



Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

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Ms. Mary Bomar
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

April 3, 2008

Dear Ms. Bomar:

I am writing on behalf of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) to request your personal involvement in the deteriorating situation at Yellowstone National Park with respect to its bison management program. As you know, more than one thousand park bison have been sent to slaughter this year – approximately one-fourth of Yellowstone's entire bison population. Hundreds more bison may also be eliminated during the coming weeks.

The Park contends that it is using "best available science" (in the works of a press spokesperson) to manage its bison herds. The disastrous results produced by that program appear to belie any claims of competent science-driven management. Of particular concern is that Yellowstone National Park (NP) is repeating a basic mistake of bison mismanagement that is aggravating and will continue to aggravate its plight.

In February of this year, Yellowstone issued two press releases saying it would do no more feeding "due to habituation concerns" but on closer reading, those releases say feeding bison for "a long period of time may lead to habituation." This means that Yellowstone NP is again feeding hay to bison at the capture facility on its north boundary. Then, brucellosis "free" bison will be released back into the Park this spring.

Feeding bison for any period of time habituates them. We are enclosing a statement from a former 30-year employee of your department, Bob Jackson, who served as a Yellowstone backcountry ranger and is now a recognized bison management consultant.

Feeding the bison also violates federal policy against feeding wildlife [(36 CFR §2.2 9a)(2)]. Moreover, Yellowstone NP's administrators also seem oblivious to the connection between bison feeding in previous years to the expanded pilgrimage and subsequent slaughter now occurring on its North Boundary.

The mission of the national park system is to –

"Preserve the natural resources, process, systems, and values of units of the



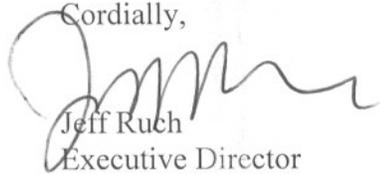
national park system in an unimpaired condition, to perpetuate their inherent integrity and to provide present and future generations with the opportunity to enjoy them.”

In this letter, PEER is making two requests of you:

- 1) Convene a panel of independent bison behavioral experts to review Yellowstone NP's bison management program and report their findings back to you; and
- 2) Undertake an internal review to determine whether Yellowstone's actions violate policy against feeding wildlife and gibe with protecting the “inherent integrity” of that park's bison herds.

We would appreciate hearing from you when you come to a decision on this matter. If you have any questions about our concern, please contact me at 202-265-PEER.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Ruch', written over the printed name and title.

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director

Enclosure