Identifying Tribal Community Interests for Buffalo and Building Tribal Community Engagement and Support

Fort Peck Tribes

Prepared for Tribal Buffalo Conservation Summit

Denver, Colorado

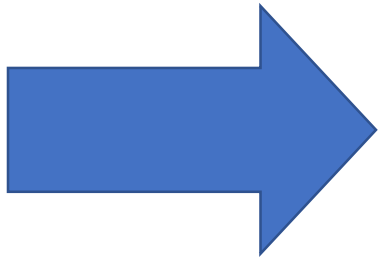
November 1-3, 2018

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS = SUCCESS

- Fort Peck Tribal Chairman & Council
- Tribal Fish & Wildlife Dept & Buffalo Program Staff
- Tribal Language/Culture & Economic Development Departments
- Fort Peck Community College, Tribal Head Start & Universities
- WWF, NWF, Defenders of Wildlife, & other NGOs
- Philanthropy World
- Federal and State Agencies

GOAL: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN MAINTAINING A SUSTAINABLE HERD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- How did we do this?



- Who did this?

- FPCC, WWF, Pte' Group & Others Found the money to do this and this was the base upon which activities grew out of.

- **Surveyed** communities to see:
- 1. what they knew about the herds
- 2. what they wanted the herds to become
- 3. ideas on how to get the community involved.

Buffalo People

Tatanga Oyade Kaye Tatanka Oyate Wanzina

Gather Unite

The 2009 Fort Peck Buffalo Survey was supported by the Ft. Peck Pte Group and funded by World Wildlife Fund to understand the values, needs, and aspirations of the people of Fort Peck for the return of buffalo.

The Pte Group's mission is to advocate for the Assiniboine Oyate, Tatanga Oyate or Dakhóta People, to conserve, enhance, and perpetuate the people's relationship with the buffalo through awareness and the sharing of cultural knowledge. It represents the buffalo for the purpose of representing the interests of the people of the Fort Peck Reservation and tribal activities for Buffalo People. The Pte Group is a non-governmental committee.

Return of the Buffalo to Fort Peck

The last buffalo hunt in Fort Peck was in approximately 1881. In Tribal years that's about 6 generations ago. Until Fort Peck Tribes established two herds to contribute to a sustainable future for buffalo at Ft. Peck.

Business Herd:

- Source: Ft. Belknap
- Year returned: 2000
- Purpose:
  - Raising revenue from off-reservation sales of:
    - Hunts
    - Live animals
    - Meat

Cultural Herd:

- Source: Yellowstone N.P.
- Year returned: 2012
- Purpose:
  - Cultural reconnection
  - Feeding the community
  - Buffalo conservation

Value to the People

Each year, the Fort Peck Tribal Mixed Buffalo Ranch donates 25 buffalo to tribal programs and cultural activities that include elderly programs, homeless shelters, Sun Dances, pow wows, and funerals. The value of these donated animals is approximately $36,000. Economic studies show that providing 25 buffalo per year for cultural uses can be maintained under the business plan prepared by World Wildlife Fund. The community and the Ft. Peck Tribal executive board feel that more buffalo should be made available to tribal members and programs. Then the land base and the buffalo herd must be expanded to make this sustainable.

The Goal of Sustainability

The Buffalo sustained Plains tribes for countless generations and now there is an opportunity for the people of Ft. Peck to sustain the buffalo for the benefit of the culture, the economy, the wildlife and the land.

What the Survey Tells us?

People want **Transparency** [illegible] **Meat and buffalo products** to be more **readily available** for its people and the **lands used by buffalo** to be **expanded** on the Fort Peck Reservation. There is strong support for **an accessible buffalo herd** that is located close to the people.

Who Participated in the Survey?

- **369** participants. **285** of whom were enrolled members of Ft. Peck Tribes.
- **51%** (144 people) from Poplar, Brockton, and Fort Kipp • **49%** (141 people) from Wolf Point, Frazer, and Oswego
- **63%** of responses were from women.

