

YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This report summarizes 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 for the time period 1 September 2008 through 31 August 2009. The reporting period for this summary is **16 May through 31 May 2009**.

PARKWIDE DISTRIBUTION:

*The information in the following paragraph is **not** intended as a population estimate. In some cases only radio collared bison were surveyed and areas/groups without a collar were not surveyed. In no way is this information complete and accurate enough for a population estimate.

Most bison on the west side have moved back up into the Firehole following hazing operations. Nothing has moved in Hayden Valley yet. On the northern range bison are primarily using Lamar Valley with a few groups in Little America.

HAZING OPERATIONS:

Hazing operations that occur near the North and West Boundaries are primarily conducted and reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection and MT Department of Livestock, respectively.

North Boundary Area: 0 hazing events were reported this period.

West Boundary Area: 16 hazing events were reported this period.

18 May: 16 bison were hazed from the Duck Creek area east into YNP.

19 May: 29 bison were located at the edge of Zone 3 south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake, near the Madison Arm Resort and were hazed to Cougar Meadows five miles inside the western boundary of YNP.

20 May: 15 cow bison and 4 calves were located in Zone 2 south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake, near the Madison Arm Resort and were hazed to Cougar Meadows five miles inside the western boundary of YNP.

21 May : 14 cow bison and 3 calves were located in Zone 2 south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake and hazed into YNP. These bison were eventually joined with 183 cows and 75 calves from Horse Butte and hazed to Cougar Meadows. A second herd of 290 bison were encountered in YNP and hazed to Cougar Meadows. Approximately 552 bison were hazed across the landscape of YNP. The hazing was conducted by personnel on horseback and a helicopter. (2 hazings)

22 May: 27cow bison and 5 calves were located in Zone 2 north of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake and hazed into YNP. 4 riders continued into the park with this herd, while 4 riders went to Horse Butte to find other reported bison. With one injured calf in the group, we gave them several breaks inside the park boundary and hazed them within an 1/8 of a mile of the slough meadow just below Cougar Meadows.

23 May: 49 cow bison and 5 calves were located in Zone 2 north of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake and hazed into YNP. We hazed the bison to the east end of the slough meadow near Cougar Meadows.

24 May: Approximately 35 cow bison and calves were located in Zone 2 approximately 2 miles west of Highway 191 just off of the Madison Arm Road. These bison were held in position as to not move further west. The decision to not haze into YNP was a result of safety concerns with the large number of holiday weekend visitors in the Bakers Hole Campground and adjacent areas.

25 May: 104 cow bison and 30+ calves were located in Zone 2 south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake and hazed east along the Madison Arm. The bison crossed the arm 2 miles from HWY 191. We proceeded to return to our trailers and look for bison north of the Madison Arm. The 104 bison were located 2 miles west of the transfer station along with 39 more cows 0.5 mile from the highway. We proceeded to haze the bison into YNP and continued to the slough meadow before Cougar Meadows.

27 May: 100 mixed bison and 23 calves were hazed from Cougar meadows to Fountain Flats. The bison were hazed out of Cougar Meadows with a helicopter and then hazed by riders. The group split at Madison Bridge, with most voluntarily walking south to the Nez Perce picnic area while being followed by riders. Additionally, a total of 200 bison were moved from the South Side of the Madison Arm and along the rim outside YNP back into YNP at the Western Boundary along the Madison River. The bison were herded five miles to Cougar Meadows by DOL contract helicopter, DOL and MTFWP horsemen. (2 hazings)

28 May: 257 mixed bison and 69 calves were hazed from 7 mile meadow to Fountain Flats. The bison were hazed out of Cougar Meadows with a helicopter and the group split at Madison Bridge, with 250 total bison voluntarily walking south to the Nez Perce picnic area while being followed by riders. Additionally, a total of 253 bison were hazed from outside YNP to Cougar Meadows; 60 were moved from the South Side of the Madison Arm and another 193 bison from Horse Butte. The bison were hazed by DOL contract helicopter, DOL and MTFWP horsemen. (2 hazings)

29 May: Approximately 250 bison with calves were hazed from Cougar Meadows to Seven-Mile Bridge by helicopter.

An additional 2 hazing operations were performed by the MDOL during this biweekly period but no information (date, # hazed, etc.) was given.

CAPTURE OPERATIONS: None

NO capture operations are currently underway.

INTERAGENCY BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOOTING OPERATIONS: None

NO shooting operations were reported.

HUNTER HARVEST: All hunt seasons are CLOSED.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bison Hunt ended on February 15, 2009. A total of one bull bison was shot on November 15, 2008 in Eagle Creek.

Native American Tribal Treaty Right Bison Hunts

Confederated Salish and Kootenai hunt season ended on January 30, 2009 with no bison taken.
Nez Perce Tribe hunt season ended on February 24, 2009 with no bison taken.

Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mgmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Slaughtered & Not Tested	Slaughtered & Tested Positive	Slaughtered & Tested Negative	Released/Held & Tested Negative	Released & Not Tested	Vaccinated	Capture/Pen Mortality	Hunter Take
2008	West	September	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	West	October 1-15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	October 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	West	October 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	October 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	West	November 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	November 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2008	West	November 16-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	November 16-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	West	December 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	December 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	West	December 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	North	December 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	January 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	January 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mgmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Slaughtered & Not Tested	Slaughtered & Tested Positive	Slaughtered & Tested Negative	Released/Held & Tested Negative	Released & Not Tested	Vaccinated	Capture/Pen Mortality	Hunter Take
2009	West	January 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	January 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	February 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	February 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	February 16-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	February 16-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	March 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	March 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	March 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	March 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	April 1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	April 1-15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	April 16-30	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	April 16-30	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	West	May 1-15	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	May 1-15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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2009	West	May 16-31	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	North	May 16-31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summary			60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1