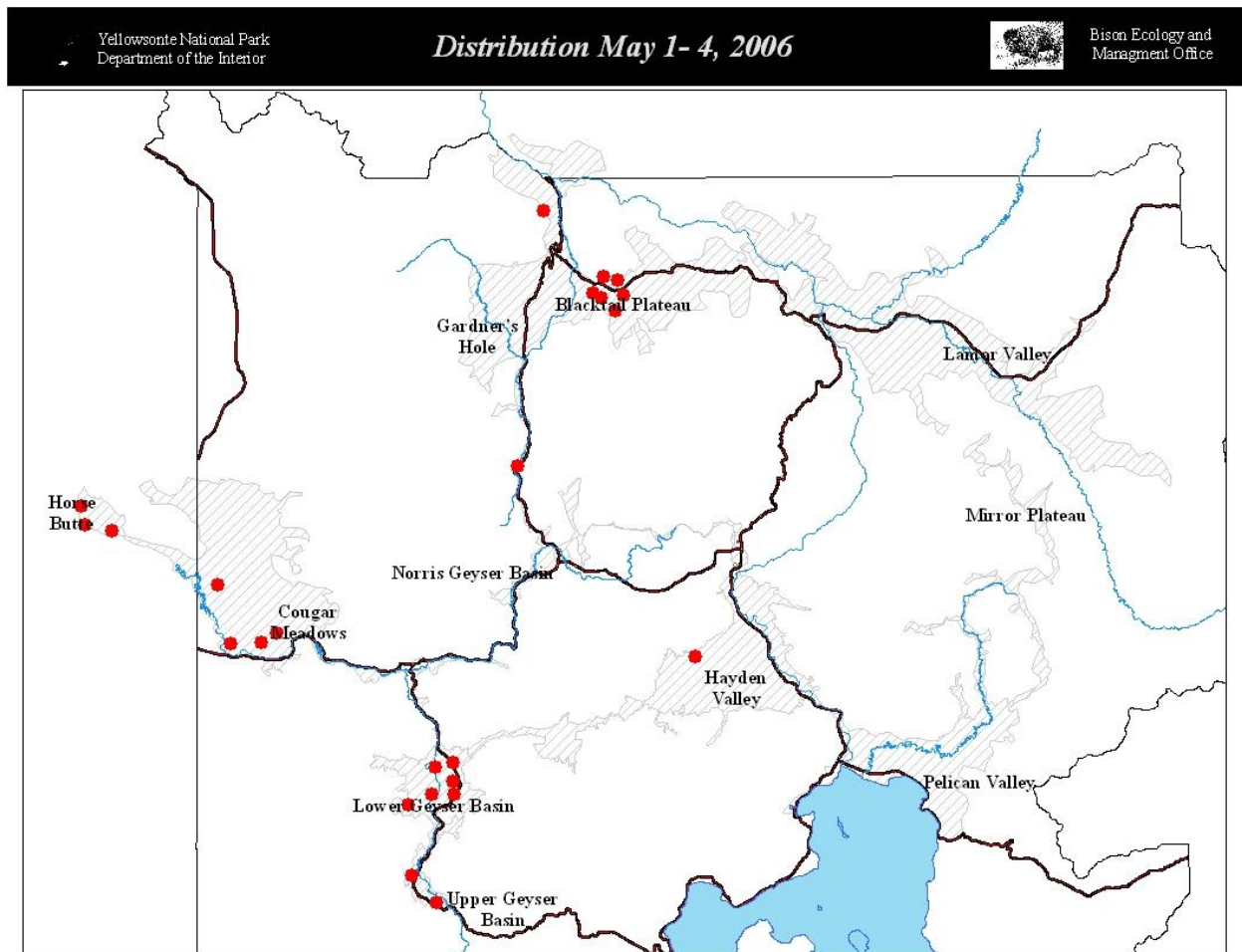


YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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 October 2005 through 30 September 2006. The reporting period for this summary is **19 April through 05 May 2006**.

PARKWIDE DISTRIBUTION:

Distribution information is provided by ground-based surveys conducted by biological field technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office. Additional Madison-Gibbon-Firehole Complex information is provided by the Montana State University Predator-Prey Study Team.



Red points illustrate the location of a park-wide representative sample of marked individual bison.

Bison that were using the Lower Geyser Basin have rapidly moved north and west to the Madison River Corridor between Cougar Meadows and Horse Butte. Animals released from the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility continue to predominantly use Blacktail Plateau. We are yet to see the beginning of the Central Herd migration east into Hayden Valley across Mary Mountain.

MANAGEMENT ZONE COUNTS:

Management zone count information is provided by monthly ground based surveys conducted by biological field technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office.

The next management zone count is scheduled for the middle of May.

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: 7 hazing events were reported.

19 April 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed from outside of the Park near the Corwin Springs Bridge to the Park Boundary.

21 April 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed from outside of the Park on [REDACTED] private property into the Eagle Creek Special Management Area (SMA).

25 April 2006: **13** bull bison were hazed from near the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility to Powerline Flats, near the Roosevelt Arch.

28 April 2006: **7** bull bison were hazed from outside of the Park near the Blanding Station into the Eagle Creek SMA.

1 May 2006: **62** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed from near the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility towards Roosevelt Arch.

3 May 2006: **5** bull bison were hazed from near the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility towards Rainbow Lake. **1** additional bull bison was unable to be moved.

4 May 2006: **10** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed from near the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility deeper within the Park.

The following **2** hazing events recently reported were excluded from previous reports. These updates are reflected in the summary table at the end of this report.

11 April 2006: **5** bull bison were hazed from outside of the Park near the Blanding Station into the Eagle Creek Special SMA.

18 April 2006: **25** bull bison were hazed from outside of the Park on [REDACTED] private property into the Eagle Creek SMA.

West Boundary Area: 1 hazing event was reported.

20 April 2006: 31 mixed age/sex class bison were hazed from Highway 287 approximately 7 miles back within the Park Boundary.

Disclaimer: Significant hazing operations occurred along Highway 287 and on Horse Butte during early May that have not yet been reported by the State of Montana Department of Livestock.

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: 0 bison were reported captured

West Boundary Area: 0 bison were reported captured.

Bison Transported to Slaughter

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Slaughter this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Slaughter (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	0	50
North	0	849

Bison Transported to Quarantine:

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Quarantine this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Quarantine (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	0	0
North	0	87

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	6*
North	1	3

* 2 bull bison shot during September 2005 in Zone 3 of the WMA

April 2006: 1 bull bison was shot within Yellowstone National Park after being hazed into the Park from near Corwin Springs. It is speculated that this animal was a domestic bison from a neighboring ranching operation. The animal was not tagged. Subsequent to removal, the animal was necropsied and tissue samples were collected for genetic testing. Results are pending.

Capture Pen Mortalities:

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Capture Pen Mortality this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Pen Mortality this operating season (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	0	0
North	0	8*

* This does not include 3 stillborn calves (April 2nd, 3rd and 15th)

Other Mortality:

“Other Mortality” includes all documented carcasses that are found on the Yellowstone landscape by biological technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office, hunter-take reported by MT Fish Wildlife and Parks game check stations and Motor Vehicle related mortalities reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection.

<i>Total Mortality (Oct 1 – pres)</i>	<i>Hunter Harvest this reporting period</i>	<i>Total HunterHarvest (Nov 15 – pres)</i>	<i>Other Mortality this reporting period (accidents, predation, etc.)</i>	<i>Total Other Mortality (Oct 1- pres) (accidents, predation, etc.)</i>
149	0	45	12	104

Disclaimer: Numerous workgroups including the YNP Bear Management Office and YNP Wolf Project are currently completing their annual carcass surveys. That information is still be analyzed and is not included in the above carcass tally.

FY Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mngmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Consigned to Slaughter without being Tested	Consigned to Slaughter (Test Positive)	Consigned to Slaughter (Tested Negative)	Released/Held (Test Negative)	Released/Held (Not Tested)	Vaccinated	Consigned to Quarantine	Capture/Pen Mortality
2005	West	September	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	North	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	October	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	November	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	December	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	January	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	January	20	0	673	98	572	6	5	0	0	0	87	3
2006	West	February	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
2006	North	February	19	1	266	0	266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	March	6	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	March	29	0	310	0	0	0	0	0	308	0	0	0
2006	West	April	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	April	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2006	West	May	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	May	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sum			105	9	1308	98	888	6	5	0	317	0	87	8