

Bear Creek Council Newsletter

September 15, 2006

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Bear Creek Council (BCC) membership (\$40) includes membership in Northern Plains Resource Council. Northern Plains supports BCC with a community organizer, lobbying, fund-raising, member trainings and representation on the Northern Plains board.

September General Meeting
September 19th, 7:00 p.m.
At Rick & Melissa McAdam's
The house is the second from the Chapel, their name is on the house. Call 307-344-7414 if you need more direction.

President's Message – Rick McAdam

BCC Fall Bus Tour

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 1st. Bear Creek Council will sponsor a bus trip for members and guests to acquaint or reacquaint them with a number of controversial locations that have been the focus of our efforts and concern in recent years and remain so today. The MT Bison Quarantine Facility at Corwin Springs; the NPS Stephens Creek bison capture facility along with the rest of the administrative area; the Darroch & Eagle Creek timber sale areas; the Mineral Hill Mine water treatment operation; and the Crevice Mountain area.

The current plan is to leave from Arch Park about 9:00 AM and visit the sites on a Yellowstone Association bus hired for the occasion. At each location we will have a guide for explanations and to answer questions.

Bring a lunch and BCC will supply beverages. There is no fee for the trip. **Please RSVP** to Rick McAdam via e-mail or telephone @ 344-7414 by Monday, September 25th.

Bison

The Greater Yellowstone Interagency Bison Committee met recently with all of the signatories to the Interagency Bison Management Plan. This was a working meeting without public attendance, although the public could legally be there. Without the revelation of any specific details, it was perceived to be a very productive meeting for adaptive management. Hopefully it will lead some changes that will allow greater tolerance of bison in the Gardiner Basin.



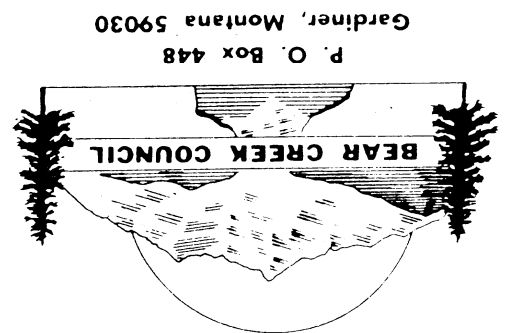
Bison News – Carolyn Duckworth

In late August, Hank Rate and his family met with Greater Yellowstone Coalition representatives Amy McNamara and Jeanne-Marie Souvigney (who is also a Bear Creek member). Rick McAdam and Carolyn Duckworth attended also. GYC wanted to meet with Hank & family because they are key to revising the cattle/bison management in the Gardiner area. Hank, Dorine, and Wendy and Jerry Thomas helped everyone understand where the cattle allotments were on the map, who used them, who owned the land and the cattle (not always the same), and who else was involved. They also discussed the history of cattle in our area, their experience with bison, and what management tools might work that would allow them to keep their cattle. This was an informational meeting; no decisions or commitments were made. We thank Hank, Dorine, Wendy, and Jerry for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with GYC.

In August, Richard Parks and Abby Nelson met with the NPRC Agricultural Task Force to begin an exchange of information and ideas about bison management and its effect on cattle, about the idea of regionalizing the APHIS brucellosis-free zones, and other items.

Planning, a quick update – Carolyn Duckworth

October 1 is the deadline for Park County to have a growth policy plan and revised subdivision regulations in place. The former has been accomplished; the latter is on a fast-track. The commissioners are accepting public comment on the subdivision regulations: Park County Commission, 414 E. Callender St., Livingston, MT 59047.



Good News related to planning– Julia Page

On September 13th, District Court Judge Dirk Sandefur issued an order throwing out the signatures gathered for several ballot measures, including I-154, which, under the guise of eminent domain reform, would have made planning laws and regulations almost impossible for local governments. The ballot measure was bank rolled by out of state interests and was thrown out because the signature gathering process was “permeated by a pervasive and general pattern and practice of fraud and procedural non-compliance perpetrated by paid, out of state, migrant signature gatherers.”

Absentee Voting – Julia Page

Absentee voting starts September 22nd. Park County residents can request a ballot be sent to you by writing the Election Administrator, 414 E. Callender St., Livingston, MT 59047. Date the letter, give them your name, address, phone number and date of birth and request the ballot. It will be sent to you and must be returned by mail or in person to the city/county building by election day.