

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

#68 – September 29, 2010

U.S. District Court rescinds Annual Funding Agreement at the National Bison Range

On September 28, 2010 the U.S. District Court rescinded the 2008 Annual Funding Agreement with the Confederated Salish Kootenai (CSKT) Tribe and returned the management of the National Bison Range to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Blue Goose Alliance (BGA) President, Don Redfearn announced that the U.S. District Court rescinded the 2008 Annual Funding Agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Confederated Salish Kootenai (CSKT) Tribe. The BGA had filed a suit challenging the management of the National Bison Range by the tribe.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled that the Interior Department and tribes violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and revoked the tribe's right to manage the range. In her decision, the judge said federal government officials failed to prepare an environmental impact statement before entering into the agreement with the tribes.

According to the order, employees of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will resume operation of the National Bison Range.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) also filed a suit regarding the management agreement. That suit was consolidated with the BGA suit.

Judge Kollar-Kotelly's September 28, 2010 opinion can be found at:

<http://bluegoosealliance.org/Bison%20Range%20Memorandum%20Opinion.pdf>

The order in the BGA suit can be found at:

<http://bluegoosealliance.org/Bison%20Range%20Order.pdf>

The order in the PEER suit can be found at:

http://bluegoosealliance.org/PEER_NBR_order.pdf

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