

# Buffalo Field Campaign



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## THE YELLOWSTONE BISON NEED YOUR HELP



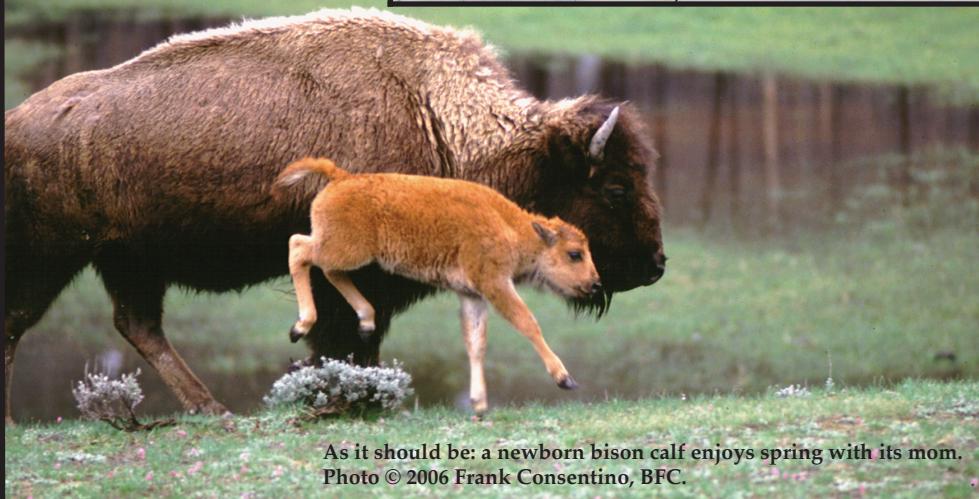
On January 12, 2006 the Montana Department of Livestock suspended the bison hunt to haze a herd that was grazing within Montana's "tolerance" zone. After agents pushed them onto the thin ice of Hebgen Lake, 14 bison broke through and two drowned. Photo © 2006 D. Brister, BFC.



A young hunter stands over his kill.  
Photo © 2006 Kim Acheson, BFC.



Awaiting shipment to slaughter in the Stephens Creek bison trap within Yellowstone National Park  
Photo © 2006 Kim Acheson, BFC.



As it should be: a newborn bison calf enjoys spring with its mom.  
Photo © 2006 Frank Consentino, BFC.

## Over a Thousand Wild Buffalo Killed in 2006

The National Park Service shared Montana's intolerance for Yellowstone bison in 2006. Together, state and federal agents killed 1,010, more than twenty percent, of America's only continuously wild bison herd.

The Park Service was solely responsible for the death of 911 bison, the most

killed by the agency in its 90 year history. Montana Department of Livestock agents killed another 59 bison and 40 were killed in an ill-conceived "hunt" authorized by the agency.

The Buffalo Field Campaign was here with the bison to bear witness, document their mistreatment, and share their story with the

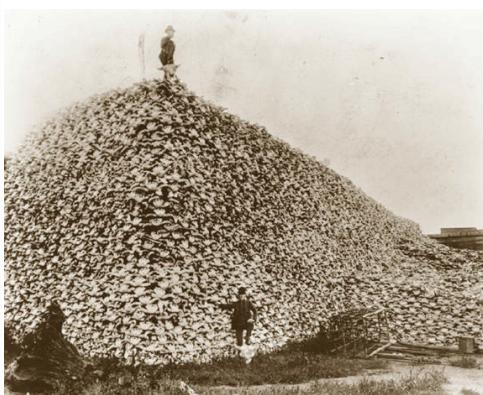
world in our effort to gain them lasting protection.

Please read on to learn how you can help the Buffalo Field Campaign permanently protect the Yellowstone bison and their right to migrate freely to their native habitat in Montana.

# Wild Bison: an Endangered Icon

## History Repeating: The 21st Century Slaughter

The wild buffalo of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) are the last genetically pure remnant of the great herds of millions that once thundered across the American plains. Descended from just 23 buffalo that survived the 19th century slaughter, today's Yellowstone herd is the only herd to continuously occupy its native habitat. Unfenced and free of cattle genes, this unique herd holds the key to the future of wild buffalo in America.



A mountain of buffalo skulls stands testament to the enormity of the 19th century slaughter.

During the summer, buffalo freely roam the meadows and grasslands of the Yellowstone Plateau. Each winter as snow obscures the grass their bodies are built from, buffalo migrate to lower elevations. As spring approaches hundreds of buffalo gather on the Horse Butte Peninsula, National Forest lands, to calve, then return to the park's interior during the summer and fall.

These migration routes lead the buffalo into Montana where a violent conflict awaits them. Montana drives an aggressive policy of hazing, shooting, and slaughtering Yellowstone buffalo that migrate into the state. Since 1985, state and federal agencies have killed 4,935 wild buffalo.



