

Activism marks Pearl Jam visit

MISSOULA (AP) — The Pearl Jam concert was a big deal for Missoula in several ways Saturday night.

The concert, which kicked off the grunge band's North American tour, was sold out, UM officials said earlier in the week. About 22,000 tickets were sold, making it the largest musical event in state history, they said.

Then, shortly before their show Saturday night, members of Pearl Jam announced the band had made \$41,300 in donations to various recreational, environmental and

social causes in Missoula.

The band, including Big Sandy native and Missoula resident Jeff Ament on bass, made its biggest donations to recreational activities.

Band spokesman John Hoyt said the group likes to contribute to cities in which they play.

Earlier in the day, Ament also voiced concerns about the state-federal bison management plan.

He said the slaughter of more than 1,100 bison that wandered out of Yellowstone National Park two winters

ago upset him.

"I spent the winter here. I read about what was going on in Yellowstone. I have to say, it affected me pretty deeply," he said.

Pearl Jam allowed volunteers from the Intertribal Bison Cooperative to circulate petitions at the concert calling for changes to a federal and state plan to manage bison in the park. The plan, now in the form of an environmental impact statement, gives Montana cattle producers final say on whether bison are allowed out of the park.