



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF
OJIBWE INDIANS

Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

RESOLUTION 08-03-70-99

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF YELLOWSTONE BISON.

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Reservation Band Assembly is the duly elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; a Federally-recognized Indian Tribe; and,
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe considers the buffalo to be of great historical, cultural and spiritual, significance and further, considers the buffalo to have an essential role in sustaining the health of ecosystems and our tribal peoples, and furthermore, considers the Yellowstone buffalo herd, as survivors of the last wild herd, to be essential to maintaining the natural integrity of all buffalo herds; and,
- WHEREAS, the National Park Service is consulting impacted tribal governments on the draft Environmental Impact Study for the Long Term Management of Yellowstone Bison, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe intends to fully participate in this consultation process; and,
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is concerned that draft Environmental Impact Statement released by the National Park Service and state agencies is based on the premise that Yellowstone buffalo pose a disease transmission risk to cattle; and,
- WHEREAS, there is an absence of scientific evidence to support this premise and there has never been a single case of brucellosis transmission between buffalo and cattle in the wild; and,
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is concerned that each of the alternative in the draft Environmental Impact Statement proposes the continued use of 'lethal controls' in managing buffalo; and,
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe adamantly opposes the ongoing slaughter of buffalo and any future plans that entail the capture and killing of additional buffalo at Yellowstone National Park.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly calls upon the Department of the Interior to institute a Moratorium to cease and desist capture and slaughter of Yellowstone buffalo; and,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mille Lacs Band Assembly requests the representation of impacted tribes on the Environmental Impact Study Team; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mille Lacs Band Assembly requests the National Park Service schedule additional tribal consultation meetings at locations central to impacted tribes to allow for full and meaningful consultation; and,

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will submit its recommendations on the Long -Term Management Plan for Yellowstone Bison to the Secretary of Interior in the form of an official Band Assembly action, and requests full and respectful consideration of these recommendations.

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council, a quorum of legislators being present held on the 17th day of May, 1999 at Vineland, Minnesota by a vote of 2 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Band Assembly hereunto cause to have set the hand of the Speaker of the Assembly to be affixed to this resolution.



Herb Weyaus, Speaker of the Assembly

INCONCURRENCE, with the action of the Speaker of the Assembly, I, the Chief Executive hereunto set my signature to this resolution.



Marge Anderson, Chief Executive

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND