

YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This report summarizes the 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. The reporting period for this summary is **4 May through 17 May 2002**.

Monitoring

National Park Service (NPS) personnel conduct daily road patrols to report bison locations and movements near the northern and western boundary areas. A mixed group of animals represents a cow calf group with some younger bulls and may or may not have any older bulls in the group. Only those dates for which reports were submitted are shown below.

North Boundary Area

Date	Group size & Age/Sex	Location
7 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 Bulls• 21 Mixed• 67 Mixed• 21 Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower Mammoth• Blacktail Deer Plateau• Blacktail Deer Plateau• Lava Creek
11 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 Mixed• 2 Bulls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undine Falls• Blacktail Deer Plateau

West Boundary Area

Only those dates for which reports were submitted are shown below.

Date	Group size / Age / Sex	Location
7 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Bull	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Between Madison and Cougar Creek along hwy 191

Hazing

North Boundary Area

On May 5, a total of three bison bulls were hazed from Reese Creek back towards the park's north boundary. Corral Operations assisted with park Law Enforcement and the bison were quickly driven back into the park.

West Boundary Area

On May 6, a total of nine bison were hazed. Three bulls were hazed from [REDACTED] private property, and six bulls were hazed from Fir Ridge. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance in the hazing operations.

On May 7, eight bull bison were hazed. The operation was successful, and the eight bulls were drove into the park from the Fir Ridge area. NPS personnel did not assist with the hazing operation.

On May 8, two bulls were hazed near the Duck Creek Capture Facility. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance with the hazing operations.

On May 9, five bulls were hazed near Bear trap. 132 mixed bison were also hazed along the Madison River. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance with the hazing operations.

On May 10, 13 bulls were hazed near the Duck Creek Capture Facility, and five bulls were hazed near the Bear Trap area. NPS personnel did not assist with the hazing operations.

On May 11, five bulls were hazed near the Duck Creek Capture Facility. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance.

On May 12, 10 bulls were hazed at the Duck Creek Capture Facility. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance.

On May 13, 16 bull bison were hazed near the Duck Creek Capture Facility. NPS personnel did not assist with the hazing operations.

On May 14, NPS personnel assisted with two hazing operations at Horse Butte and the Duck Creek/Fir Ridge areas. A total of 96 bison were hazed approximately one mile back inside the park boundary.

On May 15, NPS personnel assisted with hazing operations in the Horse Butte and Duck Creek/Fir Ridge areas. A total of 18 bison were successfully hazed back inside the park.

On May 16, two bulls were hazed from Fir Ridge, and another nine bulls were hazed from Duck Creek (one eluded capture). Later that day, 16 bulls were hazed from Fir Ridge, 15 were successfully driven back inside the park. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance.

On May 17, two bulls eluded hazing attempts at Cougar Creek and [REDACTED] private property, four bulls were successfully hazed along hwy 191, and 23 bulls from [REDACTED] private property. NPS personnel were not involved in the hazing operations.

Capture and Testing

North Boundary Area

No capture and testing was conducted at the Stephens Creek area during this time period.

West Boundary Area

No capture and testing was conducted at the Horse Butte or Duck Creek capture facilities during this time period.

Bison Transported to Slaughter

This reporting period – 0 (MTDOL)
0 (NPS)

Total for this winter – 170 (MTDOL)
0 (NPS)

Interagency Bison Management Plan Shooting Operations

Shooting operations may be conducted as part of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP).

This reporting period – 0 (MTDOL)
0 (NPS)

Total for this winter – 1 (MTDOL)
0 (NPS)

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. Not all mortality reports are received in time for inclusion into the appropriate bi-weekly report and therefore are added to future reports. During this reporting period there were two naturally occurring bison mortalities reported. The total number of known natural mortalities this winter has increased from 40 to 42.

Natural Mortality this reporting period – 2 Natural Mortality for this winter – 42

Natural Mortalities:

