

## 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 **18 May through 31 May 2002**.

### Monitoring

No monitoring occurred during this time period.

### Hazing

#### North Boundary Area

No hazing was conducted in north boundary area during this time period.

#### West Boundary Area

On May 18, a total of seventeen bison were hazed. Eight bulls were hazed from private property, eight mixed (4 cows, 2 calves, 2 yearlings) were hazed from the Madison River, and one bull from the south side of Duck Creek. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance in the hazing operations.

On May 19, thirty-two bull bison and one cow/calf pair were hazed from private property. The operation was successful. NPS personnel did not assist with the hazing operation.

On May 20, twenty-nine bulls were hazed from Fir Ridge and later returned and were trapped at the Duck Creek capture facility. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance with the hazing operations.

On May 21, thirty-four bison were hazed. Two bulls were hazed back into the park from the Duck Creek area and two bulls hazed into the park from the Cougar Creek area. Another 26 bulls and 1 cow/calf pair were moved approximately one mile further back into the park from the park boundary near the Duck Creek capture facility. Two bulls avoided hazing near Horse Butte on private property, when they entered heavy timber. NPS personnel assisted in the hazing process.

On May 23, 122 total bison were hazed two miles back into the park. Thirteen bulls and one pair were hazed from private property, three bulls from the south side of Duck Creek, one bull from Forest Service land beside private property on Horse Butte, 57 mixed from the north side of Madison River, 43 mixed bison from Baker's Hole campground, and three from Fir Ridge. NPS personnel assisted with the traffic control.

On May 27, three bulls were hazed from private property. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance.

On May 28, four bulls were hazed. Three bulls were hazed from private property, and one bull from Cougar Creek. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance.

On May 29, thirteen bulls were hazed. Four bulls were hazed from property and additional nine bulls were picked up along the way and pushed approximately two miles back into the park. One bull from Horse Butte was located but put up resistance to hazing and was left in the area. Two bulls in the lower Bear Trap area could not be located. NPS personnel assisted with 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

On May 20, twenty-nine bull bison were captured in the Duck Creek capture facility after being hazed earlier in the day from Fir Ridge. These animals were sent to slaughter on May 22 without testing. NPS personnel were not requested for assistance in the capture operation.

## Bison Transported to Slaughter

This reporting period – 29 (MTDOL)  
0 (NPS)

Total for this winter – 199 (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 was one naturally occurring bison mortality reported. The total number of known natural mortalities this winter has increased from 42 to 43.

Natural Mortality this reporting period – 1      Natural Mortality for this winter – 43

Natural Mortalities:

### **1 adult unknown – 5/17/02 – Jasper Creek (unknown causes)**

- 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. Two OTHER mortalities (MVA of an adult male bison and dispatch of a sick bison calf) occurred during this reporting period. The total number of OTHER mortalities increased from 7 to 9.

This reporting period – 2      Total for this winter – 9

### **1 calf (sex unknown) – 5/31/02 – Dispatched (sick)**

#### **1 adult male – 5/21/02- MVA**

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

