

From: [Armitage, Stacy A](#)
To: [Fox, Trevor T](#); [Gilles, Benjamin M](#); [Kaczor, Nick](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter from Blackfeet Chairman to Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:38:51 AM
Attachments: [Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch response to Blackfeet Nation August 3 2023 letter 8.17.2023.pdf](#)
[Outlook-r1gubynd.png](#)

Email 2 of 2.

Stacy A Armitage

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | National Wildlife Refuge System
Assistant Regional Director
Mountain Prairie Region
Cell: (720) 440-4824
Pronouns: She/Her



From: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 5:36 AM
To: Armitage, Stacy A <stacy_armitage@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter from Blackfeet Chairman to Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

Let's set up 15-30 minutes this week to discuss. Thanks.

From: Jonathan M. Harding <jharding_consultant@hugollc.com>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter from Blackfeet Chairman to Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

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FYI – I will keep you posted as to response.

From: Chad Bullinger <cbullinger@goldenbison.com>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 11:42 AM
To: dkline@blackfeetnation.com
Cc: Jonathan M. Harding <jharding_consultant@hugollc.com>
Subject: RE: Letter from Blackfeet Chairman to Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

Good morning, Derek

Attached is our response to the August 3, 2023 letter from the Blackfeet Chairman.

Please confirm receipt of this response and pass on to Chairman Kipp.

Regards,

Chad Bullinger

From: Jonathan M. Harding <jharding_consultant@hugollc.com>

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 2:58 PM

To: dkline@blackfeetnation.com

Cc: Chad Bullinger <cbullinger@goldenbison.com>; Marc deManigold <mdemanigold@DOUBLETBISONRANCH.COM>; Steve Christensen <schristensen@goldenbison.com>

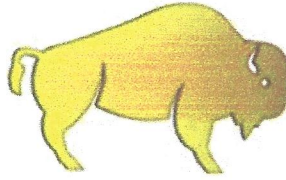
Subject: Letter from Blackfeet Chairman to Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

Derek,

We are in receipt of the letter from the Blackfeet Chairman. We will respond promptly subject to vacation schedules. You should anticipate a reply next week.

Be well,

Jonathan



GRIZZLY RIDGE BISON RANCH, LLC | P.O. BOX 110789 | AURORA, CO 80042

August 18, 2023

BY EMAIL

Iliff "Scott" Kipp, Chairman
Blackfeet Nation
c/o dkline@blackfeetnation.com

Re: Response to August 3, 2023 Letter

Dear Chairman Kipp:

Thank you for your August 3, 2023 letter. Below, I address the issues you raise.

1. Grizzly Ridge management continues to work cooperatively with both the Blackfeet Tribal Council and US Fish and Wildlife to promote and facilitate wildlife migration. In prior years, we moved our bison to alternative pastures and left gates open. This past fall, we had onsite discussions with representatives from the Blackfeet Tribal Council, US Fish and Wildlife, and third party experts in migration crossing. Your Vice Chairman, Lauren Monroe, was instrumental in helping that group reach agreement on the best steps forward. He also volunteered to act as the Blackfeet Nation liaison for the project. The plan included Grizzly Ridge constructing and installing, voluntarily and at our expense, thirty wildlife crossing structures designed by a USFW-contracted expert. In addition, we agreed to remove the top barbed strand on our original fences. The thirty wildlife crossings were built over this past winter. Beginning in the spring, twenty were installed. Also, the top barbed wire strand has been removed. Last month, Vice Chairman Monroe had a Zoom discussion with the Regional Director of USFW and our retired President to review project progress. That group set July 25, 2023 as the date by which representatives from the three groups would work collaboratively to place the final crossings. While that meeting ultimately did not occur, we propose rescheduling it and moving forward with the previously agreed plan. This will complete the project before winter sets in. As all our project discussions have been with Vice Chairman Monroe, in the interest of economy and continuity, we will plan to interface with him until this final project step is completed.
2. Grizzly Ridge management agrees that field cameras will provide useful feedback as to the effectiveness of the animal crossings. I will work with your team on initial placement. Ongoing maintenance and servicing will be BFWD's responsibility.
3. Specific to David Spotted Eagle, Jr., our staff will refrain from contacting him for BFWD matters.
4. Consistent with our conservation focus, Grizzly Ridge staff will endeavor to address stressed wildlife and work with BFWD to resolve issues as the circumstances dictate.

5. Grizzly Ridge is not currently for sale and any prior offer has expired. Accordingly, there is no need for an appraisal at this time.
6. Specific to implementing an ongoing process for wildlife management, we are encouraged by the constructive engagement we've enjoyed with senior members of Blackfeet Tribal Council and the US Fish and Wildlife and believe the measures we've agreed to and undertaken reflect our deep commitment to working cooperatively with you. We look forward to building on that success. Beyond developing a written agreement, we propose scheduling regular dinner meetings that I will host with select representatives of the Blackfeet Nation, USFW, and Grizzly Ridge to review progress against the written agreement.

Sincerely,



Chad Bullinger
Chief Operating Officer, Bison Operations



N A T I O N A L
W I L D L I F E
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