

REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 05/11/01 to 05/17/01

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Current Weather Conditions: High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 49°F to 81°F and low temperatures ranged from 33°F to 50°F for the reporting period. At Lake, between 5/12/01 and 5/16/01, low temperatures ranged from 27°F to 38°F, and high temperatures ranged from 45°F to 69°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. No bison were reported outside the park boundary.

West Boundary area- On 5/17/01, during an aerial survey for bison, 2 male bison were located along the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake, approximately 1 mile outside the park.

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 5/15/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) reported successfully hazing 24 male bison from the Duck Creek area back into the park. National Park Service personnel assisted MDOL on horseback and with traffic control during hazing operations. Montana Highway Patrol also assisted with traffic control during hazing operations.

On 5/16/01, MDOL successfully hazed 9 male bison from the Lower Bear Trap area into the park using a helicopter. Two male bison were hazed back into the park from the Yellowstone Village area. National Park Service assisted in the hazing operations on horseback. The Montana Highway Patrol and Gallatin County Sheriff's Office also provided traffic control during hazing operations.

On 5/17/01, MDOL successfully hazed 2 male bison from Lower Duck Creek and 2 male bison from the Madison Rim of Hebgen Lake into the park. National Park Service assisted with traffic control during 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 5/12/01, an adult male bison was hit and killed by a vehicle 1 mile north of West Yellowstone on Highway 191. On 5/14/01, 2 cows and 1 calf were hit and killed by a vehicle west of 7-mile Bridge on the West Entrance Road. Another calf was left orphaned in the incident and will likely die. Total other mortality to date is 10.