

DENINOO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PHONE 394-4558
FORT RESOLUTION, N.W.T.
XOE OMO

WHEREAS: The communities from around Wood Buffalo National Park have not supported the Agriculture Canada proposal to slaughter and replace all Buffalo in and around the Park;

WHEREAS: The Hanging Ice Buffalo Ranch is part one of the Agricultural Canadas proposal;

WHEREAS: The community of Fort Resolution and other user groups have not been consulted properly on Buffalo issues;

WHEREAS: The management of the Hook Lake Buffalo Herd is being adversely affected by the Ranch proposal and will hurt the community of Fort Resolution;

WHEREAS: The Government of the Northwest Territories is causing serious conflict and splits in our communities by supporting the Hanging Ice Buffalo Ranch;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Fort Resolution Community Council un-animously condemn the transfer of Buffalo from the Elk Island National Park to the Hanging Ice Buffalo Ranch, northwest of Fort Smith;

That the Minister of Renewable Resources of the Government of the Northwest Territories put an immediate stop to all activities for replacement of our Buffalo and work on the Hanging Ice Buffalo Ranch until such time as the Environmental Assessment Review Board final report is available and until after the Treaty 8 Chiefs enter into the round table talks amongst user groups and government agencies.

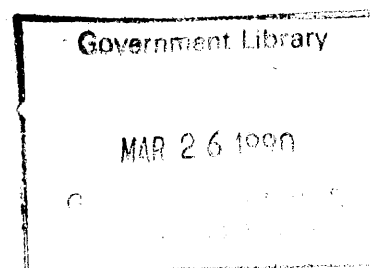
MOVED BY: LLOYD CARDINAL

SECONDED BY: FRED A ELIET

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION #116-90

MINUTES # 16-90





Telephone 759-3912 or 759-3950

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Little Red River Tribe

Box 1165, High Level, Alberta T0H 1Z0

March 13, 1990

Hon. Lucien Bouchard, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment,
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Sir,

After lengthy discussion the Chiefs of the Grand Council of Treaty 8 Nations passed a motion drawing your attention to the very important matter of Bison. The motion is self explanatory and calls for your immediate attention.

Would you please inform me of your action.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.A. Sewepagaham".

J.A. Sewepagaham, Chief
Little Red River Cree Tribe

JAS/fgm

c.c. All Treaty Eight Chiefs

MOTION

BISON TRANSPLANT - ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK TO HANGING ICE BISON RANCH

WHEREAS: an Environmental Assessment Review Panel has conducted hearings into the Agricultural Canada proposed course of action to replace diseased Bison in and around Wood Buffalo National Park

WHEREAS: the slaughter and replacement of Bison by Agriculture Canada has been rejected by Treaty #8 Chiefs of the Northwest Territories

WHEREAS: the Environmental Assessment Review Panel final report has not been completed and submitted to the Minister of Environment and the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Grand Council of Treaty 8 Nations unanimously condemn the transfer of Bison from Elk Island National Park to the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch, northwest of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. That the Minister of Environment put a stop to all activities for replacement of our Bison and work on the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch until such time as the Environmental Assessment Review Panel final report is available and until after the Treaty 8 Chiefs enter into round table talks between user groups and government agencies.

MOVED BY: Chief Pat Marcel

SECONDED BY: Chief Johnsen Sawepagaham

PASSED BY CONSENSUS.



Agriculture
Canada

Food Production and
Inspection Branch

Direction générale,
Production et inspection des aliments

A PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION TO REPLACE DISEASED BISON IN NORTHERN CANADA

Agriculture Canada recognizes that the removal of 4,000 - 5,000 diseased hybrid bison from W.B.N.P. and the surrounding area is a gigantic job. We believe the job can be done if adequate funding is available.

The following could be used as a basis for further discussion and development.

A. Depopulation Phase

- An abattoir and a cold storage facility should be built to Federal Department of Agriculture standards in the Fort Smith area.
(*SO MEAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR INTERPROVINCIAL SHIPMENT AND EXPORT.*)
- Negotiations with officials of the Ft. Smith area are required for either the use of some of the area in the municipal dump or an area in which condemned material from a bison abattoir can be buried.
- Build large enclosures (100 sq.km.) at locations such as Sweetgrass, Hay Camp, and or Lake One.

Build winter roads as required.

It may be possible to bait bison into corrals with hay in winter.

Bison may be herded into corrals with helicopters.

