goals Workshop
To: Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>, Kevin Shinn <kevin_shinn@fws.gov>

Jeff and Kevin,

Based on the input provided by and the availability of all the Service key players in the planning process I have a couple of dates to share with you so you can schedule them in your calendars:

NEPA and Facilitation Assistance "Kick-Off" Conference Call

On Thursday, October 5, we will have a conference call with representatives of Marstel-Day, LLC (the contracting company that was awarded the contract) at 10:00 am (Mountain Time) to Kick-Off their assistance services to the CCP planning process. I expect that the meeting will last somewhere between 1 and 2 hours. I have asked you to participate in this conference call to begin getting acquainted with the staff of this company which will help us with the CCP development. We chose them, among other reasons, because they have prior experience assisting the Service in developing CCPs in other regions.

As soon as I have the conference call number and passcode information I'll send it you.

Purposes, Vision and Goals Workshop

We will hold the NBR Complex CCPs Purposes, Vision and Goals Workshop on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. I've reserved one of the conference rooms at the Red Lion Inn in Polson for the workshop and a block of six guestrooms for those of us traveling from the RO.

Those of us from the RO will travel on Monday and Wednesday to participate in the Tuesday workshop.

Please mark your calendars and notify your staff. I will inform our Cooperating Agencies of the workshop's details momentarily.

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
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From: [Hogan, Kelly](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Fwd: notes from Missoula meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:27:46 PM
Attachments: [Missoula Public Meeting Notes.docx](#)

Just FYI. Notes Matt took at the Missoula meeting.

K

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

From: **McCollister, Matthew** <matthew_mccollister@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 1:22 PM
Subject: notes from Missoula meeting
To: Bernardo Garza <bernardo_garza@fws.gov>, Kelly Hogan <kelly_hogan@fws.gov>

See attached, there is a copy on the Planning drive in the public scoping folder

--

Matthew McCollister
Wildlife Biologist
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
Lewistown, MT

Meeting Notes

National Bison Range Public Scoping

August 30, 2017 6-8 pm

Missoula Public Library

Regional planner Bernardo Garza began the meeting with a brief presentation about the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process; refuge manager Kevin Shinn introduced and described the units of the Complex; and project leader Jeff King described the National Bison Range and initiated questions and comments from the public. Jeff also told the crowd that the potential for an Annual Funding agreement was outside the scope of the CCP effort and that the service was most interested in their questions and comments on the management of resources on the NBR complex. There was a good turnout for this meeting; but as a result, I had a hard time keeping the commenters straight. I attempted to identify individuals when possible.

Public #1- The refuge shouldn't be hiring one person over another, hiring should be open and competitive. Why are there so many vacant positions?

Jeff- The refuge has been in limbo, and the service didn't want those positions encumbered considering there was a potential transfer, in that case the service would want to minimize the impact to employees.

Skip Palmer- With these vacancies, and I'm thinking of Bowdoin's CCP effort and staffing which has always had a full complement of staff; with the staff you have can you do a good job of a CCP? With using outsiders to the NBR to make very important decisions, decisions that need to consider the history of the NBRs management? Can you get the job done?

Jeff- This is my 4th CCP, I have seen good plans and bad plans. I think that we can write a CCP that answers a lot of questions for us, but it would be improved if we had a full staff. We are anxious to hear from the public because we don't have all the answers. I am hopeful that this plan will be a good one.

Public #2, a lady associated with Sierra Club- If we are asking about more staff even though there is less funding, wouldn't the service save money by transferring the refuge to CSKT. . .

Susan Reneau interrupts Public #2 with a sharp reply about money that I couldn't understand, a man sitting next to her motions for her to calm down.

Public #2 resumes- I am disappointed that the transfer wasn't considered anymore, I know that there is a new administration but why couldn't the January NOI have run its course with a full range of alternatives?

Jeff- We are directed by superiors, and the secretary of the interior said that we would not be transferring the NBR. Also the NOI did not state an AFA specifically; we will be cooperating with the tribe. We will not be exploring an AFA in the CCP, because the CCP is about what work needs to be done, not about who does that work. An AFA could come up in a separate process later on.

Public #3- What can we do to help you get more funding?

Jeff- The first step is your participation tonight; you also have representatives that speak for you. We all see opportunities and recognized that the NBR is special.

Susan Reneau- There have been 2 CCP meetings, and comments have been solicited, and there have been 2 secret meetings with CSKT that were off limits. None of the comments have been summarized and I want to know if we are being heard? How much is it costing tax payers to have a planning lead that works in the Denver Office and why isn't it Jeff King?

Jeff defers to Bernardo Garza- We will be writing a summary report of the comments received and it will be posted on the website.

Susan interrupts again- Is Jeff the lead for this CCP?

Bernardo- I am here to help Jeff with the development of this plan. I see myself as a catalyst to assist this CCP, but Jeff will ultimately be the one to implement it.

Public #3, retired USFWS used to work at CMR- Getting back to all of this AFA talk, it doesn't work with 2 agencies managing one place. We've seen it with the Game Range and split management by BLM and FWS from the Game Range Bill. There needs to be one agency making decisions, split decisions don't work.

Jeff- Thank you for the comment, but we are not talking about an AFA, we need to stay focused on resources for the CCP.

Public #4, a lady that uses the NBR for wildlife observation- I would like to see a focus on important songbirds like grasshopper sparrow, keeping snags for bird habitat, and a bigger visitor center.

