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President Bill Clinton
Mr. Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture
Mr. Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior
Mr. Jim Geringer, Governor of Wyoming

RE: Brucellosis Management in Wyoming
DATE: January, 31, 1997

Dear President Clinton, Secretaries Glickman, Babbitt and Governor Geringer,

We appreciate this opportunity to express our mutual concerns for the direction brucellosis management is taking in the State of Wyoming. Over the years, the agriculture and conservation communities of Wyoming have worked to protect our open space while sustaining a robust ranching economy and maintaining viable wildlife populations on the land we all respect. We are joining forces now to demonstrate our continued commitment to these values and to urge you to redirect several brucellosis management proposals now before the public that we view as serious challenges to our shared values.

For example, recent documents, including the Jackson Bison Herd, Long Term Management Plan-EA (1996), the Wyoming Interim Brucellosis Management Procedures ("Wyoming Settlement Plan"- 1996), and the January 10, 1997 Federal Register Proposed Rules published for the Department of Agriculture-APHIS bode ominously for both the cattle industry and free-roaming wildlife in northwestern Wyoming.

First, we feel that if the rule changes set forth in the Federal Register become standard operating procedure, Wyoming's Brucellosis Free Status will be in immediate jeopardy, if not for the entire state, then certainly for the northwestern portion of Wyoming. Second, if these proposals are enacted, control of the world's largest population of free roaming bison will be essentially turned over to APHIS, a Federal agency who's operational expertise does not include wildlife management. Third, if these proposals are adopted, it will lead to the unnecessary killing of hundreds, if not thousands of wild bison (and eventually elk).

Fourth, if the proposals presented in the Wyoming Settlement Plan are put into place, among other things, they will require biannual testing of livestock. We view this as unnecessary and resulting in the undue holding and handling of livestock leading to increased costs to the ranchers, increased manpower needs, and increased stress on the cattle. In fact, there is already a Market Cattle Information System in place that exists to alert interstate markets of disease problems. Therefore, another testing program would be redundant.

While we share your concern for protecting the "Brucellosis Free Status" of Wyoming, we think it is secure now because there is no recent history of brucellosis transmission from wildlife to cattle in Teton, Park and Sublette counties and because the ranchers in this area protect their cattle through vaccinations. In addition, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WG&F) carries out winter depredation elk hunts (when and where requested) which keep elk off private cattle feed grounds, thereby eliminating that potential for disease transmission. The WG&F Department would be in a position to do the same if or when bison entered private feed lines.

We ask you to understand that the ranchers of this area are not asking for the measures proposed in the above mentioned documents and that they are not asking for the removal of wildlife from their public grazing areas. We ask you to understand that the conservation community is not asking that the ranchers remove their cattle from public wildlife range. We ask you to understand that the

ranchers of this area view the possibility of brucellosis transmission from wildlife to cattle to be so insignificant that it poses no real threat to their interests. Nor does the conservation community view brucellosis as a threat to wildlife populations. We ask you to understand that the real threat to our interests are the proposals originating from and/or driven by APHIS and the unfounded premise that brucellosis poses a real threat to man and beast.

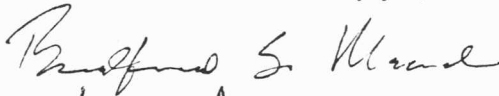
We urge you to consider our position and work with northwestern Wyoming's ranchers and conservationists and recognize the common ground which exists between these two major citizens groups, the very groups most effected by this issue. We urge you to concentrate your management efforts on non-lethal and non-invasive methods of minimizing the already insignificant risk of disease transmission rather than concentrating on the eradication of brucellosis via the lethal and costly methods now being proposed. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

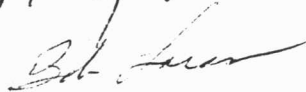
JACKSON AREA RANCHERS



U.S. Sen. C. Hanson Retd







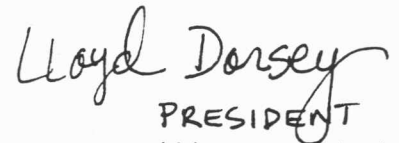




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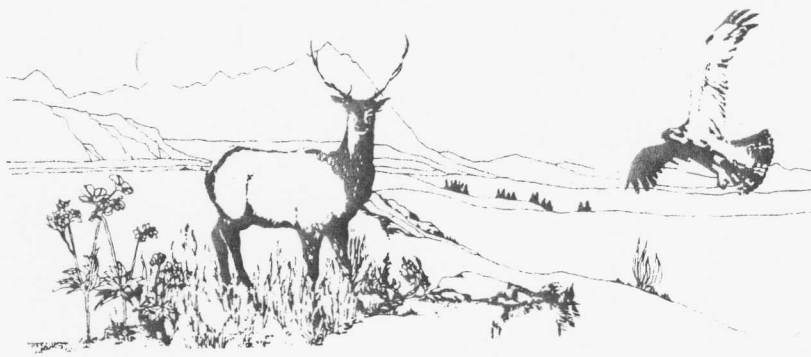


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GREATER YELLOWSTONE
COALITION



PRESIDENT
WYOMING WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

cc: Terry Medley, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wyo. Senator, Craig Thomas
Wyo. Senator, Mike Enzi
Wyo. Congresswoman, Barbara Cubin
Wyo. State Senator, Grant Larson
Wyo. State Representative, Clarene Law
Wyo. State Representative, Bud Betts



JACKSON HOLE ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE PLANNING

Box 2728 Jackson, Wyoming 83001

News Release

Date: 2/12/97

Re: Ranchers & Conservationists Unite on Bison Issue

Contact: Franz Camenzind, Executive Director, 733-9417

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ranchers and Conservation Groups Unite On Brucellosis Controversy

In a show of unity, ranchers and conservation groups in the Jackson Hole area have signed a letter asking for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within the Department of Agriculture, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and other government leaders to reconsider various rules, regulations and proposals pertaining to brucellosis management, all of which would seriously impact their interests. The letter concludes by saying that "...the real threat to our interests are the proposals originating from and/or driven by APHIS and the unfounded premise that brucellosis poses a real threat to man and beast."

The signatories include, Former Senator Clifford P. Hansen, Brad Mead, Kelly Lockhart, Bob Lucas, Bill Resor, Franz J. Camenzind, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, Mike Clark, Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and Lloyd Dorsey, President of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

In conjunction with this letter, the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning has asked Vice President Al Gore, Secretaries Glickman and Babbitt to intervene in the matter and call for an immediate halt to any killing of bison. In addition the Alliance is asking for the formation of a special National Academy of Science panel to investigate this matter and make recommendations for a long term solution.