

YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This report summarizes management activities associated with implementation of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Bison Management Plan for the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park for the time period 1 September 2007 through 31 August 2008. The reporting period for this summary is **1 April through 15 April 2008**.

PARKWIDE DISTRIBUTION:

In the interior some mixed groups, totaling ~230, moving around Hayden Valley, the Lakeshore and in Pelican Valley. There are approximately 540 bison in the Geyser Basins. There are approximately 58 bison out of the park, west of Hwy 191 and on Hwy 191 itself. There are approximately 88 bison between 191 and Cougar Meadows inside the park. On the Northern Range bison are primarily utilizing Blacktail and Hellroaring slope with limited, but increasing use of Little America. There are now roughly 170 bison on Blacktail Deer Plateau. There has been some movement east from Gardiner to Blacktail with 3 radio collared bison, but movement has continued to the North, including two radio collared bison from Swan Lake. There are approximately 350 bison in the Gardiner basin, including ~135 in the Eagle Creek area.

HAZING OPERATIONS:

Hazing operations that occur near the North and West Boundaries are primarily conducted and reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection and MT Department of Livestock, respectively.

North Boundary Area: 15 hazing events were reported this period.

* Once again hazing has occurred daily. Many of the hazing reports have not been filed yet because the officers in charge are working overtime every day with hazing and capture operations. The days that hazing occurred are still listed and information regarding those days will be included when information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Every day from 1 April through 15 April: information regarding the hazing conducted on these days will be reported when available.

West Boundary Area: 0 hazing events were reported this period.

CAPTURE OPERATIONS:

Capture operations that occur near the North and West Boundaries are primarily conducted and reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection and MT Department of Livestock, respectively.

North Boundary Area: 281 bison were reported captured this reporting period

Adding the numbers below comes to an estimated total of 1619 bison captured.

Working backwards using numbers of bison shipped, held, sent to quarantine, etc. comes up with 1645 bison captured and is probably a more accurate estimate for total bison captured at Stephens Creek Capture Facility.

8 Feb: 54 bison captured
 10 Feb: 42 bison captured
 11 Feb: 4 bison captured
 12 Feb: 44 bison captured
 15 Feb: 31 bison captured
 18 Feb: 100 bison captured
 20 Feb: 15 bison captured
 25 Feb: 190 bison captured
 26 Feb: 18 bison captured
 27 Feb: 19 bison captured
 28 Feb: **123 bison** captured
 2 March: 12 bison captured
 6 March: 106 bison captured
 7 March: 87 bison captured
 8 March: 76 bison captured
 10 March: 11 bison captured

18 March: 35 bison captured
 19 March: 4 bison captured
 21 March: 120 bison captured
 22 March: 95 bison captured
 25 March: 61 bison captured
 28 March: 35 bison captured
 29 March: 33 bison captured
 30 March: 23 bison captured
 1 April: 119 bison captured
 4 April: 40 bison captured
 9 April: 120 bison captured
 13 April: 2 bison captured

*10 April: 15 bison escaped from the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility during a sorting procedure due to improper gate closure/latch failure.

West Boundary Area: 39 bison were reported captured this reporting period

26 Feb: 30 bison captured
 4 March: 51 bison captured
 5 March: 13 bison captured
 11 March: 13 bison captured
 8 April: 34 bison captured (Horse Butte)
 9 April: 5 bison captured (Duck Ck)

Bison Transported to Slaughter

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Slaughter this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Slaughter (Sept 1 – pres)</i>
West	39	146
North	263	1276
Total	302	1422

Stephen's Creek

11 Feb: 37 shipped
 12 Feb: 30 shipped
 13 Feb: 16 shipped
 14 Feb: 44 shipped
 15 Feb: 17 shipped
 19 Feb: 31 shipped
 20 Feb: 55 shipped
 21 Feb: 60 shipped

Stephen's Creek cont.

