

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE  
FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said act; and
- WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and
- WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (d), of the constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes specifically authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to negotiate with the Federal and State governments on behalf of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (j), of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes specifically authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to protect and preserve the property, wildlife and natural resources of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, Through-out time, Buffalo have been an intrical part of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara way of life; and
- WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes have established a Tribal Buffalo Herd and desire to re-establish Elk on the Fort Berthold Reservation; and
- WHEREAS, An expanded Tribal Buffalo Herd can provide animals for Tribal cultural ceremonies and celebrations and provide animals for unique hunting experiences and econmic return and employment for members of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, The Tribal Business Council recognizes that in order to provide sufficient Buffalo to meet the needs discribed above the Herd and it's range must be expanded; and

WHEREAS, The Game and Fish Division and Natural Resources Department have developed a proposal to seek funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and/or private organizations to expand the Tribal Buffalo herd.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council hereby approve the Buffalo and Elk proposal prepared by the Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the under signed, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitutes a Quorum, 6 were present at a Regular Meeting, 10th day of August 1989; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 6 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman (voting) (not voting).

Dated this 10th day of August, 1989.

[Signature]  
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Chairman, Tribal Business Council

PROPOSAL

ENLARGEMENT OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES  
BUFFALO PASTURE

BY

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES - GAME AND FISH DIVISION  
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES - NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

JULY 17, 1989

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### Introduction:

The Mandan, Hidasta and Arikara Tribes now recognized as the Three Affiliated Tribes, have, as with all Great Plains Tribes, historically used the Bison (*Bison bison*) in many ways. The Bison, commonly called the Buffalo were an important source of food, shelter and culture. The Buffalo was highly respected and the harvest of this animal was implemented so only what was needed was taken. With the coming of railroads and Pioneers the Buffalo disappeared until protection was required.

Presently, with the Bison being available to the Indian people, many Tribes have asked for and received Buffalo and are managing them to supply animals for traditional purposes and derive income and create employment for their Tribe.

In the fall of 1985 the Three Affiliated Tribes obtained surplus Buffalo from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The herd was transported to the Tribe's present 1200 plus acre Buffalo pasture surrounded on three sides by a eight foot game proof fence with the fourth side bordering Lake Sakakawea. The Tribal Game and Fish Division and Natural Resources Department participate in co-management of this facility. The present range pastures 50 head of buffalo 12 months of the year with supplemental feeding occurring only during winter months. The Tribe has requested that because of our growing herd that the Buffalo pasture be expanded.

### Goals and Objectives:

The Tribe maintains a strong reverence for their buffalo herd and have established goals for the herd. Using sound management practices to build a self-sustaining herd of 118 animals, which can supply animals for the Tribe's traditional needs and produce quality animals to surplus as hunting trophies. The Tribe is also interested in reintroducing Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. This small Elk herd would be located in a complex built within the buffalo pasture and would be managed for trophy harvest.

The objective of this proposal is to provide information on proposed pasture expansion for the present Buffalo herd and for a possible Buffalo/Elk herd. This proposal is divided into two

phases. Phases I describes the first priority, that being expansion of present pasture to only harbor Buffalo. Phase II describes the possible pasture expansion to include the harboring of not only Buffalo but also Elk.

#### PHASE I

This phase includes fencing 9 miles of range unit 904 adjacent to the present pasture. After the expansion, the pasture would encompass 6500+ acres of enclosed land.

The Tribe either through purchase or through acquiring grazing allocation privileges will provide this land for this expansion.

The new area would be fenced into 2 units, a larger cow-calf unit and a smaller bull unit utilizing a barbed wire or electric fencing technique.

This expansion will increase the carrying capacity available for the herd and allow for accelerated recruitment to the herd through acquisition of more animals.

#### PHASE II

This phase provides for fencing a 6.2 mile (1600+ acre) Elk compartment within the Buffalo pasture with a eight (8) foot game proof fence. We estimate this area could support an Elk herd of 35 - 50 animals and be shared as a bull pasture for Buffalo. If this phase is undertaken another opportunity for economic gain, tribal employment and quality wildlife production avails itself to the Tribes supplying opportunities which have not existed to this point.

