



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Freedom of  
Information

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

April 2, 2012

Stephany J. Seay  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
P.O. Box 957  
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

Dear Ms. Seay:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 28, 2011, that you submitted to this office for documents pertaining to the following:

- 1) Copies of documents giving USDA the authority to obtain approximately 58-100 wild buffalo from Yellowstone National park;
- 2) Copy of the permit the Yellowstone National Park issued to USDA to acquire the bison;
- 3) Complete copy of the USDA contraceptive project details;
- 4) Documents breaking down the age and the sex of all bison being held in Corwin Springs bison holding facility;
- 5) All correspondence, documentation, e-mails, phone logs, and any other information sharing between USDA-APHIS-VS and other agencies, groups, or individuals in regards to USDA APHIS-VS proposed immunocontraception vaccination;
- 6) Any and all notices USDA made available to the public, to include any opportunities for public comment on bison being consigned to USDA-APHIS-VS from Yellowstone National Park for proposed immunocontraception vaccination;
- 7) Documents that relieved Yellowstone and USDA from adhering to the Record of Decision, which rejected contraceptive vaccination as an alternative;
- 8) USDA and Yellowstone's plan to acquire more buffalo for the contraceptive vaccine project;
- 9) Yellowstone and USDA's plan for sero-negative buffalo that may be transferred to conservation areas or tribal interests;
- 10) Locations where APHIS will conduct immunocontraceptive vaccinations.

Your request was received in this office on May 31, 2011, and assigned case number 11-548. On September 15, 2011, my office responded to your request, providing you with 33 documents, in full. On December 7, 2011, you contacted my staff and requested that APHIS undertake a second search for documents responsive to your request. Specifically, you sought to receive the following: 2 of the 9 missing pages from the Gona Con Bison Study Protocol; the



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Gona Con Bison Study 2011 draft 5.12.11.docx; Pic 17148.jpg; the attachment entitled "Superintendent to Bison Mg. Team". In order to locate the additional records, we contacted the following offices within USDA, APHIS, so that they could undertake an additional search of their files: Office of Veterinary Science (VS), and Office of Wildlife Services (WS) which had not previously been asked to perform a search for records. In turn, VS and WS provided my office with the following responses to the items listed in your request, totaling two hundred and eighty four pages:

- 1) No records were located for Item 1 of your request;
- 2) No records were located for Item 2 of your request;
- 3) The study Protocol outlines the contraceptive vaccination project details and has been enclosed in both draft and final form. See Bates # 31-47, 92-98, 109-130,163-173, 179-201, 212-233, 251-271 and 274-284;
- 4) Enclosed, please find a spreadsheet depicting the age and sex of animals used in the study. See Bates # 49-52;
- 5) Enclosed, please find various e-mails and meeting notes provided by agency employees. See Bates # 81-84 ,88 ,91 ,99 ,102-108 ,131,132 ,155,174-178, 202-207, 211 , 212 ,234 , 238 ,242-250 ,272 ,273 ;
- 6) No records were located for Item 6 of your request;
- 7) No records were located for Item 7 of your request;
- 8) APHIS's plan to acquire additional buffalo can be found in the enclosed study protocol. See Bates # 31-47;
- 9) Currently, APHIS does not have a plan for sero-negative buffalo that may be transferred. However, the study protocol states how APHIS would like to handle sero-negative buffalo. The study protocol has been enclosed in both draft and final form. See Bates # 31-47, 92-98, 109-130, 163-173,179-201, 212-233,251-271 and 274-284;
- 10) Information pertaining to the locations where the Agency will conduct immunocontraceptive vaccinations can be found in the Study Protocol as well as the Environmental Assessment, both documents are enclosed. See Bates #31-47, 92-98, 109-130,163-173, 179-201, 212-233,251-271, 274-284 and 0-28.

Additionally, pages 2-9 of the Study Protocol and PIC 17148.jpg, have been provided to you in this release. See Bates # 163-173 and 30. The Gona Con Bison Study 2011 draft 5.12.11.which is the same document as the study protocol identified above, is provided in this release at the same Bates numbers identified above.

Ms. Stephanie J. Seay  
11-548-F

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Finally, we have determined that the attachment titled Superintendent to Bison Mg. Team, totaling two pages, was generated by the Department of Interior, National Park Services (NPS). We previously forwarded those records to that FOIA Office. NPS has confirmed that their FOIA Office released those records to you on December 13, 2011.

Enclosed, please find two hundred and eighty four pages responsive to your request, in full.

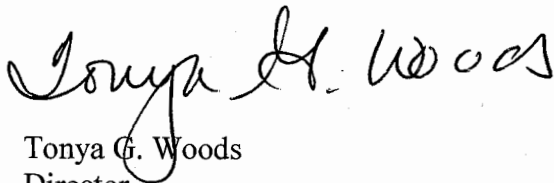
You may appeal based on the adequacy of APHIS's search. Your appeal must be submitted in writing and received within 45 days of the date of this letter by the following:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401.

To ensure that your appeal is routed to the appropriate office, please write FOIA appeal on the outside of your envelope. We also ask that you reference the control number associated with your request (11-548).

If you have any questions, please contact my staff at (301) 851-4041.

Sincerely,



Tonya G. Woods  
Director  
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure: Documents