How do tribal members value buffalo?	
I value buffalo as wildlife	89% Agree
I value buffalo as ceremonial	83% Agree
I value buffalo as livestock	52% Agree

Communicating about buffalo management with tribal members	
Tribal members should be [illegible] about goals for tribal buffalo management	74% Agree
I understand how the Fort Peck Buffalo herds are currently being managed	54% Agree
Ranch for tribal herds management are communicated clearly to all members	22% Agree

Increasing the Tribal meat and products to tribal members	
I know how to obtain buffalo meat or products from sources on the reservation	9% - 78%
I have requested buffalo meat or its products from Fort Peck Tribes	9% - 14%
I have received buffalo meat or products from Fort Peck Tribes	9% - 13%

Tribal recipients of buffalo meat and products	
Tribal members should be consulted about the process of selecting tribal recipients of buffalo	69% Agree
I understand how this is [illegible] tribal recipients of buffalo meat and products	64% Agree
The process for selecting tribal recipients of buffalo has been communicated clearly to all members	28% Agree

Fort Peck tribal members perspectives on buffalo hunts	
Buffalo should be hunted	52% Agree
Tribal members have a fair opportunity to hunt buffalo at Fort Peck	71% Agree
98% of participants have not hunted a buffalo at Fort Peck	
23% of participants would not hunt a buffalo given the opportunity	

Tribal support for potential changes to the buffalo herds	
We should help to restore buffalo to the grasslands of North America	89% Agree
The tribal herd on the land they graze on the reservation should be expanded	76% Agree
Fort Peck should establish a third herd to make more buffalo available	73% Agree

The people, wildlife, and the buffalo	
We should encourage our youth to learn about buffalo and other wildlife for future jobs	97% Agree
We should use buffalo for [illegible]	97% Agree
We should encourage our people to [illegible] with buffalo through a tribal [illegible]	86% Agree
We should take a role to restore buffalo to the grasslands of North America	84% Agree
The commercial buffalo should be a source of healing for our people	78% Agree
Overall I am interested in [illegible]	78% Agree

Programs to expand tribal members options for utilization of buffalo meat and products	
Tribal senior programs	92% Agree 4% Disagree
Assisted [illegible] members who are ill [illegible]	89% Agree
Assistance [illegible] members with limited ability to buy food	70% Agree 11% Disagree
Assistance [illegible] members with [illegible]	68% Agree
All tribal members who [illegible] buffalo meat or products	71% Agree 21% Disagree
Fort Peck schools for students and programs	85% Agree 11% Disagree
Tribal members who pay for meat or buffalo products	69% Agree 10% Disagree
Tribal members who pay to hunt	52% Agree 34% Disagree
Some tribal members who may be hurt	69% Agree 26% Disagree

Tribal members response for payment on buffalo hunts	
Tribal members should have priority over non-members to [illegible]	77% Agree
Tribal members should have to pay to participate in a Fort Peck buffalo hunt	33% Agree 64% Disagree
Non-tribal members should be allowed to hunt Fort Peck buffalo if they pay a fee	93% Agree 6% Disagree

Tribal members believe the "cultural herd" should be managed to	
Provide for the ceremonial needs of tribal members	97% Agree
Provide meat for tribal members	84% Agree
Raise money from revenue	58% Agree

Other interests: [illegible] new recreation, feeding the needy, and the [illegible] reservation.

Additional thoughts: Increasing revenue from sale of hunts, live animals, and meat for reservation programs.

Do tribal members eat buffalo and want more?	
Only 2% said they would never eat buffalo	
93% would prefer to eat buffalo daily, weekly, or monthly	
Only 5% currently eat buffalo daily, weekly, or monthly	

Tribal members would like to increase use of the following buffalo parts	
Hides with hair [illegible] people	Organ [illegible] people
Heather [illegible] people	Bones [illegible] people
Skull [illegible] people	Horns [illegible] people
Hooves [illegible] people	Other [illegible] people

What would tribal members be willing to pay for buffalo meat?		
	Support	Percentage of total participants (not [illegible])
Current market prices	[illegible]%	[illegible] opposed
Cost [illegible]	[illegible]%	[illegible] opposed
Prices prohibited by [illegible]	27%	[illegible] opposed
Free	22%	53

Fort Peck tribes pay approx. $20/animal for transport, slaughter, processing, and packaging. Most people [illegible] to pay approx. $20/animal for [illegible] costs.

