

OFFICE OF THE LAKE COUNTY ATTORNEY

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Feb. 22, 2016

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region Office
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80228

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL BISON RANGE RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)
PROTEST OF DECISION**

Dear Sir or Madam:

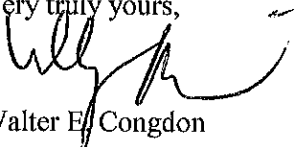
The Dept. of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife service indicated in early February, 2016 that a transfer of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes was a plan or proposal that U.S.F.W.S. was submitting to the local Tribal government for consideration.

Lake County received no notice of this action until the press release and also has had no opportunity to comment upon this action. To our knowledge no consistency review of this action or plan has occurred regarding local land use plans. This protest is based upon 42 USC 4332 which provides for creation of a NEPA document on proposals for actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and consideration of alternatives.

We are also concerned that a Record of Decision may have been entered without considering the inventory and planning requirements of 43 USC 1701 and 1712. These concerns include recreational opportunity, socio-economic impacts, tax base, wildlife, environment, and mitigation options.

If a R.O.D. or NEPA process has not been completed or commenced, consider this letter our request for copies of the work done thus far and a statement of our desire to cooperate in completing consideration of various options for this facility. We desire to fully explore alternatives and mitigation activities.

Very truly yours,



Walter E. Congdon
Civil Deputy Lake County Attorney

cc: Lake County Commissioners
Sanders County Commissioners