Public #5- If you aren't talking about an AFA alternative, then what mechanisms will be included in the future for collaborating with tribes? I am an educator and I used the NBR with my students and it's

important to incorporate the Native American history. It is important to include the tribes in the refuge's programs, how will you do that?

Jeff- We work with CSKT on natural and cultural resources. Amy is working with a reservation treaty grant to address resource management, we work together a lot and we can expand that. We do a lot with the tribe.

Public #5- I want to stress coordination.

John Marshall- Zinke squashed the transfer, has there been any rationale or is this racism sustained by the Administration?

Jeff- I only know about what I have read, I can't speak for Sec. Zinke.

Pat Jameson- It is hard working through a CCP, who does the work is more of a step down plan. A CCP doesn't preclude tribal involvement.

Mr. Reneau, Susan's husband- We read that the NBR has outlived its usefulness, but I think that its genetically pure bison are what is important.

Jeff- That is our priority, our bison management is growing, we have DNA for each animal, and we work with the greater FWS metapopulation.

Mr. Reneau- So it hasn't outlived its usefulness?

Jeff- I couldn't agree more.

Public #6- Talking visions and goals is lofty, but those are going to be done by people, shouldn't who does it be a consideration when you are short staffed, how will this happen?

Jeff- That is some of what the CCP is supposed to address, how do we meet our goals, what needs to be done, and it does take staff; but everyone on wants to be a priority and the CCP is our way of justifying ours.

Public # 7- USFWS has gone from 9600 to 7000 employees, staffs are shrinking.

Public #8- Development is reducing habitat, are there hopes for acquiring more?

Jeff- We are all competing for limited funding to acquire land, it depends on priorities. Currently the PPR is the priority, there are some opportunities in the Mission valley but it's competitive.

Pat- The NBR includes a lot of easements also, and the tribe does too, for grizzly bear.

Skip- Taking care of the land after we acquire it is more important than getting more; we can't keep weeds off what we have.

Public #2- Why has it taken so long of this CCP to come up?

Jeff- We have had 2 starts that failed, the NBR was one of the first CCPs attempted.

Pat- We got Lost Trail NWR and it stopped the first one, then the 2nd attempt was put on hold when an AFA started.

Jeff- I stopped one attempt because we lost critical staff.

Susan- Do you think that some of the turmoil at the NBR is why it hasn't been done in 20 years?

Jeff- I don't know if I have a good answer for you on that.

Public #8- How do you prioritize species etc. with all the factors like climate changes, T and E recoveries, etc.?

Jeff- The establishment orders, migratory birds, and other priorities are mostly dictated by congress. It is not the refuges choice to decide what our trust resources are; we can't do something to degrade those resources.

Public #9- Do you see any chance to restore Bison to Lost Trail?

Jeff- That would be politically very complicated for a lot of reasons including fear of brucellosis spread to cattle.

Public # 10- Can you educate the public that bison are not the risk for transmitting brucellosis to cattle, but instead it is elk.

Jeff- That would be a great use of our outreach and visitor services.

Public # 10- Can you put that up on the website?

Public #11- Can there be a Citizens Advisory Group in the CCP process?

Bernardo Garza- There are cases where there has been something like that, but it is very cumbersome because of FACA compliance, there are lots of rules. I've never done it but they can be done and useful. We are not opposed to it, but we also have Cooperating Agencies to help in our planning process. Some agencies participate, some decline; but ultimately the FWS is the decisions maker in the CCP.

Public #12- Going back to big goals, wildlife is connected to the habitat. All of this depends on public support, education, and outreach programs for now and the future. This is a great opportunity for youth and the public; this should be a high priority.

Public #13- What resources do you have for interns and volunteers?

Jeff- We have programs for those but they all take resources and currently our visitor services position is vacant. But we have had good success, we've had big responses and gotten great help from volunteers but we do not have enough time to make the most of that group. But our visitor center has been greatly helped by volunteers.

Public #14- Do you have a friends group?

Jeff- No, but it takes a person to manage one; I'd like to see one in the future.

Public #15- I'd like to see student involvement and you need their presence.

At this point we reached the end of our conference room reservation. The public was encouraged to fill out comment forms and mailing list consent forms.

From: [McPeak, Kathy](#)
To: [Hicks, Steve](#); [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Fwd: Release the names, addresses, phone numbers, faxes, emails and complete letters during the CCP process at the National Bison Range
Date: Monday, October 16, 2017 8:21:24 AM

Bernie/Steve,

Not sure why I was included in this letter?? I've had nothing to do with NBR. Maybe it was intended for Jeff, Amy, and/or Lee?

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

From: Susan Reneau <bluemountain@montana.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 8:41 PM
Subject: Release the names, addresses, phone numbers, faxes, emails and complete letters during the CCP process at the National Bison Range
To: bernie_petersen@fws.gov, kathy_mcpeak@fws.gov, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>, Will Meeks <Will_Meeks@fws.gov>

Dear Bernie Petersen, Kathy McPeak, Noreen Walsh, Will Meeks, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

I understand that a special interest group has demanded that the names, addresses, all contact information and actual letters from everyone who submitted comments about the CCP process at the National Bison Range Complex prior to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releasing a summary of all the comments or releasing to the public any information about with has been said at the CCP meetings so far. At each meeting we have attended we have been assured that all comments will be appreciated and included in summaries promptly. Yet, I hear that this special interest group is demanding a copy of all the letters with all the private contact information of the people and organizations that submitted comments and no summaries have yet to be produced for any of the CCP public meetings. No other special interest group or individual has demanded such information.