Below are cost estimates for the fencing each phase and option mentioned above. Fencing costs will vary according to how the construction is undertaken such as: If it would be contracted out, built by tribal employees or as a government work project and also the terrain of the project area.

The materials listed would be equal to or superior to the present buffalo pasture fence.

FENCING COSTS:

PHASE I

OPTION A: All Barbed Wire-

- 1) 9 miles of barbed wire - 216 Rolls x \$ 32.00 =  
\$ 7,000.00
- 2) Wooden posts 8"x 6'or10' 317 poles x \$ 10.00 =  
\$ 3,170.00
- 3) Metal drop post every 16' 990, 33' X 1.50 ft. =  
\$ 4,555.00
- 4) Staples + clips = \$ 1,500.00
- 5) Labor = \$ 7,200.00

Total cost per mile = \$ 2,603.00

Total cost for barbed wire fence = \$ 23,425.00

OPTION B All Electric

- 1) Energizer 220 Volt = \$665.00
- 2) 9 miles of electric fence. 5 wire, 60 rolls x 78.50 =  
\$ 4,710.00
- 3) Wooden posts 317 x \$ 10.00 = \$ 3,070.00
- 4) Fiberglass drops (16 ft.) 2970 x \$ 4.25 = \$ 12,623.00
- 5) Labor = \$ 7,200
- 6) Electricity = \$ 3000.00

Total cost per mile = \$ 3,733.00

Total cost for electric fence = \$ 30,603.00

PHASE II-Elk Option

- 1) 6.2 miles of hog wire 103 rolls x \$ 59.00 =  
\$ 18,231.00
- 2) Barbed wire 51 rolls x \$ 32.00 = \$ 1,632.00
- 3) Posts 6" x 12' 2079 posts x \$ 14.90 = \$ 30,977.10
- 4) Supplies = \$ 1,000.00
- 5) Labor = \$ 7,200.00

Total Cost For Elk Fence = \$ 59,040.10

Total Cost For Barbed Wire Buffalo Fence With Elk Fence =  
\$82,465.10

Total Cost Per Mile = \$ 5,54.06

Total Cost For Electric Buffalo Fence And Elk Fence = \$ 89,643.10  
Total Cost Per Mile = \$ 5,602.68



## Wildlife Populations

### PHASE I

Table I outlines the stocking rates and utilization of available animal units. 180 buffalo could be stocked in the new facility with no adverse effects to the habitat or forage base.

### PHASE II

Table II outlines stocking rates and utilization of available animal units.

50 plus buffalo and 45 elk, making a total of 111 animal units. Although elk are not presently stocked, it is felt that because of their feeding habits and the amount of available range this expansion would provide, that reintroduction and management for trophy harvest, providing income and employment for the tribe, is a desirable project to undertake.

The Tribe is presently looking into acquiring Elk from several sources especially the National Park System.

Other possible introductions could include trophy deer management by trapping and relocating deer from the reservation into the elk enclosure and manage them for traditional tribal purposes and trophy harvest for income.

### Operation, Maintenance and Herd Management

Once the construction phase and stocking of wildlife is completed; the tribe will be in an operational mode.

With such a large complex, and only one caretaker in place. More employees will be needed to perform inspections, feeding and maintenance. It appears that one, possibly two or more employees will probably be required to fill this need. Overall maintenance costs should remain minimal because of superior materials used for construction.

Buffalo will be surplused on an annual basis. Surplus bulls, dry cows, problem cows and calves will either be used for Tribal needs, sold for hunting, culled for meat and raw products or be traded with interested parties for animals of a different gene pool. The amount removed will depend on herd size, Tribal demand and hunting demand.

