

REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 04/27/01 to 05/03/01

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Current Weather Conditions: High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 56°F to 66°F and low temperatures ranged from 20°F to 41°F for the reporting period. As of 4/30/01, the parkwide high during the reporting period was 71°F at Lamar on 4/27/01 and 71°F at Tower on 4/28/01. The low during the reporting period was 20°F at Lake on 04/27/01 and 4/30/01.

Table 1. Cumulative snow depth at selected locations for the week ending 5/03/01.

*Snow depths reported as of 4/30/01.

Location	<u>Snow Depth (inches)</u>		
	Last Report Period	This Report Period	Net Gain/Loss
Mammoth	0	0	0.0
Lamar	0	0	0.0
Lake	18	9	-9.0
Old Faithful	0	0	0.0
Madison	0	0	0.0
West Yellowstone	0	0	0.0

Monitoring:

North Boundary area- NPS personnel conduct daily road patrols to report bison locations and movements near the north and west park boundary areas. On 4/27/01, 2 male bison were located in the Eagle Creek/Bear Creek area, outside the park. On 4/28/01, a mixed group of 64 bison was located in the Undine Falls area, approximately 2 miles east of Mammoth, inside the park.

West Boundary area- NPS road patrols did not observe any bison outside the park during the reporting period. During a bison research flight on 5/2/01, several groups of bison were observed inside and outside the western boundary of the park. Three groups totaling approximately 94 adult and yearling bison, including 5 calves, were observed along the Madison River approximately 2 miles inside the park. A mixed group of 31 bison and 1 calf were located inside the park, 1 mile upstream from the park boundary along the Madison River. A mixed group of 75 bison was located approximately 2 miles inside the park boundary due east of the West Yellowstone Transfer Station, which is located 3 miles north of West Yellowstone. Three bison were located in the Richards Pond Meadows area, 2 mile inside the park boundary. A mixed group of 45 bison was located along Cougar Creek, approximately 1.5 miles inside the park. There were 2 groups outside the park. One mixed group of 17 bison and 4 calves were located on the west end of Horse Butte. The other group included 3 bison and 1 calf located 2.5 miles west of the Madison River, near the West Yellowstone airport. See State Actions below.

Hazing:

North Boundary area- The NPS did not haze bison during the report period.

West Boundary area- See State Actions below.

Capture and Testing Operations: The NPS did not conduct capture operations at the Stephens Creek facility.

Bison Sent to Slaughter: No bison were sent to slaughter.

Shooting Operations: The NPS did not conduct shooting operations during the report period.

State Actions: All hazing events took place on the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park. On 4/27/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) reported successfully hazing 6 male bison from private property back into the park. Also, 3 male bison were hazed from the Duck Creek area back into the park. A mixed group of 11 bison was hazed from Highway 191 around milepost 3 back into the park. Seven male bison were hazed from the junction of Highway 191 and Highway 287. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks assisted MDOL in the hazing operations.

On 4/28/01, 4 male bison were successfully hazed back into the park from the Duck Creek area. An unsuccessful attempt was made to haze 1 male bison from the junction of Highway 191 and Highway 287. National Park Service and West Yellowstone Police Department personnel assisted with traffic control during hazing operations.

On 4/29/01, the MDOL successfully hazed 10 male bison from the Duck Creek area back into the park. Also, a mixed group of 34 bison was hazed from Highway 191, between mileposts 2 and 8, back into the park. An unsuccessful attempt was made to haze a mixed group of 9 bison from the Madison River. National Park Service and West Yellowstone Police Department personnel assisted with traffic control during hazing operations.

On 4/30/01, the MDOL successfully hazed 4 male bison from the Duck Creek area into the park. In addition, 3 male bison were hazed from Fir Ridge, near private property back, into the park.

On 5/01/01, MDOL successfully hazed a mixed group of 17 bison from private property back into the park. Four male bison were hazed from the west side of the South Fork of the Madison River, back into the park. In addition, 4 male bison were hazed from the junction of Rainbow Point Road and Highway 191. A mixed group of 24 bison was hazed from the Madison River back into the park. Four bulls were also hazed from the Duck Creek area, back into the park. National Park Service personnel assisted in these hazing events on horseback and also assisted with law enforcement and traffic control. The U.S. Forest Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office also assisted MDOL in the hazing operations. MDOL used a helicopter was used for hazing operations.

On 5/02/01, MDOL hazed 3 male bison from Miller and Baker's Hole, 12 female bison from the junction of Rainbow Point Road and Highway 191, and 4 male bison from Duck Creek. All three groups were successfully hazed into the park. National Park Service personnel assisted

with traffic control in these hazing events. The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office assisted MDOL with law enforcement in the hazing operations.

Bison Killed from Management Actions: No bison were killed during this reporting period. Total bison killed from management actions is 5.

Natural Mortality: Observations of natural mortality are usually limited to road corridors, incidental observations by NPS or field research personnel, or occasional observations from aircraft. No natural mortalities were reported for this period. Total reported natural mortality to date is 8 bison.

Other Mortality: No other mortality was reported for this period. Total other mortality to date is 4.