

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland and Director Stone-Manning,

We write regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) notice of proposed decision affecting seven grazing allotments in Phillips County, Montana. Given the significant public interest in this decision, we urge you to extend the protest and appeal period by 75 days to allow for additional participation from the local community.

As you are aware, BLM received over 2,700 comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) from Montana state government agencies, businesses, associations, and thousands of concerned individuals. These comments raise serious questions about how American Prairie's proposed change of use will affect the local community and the state of Montana.

Comments varied in nature from legal concerns, such as compliance with the Taylor Grazing Act and other state and federal laws, to economic effects of raising non-production-oriented bison instead of livestock. In addition, many commenters expressed apprehension regarding the ability of the permittee to contain bison, the removal of more than 30 miles of fencing, and the short- and long-term rangeland health effects resulting from the change of use.

Due to the broad interest in the proposed change of use, which would affect over 100,000 acres, we urge you to extend the protest and appeal period to give the public and interested parties sufficient time to review and answer to BLM's revised EA and Public Comment Report.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress