



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Benton Lake Wetland Management District
922 Bootlegger Trail
Great Falls, MT 59404

August 31, 2023

Marc deManigold & Chad Bullinger
525 Galbreath Rd
Browning, MT 59417

Marc and Chad:

Thank you for taking the time to visit with Ben Gilles and I at the Ranch. The purpose of this letter is to summarize our discussions we had on Thursday August 31st, 2023.

We met to discuss where the Ranch is at on fence crossing installations since our meeting last fall with the Tribe in 2022. Andrew identified on a map where approximately 11 crossings have been installed on the Conservation Easement portion of the Ranch's fence line since last fall 2022. Marc has more crossings that will be installed at a later date when areas of concern are identified by the Tribe. These additional crossings can be used to quickly respond to Tribal areas of concern as they arise if the Ranch so chooses.

We reviewed a map Andrew brought for the Ranch to use and update as additional fence crossings are installed. Marc explained the seasonal migrations of elk and moose and where those animals go during various seasons and how those animals respond to various human pressures including shed hunters and big game hunters. Marc delineated on the map where the Ranch has boundary fences as not the entire Ranch is fenced. Marc noted that the Ranch is not entirely fenced partly due to seasonal elk migrations and the map will reflect that fence line in subsequent iterations. Marc explained that single and double gates on the ranch are opened once the beef cattle are taken off and or through the Ranch for shipping. Gates are opened once rifle hunting season begins, to aid in elk movement across the landscape. Marc can use this map to draw in where single and double gates are located, and Andrew will update accordingly.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with Ben and I. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (406) 690-9202 or e-mail at andrew_pettibone@fws.gov

Take care,

Andrew Pettibone
Wetland District Manager