25 March: 20 shipped
 26 March: 22 shipped
 27 March: 16 shipped
 28 March: 16 shipped
 31 March: 20 shipped
 1 April: 13 shipped
 2 April: 34 shipped
 3 April: 20 shipped

Horse Butte

27 Feb: 30 shipped
 5 March: 38 shipped
 6 March: 26 shipped
 12 March: 13 shipped
 9 April: 17 shipped
 10 April: 22 shipped

26 Feb: 48 shipped	4 April: 37 shipped
27 Feb: 69 shipped	7 April: 15 shipped
28 Feb: 68 shipped	8 April: 45 shipped
3 March: 69 shipped	9 April: 40 shipped
4 March: 14 shipped	11 April: 18 shipped
5 March: 62 shipped	14 April: 21 shipped
11 March: 59 shipped	15 April: 20 shipped
13 March: 61 shipped	
14 March: 25 shipped	
17 March: 57 shipped	
18 March: 62 shipped	
20 March: 21 shipped	
21 March: 14 shipped	

Bison Transported to Quarantine:

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Quarantine this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Quarantine (Sept 1 – pres)</i>
West	0	0
North	38	112

19 March: 37 transported
 25 March: 14 transported
 26 March: 12 transported
 27 March: 11 transported
 1 April: 6 transported
 3 April: 15 transported
 7 April: 4 transported
 8 April: 9 transported
 14 April: 4 transported

Capture Pen Mortalities:

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Capture Pen Mortality this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Pen Mortality this operating season (Sept 1 – pres)</i>
West	0	0
North	4	7

13 April: 3 newborn calves died from natural causes (they were born on the 9th and 10th)
 14 April: 1 adult cow (mother to one of the calves listed above) died from natural causes

Other Information:

Newborn Calves held at Stephens Creek: 1
 Seropositive Pregnant Cows held at Stephens Creek: 18
 Radio Collared Cows not tested but held at Stephens Creek: 26
 Total Bison being held at Stephens Creek for spring release: 238

INTERAGENCY BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOOTING OPERATIONS:

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison Shot this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Shot this operating season</i>
West	0	0
North	6	6

11 April: 5 bulls shot near Carbella fishing access, west of Yankee Jim Canyon

11 April: 1 bull shot near milepost 5 on Hwy 89

HUNTER HARVEST:

The numbers are from reports by FWP wardens/biologists, hunters, NPS employees and BFC.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bison Hunt (Nov 15 – Feb 15)

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>FWP Hunter Take this reporting period</i>	<i>Total FWP Hunter Take this operating season (Nov 15 – pres)</i>
West	0	50
North	0	13
Total	0	63

Native American Tribal Treaty Right Bison Hunts

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Nez Perce Hunter Take this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Nez Perce Hunter Take this operating season (Jan 26 – Mar 3?)</i>	<i>Confederated Salish and Kootenai Hunter Take this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Confederated Salish and Kootenai Hunter Take this operating season (Nov 15 – Jan 31)</i>
West	0	19	0	38
North	0	45	0	1
Total	0	64	0	39

Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mngmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Slaughtered & Not Tested	Slaughtered & Tested Positive	Slaughtered & Tested Negative	Released/Held & Tested Negative	Released & Not Tested	Vaccinated	Quarantine	Capture/Pen Mortality	Hunter Take
2007	West	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	North	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	West	October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	North	October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	West	November 1-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	North	November 1-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	West	November 15-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2007	North	November 15-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2007	West	December 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2007	North	December 1-15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2007	West	December 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
2007	North	December 16-31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2008	West	January 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
2008	North	January 1-15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mngmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Slaughtered & Not Tested	Slaughtered & Tested Positive	Slaughtered & Tested Negative	Released/Held & Tested Negative	Released & Not Tested	Vaccinated	Quarantine	Capture/Pen Mortality	Hunter Take
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2008	West	January 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
2008	North	January 16-31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2008	West	February 1-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
2008	North	February 1-13	7	0	144	18	82	0	1**	0	0	0	0	0	7
2008	West	February 14-29	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2008	North	February 14-29	5	0	496	0	375	0	17**	0	0	0	0	1`	39^
2008	West	March 1-14	0	0	77	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2008	North	March 1-14	13	0	292	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	0	2***	1
2008	West	March 15-31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	March 15-31	18	0	406	201	187	61	0	66	0	0	74	0	0
2008	West	April 1-15	0	0	39	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	April 1-15	15	6	281	321	126	137	0	127	0	24	38	4*	0
Summary			64	6	1765	540	1206	198	18	193	0	24	112	7	166

** Seronegative calves, 17 were held for several days pending transport to the Quarantine facility. Due to permit issues the study could not accept the calves and they were shipped to slaughter.

^ Includes 2 bison that were shot inside YNP on 2/29/08 by members of the Nez Perce Tribe. The bison carcasses were confiscated.

` Represents calf that suffered a broken leg due to a collision with a snowmobile on Swan Lake.

***Represents 1 cow bison that came into the capture pen with a broken leg or hip, cause unknown.

*Includes 3 newborn calves that died 4 and 3 days after birth, and 1 of the mothers that died the day after from natural causes.