



BUFFALO
FIELD CAMPAIGN

Protect Our National Mammal Presentation

Speaker Notes. Version 3.0

NOTES on this presentation:

- Slides 1-6 contain background information on our goals of this presentation.
- The presentation begins on Slide 7 (Leave this slide up when you are getting set up)

...

SPEAKER NOTES BEGIN HERE:

8. America's National Mammal

SPEAKER:

[Personal introduction and introduction of Our National Mammal]

...

9. National Bison Legacy Act Signed Into Law

SPEAKER:

On May 9, 2016, President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act into law, officially making the American bison the National Mammal of the United States.

...

"Protecting the Last Wild Bison"

10. Bald Eagle

SPEAKER:

The American Bison (or Buffalo) now joins the ranks of the Bald Eagle as an official symbol of our country.

...

11. Community, Natural Heritage, Strength of Spirit

SPEAKER:

Wild Buffalo embody Community, our Natural Heritage, and our Strength of Spirit

The American Bison is a keystone species; for plants and animals to survive and flourish, grassland ecosystems need free roaming buffalo on the land.

...

12. North America's Largest Mammal

SPEAKER:

The majestic bison is the largest land mammal in North America. Male bison can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall. A bison calf can weigh up to 70 pounds at birth.

...

13. From Alaska to Mexico, Nevada to Appalachia

SPEAKER:

In prehistoric times, millions of bison roamed North America:

From the forests of Alaska in the north, to the grasslands of Mexico in the south.

From the Appalachian Mountains in the east to Nevada's Great Basin in the west.

Today, fewer than 3,600 wild bison exist within the Yellowstone ecosystem

...

14. Lewis & Clark

SPEAKER:

The sight of the bison herds was awe inspiring.

When Lewis and Clark encountered the bison at South Dakota's White River, they wrote:

“The moving multitude...they darkened the whole plains”

...

15. John Fire Lame Deer Quote

SPEAKER:

The life of the bison and Native People are intertwined. In the words of Lakota Holy Man, John Fire Lame Deer:

“The buffalo gave us everything we needed. Without it we were nothing. Our tipis were made of his skin. His hide was our bed, our blanket, our winter coat.

.....His flesh strengthened us, became flesh of our flesh.”

...

16. Man standing on skulls

SPEAKER:

Buffalo also remind us of a dark recklessness in the quest for land and profit.

The American Buffalo were hunted to near extinction.

Out of the millions of buffalo that once roamed North America, by the late 1800s only a few hundred remained in the United States.

For the US Military and industrialists, eliminating the buffalo also meant eliminating the staff of life for Native Americans, and taking the land that sustained them.

...

17. Resilience

SPEAKER:

Despite being driven to near extinction, 23 individual wild buffalo survived in Pelican Valley inside Yellowstone National Park.

... a testament to their strength of spirit and resilience.

BUT the work is not over.

...

18. Buffalo Field Campaign

SPEAKER:

In 1997, Buffalo Field Campaign was established by Lakota elder Rosalie Little Thunder and Mike Mease to establish a permanent buffalo defense for the Yellowstone herds.

...

19. The Last Wild Herds

SPEAKER:

What makes the Yellowstone herds special?

In the United States, the Yellowstone herds are the last continuously wild, migratory buffalo populations that remain intact.

The Yellowstone bison are the last descendants of the early bison that roamed our country's grasslands.

...

20. Mother and Calf

SPEAKER:

The Yellowstone ecosystem is the only place in the U.S. where bison have continuously lived since prehistoric times.

Currently, Yellowstone's bison population numbers fewer than 3,600 — making them vulnerable to extinction.

...

21. Threats

SPEAKER:

The last wild herds of the Yellowstone ecosystem face many threats.

...

22. Natural Habitat Protection

SPEAKER:

In 2016, thanks to endless pressure, endlessly applied by Buffalo Field Campaign, over 200,000 acres of public land on the Horse Butte Peninsula were protected as year around wild bison habitat.

...

23. DOL Round Up

SPEAKER:

Buffalo Field Campaign also works to protect the wild Yellowstone buffalo and their calves from harassment on National Forest lands by the Montana Department of Livestock and other government agents.

...

24. Slaughter

SPEAKER:

The Yellowstone buffalo are also victims to hunting and slaughter.

...

25. 1995 Buffalo Field Campaign

SPEAKER:

In 1995, controversial legislation (MCA 81-2-120) was put into place transferring authority over bison management from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL).

...

