



November 26, 1996

812  
University  
Pella  
Iowa  
50219  
515-628-9000

Dick Birger  
Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
PO Box 399  
Prairie City, Iowa 50288  
fax: 515-994-2104

Dear Dick,

I was recently awarded \$1200.00 by Central College to assist with costs for my proposed research project on bison grazing and prairie restoration at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Because you had mentioned the possibility of Walnut Creek NWR contributing some resources to the project, I wanted to check with you about what you may be able to provide before I start purchasing equipment.

My main question is about what kind of electric fence chargers I should purchase. I have checked the price of chargers at the Pella Farm and Country Store. They offer three different solar powered electric fence chargers. The least expensive is a "Solar Shock Low Impedance Model 22-440" which provides a charge of 4 volts for up to 5 miles. It costs \$124.99. Next is a "Parmax Model DF-SP-SS" which provides a charge of 6 volts for up to 25 miles. It costs \$154.99. Third is a "Parmax Model MAG 12-SP" which provides a charge of 12 volts for up to 25 miles. It costs \$279.99. I'm not sure which of these would be sufficient to keep bison out of ungrazed plots. What kind of unit do you use at Walnut Creek?

I put together a budget based on the cost of the middle level electric fence charger:

Solar powered electric fence chargers	8@ \$154.99 = 1239.92
200 m spools of electric ribbon fence	2@ \$41.99 = 83.98
7 ft. steel fence posts	32@ \$2.99 = 95.68
bags of fence insulators	2@ \$3.89 = 7.78
Total expenses	\$1427.36

If the 6 volt chargers are adequate, I could provide all the materials except one charger or I could provide all 8 chargers if Walnut Creek

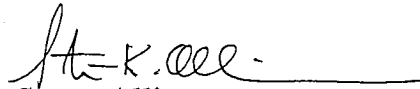
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has spare ribbon fencing and fence posts. Your offer to provide some equipment in kind to support the project is very generous and I will gladly use any equipment you are able to provide. If you cannot commit any equipment at this time, I understand and will try to find some additional funding.

I recently spoke by phone with Pauline Drobney. She mentioned that I need to send you a statement about my willingness to assist in educating the public about my project and thus contributing to the mission of the Prairie Learning Center. I have enclosed such a statement to be appended to my original proposal.

Once again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stuart Allison

cc: Pauline Drobney

Bison Grazing and Prairie Restoration at Walnut  
Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Appendix A

I will provide public information and education about my project in two ways. First, I will provide an approximately one page written summary of my project which can be copied or printed on a flyer and then given to visitors to the Prairie Learning Center. I plan to up-date the summary annually so that visitors can learn of progress I make with the project. Second, I am very willing and happy to give oral presentations to interested groups about the project. I can give these presentations either at the Prairie Learning Center or at some place where the group regularly meets.