The last time this same special interest group demanded such information when an annual funding agreement was being considered at the National Bison Range Complex, this private information was used to harass people that wrote letters that objected to the special interest group taking over inherently federal jobs, tasks and federal money at the National Bison Range Complex so such an extent that many people said they would never participate in any "public" process again. Some of those people harmed in the public process from 2003 to 2005 were CSKT members as

well as private citizens living near the National Bison Range that objected to federal workers losing their jobs to be replaced by AFA workers with no experience.

Releasing this information to such an organization that did not handle private information properly is inappropriate and I object. This group can receive the same summaries as any other group or individual and you should consider the facts surrounding them when they received similar information during the annual funding agreement open comment process in 2005 that was misused.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Campbell Reneau

Private citizen

--

Kathy McPeak
Biologist, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge
39983 Refuge Road
Valentine, NE 69201

office: (402)376-3789 ext.227
cell: (402)322-1199

From: [Hogan, Kelly](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tuesday Meeting Agenda and a couple of requests
Date: Friday, July 21, 2017 3:25:37 PM
Attachments: [NBRC CCPs 2017 Preplanning Meeting.doc](#)

FYI.

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

From: **Garza, Bernardo** <bernardo_garza@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2017 at 2:02 PM
Subject: Tuesday Meeting Agenda and a couple of requests
To: Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>, Kevin Shinn <kevin_shinn@fws.gov>, Kelly Hogan <kelly_hogan@fws.gov>, "McCollister, Matthew" <matthew_mccollister@fws.gov>

Jeff and Kevin,

I am attaching here the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting at the Ninepipes Lodge. I know it is a very ambitious agenda, but we do need to at least attempt to cover all of the points.

Because of the combined and multiyear experience of the members of the NBR Complex staff, it is very important that as many of them as possible participate in the meeting. Their institutional knowledge is absolutely vital to help us understand the challenges ahead so we can complete the planning tasks at hand. So please invite all of them if possible. And, if this doesn't sound like an imposition and since Laura has been involved in previous AFAs as well as planning efforts I believe she should participate in Tuesday's meeting as well. I can use all the help I can to try to grasp all the historical and current intricacies of the relationship between NBR and CSKT, as well as the roles and contributions of past and present "players" (MTGFP, counties, NGOs, etc.).

Do we have anyone with Pat Jamieson's experience currently in the staff. And, if not, might it be reasonable and prudent to involve her somehow in the planning process? Please give it some consideration.

Furthermore, please let me know (by early Monday morning) if you could provide a projector for the meeting. Otherwise I will bring one from the Planning office (although I rather not carry one with me all the way to MT if it can be avoided...).

I'll bring my laptop to take notes and connect it to the project. I hope whatever projector we end up using is compatible with my laptop and we don't end up with the same issue we had at the Kalispell library...

See you on Tuesday morning.

--

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



Preplanning Meeting

July 25, 2017, Ninepipes Lodge, Charlo, Montana

PURPOSE

- The purposes of this meeting include:
 - Consider the ongoing CCP development process to date and the tasks ahead
 - Discuss and organize the first meeting with cooperating agencies in August 2017
 - Look at the draft Memorandum of Agreement with the cooperating agencies
 - Speak about previous CCP development efforts and the lessons learned from them
 - Deliberate on the Work Plan for the NBR Complex CCPs
 - Develop an internal list of issues that the CCPs need to address
 - Find out what the NBR Complex staff wants to accomplish

AGENDA

8:30 am Go over logistics and agenda items and include other items that should be discussed

9:00 am Look at a “typical” CCP development process

How the NBR Complex CCPs process differs from the typical process

- The legal component
- How two CCPs begin together and separate later on

Consider the previous CCP development processes and what are the lessons learned

- How can we avoid “pitfalls” or actions that could slow or derail the process?

Are there any issues that need to be brought up and addressed before including cooperators?

Role of the AFA in previous and in the current CCP process

What preplanning has already occurred during previous CCP development processes

- What data or information has been gathered so far during previous planning efforts
- What data and informational gaps remain to date
- Are there any ongoing research or data gathering efforts ongoing at NBRC?

Generate internal list of issues to address in the CCPs

Speak about the draft Work Plan and finalize it

Deliberate on the draft MOU between the Service and the cooperating agencies

Discuss possible dates, sites, and agenda items for the first meeting with cooperating agencies

What does the NBRC staff want to accomplish and what other items should be discussed?