26. Penned Buffalo 1

SPEAKER:

On behalf of the Montana Department of Livestock, more than 6000 bison have been slaughtered, more than the entire population of wild buffalo alive in the Yellowstone ecosystem today.

*Still image from short film "Our National Mammal"

...

27. Penned Buffalo 2

...

28. Penned Buffalo 3

...

29. BFC Field Work

SPEAKER:

The work of BFC in the field is crucial. Buffalo Field Campaign monitors buffalo migration, changes in their health and safety as well as the activities of Yellowstone National Park, the Montana Department of Livestock, and all complicit agencies.

BFC monitors the hunt and also educates and activates our members, supporters, and the public to the plight of the Yellowstone herds.

...

30. BFC Legislative Work

SPEAKER:

Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working in the field, in the courts, and policy arenas to protect America's last wild buffalo and their habitat.

...

31. Bison Safe Zone

SPEAKER:

Our primary goal is to create permanent, year-around protection for the Yellowstone herds and the ecosystem they depend on.

...

32. Become an Ally

SPEAKER:

But we need your help.

Become an ally. Help Buffalo Field Campaign protect America's National Mammal. Help us protect the last wild descendants of the original bison that roam our country's grasslands.

...

33. How can you help?

SPEAKER:

How can you help?

...

34. Help Recover Wild Migratory Bison

SPEAKER:

Help us protect the American Bison as an Endangered Species

America is blessed with an abundance of public trust lands: National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management holdings.

Public trust lands can and should provide habitat for wild bison recovery.

Buffalo Field Campaign has won the first round in the long and arduous process of Endangered Species Act listing. By becoming a supporting member of BFC you can help to fund, educate and support our efforts to ensure that this country's only wild, migratory buffalo are protected and have the freedom to roam!

...

35. Help us Raise Public Awareness

SPEAKER:

Help us Raise Public Awareness of Our National Mammal

The National Bison Legacy Act does NOT include protective measures for wild bison

Sec. 3(b) Rule of Construction states:

Nothing in this Act . . . shall be construed or used as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other action by the Federal Government.

Buffalo Field Campaign has been working to educate the public and legislators on the failure of the National Bison Legacy Act and its failure to include the same protective measures for the American Bison that are granted to the Bald Eagle.

[CALL TO ACTION] :

You can help by contacting your members of congress do demand protections for our National Mammal!

Find helpful links on our site to help you get you in touch with your representatives:

buffalofieldcampaign.org/get-involved

...

36. Become an Advocate

SPEAKER:

Become an Advocate

Help us educate the public on the plight of our National Mammal. Give this presentation to your class, coworkers, community group or any group who may be interested.

[CALL TO ACTION] :

See me after this presentation for more information

...

37. Visit BuffaloFieldCampaign.org and get involved

SPEAKER:

Some other ways to be our ally:

- Join Us in the Field!

Come to West Yellowstone and volunteer with BFC and with the buffalo! All volunteers receive room, board, training and the honoring of standing with Our Sacred Buffalo.

- Sign up for our Updates from the Field!

Continue to educate yourself about the buffalo with these weekly updates that include photos, field journals, and calls to action.

- Pledge to donate monthly to support our work and the buffalo and become a Buffalo Guardian.

Your support ensures that Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers stay warm, well fed, and ready to do their work in the field with the buffalo.

Your support ensures that Buffalo Field Campaign's work in the courts and policy arena is sustained, growing, and strong.

[CALL TO ACTION] :

You can find all the links on **buffalofieldcampaign.org** or please come see me after the presentation

...

38. Spread the word on Social Media

SPEAKER:

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Share our updates and news releases.

...

39. Financial Support

SPEAKER:

Buffalo Field Campaign is a formalized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are always thankful and appreciative for any financial support you can offer us.

...

40. Buffalo Crossing Summary

SPEAKER:

We are fortunate to live in this beautiful country. Our National Mammal is the spiritual symbol of our natural heritage, strong family and community bonds, resilience, and freedom to roam.

...

41. Save Our National Mammal

SPEAKER:

Buffalo Field Campaign co-founder, Lakota Elder, Rosalie Little Thunder, taught us:

“We and the buffalo share a common history that we dare not forget...an inseparable destiny.”

We must Save Our National Mammal. The time is now! Please support Buffalo Field Campaign.

...

41. Thank You

Buffalo Field Campaign

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

PO Box 957

West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

BuffaloFieldCampaign.Org

Contact:

Justine Sanchez

sanchez@buffalofieldcampaign.org

Prepared by Nick Ito | stmrks.net