

**Memorandum of Understanding
By and Between
The Inter Tribal Buffalo Council
And
The Wind River Ranch**

I. Introduction and Parties

The Inter Tribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) is a federally chartered Indian Organization under Section 17 of the Indian Re-Organization Act and is committed to reestablishing buffalo to Indian nations in a manner that promotes cultural enhancement, spiritual revitalization, ecological restoration, and economic development. ITBC consists of 57 member Tribes in 19 states including 8 in New Mexico and 1 in southern Colorado. The role of the ITBC, as established by its membership, is to act as a facilitator in coordinating education and training programs, developing marketing strategies, coordinating the transfer of surplus buffalo from national parks to tribal lands, and providing technical assistance to its membership in developing sound management plans that will help each tribal herd become a successful and self-sufficient operation.

The Wind River Ranch (WRR) was established in January 2005 as a non-profit 501c(3) entity with the mission to conserve wild landscapes in northern New Mexico through ecological restoration, research, and education. WRR goals are:

- To provide a refuge for native species and natural systems on the Wind River Ranch, and to restore health to those systems that have been damaged in the past.
- To engage in scientific programs that make a meaningful contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem-function, ecological restoration, and landscape permeability in the southwestern U.S.
- To develop careers of young conservation biologists through undergraduate and graduate education, particularly students from groups which are under-represented in the fields of the Natural Science.
- To develop and enhance environmental science curricula by working with school-children and teachers in northern New Mexico.
- To develop cooperation among landowners, agencies, NGOs, Tribes and local governments so that strategies beneficial to conservation and management can be coordinated across a broader area.

II. Purpose

ITBC and WRR share similar goals and interests in developing bison strategies that apply to the sustainability of the environment, economy and culture using best-practice techniques in the management of herds. The purpose of this MOU is to legitimize and memorialize the relationship between the two organizations and to combine efforts for greater progress and consequent results.

III. Commitment

ITBC and WRR are jointly committed to developing a bison management plan that can be used as a model for other entities (Tribes) that incorporates low-stress handling, educational outreach and research.

As consideration for this MOU, ITBC and WRR agree as follows:

- To coordinate and cooperate for the benefit of returning sustainable bison herds to the grasslands
- To work together to achieve maximum benefits from available resources
- To reduce duplication of efforts
- To work toward sustainability and to institutionalize the identification and use of effective and efficient approaches that benefit herd management
- To agree to the sharing of information and resources needed to facilitate the goals of the parties
- To develop objectives on a quarterly basis to drive the effort
- To jointly work together to effectuate the Parties 5 year plan

Further, ITBC shall cover the cost of a bison manager to perform certain identified services and tasks as part of a 5 year plan along with other agreed upon expenses to meet the goals of identified objectives to be approved by both Parties on an as-needed basis. ITBC, subject to available funds, shall make annual payments to WRR beginning January 1, 2012. The following is the desired contribution schedule for the remainder of 2011:

Jan-April.....\$11,250.00
May-June.....\$11,250.00
July-Sept.....\$11,250.00
Oct-Dec.....\$11,250.00

Parties proposed years 1 and 2 activities:

The Parties acknowledge that they have consulted and agreed upon a 5 year plan for the Wind River Ranch that will require their joint efforts to complete. In furtherance of the 5 year plan, the Parties agree it is appropriate and necessary for the bison manager and WRR to perform services and tasks related to years 1 and 2 as follows:

- Perform outreach to local ITBC member Tribes to coordinate the preparation of baseline herd assessments for the Tribes who are willing to provide access to their buffalo programs to enable a thorough review and assessment of their respective bison programs.
- Presentation of efforts and herd assessments to the ITBC Board during November Board Meeting.
- Determination and recommendation each Tribe's individual needs.
- Determination and recommendation of potential research possibilities.

- Host regional training session for ITBC regional member Tribes based on the recommended or identified Tribal needs.
- Update the WRR's Handling System in consideration of safety issues.
- Assist with the Sustainability Plan of Wind River Ranch Bison Program.
- Creation of data base of information to ensure continuation of program through changes in administration and staff.
- Outreach to Tribal Governments to gather support for mission and to indoctrinate the programs developed into Tribal Programs.
- Identify successful programs and methods and adapt into training program.
- Assessment and follow up work as necessary.
- Host conference/training #2 to continue education and outreach.
- Low-Stress Bison Handling Methods (documented)
- Creation of a model for ITBC to utilize in its different regions.
- Presentation at Board and Member Meetings.
- Identifying research possibilities.
- Establish a co-op herd with joint polices and procedures.
- Explore and increase opportunities with partner Tribes to deliver buffalo meat to Tribal members (health initiatives)
- Increase opportunities for field harvests, ceremonies, commodity program and Tribal member homes.
- The Parties shall determine Years 3-5 based on economy, ecology, experiences and culture.

After December 2011, ITBC and WRR shall coordinate and schedule quarterly payments for 2012 and subsequent years. In return for the payments, WRR agrees to share all research and other information with ITBC and Tribes in the area. WRR agrees to advocate for ITBC to take on the management and operation of the bison program in the event of a transfer of ownership of the ranch property.

IV. Quarterly Evaluation

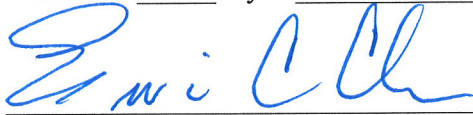
The Parties shall review the overall operation and effectiveness of this MOU on a quarterly basis. If either party is not satisfied with the MOU, the party may terminate the MOU pursuant to Section V.

V. Effective Date, Modification, and Reservation of Rights

Nothing in the MOU is intended to limit or affect in any way the authority or legal responsibility of either party, or as binding a party to perform beyond its respective authority. Each party retains the sole discretion to determine its ability to comply with the terms of this MOU according to circumstances and available resources at any given time. This MOU is not a contract that imposes any liability on a party for non-compliance or failure to perform. Further, this MOU does not require a party to assume or expand any sum in excess of its available appropriations.

This MOU shall become effective when signed by the Parties hereto. This MOU may be formally terminated by any party following 60 days notice in writing to the Executive Director of either organization. This MOU may be modified by the parties in writing with approval by the ITBC Board of Directors. The MOU shall terminate five (5) years from the date of execution. However, the parties may choose to negotiate and extend the MOU prior to the date of expiration.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2011

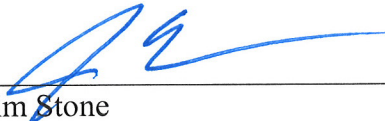


Ervin Carlson
ITBC
President

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2011



Teresa Gray
WRR
Executive Director



Jim Stone
ITBC
Executive Director