We will be break for lunch sometime in late morning/early afternoon, and end the meeting around 4 pm

From: [King, Jeff](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Cc: [Kelly Hogan](#); [Griffin, Toni](#); [Garza, Bernardo](#)
Subject: My concerns ref NBRC CCP
Date: Friday, May 26, 2017 4:18:39 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



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

Name	Series	FPL Grade	Base Funded	Adj FY2013 Base				Total	FTE
			S/B	1261	1262	1263	1264		
MCDONALD, MARLIN M.	GS-0455-07/03	07	30,729		30,729			30,729	0.5
MOYNAHAN, BRENDAN J	GS-0486-12/10	12	123,759	123,759				123,759	1
KOOLE, MICHAEL K.	GL-1801-09/04	09	78,713				78,713	78,713	1
RINGHAM, JOHN S.	WG-4749-07/05	07	51,601		51,601			51,601	0.8
THOMAS, DARREN V.	WG-5716-09/05	09	80,788		80,788			80,788	1
WOODGER, BRENT H.	WG-4749-08/05	08	75,193		75,193			75,193	1
KING, JEFFREY A.	GS-0485-14/04	14	145,164	97,260		47,904		145,164	1
REBARCHIK, ROBERT A.	GS-0485-12/10	12	123,759	82,918		40,840		123,759	1
JAMIESON, PATRICIA A.	GS-0023-11/08	11	94,093			94,093		94,093	1
Vacant	WG-4749-07/05	07	37,213		37,213			37,213	0.5
Vacant	GS-0486-09/06	09	86,014	86,014				86,014	1
CAHOON, FRANCIS E*	WG-4749-07/03	07	52,838		52,838			52,838	0.8
LISK, AMY K*	GS-0401-09/04	09	65,894	65,894				65,894	1
SKINNER, BEVERLY ROEDN	GS-0486-09/08	09	72,967	72,967				72,967	1
SHINN, KEVIN J.	GS-0485-12/07	12	114,240	76,541		37,699		114,240	1
<i>Total Payroll</i>			1,232,963	605,352	328,362	220,537	78,713	1,232,963	13.6
								1,232,963	

MC

RONS Project*

Annual Maintenance (ANNM)			217,981		217,981			217,981	
MC			193,007	94,761	51,401	34,523	12,322	193,007	
MC Adjustment to equal FY13			72,468	35,580	19,300	12,962	4,626	72,468	
Total MC			483,456	130,341	288,682	47,485	16,948	483,456	
Total Base		1,643,951	1,716,419	735,693	617,044	268,022	95,661	1,716,419	

Ratio - S/B to MC

72%

BT Participant S/B/MC

	GS-0560-09	9	78,556	52,633		25,923		78,556	1
Karen Shoemaker			19,639	13,158		6,481		19,639	
Total BT Support			98,195	65,791	-	32,404	-	98,195	1

Total FY2014 Allocation	73%		1,814,614	801,483	617,044	300,426	95,661	1,814,614	14.6
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*Francis and Amy are listed as base funded even though they are Term. NBR was forced to hire the positions as Term due to potential new AFA

From: [King, Jeff](#)
To: [Jim Chandler](#)
Cc: [Barry Oelrich](#); [Kevin Shinn](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Bruce Kelly](#)
Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:37:01 AM

Thanks Jim.

Thanks,

jk

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

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:07 AM, Jim Chandler <jim_chandler@fws.gov> wrote:

Jeff,

I just spoke with Bernie – he is going to talk with Kelly Hogan and try to get the CCP meeting changed to Thursday, if possible. I hope so – it will be very difficult to change our itinerary at this point.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6

134 Union Blvd., Suite 210

Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

Preferred Method of Contact/Quickest Response is email: jim_chandler@fws.gov

Phone: (303) 236-8193

Cell: (303) 406-8770

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From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Oelrich, Barry
Cc: Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Jim Chandler; Bruce Kelly
Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Jim,

A conflict has come up with the NBR safety inspection scheduled for next Tuesday. We are trying to have a CCP internal scoping meeting on that day which would include all staff from NBR and Lost Trail. Is there any options to conduct the NBR safety inspection later in the week, perhaps Thursday? Let me know asap.

Thanks,

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On Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 8:21 AM, Oelrich, Barry <barry_oelrich@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

--

[Barry Oelrich](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6

134 Union Blvd., Suite 210

Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

O: 303-236-4526

C: 720-245-3752

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From: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Jim Chandler](#); [Kevin Shinn](#); [Jeff King](#)
Cc: [Barry Oelrich](#); [Bruce Kelly](#)
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:24:41 PM

Thank you Jim for being so understanding. I will coordinate future meetings of this nature with your safety inspection schedule.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Jim Chandler [mailto:jim_chandler@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Kevin Shinn; Jeff King
Cc: Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

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Based on everything going on I have decided to cancel next week's visit – I think it will take some pressure off of everyone. Hopefully we can reschedule next week at a time that works better. We'll include Bernie in our coordination.

Thank you for letting me know about the conflict as soon as you did, I appreciate that.

Thank you,
James D. Chandler
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,
Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations
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From: Kevin Shinn [mailto:kevin_shinn@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:29 AM
To: King, Jeff
Cc: Jim Chandler; Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly
Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

All,

I will be out of town Thursday and Friday. I could squeeze in some time before the safety inspection on Monday or Tuesday.

Sent from my iPhone

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Thanks Jim.

Thanks,

jk

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

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From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Oelrich, Barry

Cc: Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Jim Chandler; Bruce Kelly

Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

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[Barry Oelrich](#)

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Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations
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C: 720-245-3752

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From: [Jim Chandler](#)
To: [Kevin Shinn](#); [Jeff King](#)
Cc: [Barry Oelrich](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Bruce Kelly](#)
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 2:00:35 PM

I just talked to Bernie . . . and was also able to talk to Barry who is already up in Montana on annual leave with his wife. They were at Ennis NFH helping with some spawning work – total coincidence I was able to talk to him.