Six Montana Department of Livestock agents waste tax dollars to haze a lone bull bison out of Montana. In light of the fact that bulls can not transmit brucellosis, such actions reveal that Montana's intolerance for bison has more to do with prejudice against bison than with fear of disease transmission.

## Why are the Last Wild Buffalo Being Killed?

Bowing to pressure from the livestock industry, Montana has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for wild buffalo. The cattle-producers' influence is so pervasive that the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) to protect wildlife for future generations has been entirely subverted, as evidenced by the Park Service slaughter of 911 buffalo in 2006.

The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) has always blamed its lack of tolerance for wild buffalo on the presence of the livestock disease brucellosis. The DOL claims that Montana's cattle industry would suffer great consequences if buffalo were allowed to roam in Montana.

*There has never been a documented case of brucellosis transmission from wild buffalo to domestic livestock.*

Over 120,000 elk inhabit the GYE. Elk also carry brucellosis, yet freely roam without drawing the ire of cattle ranchers.

The livestock industry views wild buffalo as a source of competition for grazing "rights" on public lands outside the Park. Another reason for the slaughter is the protection of taxpayer-subsidized cattle grazing on public lands and the maintenance of political hegemony by Montana's livestock industry. Wild buffalo represent a spirit of freedom and independence that is the antithesis of livestock production.

Unwilling to share the land with native bison, Montana's livestock industry has forced upon the state and federal agencies a plan whereby bison are not tolerated in the state.

Today's buffalo slaughter is a continuation of a centuries-old range war that has already taken the lives of millions of buffalo.

## Solutions to the Slaughter:

\* Buffalo should be recognized as a valued native wildlife species and managed by wildlife professionals.

\* Buffalo should be given full year-round access to public lands outside Yellowstone National Park.

\* The DOL should develop brucellosis-proof management plans for all domestic cattle that continue to graze in the GYE.

\* The federal brucellosis classification system should be modified to allow more flexible management of wildlife and cattle in the GYE.



DOL agents use a helicopter to chase a previously captured, brucellosis-free bull bison.

\* Native American tribes should be included in all decisions relating to the management of wild buffalo in Montana.

\* Landowners who allow wildlife to use their land should be provided with tax incentives.

\* Public lands currently designated for livestock grazing should be reclassified to give priority to native wildlife species.

\* Wildlife migration corridors should be established that allow buffalo and other species to cross roads and highways and move freely between the Park and habitat areas in Montana.

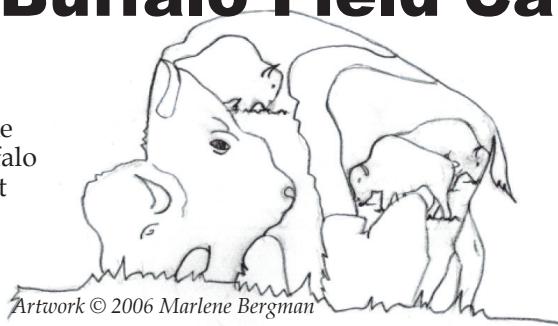
\* Livestock producers who choose to maintain brucellosis-susceptible operations should be provided with wildlife-proof fencing to ensure that cattle and bison do not co-mingle.

# Support the Buffalo Field Campaign Today!

Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) is the only group working in the field every day to protect the Yellowstone buffalo. Volunteers defend the buffalo on their native range and document every move made against them.

During the severe winter of 1996-'97 the DOL slaughtered 1,084 buffalo, the most killed in a single year since the 19th century.

Tribal and environmental activists



## Support the Grassroots Work of the Buffalo Field Campaign

organized BFC in 1997 as a front-lines presence to defend the buffalo and educate the world about their plight. BFC works with people of all nations to protect these sacred beings and advocates for tribal and citizen involvement in management decisions affecting the herd.

A true grassroots organization, BFC is made possible by the support of people throughout Montana, across the country, and around the world.

### We Need Your Help to Protect the Last Free Roaming Wild Buffalo

*Please make a tax deductible donation to the Buffalo Field Campaign today!*

Your donations feed, clothe, equip and house volunteers, support our public education and outreach efforts, and help us protect Yellowstone's native wild buffalo! \$50 supports one activist in the field for one week.

**Thank You!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution of :  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$

All the cash (and lint) in my pocket \$

Send me a receipt for my tax-deductible donation.

Add me to your confidential weekly email update list.

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

Let me know about other ways I can help the buffalo.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ newsletters to redistribute.

