

State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Executive Order No. 16-2011

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITING THE TRANSPORT OF LIVE FISH
AND WILDLIFE IN MONTANA TO OR FROM ANY DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR-MANAGED LANDS OR FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior manages various federal lands and facilities in Montana, including National Wildlife Refuges, the National Bison Range, National Parks, Bureau of Land Management lands, Wetland Management Districts, Waterfowl Production Areas, and National Fish Hatcheries; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has demonstrated a lack of responsiveness and a cavalier attitude toward wildlife disease management in Montana and the West, including the perpetuation of brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area through the continued feeding of elk at the National Elk Refuge located in Wyoming, immediately south of Yellowstone Park; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in Wyoming wildlife in close proximity to the National Elk Refuge/Greater Yellowstone wildlife complex, a situation about which wildlife specialists have uniformly declared grave concerns based on the wealth of wildlife in the area, the unnatural concentrations of wildlife present due to feeding practices, and the increased disease transmission risk presented by this concentration; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has demonstrated a lack of responsiveness and a cavalier attitude toward the genetic integrity of wildlife in Montana, including the translocation of hybridized bison across Montana to and from other western states; and

WHEREAS, these situations constitute an unacceptable threat to the health and integrity of Montana's wildlife, an irreplaceable resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare a prohibition on the transport of live fish and wildlife in Montana to or from any Department of Interior-managed lands or facilities without prior approval.

This Order is effective immediately.

Given under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the
State of Montana, this 13 day of December,
2011.



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:



LINDA McCULLOCH, Secretary of State