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To: [Kevin Shinn](#)
Cc: [Jeff King](#); [Barry Oelrich](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Bruce Kelly](#)
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 2:25:17 PM

No sorry – the whole trip is canceled . . . I have already let the Grizzly Bear and Western Joint Venture folks know as well.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Jim Chandler
Cc: Jeff King; Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly
Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Jim,

Just to clarify, you are cancelling the NBR inspection and Lost Trail is still scheduled for Wednesday?

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 1:06 PM, Jim Chandler <jim_chandler@fws.gov> wrote:
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[Barry Oelrich](#)

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--

Kevin J. Shinn

Manager/Federal Wildlife Officer
Lost Trail NWR/NW Montana WMD
406-858-2216 Office
406-260-5192 cell

From: [Jim Chandler](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#); [Kevin Shinn](#); [Jeff King](#)
Cc: [Barry Oelrich](#); [Bruce Kelly](#)
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:32:09 PM

Thanks Bernie – I appreciate it and we'll work best we can with available dates.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations

Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6

134 Union Blvd., Suite 210

Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

Preferred Method of Contact/Quickest Response is email: jim_chandler@fws.gov

Phone: (303) 236-8193

Cell: (303) 406-8770

Mission FIRST Safety ALWAYS

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<https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/6/admin/safety/SitePages/Home.aspx>

From: Bernie Petersen [mailto:bernie_petersen@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Jim Chandler; Kevin Shinn; Jeff King
Cc: Barry Oelrich; Bruce Kelly
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Thank you Jim for being so understanding. I will coordinate future meetings of this nature with your safety inspection schedule.

Bernard J Petersen

Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming

US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W

720-708-8026 Cell

From: Jim Chandler [mailto:jim_chandler@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Kevin Shinn; Jeff King
Cc: Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

I just talked to Bernie . . . and was also able to talk to Barry who is already up in Montana on annual leave with his wife. They were at Ennis NFH helping with some spawning work – total coincidence I was able to talk to him.

Based on everything going on I have decided to cancel next week's visit – I think it will take some pressure off of everyone. Hopefully we can reschedule next week at a time that works better. We'll include Bernie in our coordination.

Thank you for letting me know about the conflict as soon as you did, I appreciate that.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

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From: Kevin Shinn [mailto:kevin_shinn@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:29 AM

To: King, Jeff

Cc: Jim Chandler; Barry Oelrich; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly

Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

All,

I will be out of town Thursday and Friday. I could squeeze in some time before the safety inspection on Monday or Tuesday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2017, at 11:08 AM, King, Jeff <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Jim.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, MT 59824
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:07 AM, Jim Chandler <jim_chandler@fws.gov>
wrote:
Jeff,

I just spoke with Bernie – he is going to talk with Kelly Hogan and try to get the CCP meeting changed to Thursday, if possible. I hope so – it will be very difficult to change our itinerary at this point.

Thank you,

James D. Chandler

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chief, Division of Safety and Occupational Health,

**Environmental Compliance, Emergency Management and Continuity of
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From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Oelrich, Barry

Cc: Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Jim Chandler; Bruce Kelly

Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Jim,

A conflict has come up with the NBR safety inspection scheduled for next Tuesday. We are trying to have a CCP internal scoping meeting on that day which would include all staff from NBR and Lost Trail. Is there any options to conduct the NBR safety inspection later in the week, perhaps Thursday? Let me know asap.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, MT 59824
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 8:21 AM, Oelrich, Barry <barry_oelrich@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Attached is the signed Inspection Notification Letter for your upcoming audit. Jim has set up permissions for you to access your folder to upload the requested documents, the due date for these documents is July 12, 2017.

The pre-inspection checklist has been added to your folder or is accessible under the Inspection tab on the Safety page.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

--

[Barry Oelrich](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations
Mountain-Prairie Region, Region 6
134 Union Blvd., Suite 210
Lakewood, CO 80228-1807
O: 303-236-4526
C: 720-245-3752

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From: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Jeff King](#)
Subject: RE: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:08:39 PM

Jeff,

I am checking with Kelly to see if there is any chance of moving the CCP meeting to Thursday. We will keep you in the loop.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Jim Chandler
Cc: Barry Oelrich; Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Bruce Kelly
Subject: Re: 2017 National Bison Range Safety Inspection

Thanks Jim.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader
National Bison Range Complex
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, MT 59824
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Jeff,

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Thank you,
James D. Chandler
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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To: Oelrich, Barry
Cc: Kevin Shinn; Bernie Petersen; Jim Chandler; Bruce Kelly
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Jim,

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Thanks,

jk

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

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

--

[Barry Oelrich](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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O: 303-236-4526
C: 720-245-3752

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From: [Will Meeks](#)
To: [Bernardo Garza](#)
Cc: [Kelly Hogan](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Maureen Gallagher](#)
Subject: RE: FW: I know you've sent these already, but
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 1:40:53 PM

Awesome. Thanks.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303 (office)
720-541-0310 (cell)

From: Garza, Bernardo [mailto:bernardo_garza@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>
Cc: Kelly Hogan <kelly_hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: I know you've sent these already, but

Will,

Jeff King just confirmed to me that MTFWP WILL BE a cooperating agency and thus part of the planning team. MTFWP will sign the MOU that we developed with the other cooperating agencies.

On Tue, Sep 12, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov> wrote:

Bernardo,

I'm not sure if Kelly is around our not. Please see below. Do you have those available to send me? Thanks.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303 (office)
720-541-0310 (cell)

From: Will Meeks [mailto:will_meeks@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Kelly Hogan <kelly_hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: I know you've sent these already, but

Can you send me the NBR CCP proposed timeline and the planning team make-up?

Thanks.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303 (office)
720-541-0310 (cell)

--

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: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Will Meeks](#)
Subject: RE: National Bison Range Letters to Tribes, County, etc.
Date: Friday, June 2, 2017 3:32:17 PM

Tried to call – what note about the POC? I gave Toni the go ahead to send the emails out before she leaves. The letters we will get routed on Monday.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Will Meeks [mailto:will_meeks@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Griffin, Toni
Cc: Maureen Gallagher; Bernie Petersen; Kelly Hogan
Subject: Re: National Bison Range Letters to Tribes, County, etc.

Yep. Including Jeff.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303(w)
720-541-0310 (c)

On Jun 2, 2017, at 3:22 PM, Griffin, Toni <toni_griffin@fws.gov> wrote:

about ready to send it now. would you all like a cc of the email?

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 Fri, Jun 2, 2017 at 3:11 PM, Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov> wrote:
Did you see my note about POC?

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303(w)
720-541-0310 (c)

On Jun 2, 2017, at 3:10 PM, Maureen Gallagher <maureen_gallagher@fws.gov> wrote:

Let's do it first thing Monday. Did Toni get the email out to the cooperators?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 2, 2017, at 3:09 PM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:

Got some guidance on how to route the CCP letters for approval.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah,
Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Morris, Charisa [mailto:charisa_morris@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 3:05 PM
To: Bernie Petersen
Subject: Re: National Bison Range Letters to Tribes, County, etc.

Hi Bernie-

You can route any correspondence fitting the criteria DJ shared to the Controlled Correspondence Unit (CCU) in the Document Tracking System (<https://dts.fws.gov/dts>).

Thanks!
Charisa

On Fri, Jun 2, 2017 at 4:07 PM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:

Charisa,

I must have missed something but what is the process to get these letters routed for approval? Who should we send to/through to get the ball rolling?

Thanks and apologize if this is a dumb question I am just not sure what the process is.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah,
Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Morris, Charisa [mailto:charisa_morris@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:42 PM

To: Monette, DJ

Cc: Huggler, Matthew; Mogadam, Roya; Gavin Shire; Doug Hobbs; Scott Aikin; Stephanie Potter; Will Meeks; Bernardo Garza; Toni Griffin; Maureen Gallagher; Bernie Petersen; Anna Munoz

Subject: Re: National Bison Range Letters to Tribes, County, etc.

My original response to this thread never got out of my drafts box. No, there have been no updates to that guidance. Thank you for sharing, DJ. Please let me know if there any still questions. We can always seek guidance for unusual or unclear circumstances from Exec Sec.

On Fri, Jun 2, 2017 at 7:38 AM, Monette, DJ
<dj_monette@fws.gov> wrote:

Hello Folks,

Attached below is a Q&A document regarding DOI review of Tribal correspondence that I worked with Charisa on. This has been vetted with DOI.

Charisa, please let us know if this document has been updated further since we worked on it last.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

DJ

On Thu, Jun 1, 2017 at 10:50 AM, Huggler, Matthew
<matthew_huggler@fws.gov> wrote:

Roya,

My understanding is that letters to tribal letters need to be cleared through ExecSec, if only the template. Charisa will know the latest on that front, however.

I do not know what the status of these particular letters are.

- Matt

Matthew C. Huggler
Deputy Assistant Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: EA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
(703) 358-2243 (office)
(202) 460-8402 (cell)

On Thu, Jun 1, 2017 at 10:31 AM, Mogadam, Roya
<roya_mogadam@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Folks-

This is getting really really tight. We need some guidance ASAP on this. **Toni - would you please share the RD surnamed letter with this group.**

To clarify:

- 1) DJ/Charisa - we need to know if we need further clearance to send tribal letters
- 2) Gavin/Doug/Matt - we need to know if the Department has cleared this, needs to clear this, etc.

These meetings are next week, we need to send out today via email at the very least.

Thanks,

-Roya

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 3:04 PM, DJ Monette

<dj_monette@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Roya,

Sorry, I misread your ask. I don't believe you need to have DOI review on the Tribal invitation letters to for them to participate.

Copying Charisa here to double check.

Thanks,

DJ

Sent from my iPhone

On May 25, 2017, at 3:28 PM, Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi DJ, I'm not sure what you mean, we are looking for guidance about whether the letters need to be reviewed, not the CCP process. We already announced in the FR the CCP process, now we want to send letters to tribes and other interested parties (county officials, other federal agencies) inviting them to be a part of the process.

-Roya

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 1:19 PM, DJ Monette <dj_monette@fws.gov> wrote:

The CCP process is a FR process so the answer is yes.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2017, at 4:24 PM, Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey,

Quick question, we are about to finish surnaming the letters going to tribes, county officials, other federal agencies, etc. inviting them to be a part of the CCP process. Do these need to be reviewed by the Department before Noreen signs?

-Roya

--

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
(303) 236-4572

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

DJ Monette

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -
Headquarters, Washington, DC**

**Associate Native American Liaison
Advisor**

Cell: (413) 244-4495

dj_monette@fws.gov

--

Charisa_Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of
the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street
NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 |
For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

--

Charisa_Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of
the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street
NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 |
For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

From: [Will Meeks](#)
To: [Griffin, Toni](#)
Cc: [Maureen Gallagher](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Kelly Hogan](#)
Subject: Re: National Bison Range Letters to Tribes, County, etc.
Date: Friday, June 2, 2017 3:24:23 PM

Yep. Including Jeff.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303(w)
720-541-0310 (c)

On Jun 2, 2017, at 3:22 PM, Griffin, Toni <toni_griffin@fws.gov> wrote:

about ready to send it now. would you all like a cc of the email?

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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Mountain-Prairie Region
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Cc: Huggler, Matthew; Mogadam, Roya; Gavin Shire; Doug Hobbs; Scott Aikin; Stephanie Potter; Will Meeks; Bernardo Garza; Toni Griffin; Maureen Gallagher; Bernie Petersen; Anna Munoz

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-Roya

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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

(303) 236-4572

--

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

(303) 236-4572

--

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

(303) 236-4572

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DJ Monette

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -
Headquarters, Washington, DC**

**Associate Native American Liaison
Advisor**

Cell: (413) 244-4495

dj_monette@fws.gov

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Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-
3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

From: [Hogan, Kelly](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Re: NBR CCP meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:16:47 PM

I spoke with Jeff about this and yes we may miss one or two people but only the first of many meetings. He seemed ok with that? Really need to start this process and make contacts with cooperating agencies. Unlikely in the future things will get any easier trying to get everyone together. But your call.

Let's talk when you get a minute.

K

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:23 AM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:

As one would expect there is a conflict that was identified with having the CCP meeting on Tuesday. Safety has scheduled their inspection of the two refuges for that day and cannot reschedule. Is there any possibility of moving the CCP meeting to Thursday? Tried to come see you but you were not at your desk.

Frustrating I know ...;{)

Bernard J Petersen

Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming

US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W

720-708-8026 Cell

From: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Kelly Hogan](#)
Subject: RE: Need to talk
Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017 10:46:56 AM

To say the least

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Hogan, Kelly [mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 7:19 AM
To: Bernie Petersen
Subject: Re: Need to talk

P.S. Will's decision is to go with Vanessa on the NBR CCP. Toni will be back soon so that should make things interesting.

On Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 7:12 AM, Hogan, Kelly <kelly_hogan@fws.gov> wrote:
Let me know when and I will be available. The MOU is one of the issues. Jeff was responsible for getting the signatures. We may need another plan.

Let me know,
Kelly

On Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 7:10 AM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:
Kelly,

Been tied up with the roundup the last few days. WE have load out this morning and again tomorrow morning but should be available this afternoon I think. Are you able to get on a call to talk. I had a call from the Lake County Commissioners office asking about getting the MOU for being a cooperator back – something about Bernardo not getting a copy to them??? Also curious if Toni will be back on the CCP or if Will is going to have Vanessa take over.

I will try to get you called this afternoon.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: [King, Jeff](#)
To: [Shinn, Kevin](#)
Cc: [Emmons, Diane](#); [Bernie Petersen](#); [Mary Danno](#)
Subject: Re: Roundup
Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:29:46 AM

Same for me. I also believe November 10 is a holiday.

Thanks,

jk

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

On Mon, Oct 2, 2017 at 3:20 PM, Shinn, Kevin <kevin_shinn@fws.gov> wrote:

All,

At this time, with the exception of Tuesday November 7, we could make it work that week.

On Mon, Oct 2, 2017 at 10:46 AM, King, Jeff <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Kevin,

See Dee's question about the week of 11/6. Let me know asap.

Thanks,

jk

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

On Fri, Sep 29, 2017 at 1:00 PM, Emmons, Diane <diane_emmons@fws.gov> wrote:
Thanks Jeff.

One more question for you - if I am able to get up there the week of 11/6 (not sure if I can), does that week also work okay for you? Could you check on that week with Kevin as well?

Dee

Diane (Dee) Emmons, Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach (VSO)
Region 6, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303-236-4392 (Office) || 303-503-2418 (Mobile)

On Fri, Sep 29, 2017 at 12:00 PM, Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Dee. That week should work for me. Kevin Shinn is traveling home today from fall quads but I will check with him on Monday. We can finalize early next week.

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 7:19 AM, Emmons, Diane <diane_emmons@fws.gov> wrote:

Jeff -

I agree that the week of 10/9 is not the best week.

Because we need to keep the timeline of the VS review aligned with the early stages of the CCP, we need to get the review done this fall. Given other commitments on our end, the next week that we can make work is the week of November 13th.

Does that week work for you?

Dee

Diane (Dee) Emmons, Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach (VSO)
Region 6, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303-236-4392 (Office) || 303-503-2418 (Mobile)

On Tue, Sep 26, 2017 at 3:25 PM, Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Dee. That week is bad for me. It's a short week and the week before roundup. I'll be taking a couple of days early in the week and then busy with pre roundup work. I'd suggest that I finish roundup and load out

and we then discuss dates.

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2017, at 8:03 AM, Emmons, Diane
<diane_emmons@fws.gov> wrote:

Jeff -

Thanks for this. I'll talk with Mary tomorrow about potential dates (she's on AL today).

On your end, what does the week of 10/9 look like? I know it's a 4-day week, so we might not be able to get to Lost Trail, but Mary could do that separately.