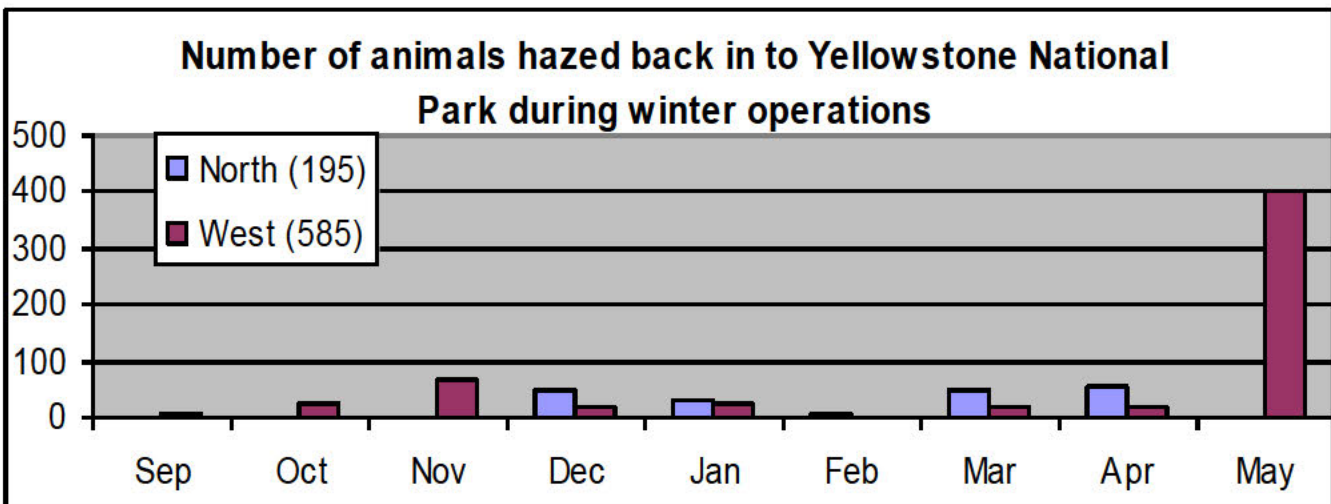
- 1 adult female – 5/8/02 – South of Harlequin Lake trailhead (unknown causes)**
- 1 calf of the year (unknown sex) – 5/8/02 - South of Harlequin Lake trailhead (possible starvation?)**
- 1 adult female – 4/26/02 – Obsidian Cliff (unknown causes)
- 1 adult female – 4/22/02 – underneath the Firehole River Bridge, near Craig Pass (drowning)
- 1 yearling female – 4/22/02 – behind the Old Faithful cabins, across the Firehole River (unknown causes)
- 1 adult bull – 4/22/02 – behind the boardwalk near the Old Faithful Geyser trail/boardwalk (unknown causes)
- 1 young of the year – 4/22/02 - Daisy Geyser Trailhead, along the Firehole River (stillborn?)
- 1 adult bull – 4/21/02 – Biscuit Basin (unknown causes)
- 1 young of the year – 4/12/02 – Blacktail Ponds (unknown causes)
- 1 adult female – 4/12/02 – Blacktail Ponds (unknown causes)
- 1 adult female – 4/11/02 – along Sentinal Creek (winterkill)
- 1 adult female – 4/11/02 – near Queens Laundry (wolf predation)
- 1 young of the year (unknown) – 4/11/02 – Sentinal Meadow (wolf predation)
- 1 adult female – 4/11/02 – across river from Excelsior Geyser runoff (pregnancy complications?)
- 1 young of the year (unknown) – 4/9/02 - (unknown causes)
- 1 young of the year (unknown) – 4/8/02 – (winterkill)
- 1 sub-adult female – 4/8/02 – Canyon employee trailer park (winterkill)
- 1 unknown adult – 4/3/02 – Pelican Creek just north of Footbridge (unknown causes)
- 1 newborn calf (unknown) – 4/3/02 – 1 mile west of Tanker Curve (abortion/stillborn)
- 1 young of the year female – 3/28/02 – behind Fishing Bridge Hamilton Store (winterkill)
- 1 adult female – 3/27/02 - Bridge Bay Flats on Lake shore (winterkill)
- 1 bull-3/22/02- Trout Creek (winterkill)
- 1 unknown –3/14/02 - Hellroaring (wolf predation)
- 1 adult female – 2/28/02 - ~1/4 mile west of Madison Junction (winterkill)
- 1 adult female – 2/27/02 – Steamboat Point (winterkill)
- 1 unknown adult – 2/27/02 – Ojo Caliente (unknown causes)
- 1 adult female – 2/24/02 – West of Lamar River Bridge (probable predation)
- 1 unknown adult bison – 2/14/02 - Hillside Springs area near Old Faithful (winterkill)
- 1 cow – 2/14/02 - Midway Geyser Basin (winterkill)
- 1 calf – 2/14/02 - Norris Geyser Basin (probable predation)
- 1 adult female- 2/13/02 – 100 Springs Plane, Norris Geyser Basin (winterkill)
- 1 unknown adult bison – 2/5/02 - Pelican Valley (probable predation)
- 1 unknown adult bison – 2/5/02 - Pelican Valley (probable predation)
- 1 cow – 2/1/02 - Norris Geyser Basin (winterkill)
- 1 calf- 1/31/02 - East of Slough Creek Campground Entrance (abortion)
- 1 calf – 1/24/02 Mary Bay - (wolf predation)
- 1 adult cow bison – 1/11/02 - (winterkill)
- 1 adult bull bison – 12/25/01 - (winterkill)
- 1 unknown adult bison – 12/8/01- Pelican Valley (probable predation)
- 1 unknown adult bison – end of November – Clearwater Creek Campground (unknown causes)
- 1 adult cow – 27 Mar 02 - Observed at Bridge Bay near road
- 1 calf (very young) – Observed along Madison River

Other Mortality

Observations of OTHER mortalities are usually limited to road corridors, incidental observations by NPS or field research personnel, or occasional observations from aircraft. OTHER mortalities are mortalities that are not covered under Natural Mortalities or Management Removals and may include, but are not limited to, animal/vehicle collisions (MVA), research mortalities, or dispatching of sick or injured animals that pose safety concerns. One OTHER mortality (MVA of a yearling bison) occurred during this reporting period. The total number of OTHER mortalities increased from six to seven.

This reporting period – 1 Total for this winter – 7...

- 1 yearling (sex unknown) – 5/11/02 – MVA
- 1 cow – 4/32/02 – Dispatched (broken leg)
- 1 cow – 1/25/02 - Dispatched (sick)
- 1 calf – 1/2/02 - Snowmobile MVA
- 1 bull – 9/24/01 - MVA
- 1 unknown bison – 9/20/01 - MVA



1 bull – 9/2/01 – MVA

