

NATIONAL BISON RANGE COMPLEX COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN

Update December 2017

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is moving forward with the planning process for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the National Bison Range Complex (Complex). The Service is developing a CCP, along with an EIS, for the National Bison Range and a separate CCP, with an EA, for the Pablo, Lost Trail, and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuges, and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management Districts. Running the two projects concurrently will allow the Service to save money and resources by combining public meetings and outreach efforts.

The initial public scoping period has ended. Public meetings were held in June in Kalispell and Polson and a third meeting was held in Missoula in August. The Service received over 125 written comments. Most of the comments were related to the future management of the National Bison Range. Key topics that were noted in several comments include the future management of the bison herd, invasive species, visitor services and the rich cultural history of the Bison Range and the surrounding landscape.

A draft Vision and set of Goals for the Complex were developed in November during a workshop held in Polson, Montana. The workshop was attended by Service staff and cooperating agencies on the Planning Team including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Lake County. A workshop to develop a draft range of Alternatives for future management is scheduled for the first week in February.