Dee

Diane (Dee) Emmons, Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach (VSO)
Region 6, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303-236-4392 (Office) || 303-503-2418 (Mobile)

On Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 2:47 PM, Jeff King
<jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:

Dee. Should have included you on this. I'm trying to have the roundup the week you were planning a visit. Let's talk next week and discuss alternate dates.

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>
Date: September 21, 2017 at 2:44:54 PM
MDT
To: Bernie Petersen
<bernie_petersen@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Roundup

Bernie. Stage II fire restrictions were lifted on Wednesday. We had an all staff meeting and have decided that if all goes well we could have a roundup the week of October 16. It will be open to the public but there will not be any special activities for school groups. I've contacted detailers and Lee Jones and all are available that week. I can't give specific days because it will depend on getting the herd into the herd pens. Might be Monday and Tuesday or Tuesday and Wednesday etc...

As we continue the pre roundup work the days of the roundup will firm up.

Let me know if you have more questions.

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 21, 2017, at 12:25 PM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:

Has any decision been made on the roundup? Will asked if we had rescheduled it and if it was going to be open to the public?

Bernard J Petersen

Refuge Supervisor for
Colorado, Montana, Utah,
Wyoming

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6

National Wildlife Refuge
System

303-236-4310 W

720-708-8026 Cell

--

Kevin J. Shinn

Manager/Federal Wildlife Officer

Lost Trail NWR/NW Montana WMD

406-858-2216 Office

406-260-5192 cell

From: [Bernie Petersen](#)
To: [Kelly Hogan](#); [Jeff King](#)
Cc: [Bernardo Garza](#); [Matthew McCollister](#); [Diane Emmons](#)
Subject: RE: Travel Plans
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 6:50:40 PM

Jeff,

Hoping that Helina can spend time with Helen to help with getting her acclimated to everything.

Please make sure that all the staff have the opportunity to participate in this meeting. It will be important, as you already know, that we have good buy in and participation on this project from everyone on the staff. The scoping process is much more robust when we include everyone on staff and often times gets to things we may not have thought about without them.

Nothing you don't already know – just had to give some expectations. I am confident this will go well.

Bernard J Petersen
Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming
US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6
National Wildlife Refuge System

303-236-4310 W
720-708-8026 Cell

From: Hogan, Kelly [mailto:kelly_hogan@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:05 AM
To: King, Jeff
Cc: Bernardo Garza; McCollister, Matthew; Diane Emmons; Bernie Petersen
Subject: Re: Travel Plans

Jeff

Sounds good. Let's pencil in Tuesday for a meeting. We will travel on Monday and Wednesday. I will confirm later today after we make flight arraignments.

Kelly

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 8:53 AM, King, Jeff <jeff_king@fws.gov> wrote:
Kelly,

Only one issue that might be a problem. Helen Edwards will be starting her detail in the visitor center next week. I will need to spend time with her during this transition but hopefully by Tuesday, I can step aside. I won't know until I see how Monday goes.

Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

National Bison Range Complex
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, MT 59824
(406) 644-2211, ext. 204

On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 7:40 AM, Hogan, Kelly <kelly_hogan@fws.gov> wrote:
Jeff

When you get in please let me and Bernardo know if Tues of next week works for a meeting with staff regarding CCP.

Thanks,
K

From: [King, Jeff](#)
To: [Bernie Petersen](#)
Subject: Re: Travel Plans
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 5:11:09 AM

I didn't think you were implying that. I'm not comfortable having this meeting without Darren Thomas and Mike Koole. Darren brings 30+ years at the NBR to the table and Mike was here for 9 years prior to his transfer to HQ. If this is internal scoping, everyone should be included.

I sent Jim Chandler an email asking if he can conduct the NBR inspection on Thursday. I have not heard back.

Thanks,

jk

Jeff King, Project Leader

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On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 10:03 AM, Bernie Petersen <bernie_petersen@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Jeff,

I hope you know I was not implying that you would not include them.

How was your trip to Canada?

Bernard J Petersen

Refuge Supervisor for Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming

US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

National Wildlife Refuge System

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From: King, Jeff [mailto:jeff_king@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:46 AM

To: Bernie Petersen

Cc: Kelly Hogan; Bernardo Garza; Matthew McCollister; Diane Emmons

Subject: Re: Travel Plans

Bernie,

Agreed. One conflict I have is the annual safety inspection. Jim Chandler is scheduled to visit NBR on Tuesday and Lost Trail on Wednesday. Mike Koole and Darren Thomas are the NBR safety officers so they might not be able to attend some or all of the meeting. I am going to contact Jim and see if he can move NBR to Thursday. I will let you know.

Thanks,

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Nothing you don't already know – just had to give some expectations. I am confident this will go well.

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To: [Jeff King](#)
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Thanks,
K

From: [Emmons, Diane](#)
To: [Helen Edwards](#)
Cc: [Bernie Petersen](#); [Mary Danno](#)
Subject: Wednesday, 7/26
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:12:44 PM

Helen -

I stopped by, but you weren't there...

Mary Danno is going to be @ the NBR next Tuesday for a CCP meeting. I asked her to stay Tuesday night so that she can spend Wednesday giving you a rundown of what she knows about the VS program at NBR.

Dee

~~~~~  
Diane (Dee) Emmons, Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach (VSO)  
Region 6, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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