Elk would be managed to produce 6 point bulls. Animals of this size require an average of 4 years of growth to reach the desired size and will continue to maintain 6 or more points through their Th. year. During this period of 4 to 8 years these animals are prime size for sport harvest and at their genetic peak for breeding. The genetically superior bulls would be maintained for breeding until they are no longer productive at which point they would be harvested. The antler size growth period could potentially be accelerated through implementation of mineral and forage supplements which play a part in antler development possibly allowing for sport harvest size animals in 3 to 3.5 years. Cows will be surplused when they are no longer able to produce viable calves or some could be exchanged for animals of a different gene pool.

Deer would be managed similar to the Elk. Trophy bucks are generally 4 to 6 years of age. With supplemental minerals and feeding this antler development process could potentially be accelerated to provide a trophy animal at 3 years of age. The genetically superior males would be retained as breeders until age 7 at which point reproduction slows then they would be harvested. Inferior bucks and dry doe would be surplused for either Tribal needs or for sport along with surplus trophy bucks

Harvest and Income

The buffalo life table (Table II) shows the amount of animals for surplus and gross income derived through the year 1997.

This is based on

A)

- 1) a 3 year old animal weighing 1,400 - 1,600 lbs.
- 2) Average gross profit \$ 2.50 lb. ---\$ 2,100.00
- 3) Tanned hide \$ 16.00/sq. ft., average 33 sq. ft.  
---\$ 528.00
- 4) Raw skull --- \$ 112.00

Per Animal Total --- \$ 2,740.00

For Hunting Opportunity

B)

- 1) 2 year old animal weight 1,000 - 1,600lbs
  - a) Head, hide, 200 lbs. meat --- \$ 1,350.00
  - b) additional income from meat, 740lbs., 1,500lbs  
Live weight ----- \$ 1,850.00

Per Animal Total --- \$ 3,200

\*\*\* Additional income from spin off.  
i.e. guide services, lodging, etc.

\*\*\* Provides income and meat for tribal programs.

Possible Elk Harvest And Income

<u>SEX</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
5 - 10 Bulls	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00 - \$ 25,000.00 per year
5 - 10 Cows	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00 - \$ 5,000.00 per year
Total Possible Income		\$ 15,000.00 - \$ 30,000.00 per year

Possible Deer Harvest And Income

<u>SEX</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2 - 5 Bucks*	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00 - \$ 2,500.00 per year
*2 - 5 Does	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00 - \$ 500.00 per year
Total Possible Income		\$ 1,200.00 - \$ 3,000.00 per year

\* Could Be Sold Singly Or In Combination With Bucks To Assure Trophy Herd Management.

\*\* Could Offer A Combination Hunt, 1 Buffalo, 1 Elk, 1 Buck Deer.  
\$ 4,000.00/ License.

Conclusion:

Several spin off benefits would be derived from this Buffalo pasture expansion. It would not only provide direct income and employment for the Tribe, but also provide opportunity for such businesses as taxidermy, seasonal guide service, meat processing services and lodging.

This complex would also be one of the largest trophy wildlife ranching operations in this area and could provide a valuable wildlife research opportunity for state and private universities making collection of valuable biological data possible.

