**Grizzly Ridge Bison Meeting 10/18/21**

Met Marc deMaingold at Double T Bison HQ at 1000

Points from Letter:

**Remove top strand of barbed wire:**

Haven’t been working on it as they wanted to complete the fence before going back and removing the wire.

* 80 to 100 total miles if fenced the whole thing
* ~ 54 miles complete
* ~ 26k per mile to build

Will start to remove the top strand of wire

**Opening up gates in pastures that bison are not occupying**

* Yes they still do this.
* When they installed the perimeter fence they added ~300 new gates

**Working with tribal fish and game**

They were doing this until they caught Buzz Kobel, Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Director, poaching on their property.

* No longer officially working with tribal fish and wildlife
* Tribal F&W bashed their operation during a presentation at the Cutbank school
  + Mark’s kids were then getting harassed
* Has a good relationship with tribal members outside of the F&W
  + Donated bison to Blackfeet food bank. Only one to ever do this
* Has lived in the area since 1990 and Marc’s wife is an enrolled Blackfeet member

**Identifying wildlife corridors and discussing alternatives for those areas**

* Has panels in the creek bottoms that they leave open for wildlife to move through.
* GPS where they have observed animals crossing canals and other areas and are going to install more panels.
* Has only ever seen one deer caught in the fence.

**Removed a significant amount of interior fencing**

* Removed ~30 miles of interior fence
* Cattle operation was 80 to 200 acre paddocks
  + Now one big pasture.
* Cattle operation was ~3,500 animals
* Run 570 head of bison on 13K acres

**Other notes:**

Going to try 28” inch panel with barbed wire on bottom ~18” to 20” Total height of 48”

* If Bison can get head over fence they will push through
* No antelope up here. Nothing goes under the fence up here except for bears
* They can’t go shorter on the highway or bison get out and they get hit. They become liable.
* They have intentional built high spots underneath the fence to allow animal to pass

They have electively cut down their 7’ fence in the corners down to 48” to allow the elk to get out when they get in

Rickets conservation foundation is under the owner of the ranch. Mr. Rickets is the owner.

* Biggest issue is tribe wanted the ranch and they has one year to purchase and they didn’t get it. Grizz ridge let it sit for a year before they bought.

They have not heard from anyone in over a year.

Jim Watson has Bison Ranch in Kalispell

* His bison ranch has 8’ fence
* ~1800 acres

Total elk herd size on the reservation is ~ 400

Has been quiet on the tribal side.

They employee 9 locals, they pay good with full benefits. One of the best jobs available in the area.