



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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Public Notice

UPDATE: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) invites the public to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the evaluation of potential interim locations for the placement of bison. The sources of bison for interim period placement are brucellosis-free bison originating from the ongoing Quarantine Feasibility Study. The interim locations evaluated in the EA include: FWP's Marias River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Spotted Dog WMA, Tribal lands on the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations, the Green Ranch, and the Slip 'n Slide pastures. An addendum to the EA has been added, and the comment period has been extended since the original notice for this proposal was published.

Copies of the EA can be obtained at the FWP regional headquarters in Glasgow, Great Falls, and Missoula; FWP's headquarters in Helena; and FWP's area office in Conrad; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Submit Public Comments").

Comments are being sought on the EA and proposed action, and all comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 19, 2011. Comments should be submitted via regular mail to FWP, Attn: Interim Translocation of Bison EA, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or emailed to BisonSiteEvaluationEA@mt.gov.

Comments can also be submitted at one of the regional public hearings FWP will host in Deer Lodge, Shelby, and Glasgow during the public comment period. The public hearings are scheduled for the following dates and locations: Deer Lodge on October 5 (Wednesday) at 6:30 pm at the Community Center (Cottonwood Street, north of the County Courthouse); Shelby on October 6 (Thursday) at 6:30 pm at the Marias River Electric Cooperative; and Glasgow on October 17 (Monday) at 7:00 pm at the Glasgow Civic Center.

Draft Environmental Assessment for Interim Translocation of Bison

Addendum—September 20, 2011

This addendum to the “Draft Environmental Assessment for Interim Translocation of Bison” lists a range of costs and materials that could be used for proposed infrastructure improvements.

The interim locations include the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation near Malta and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation near Wolf Point. Wildlife management areas assessed are the 5,800-acre Marias River WMA near Shelby and the 28,000-acre Spotted Dog WMA near Avon.

This addendum also emphasizes that if there is a finding during the public comment period that leads to the elimination of one of the sites, then the total acres assessed, and the total number of bison that could be placed on any of the remaining locations, could also be adjusted.

FWP has extended the comment period to 5 p.m. Oct. 19.

Marias WMA:

	Component Detail	Typical Cost Estimate	Component Detail	High Cost Estimate
Start-up:				
Fencing:				
Boundary (20 miles*) 5', 7 strand high-tensile with 1-2 strands electrified	\$3.00/foot	\$ 316,000	\$3.00/foot	\$ 316,000
Pasture (4 miles*)	\$2.25/foot	\$ 47,520	\$3.00/foot	\$ 63,360
Gates (8)	\$300/gate	\$ 2,400	\$10,500/gate	\$ 84,000
Handling Facilities & Equipment (Handling chutes, corrals, building repair)		\$ 15,000		\$175,000
Tractor		0	With snow plow and spreader attachments	\$ 185,250
Water Infrastructure (Pump, troughs, connections to power, etc.)		0		\$12,000
Misc. Equipment (ATVs, signage)		\$ 10,500		\$ 10,500
	TOTAL:	\$ 391,420	TOTAL:	\$ 846,110
Annual:				
Personnel:				
Herd Mgmt ((1) FTE, (1) part time & veterinary services)		\$ 50,000		\$100,000
Fence/Facility Maintenance		\$ 3,200		\$ 3,200
Utilities & Fuel		0		\$ 15,000
Winter Feed & Supplements		0		\$ 20,000
Portable Chute	Leased from DoL	\$ 3,000		0
	TOTAL:	\$ 56,200	TOTAL:	\$ 138,200

* 1 mile = 5,280 feet

Spotted Dog WMA:

	Component Detail	Typical Cost Estimate	Component Detail	High Cost Estimate
Start-up:				
Fencing:				
Boundary (11 miles*)	\$ 3.25/ foot 7 strand high-tensile with 1-2 strands electrified	\$ 188,760	\$8.00/foot 7' woven wire	\$ 464,640
Pasture	\$ 2.25/foot for 2 miles*	\$ 23,760	\$3.00/foot for 3 miles*	\$ 47,520
Gates (10)	\$300/gate	\$ 3,000	\$10,500/gate	\$ 105,000
Handling Facilities & Equipment		\$ 15,000		\$ 175,000
Water Infrastructure	Natural spring development	\$ 5,000	Pump, troughs, connections to power, etc.	\$ 110,000
Feed/Hay Shelter		0	100'Lx40'Wx 22'H	\$ 28,000
Machine Shed with office		0	60'Lx30'Wx1 8'H	\$ 38,000
Tractor		0	With snow plow and spreader attachments	\$ 185,250
Misc. Equipment (ATVs, signage)		\$ 10,500		\$ 10,500
	TOTAL:	\$ 246,020	TOTAL:	\$ 1,163,910
Annual:				
Personnel:				
Herd Mgmt ((1) FTE, (1) part time & veterinary services)		\$ 50,000		\$100,000
Fence/Facility Maintenance		\$ 3,200		\$ 3,200
Feed		0		\$ 14,553
Mineral Supplements		0		\$ 5,200
Utilities		\$ 2,800	Storage Building and Stock Tank Pumps and Heaters/year	\$ 2,800
Fuel		0	For tractor operation 189 days of feeding/year	\$13,891
Portable Chutes	Leased from DoL	\$ 3,000		0
	TOTAL:	\$ 59,000	TOTAL:	\$139,644

* 1 mile = 5,280 feet