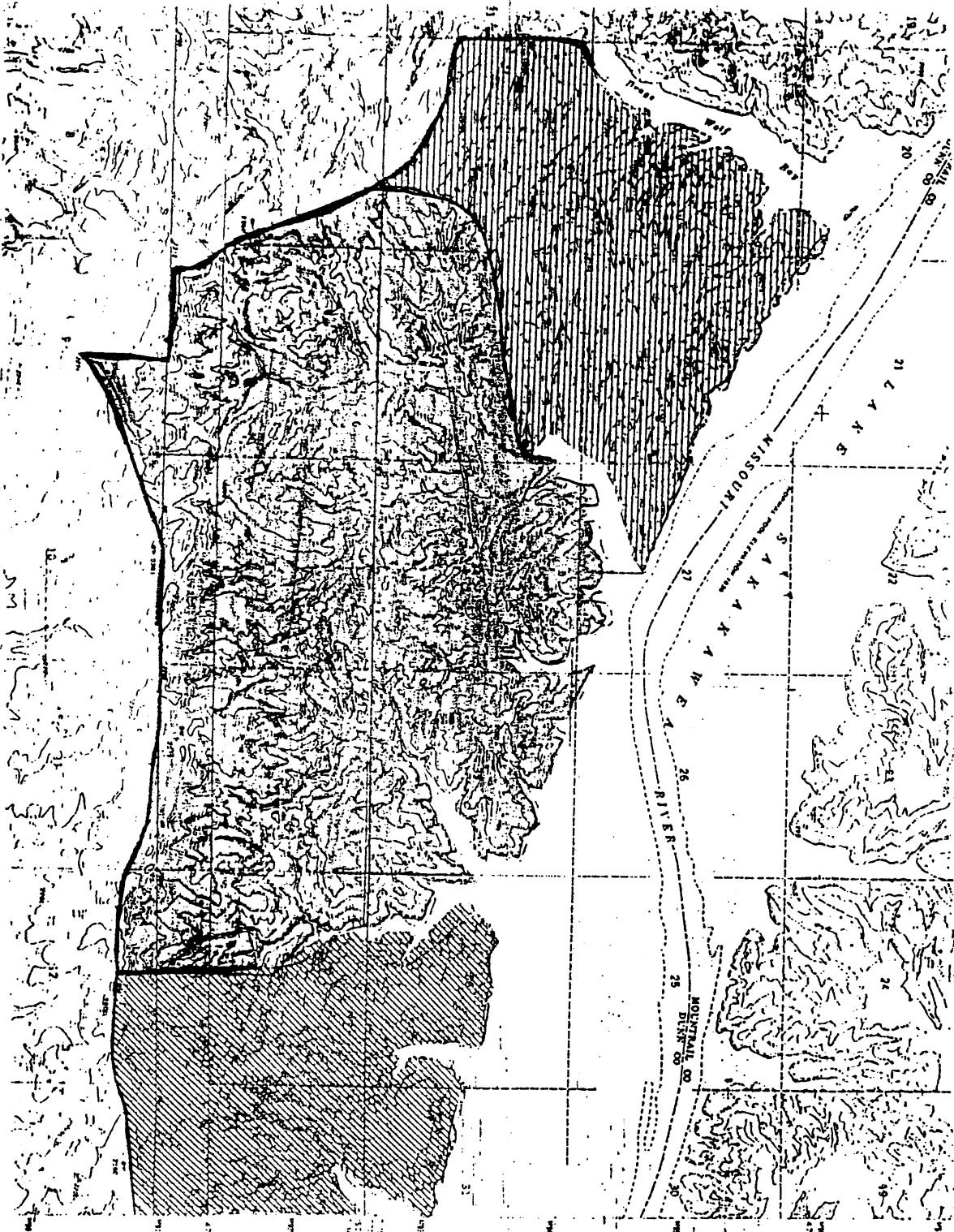
To conclude, the Three Affiliated Tribes are presently managing their Buffalo to meet the goals previously stated and because of their successful Management the herd has expanded rapidly and now requires more range to meet their growing food demand.

A large complex such as this would be a nice addition to the Three Affiliated Tribes and the Tribal Natural Resources Department. It would certainly draw regional attention to the Tribe's successful wildlife Management program.

APPENDIX

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Animal Unit Equiv.</u>	<u>Number of Animals</u>	<u>Total Animal Units</u>
=====			
Phase I - current herd			
Buffalo			
Bulls	1.30	3	4
Cow/Calf	2.50	29	73
Yearling	.75	4	3
Total		36	79
Phase II - Elk expansion			
Elk			
Bulls	.70	10	7
Cows	.70	25	18
Yearling/Calf	.70	10	7
Total		45	32
Total Animal Units Available			180
Total Animal Units Utilized			111
Animal Units Available for Additional Growth			69

MAP OF PROPOSED BUFFALO PASTURE EXPANSION



PRESENT PASTURE

PROPOSED PASTURE

ELK COMPLEX

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