Tribal members believe the "business herd" should be managed to maximize	
Selling live buffalo or meat to all interested buyers for the highest possible price	40% Agree
Selling hides to non-members	35% Agree
Buffalo should never be managed to make money for the tribes	31% Agree

Full survey results are available at:

www.fortpeckbuffalo.com

GOAL: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN MAINTAINING A SUSTAINABLE HERD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS – Continued

- Pte' Group – champion on the ground to guide efforts, express wishes, dreams, needs for bison herds.
  - 1. Volunteers = visionary, creative, committed individuals both tribal and non-tribal
  - 2. Recognized by tribal resolution
- Key to success = must have a driving force to keep momentum going to implement findings of survey.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activities:

1. Buffalo Summit for Youth
2. Buffalo Treaty – Historical Event
3. Teacher Bison Immersion Summer Course
4. Buffalo Program Administrator hired
5. Plans for Story Pole Trail on Bison Ranch Initiated
6. Head Start Curriculum for Ft Peck Bison Return History – Developed, Teachers Trained & Testing in Classrooms this Fall
7. Bison Taste Event at FPCC
8. 2 Bison Meat Sales & New Bison Products Tasting to test market
9. Developed Tribal Member Bison Hunt Application & Policy
10. On-line Non-Member Fish & Wildlife Permits, Licenses, Hunts
11. Facilitated contracts to sell surplus bison
12. Two years involved in Eco-Tourism event
13. Use of Media to Educate


GLITTER
SMILE


Ten Little Buffalo
Coloring Book
Ten Little Buffalo
Coloring Book
Ten Little Buffalo
Coloring Book

Q: How Do You Fit a 1,000 lb Buffalo In Your Freezer?

A: 5 Pounds at a Time!

Beginning June 12, Fort Peck Tribes will be offering buffalo meat for sale in five pound packages for $17.50 each* in ground, stew, or roast cuts on Monday through Friday in the main lobby of the Fort Peck Tribal Office.

Where: Main lobby, Ft Peck Tribal Office

When: 9 am to Noon & 1 pm to 4 pm

Cost: $17.50 per 5 lb package.
Cash only. Limit of 10 lbs per person.

Questions: FortPeckBuffalo@gmail.com

facebook.com/fortpeckbuffalo
www.fortpeckbuffalo.com

*$17.50 equals special market test price of $3.50 per lb. 1,000 lbs of meat will be available for this sale.

WEINER

 **I liked this alot!**

 **So so….**

 **No – yuck!**

Comments: _____

WEINER & CHEESE

 **I liked this alot!**

 **So so….**

 **No – yuck!**

Comments: _____

POLISH

 **I liked this alot!**

 **So so….**

 **No – yuck!**

Comments: _____

POLISH & CHEESE

 **I liked this alot!**

 **So so….**

 **No – yuck!**

Comments: _____


BUFFALO
Nutrition Facts


BUFFALO
COUNCIL

Visit with Kevin Pourier, Buffalo Horn Artist, Pine Ridge


SINTE GLESKA
UNIVERSITY
11:07am 73°F

Buffalo Tracks

Here's your April update from the Fort Peck Tribes Buffalo Program

Good news! The first buffalo calf of the year was spotted April 13th. As of Saturday April 22nd the Buffalo Herd Manager, Darryl Growing Thunder, has counted 20 newborn buffalo calves in the cultural herd and 25 in the business herd, with many more babies on their way! Stay tuned for more Buffalo Tracks in coming months.

Welcome to Fort Peck's Baby Buffalo

Born the first week of April 2018
At the Turtle mound buffalo ranch
Weight: 40-50 pounds
Come visit any time

Mom will have a calf every year from when she is 3 years old until she's in her twenties.

She carries each of these calves for 280 - 285 days before giving birth

Calves will increase their weight nearly 10 times to about 400 pounds before being weaned

PINAMIYA – THANK YOU

Jonny BearCub Stiffarm

Buffalo Program Administrator

Fort Peck Site

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