

Jim Matheson

From: Sparky the HerdDogg <notifications@herddogg.com>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 5:43 PM
To: Jim Matheson
Subject: New CMP Application from Beaver Creek Buffalo



Ken Klemm has just submitted a Conservation Management Plan application for Beaver Creek Buffalo

GENERAL

A. Premise Details

1. When was your premise established?: **07/01/1999**
2. What is your total herd size (an average annual count of all live bison): **600**
3. How many acres, owned & leased, is your premise: **4000.0**
4. What premise type do you operate? (Select all that apply): **Cow Calf, Feeder, Finisher, Seedstock, Stocker**
5. How many households are directly involved in your operation (count each household that has a significant interest in your business): **6**
6. Check here if you would be willing to share your completed application with others to help aid in their conservation efforts.

BISON

A. Genetic Stewardship

1. Select all of the following genetic stewardship practices that are in effect in your herd.
 - We never engage in interspecies crossbreeding
 - We completely adhere to the **NBA Code of Ethics**.
 - We have implemented a plan to remove from production, over time, any known negative interspecies genetic influence. (While the science is not yet

settled, a good herdsman, with or without the benefit of science, can devise a system to meet this criterion.)

✓ We have implemented a plan for genetic selection protocol for replacements that favors natural selection criteria. (Natural selection criteria would include pregnancy rate, conversion of grass to weight, etc., with little to no supplemental feed.)

2. Please elaborate on your plan and any progress made if you selected answers with a red asterisk.

Please see attached documents.

3. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

Beaver Creek Buffalo Genetic Selection Protocol.docx Herd Data Summary Sheet for NBA CMP Exhibit A.xlsx

B. Handling & Facilities

1. Select all the following that best describe your animal handling practices and facilities.

✓ Adequate containment of bison. (Escapees are rare and quickly returned home)

✓ Low stress and safe handling facilities and practices are in place. (A very low level of injuries and stress to animals and humans.)

✓ Adequate containment of bison that includes consideration for other local wildlife. (Deer, elk, antelope, moose, etc. migrations. Free movement of prairie grouse, etc.)

2. Please elaborate if you selected any answers with a red asterisk.

We have a custom designed and built corral system that allows for us to work animals with very few people, very quickly. This system greatly reduces stress and injury rates on the bison. All employees are trained to use body language without vocal commands or hot shots (unless appropriate). At our most recent major animal handling event we processed the entire big herd (~500 head) and it took two men about 4 hours to sort off all the yearlings and breeding bulls. We didn't harm an animal or even break a horn cap off a calf. Our perimeter and cross pasture fences are specifically designed to not interfere with our local wildlife, specifically deer, an occasional elk, lesser prairie chicken, hundreds of wild turkeys. All wildlife (save the bison) have free access to the entire ranch. We also leave strategic water points on year-round to help wildlife as this area seldom has any natural water.

3. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

Corral Pics April 08 002.jpg Corral Pics April 08 001.jpg Corral Pics April 08 004.jpg Corral Pics April 08 003.jpg Corral Pics April 08 006.jpg Corral Pics April 08 005.jpg Corral Pics April 08 009.jpg Corral Pics April 08 007.jpg Corral Pics April 08 010.jpg Corral Pics April 08 011.jpg Corral

[Pics April 08 012.jpg Corral Pics April 08 013.jpg Corral Pics April 08 014.jpg Google Earth Picture of Corrals 2020.png](#)

C. Health & Welfare

1. Please upload a copy of your bison health and welfare plan (i.e. deworming, vaccinations, quarantine protocol – if used - monitoring methods, goals, etc.), or comment in the text box below.

[Beaver Creek Buffalo Health and Wellness Plan Completed.docx](#)

Please see the attached document.

2. Please upload or comment in the text box below on your progress with and/or adherence to your health and welfare plan.

No Files Uploaded

We have adhered to our health and wellness plan and have had continued success although we feel our death loss has been higher in 2020 than we would like to see. We had a concern that we may have been suffering from an endophyte problem related to our rye grass. We sent a broad range of samples of rye grass and rye grass roots to Oregon State University for testing and discovered that we do not have an endophyte problem. Consequently, we are in ongoing consultation with our local veterinarian to determine what may be the cause(s) of the slightly increased death loss. We may begin to again vaccinate our herd with a respiratory vaccine. We are closely monitoring this and will amend our management practices as needed.

3. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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LAND

A. Soil Health

1. Develop a plan to increase soil health and submit it in the comments section below or with an upload. (i.e. increase in carbon, biology, fertility, etc. Monitoring method.)

[Beaver Creek Ranch Boyington Lease Range Report 10-3-18 \(003\).pdf](#)

2. Please provide evidence of a positive trend in increasing soil health in the comments section below or with an upload.

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3. Please elaborate here, if applicable

You will see in the attached document an report of our most recently documented annual monitoring. We monitor many fixed points of various soil and range types for 14 key ecological indicators. These indicators give us clear impression of the whole of the land we are managing vs. a

reductionist approach. Soil health is directly and indirectly monitored by several of these indicators. We have seen a clear and marked increase of soil health in all of our range sites.

4. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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B. Erosion Control

1. Identify erosion concerns and develop a plan to arrest the erosion in the comments section below or with an upload. (i.e. wind and/or water erosion. Timed grazing, water management systems, cover crops, monitoring methods, goals, etc.)

Grazing Chart.JPG

2. Please provide evidence of progress on your soil erosion management plan in the comments section below or with an upload.

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3. Please elaborate here, if applicable

We have many erosion concerns, including wind and water erosion. We address these by carefully planning our grazing and allowing for limited duration grazing and adequate recovery periods between grazings. The attached picture shows our grazing chart where each day of each year is planned as to where the herd will be and this is in relation to plant and wildlife needs. This plan is then closely monitored, on a sometimes daily basis, and adapted to meet actual conditions. Our management actions then are annually evaluated with our annual range monitor process (see above attachment) to be certain that we creating a positive trend for all 14 ecological indicators. Erosion control is directly and indirectly monitored in the aforementioned monitoring process and we have effectively ended erosion on our lands.

4. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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C. Plant & Animal Diversity

1. Please submit your plan to manage your land to benefit an increasing variety of plant and animal species in the comments section below or with an upload. (What are your target species? How do you monitor?)

Grazing Chart.JPG

2. Document your progress on your plan to manage your land to benefit an increasing variety of plant and animal species in the comments section below or with an upload.

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3. Please elaborate here, if applicable

Our holistic management practices actively ensure that we identify and management for as great a plant and animal diversity as possible. For instance, after several years of monitoring our rangelands it became apparent that we were missing a specie to help us properly manage many range plants that bison do not utilize. Specifically, we realized that bison were accompanied on the range by massive herds of elk and elk grazing habits are very different that of bison. To help us address this, we researched which breed of cattle would best fit this niche left unused by elk. We have developed a herd of Spanish cattle and co-graze these with the bison most of the year. The results have been very promising AND we've even noticed that the bison are beginning to adapt some of these grazing choices. It makes one wonder what else bison may have forgotten by not sharing the range with the other species as they have for millennia.

4. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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PEOPLE

A. Community

1. Identify opportunities to positively benefit the health of individuals and your community in the comments box. (Smoking cessation programs for employees, participation in local health fairs, bison meat and/or health club memberships as an employee bonus, etc.)

We provide all of our employees with bison and/or grass fed beef, and organic wheat, rye, and pinto beans from the ranch. We encourage healthy lifestyle choices and offer ongoing education through a sister business (Sage Essentials) that focuses on essential oils and natural health education. We offer our products and educational tools to our local community as well.

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2. Please provide evidence of how your efforts have positively impacted the health of individuals and your community in the comments box.

We have one employee who has ceased smoking - although we hesitate to take credit for her serious dedication and effort to overcome this lifelong habit. Our company culture sure helped her. We've also seen many locals become much, much more aware about their lifestyle choices as evidenced by the strong growth of our local sales of meat, essential oils, and participation in our education opportunities.

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3. Please use this box if you have any other comments you would like to make.

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4. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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B. Economic Opportunity

1. Identify ways that your operation can provide a positive economic impact in the comments box. (i.e. wages paid, increased local trade, more stable business model, etc.)

We believe that by running a sound business that truly creates wealth from the land (vs. an enterprise that survives on wealth transfers from outside sources) we can lift the economic opportunities of our employees, local, and national community.

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2. Please describe how your efforts have created or sustained a positive economic impact in the comments box.

We consistently pay above market rate for the above market average labor that we hire. All our local business accounts are kept current and we direct as much of our spending for supplies to local vendors as is practical. Our management of the natural resources under our stewardship sustains four, well-paid, full-time positions and injects hundred of thousands of dollars each year into the local economy. This wealth is created on this land and is transferred, through voluntary exchange, through many, many other households and communities.

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3. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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C. Leadership & Education

1. Please identify ways in which you can attain 8 credit hours of continuing education over the next year that pertains to your Conservation Management Plan. (We encourage local participation as well as NBA participation. Soil, grazing, water management workshops, etc.)

We can attend and host NBA, state and regional, and other related workshops and conferences.

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2. If you have attained or hosted 8 or more credit hours of continuing education that pertains to your Conservation Management Plan, please provide documentation.

We attended the NBA Winter Conference (and presented there) and did the same for the virtual summer conference. We attended an all-day cover crop event hosted by Green Cover Seed company in Nebraska this summer to help us become better at our long-running efforts to build soil with cover

crops. A sister company of ours (Prairie Legends Bison) has developed and executed the first simulcast bison auction based on the principles of this CMP and helped auction animals from many growers last February. Also, I serve on the NBA Conservation Committee, am a Regional Director, and am one of two IUCN reps for the NBA.

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3. Please use this box if you have any other comments you would like to make.

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4. Please upload any additional files here, if applicable

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[Review CMP Application](#)

If you have any questions or follow up please email Ken Klemm at ken@thebuffaloguys.com

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