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## Thank You!

Environmental Assessment for the Use of Quarantine to Identify Brucellosis-free Yellowstone Bison for Relocation Elsewhere

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February 14, 2016 02:40 PM Mountain Time

**Park:** Yellowstone National Park

**Project:** Yellowstone Bison Quarantine Plan EA

**Document:** Environmental Assessment for the Use of Quarantine to Identify Brucellosis-free Yellowstone Bison for Relocation Elsewhere

**Name:** Jeff Wivholm

**Address:** 1101 11th Avenue

**City:** Helena

**State:** MT

**Postal Code:** 59601

**Email:** mail@macdnet.org

**Address:**

**Organization:** Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**Comments:** Yellowstone National Park MACD Comments: The Use of Quarantine to Identify Brucellosis-free Yellowstone Bison for Relocation Elsewhere February 14, 2016 The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and individual conservation districts have a long-standing tradition of promoting local, commonsense conservation beginning in the 1930s. This success is rooted in the deliberate, collaborative process between agencies, conservation districts, and landowners. Conservation districts were created to bring the local ecological knowledge that landowners acquire working day in and day out on the landscape to the conservation table. This longstanding tradition of local collaboration is a keystone of successful conservation efforts. In a patchwork landscape, landowners need to be savvy in negotiating the goals and requirements of different land managers. A full understanding of what these alternatives would mean for local landowners in the context of this patchwork landscape is not adequately addressed in this EA. Further, the alternatives accept a negligible amount of brucellosis risk. At face value, negligible may be an acceptable amount of risk for land managers and those who value bison as wildlife. At risk with this acceptance, however, is the conservation of a multitude of other species and the livelihood of local communities. If quarantined bison present the risk of higher rates of brucellosis among elk herds, this alternative and action undermines elk conservation efforts and creates increased factors of risk for these conservation species and landowners' bottom lines. MACD requests a full Environmental Impact Study in order to identify factual cost estimates, impact to local conservation efforts for other species, and to enable the public to more openly understand the ramifications of these actions. Sincerely, Jeff Wivholm MACD President

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