I'd also like to order: (please specify tee shirt size)

Notecards @ \$10 / package of 10 (see below)

T-shirts @ \$15 each (design at right)

2006 DVD's @ \$10 each

Let Buffalo Roam Sticker @ \$1 each

Please send contributions and

correspondence to: Buffalo Field

Campaign, P.O. Box 957,

West Yellowstone, Montana 59758



## Frontlines Defense of the Yellowstone Bison

The core program of the Buffalo Field Campaign is the operation of daily field patrols along bison migration corridors near the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Patrols remain in the field from sunrise to sunset during times of year when buffalo are in Montana, typically between late October and early June. Volunteers equipped with still and video cameras document every action taken against buffalo and the environmental toll these operations exact on all wild species in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

The direct experience of countless days in the presence of wild buffalo provides BFC volunteers with unparalleled knowledge and awareness, and inspires a wide-range of initiatives designed to bring permanent protection to the Yellowstone herd. BFC is the world's primary news and information source on the buffalo slaughter. For nearly a decade, national and international media outlets have turned to BFC for credible resources to cover this story.



### The Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act

The Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act (HR 2428) is the result of collaborative efforts between BFC and other groups to gain federal protection for Yellowstone buffalo. This bipartisan bill in the U.S. Congress will create a three-year moratorium on the hazing, capture, and killing of Yellowstone buffalo on all federal public lands. The bill directs the agencies to allow wild buffalo to freely roam their critical habitat. Learn more about the bill at [www.buffalofieldcampaign.org](http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org) and contact your representative today.



Use the order form above to order BFC bumper stickers, notecards, and tee shirts. Bumper stickers (pictured here) are brown on white background. The black and white reproduction of the "Love, Respect, Protect" notecard mandala (below) doesn't do justice to Marian Osher's vibrant colorful design. All purchases benefit BFC's frontlines work.



"Love, Respect, Protect the Yellowstone Bison"  
© 2006 Marian Osher

# Buffalo Field Campaign

P.O. Box 7941  
Missoula, MT 59807

*The Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) is the only group working 365 days a year to protect the Yellowstone buffalo herd, the only continuously wild, free roaming and genetically pure population in the United States. BFC volunteers defend the buffalo and their native habitat, and document every move made against them.*



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 514  
Missoula, MT

Buffalo Field Campaign and Patagonia, Inc teamed up to launch this billboard campaign in July 2006 aimed at educating visitors to Yellowstone National Park. Contact BFC to learn how you can help keep these billboards up and the pressure on the Park Service.



 Printed on Recycled Paper with Soy-Based Ink

## YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE BUFFALO

### Contribute to the Work of the Buffalo Field Campaign!

The Buffalo Field Campaign is everyone, everywhere, who cares about America's wild buffalo and acts on their behalf. More than 2,500 volunteers have joined our field patrols in defense of the buffalo.

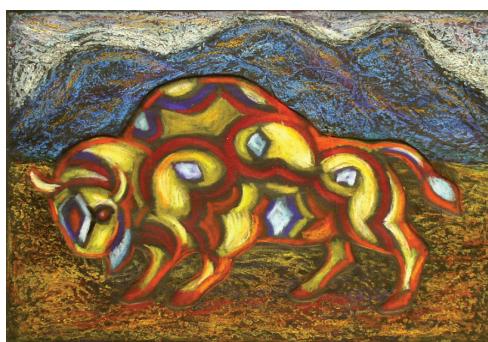
Countless others have made our work possible by sending donations. The majority of our funding comes through individual donations from people like you.

Please donate today and take part in the crucial movement to protect the Yellowstone bison. All contributions go directly to BFC's front-lines work to protect the buffalo and share their plight with the world. We are a very efficient grassroots organization and will use your tax-deductible contribution to keep our volunteers in the field and to bring about lasting, positive change for the buffalo.

Contact Dan Brister at: [dan@wildrockies.org](mailto:dan@wildrockies.org) for a copy of BFC's Annual Report and for more information on ways you can help BFC ensure the future of America's wild buffalo.

### Stay Informed

BFC's weekly email Updates from the Field educate and inform bison advocates around the world with the latest news affecting the Yellowstone herd. Updates include concrete actions you can take to help protect the buffalo. To subscribe, send an email to: [bfc-media@wildrockies.org](mailto:bfc-media@wildrockies.org).



"The Painted Buffalo" © 2006 Marian Osher.

### [www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org](http://www.BuffaloFieldCampaign.org)

BFC's web site is the definitive source of news and information on the Yellowstone bison. Check the site for BFC footage, photos, and up-to-date information.

### Spread the Word And Save the Herd!

Contact BFC to learn how to host video showings, distribute newsletters, gather petition signatures, sponsor a "Bucks for Buffalo" jar, and raise awareness of the buffalo in your community.

### Volunteer in the Field

BFC's busiest field season is between November and June. Volunteers receive room and board and are equipped with all the gear necessary to stay warm and dry in one of the most intense and beautiful climates in North America. Contact [buffalo@wildrockies.org](mailto:buffalo@wildrockies.org) for more info on volunteering.

### Take Action For the Buffalo

Make a call or write a letter to Yellowstone's Superintendent asking why the Park insisted on slaughtering nearly 1,000 buffalo in 2006:

Superintendent Suzanne Lewis  
Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
(307) 244-2002  
[suzanne\\_lewis@nps.gov](mailto:suzanne_lewis@nps.gov)