



# 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference

## Panel Agenda:

### Restoring Buffalo to Public Lands Through Tribal Leadership

A Panel Discussion between Tribal and federal wildlife managers & leaders  
Via Zoom, October 6, 2021, 10:30 AM- 12:00 PM, Mountain Time

**Moderator:** Tom McDonald, Fish and Wildlife Division Manager, Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Tentative Panelists:** Senator Mike Fox, Fort Belknap Tribes, Robbie Magnan, Director, Fish and Game Department Fort Peck Tribes, Gerald Cobell, Director, Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife, Jeff Mow, Superintendent, Glacier National Park, Paul Santavy, Project Leader, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, Brendan Moynhan, Research Coordinator, National Park Service, Neil Thagard, Director, Wildlife Division, Nez Perce Tribe

**Welcoming Remarks:** Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Setting the Stage:

**Law and Policy Supporting Tribal wildlife management on public lands – a brief overview:**

Rep. Tom France

**A Proposal for Restoring Buffalo on public lands under Tribal Co-Management:** Keith

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#### Example Questions for the Panel:

1. What sorts of written agreements are needed if the Tribes and agencies like the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service move forward with buffalo restoration at Charles M. Russell Refuge, Glacier National Park or other public lands?
2. What are the potential sources for buffalo if buffalo are reintroduced at CMR or GNP?
3. Are there disease or genetic issues associated with any of these herds?
4. As a starting point, a plan has been proposed to start with an initial reintroduction of 100 buffalo at the UL Bend in the middle of CMR and grow this herd to 1000 animals. Is this a good starting point? Are there other options?
5. If the Tribes and federal land management agencies agree to establish a herd, will an environmental impact statement be needed.
6. If a number of Tribes agree to co-manage a herd at CMR, which sort of inter-tribal agreement is needed? What are the options for choosing a herd manager including consultation with Tribal Councils, elders, etc.
7. If a Tribes agree to co-manage a herd at CMR, how would hunting be managed? How could permits be allocated between Tribes and with non-tribal members.