

REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 05/4/01 to 05/10/01

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Current Weather Conditions: High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 50°F to 72°F and low temperatures ranged from 24°F to 43°F for the reporting period. At Lake, between 5/8/01 and 5/11/01, low temperatures ranged from 25°F to 33°F, and high temperatures ranged from 52°F to 60°F. In West Yellowstone, between 05/05/01 and 05/10/01, low temperatures ranged from 17°F to 36°F, and high temperatures ranged from 50°F to 68°F.

Monitoring:

North Boundary area- NPS personnel conduct daily road patrols to report bison locations and movements near the north and west park boundary areas. During a bison flight survey on 5/08/01, 2,814 bison were counted parkwide. This included 2,537 adults and 277 calves. On 5/4/01, 1 male bison was located in the Eagle Creek/Bear Creek area, outside the park. On 5/8/01, 3 female bison and 3 calves were located near the Bunsen Peak Trailhead at the Maintenance Garage in Upper Mammoth. In addition, on 5/8/01, 5 bison were located outside the park in the Eagle Creek/Bear Creek area. On 5/9/01, a group of 4 bison was located at the south end of Swan Lake Flats, heading south.

West Boundary area- On 5/8/01, during an aerial survey for bison, 1,442 bison, including adults and calves, were counted from Madison Junction, inside the park, to Horse Butte, outside the park. Of those, 52 bison were located outside the park boundary. This included a mixed group of 25 bison located on the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake; 1 male bison on Horse Butte; a mixed group of 13 bison and 2 calves, located between the Madison River and Highway 191; and 5 males at the West Yellowstone Airport. Four groups totaling 82 bison, ranging in size from 2 to 41 animals, were located in the Duck/Campanula/Gneiss Creeks area just north of Richards Ponds. The closest group was approximately 0.45 miles inside the western park boundary.

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 5/4/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) reported successfully hazing 20 male bison from the Duck Creek area back into the park. One male bison from the Duck Creek

area and 19 male bison from Fur Ridge were hazed back into the park. Unsuccessful attempts were made to haze a group of 4 female bison and 3 calves from the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake.

On 5/5/01, MDOL successfully hazed a mixed group of 19 bison from the Duck Creek area back into the park. A group of 12 female bison and 6 calves was hazed from Highway 191 at milepost 3 back into the park. Nine male bison and 3 females were hazed from the Madison Rim of Hebgen Lake. A group of 13 male bison was hazed from private property near Duck Creek back into the park. Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and Montana Highway Patrol assisted with traffic control.

On 5/6/01, MDOL attempted to haze 3 male bison off Highway 287 and Grayling Creek; 2 were successfully hazed into the park, but the other remained outside the park. A mixed group of 14 bison was hazed into the park from the Duck Creek area. A mixed group of 8 bison was hazed from Highway 191 around milepost 3 into the park. National Park Service personnel assisted MDOL with traffic control.

On 5/7/01, MDOL successfully hazed two groups totaling 35 male bison from Fir Ridge and 3 male bison from Baker's Hole Campground into the park. An unsuccessful attempt was made to haze 3 male bison from Duck Creek into the park.

On 5/8/01, MDOL successfully hazed 7 male bison from Fir Ridge and 7 male bison from private property into the park.

On 5/9/01, MDOL successfully hazed 5 male bison from the Baker's Hole Campground area into the park and 14 male bison from Forest Service land into the park

On 5/10/01, MDOL successfully hazed several mixed groups, totaling 68 bison, from the Horse Butte area into the park. National Park Service (NPS) personnel assisted in the hazing operations on horseback and with traffic control. NPS personnel also assisted the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with Bald Eagle nest monitoring in closure areas on Horse Butte. The USFS, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, Parks, and the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office also assisted MDOL 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: On 5/9/01, an adult male bison was hit and killed by a vehicle just west of the Specimen Trailhead, near Junction Butte. Total other mortality to date is 5.