- Transport bison (ice bridges) to abattoir in Ft. Smith.
Meat passing this inspection would be eligible for distribution to native people, or for sale anywhere in Canada, or for export to other countries. A large portion of this meat may be of poor quality due to poor condition of the animals and may not be competitive with ranch raised bison.
Hides, capes, and heads can be salted and dried or dealt with by a taxidermist.
Carcasses of lesser market value may be of use for animal foods.
- In depopulation of single animals and small groups in remote areas it may be necessary to leave some carcasses to be disposed of by nature.

In more accessible areas there may be some non inspected carcasses available to hunters, or carcasses inspected and found free of TB but not able to be processed through the abattoir and therefore not meeting federal standards.

- Several years of surveillance (4 years) with no sightings would verify depopulation was successful.

Canada

B. Hybrid Diseased Bison Replacement

- Consider salvage of possible wood bison in and near W.B.N.P.
- Build corrals (1 km square) and double fenced enclosures (10 sq. km) at Hanging Ice Bison Ranch.
- Stock with Wood Bison from M.B.S. and E.I.N.P. (100 & 30/year).
- After depopulation phase is complete and corrals and enclosures at Sweetgrass, Hay Camp, and or Lake One have been vacant for one year...wood bison would be introduced to these corrals from the Hanging Ice Ranch and from E.I.N.P. and the M.B.S. (corrals and enclosures built on areas previously disturbed in W.B.N.P.). This herd in W.B.N.P. is to be accumulated as rapidly as possible so that W.B.N.P. will have bison for display most of the years during the replacement phase.

All stock entering the W.B.N.P. compounds would be Brucella and TB tested before release into the compounds and vaccinated for anthrax.

This buildup of disease free Wood Bison has three goals:

1. -to assure W.B.N.P. of a viable population of disease free Wood Bison.
 2. -to see that the Hanging Ice Ranch is made a viable operation, and assist in the restocking of the Slave River Lowlands with disease free Wood Bison for those native people who wish to hunt in their traditional way.
 3. -to see the number of animals and number of individual herds of disease free pure Wood Bison built up to the point that Wood Bison can be removed from the endangered species list.
- During the time in which there would be nothing to hunt in the Slave River Lowlands area, we propose to furnish bison carcasses to the native people who require it. These carcasses can either be culls from the from the Hanging Ice Ranch, or plains bison carcasses from commercial herds.
 - Participation of Native people would be emphasized during the depopulation phase including culling, handling and distribution of meat and hides. Construction, surveillance and herd repopulation phases would bring substantial employment and business opportunities to local communities in the region.
 - The game ranch facility at Hanging Ice as well as the abattoir at Fort Smith would be turned over to the Hanging Ice Ranch

Management Committee when sufficient number of disease free Wood Bison are released to range freely in W.B.N.P. & SRL.

TIMETABLE FOR REPLACEMENT OPTION

- YEAR 0 Complete phenotypic assessment, if required.
- YEAR 1 1. Start building corral at Hanging Ice Bison Ranch
 1 km square.
2. Test feasibility of baiting bison with hay into a
 corral system (winter only).
3. Start building slaughter and storage facility at
 Fort Smith.
- YEAR 2 1. Complete slaughter and storage facility at Fort
 Smith.
2. Start building fenced enclosure 100sq. kms. At
 Sweetgrass and Hay Camp, and 10 sq. kms. At
 Hanging Ice Bison Ranch.
3. Improve 8 miles of road needed between Sweetgrass
 and Peace River so corraled bison can be trucked
 to slaughter.
4. Start field slaughter of bison in remote areas; for
 example, N.W. corner of Wood Buffalo National Park,
 southwest Alberta, etc.
5. Start assembly of disease-free wood bison at
 Hanging Ice Buffalo Ranch.
6. Start roundup activities, hay baiting, into
 Sweetgrass corrals.
7. Put up hay at Sweetgrass, Hay Camp, Hanging Ice
 Buffalo Ranch.
- YEARS 1. Add 100 - 130 disease-free wood bison to Hanging
 Ice each year.
2. Begin removal of diseased hybrid bison from
 Sweetgrass area of 1,000 - 2,000 head/year.
3. Continue field slaughter in remote area, including
 Slave River Lowlands.
4. All removal to be done in as short a time frame as

possible.

NOTE: Sweetgrass and Hay Camp corrals and enclosures need one summer "empty" before reintroduction of disease-free wood bison from Hanging Ice or E.I.N.P. or M.B.S.