

**From:** [Gates Watson](#)  
**To:** [Lange, Jim](#); [Allen, David](#); [Gilles, Benjamin M](#); [Dave Hanna](#); [Nathan P. Birkeland](#); [Gary Sullivan](#); [Dylan DesRosier](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: List of Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch Studies, Outreach, and Measures to Facilitate Wildlife Movements on the Property  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 9:42:36 AM

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Jim- Thanks for sharing this email from Mark and Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch. One item that I did not see addressed was the top strand of barb-wire above the wire netting. Is this top wire still in place? I thought you had indicated that they were removing this top wire??

Thanks again.

Gates

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**From:** Lange, Jim <jim\_lange@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2020 5:26 PM  
**To:** Gates Watson <gwatson@conservationfund.org>; Allen, David <david\_allen@fws.gov>; Gilles, Benjamin M <benjamin\_gilles@fws.gov>; Dave Hanna <dhanna@TNC.ORG>; Nathan P. Birkeland <nbirkeland@tnc.org>; Gary Sullivan <gsullivan@conservationfund.org>; Dylan DesRosier <dylan.desrosier@TNC.ORG>  
**Subject:** List of Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch Studies, Outreach, and Measures to Facilitate Wildlife Movements on the Property

Hello Jim,

This is not an all-inclusive list, but here is bulletized list of what we are doing at Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch.

Several Projects with ....

Dr. Bruce Maxwell, Professor MSU, Co-Director Agroecology, Invasive plant ecology, ecological modeling and

Dr. Kyran Kunkel, Professor MSU, wildlife biologist and American Prairie Reserve's Director of Wildlife Restoration and Science

And Dr. Walter Wehtje, Director Ricketts Conservation Foundation

In the short term for this fall, we will be taking vegetation and soil sampling transects set up and so some pilot sampling.

Setting up a 40 camera traps grid for multiple species and begin pilot of that. Glacier Park is doing a couple camera projects that we are looking to collaborate on also.

We will be starting surveys of the fence lines to look for ungulate crossing and set cameras there.

We will be working with Blackfeet Community College and MSU students through out the year having them stay on the place and work for the next several years.

The big picture is to see how the native species changes as we progress from cattle to bison.

We employ all local native Americans, 7 all together year round and pay more plus full benefits with a retirement plan. That is than any ranch (or any other business) on this reservation!

We take on several native American Foster kids each summer and have them work on the ranch and pay them day wages.

Fencing....

We are about 1/3 to half done with fencing and have already installed 250, 15 foot gates, and in allot of places, we double them up to make a 30 foot opening. This is to open them when bison are not in those pastures and will let wildlife move more free, even know everything can jump it.

We put 14 to 18 inch gaps in the bottom for smaller animals to get through. Even our own bison calves get out with this.

We have put 90 to 120 foot water bottom crossing in. When we use these pastures, we put up our 30 foot stand alone panels to fill the large gaps.

We have removed over 25 miles of inter-fences, thus opening up our pastures for more freedom of grazing for our bison and wildlife.

We will be running around 1000 head of bison. This is much lower than the 2500 to 3500 head of cattle that the previous owner ran on this ranch.

We have already increased our hay grounds/production from .68 ton/acre to 2.4 in the past 2 haying season. This is a direct result of our management. This will in turn have more forage for wildlife.

We had a level 2 environmental assessment done by Tetra Tech which we identified several areas of concern and have cleaned those concerns up.