

REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 05/25/01 to 05/31/01

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Current Weather Conditions: High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 64°F to 80°F and low temperatures ranged from 33°F to 44°F for the reporting period. At Lake, between 5/28/01 and 5/31/01, low temperatures ranged from 27°F to 32°F, and high temperatures ranged from 57°F to 62°F. No report for West Yellowstone was available.

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 Yellowstone National Park's northern boundary.

West Boundary area- Park Service road patrols did not observe any bison outside the park boundary during the reporting period. During a bison reconnaissance flight on 5/31/01, 3 male bison were located on Horse Butte. 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 5/27/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) reported successfully hazing 3 male bison from Duck Creek and one male bison from Horse Butte back into the park. Unsuccessful attempts were made to haze 2 male bison from the Horse Butte area. National Park Service and West Yellowstone Police Department personnel assisted MDOL with traffic control during hazing operations. In addition, MDOL reported one male bison outside the park on the South Fork of the Madison that was not hazed.

On 5/28/01, MDOL successfully hazed 2 male bison from Duck Creek into the park. MDOL also reported 1 male bison at the Lower Bear Trap area and 3 male bison on Horse Butte that were not hazed.

On 5/30/01, MDOL successfully hazed one male bison from Duck Creek and 6 male bison from milepost 3 on Highway 191, into the park. One male bison was hazed from Forest Service land

back into the park. The Montana Highway Patrol assisted MDOL with traffic control during hazing operations.

On 5/31/01, MDOL successfully hazed 3 male bison from Horse Butte and 6 male bison from milepost 3 on Highway 191, into the park. A helicopter was used during hazing operations. In addition, 14 male bison in the Duck Creek area were hazed from the park boundary further into the park. National Park Service and Montana Highway Patrol personnel assisted MDOL 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. On 5/25/01, a female bison was reported dead near the Madison Campground. The bison was an older female and cause of death was apparently due to birthing complications. Also on 5/25/01, an adult bison carcass was reported in the Yellowstone River, north of LeHardy Rapids. Cause of death unknown but probably due to natural causes. Sex of the bison is unknown at this time. Total reported natural mortality to date is 10 bison.

Other Mortality: No other mortalities were reported for this period. Total reported other mortality to date is 10 bison.