

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003
(202) 224-2644

August 10, 2004

→ Rb for C
Signature

The Honorable Steven A. Williams, Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have reviewed the proposed Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) for the National Bison Range and I have some questions I would like answered as soon as possible.

1. What is the estimated cost for the first year for the AFA?
2. What portions of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) budget will these funds be taken from?
3. What type of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis does the FWS intend to prepare and what are the associated costs?
4. What is the estimated cost of the AFA over the next five years?
5. What are the associated costs in negotiating the proposed AFA?

I would like a side-by-side comparison of all these figures illustrating the cost of changing to the AFA versus the costs of continuing management of the Refuge by the FWS. Since all funding is taxpayer dollars, I believe it is very important to see what any change in management will mean to the citizens of this Country. You may direct your response to my office at: Senator Conrad Burns, Attention: Pam Tierney-Crisafulli, 324 West Towne, Glendive, Montana 59330, (406) 365-2391, (406) 365-8836 fax, pam_tc@burns.senate.gov

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CRB/ptc
cc: Ralph Morgerweck