



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7221/9.C.(YELL)

VIA EMAIL – NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

January 24, 2024

Mr. Darrell Geist
Buffalo Field Campaign
P.O. Box 957
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758
habitat@buffalofieldcampaign.org

Dear Mr. Geist:

This letter is an initial response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received December 7, 2023, in which you requested:

1. “Briefing Statements on Yellowstone bison from January 1, 2019-current.
2. Wallen et al. 2013 and Wallen et al. 2013 updated. These unpublished papers are referenced in Ch. 8, Yellowstone Bison: Conserving an American Icon in Modern Society (2015). Wallen, R.L., M. Gardipee, G. Luikart, and P.J. White, 2013. Population substructure in Yellowstone bison. Yellowstone National Park, Mammoth, Wyoming.
3. Papers, reports, studies, and surveys on Yellowstone bison genetics from January 1, 2019-current.
4. Records transmitted between Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on Yellowstone bison from January 1, 2018-current.”

Your request has been assigned FOIA control number DOI-NPS-2024-000297.

It is the policy of the National Park Service (NPS) to: (1) make records of the NPS available to the public to the greatest extent possible in keeping with the spirit of the FOIA; (2) make documents requested under the FOIA available at the earliest possible date while, at the same time, protecting the rights of the individuals involved and the administrative processes surrounding such rights; and (3) withhold documents falling within one of the FOIA exemptions only if disclosure is prohibited by statute or Executive Order (EO). For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Your request is being processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 United States Code 552); United States Department of the Interior (“Department”) implementing regulations found at

43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2, Subparts A through E, beginning at 2.1; and the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 United States Code 552a). Please be advised that additional FOIA and/or Privacy Act guidance/regulations may also be found at either the Department's web site, www.doi.gov/foia, or the United States Department of Justice web site, www.usdoj.gov.

Eighteen (18) documents totaling 135 pages are being released in their entirety:

1. September 27, 2012 – Population substructure in Yellowstone bison assessed using genetic and demographic approaches (32 pp.)
2. February 8, 2013 – History, genetic analyses, and observations converge to describe population substructure in Yellowstone bison (22 pp.)
3. 2018-2020 – UC Davis Microsats Quarantine Animals (1 page)
4. January 30, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Meeting with Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Ft. Peck Executive Council (1 page)
5. February 13, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Summary of Bison Quarantine Operations, 2018-2019 (4 pp.)
6. February 25, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Key Messages Regarding Bison (1 page)
7. May 1, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Interagency Bison Management Plan (1 page)
8. September 19, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Bison Grazing in Northern Yellowstone (1 page)
9. December 13, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Interagency Bison Management Plan (1 page)
10. December 13, 2019 – Briefing Statement, Quarantine of Yellowstone Bison (1 page)
11. July 20, 2020 – Briefing Statement, Population Size of Yellowstone Bison (3 pp.)
12. 2022 – UC Davis Microsats 2022 Breeding Season (1 page)
13. January 12, 2022 – Buffalo Field Campaign, et al., v. Martha Williams, et al., Civil Action No. 20-798 (RDM) (33 pp.)
14. January 18, 2022 – Briefing Statement, Bison Conservation Initiative (1 page)
15. June 6, 2022 – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-day Finding for Three Petitions to List the Yellowstone Bison (8 pp.)
16. June 2022 – USFWS National Listing Workplan Prioritization (4 pp.)
17. October 10, 2023 – YNP PVA Model (7 pp.)
18. November 30, 2023 – Genetic Re-assessment of Population Subdivision in Yellowstone National Park Bison (note: draft awaiting peer review) (13 pp.)

Fee waivers are determined on a case-by-case basis. All fees have been waived. This letter is Yellowstone National Park's initial response to you for this request. Additional responsive documents will be provided to you in a subsequent response or responses, following ongoing review and consultation with the Office of the Solicitor as necessary. If you have questions concerning this FOIA response, please contact me at (307) 344-2002.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Evans
Freedom of Information Act Officer

Enclosures