

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 for the time period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. The reporting period for this summary is **19 April 2005 thru 09 May 2005**.

Monitoring

Table 1. Yellowstone National Park Bison Management Zone Ground Count

NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONE	April 2005
IBMP Zone 1	14
IBMP Zone 2	0
Eagle Creek SMA	24
Hellroaring/Cottonwood Creek	23
Blacktail	322
Swan Lake Flats/Gardner's Hole	5
Total For Northern Zone	388
WESTERN MANAGEMENT ZONE	
IBMP Zone 1	70
IBMP Zone 2	17
Cougar Meadows	130
West of Madison Junction	268
Total for Western Zone	485

Hazing of Bison

North Boundary Area

On 22 April, a mixed group of 43 were successfully hazed from Stephens Creek area back into the Park. Three NPS employees performed the hazing on horse.

On 22 April, 1 bull from [REDACTED] private property and 10 mixed from Eagle Creek campground were successfully hazed back into the SMA. One DOL employee performed the hazing on foot.

On 26 April, 16 mixed bison in the am and 9 bulls in the pm were successfully hazed from Eagle Creek campground back into the SMA. One DOL employee performed the hazing on foot in the am and on horse in the pm.

On 28 April, 12 of 13 bulls from Eagle Creek were successfully hazed back in the SMA and 1 bull from Gardiner airport was successfully hazed back into the park. Five NPS employees and one DOL employee performed the hazing on horse.

On 29 April, 5 bulls from Eagle Creek were successfully hazed back into the SMA. One DOL employee performed the hazing on horse.

On 4 May, 6 bulls from Eagle Creek were successfully hazed back into the SMA. One DOL employee performed the hazing on foot.

On 6 May, 14 bulls from Eagle Creek campground were successfully hazed back in to the SMA. One DOL performed the hazing on horse.

West Boundary Area

On 19 April, 37 mixed bison from Horse Butte were successfully hazed to the Duck Creek capture facility. Seven DOL, two NPS, and two MFWP employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV.

On 20 April, 345 mixed bison from Horse Butte, 39 mixed bison from Madison River, and 12 bulls from Duck Creek were successfully hazed back into the Park. Two NPS, two MFWP, and three DOL employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV.

On 27 April, 54 mixed bison from Horse Butte, 4 bulls from upper Bear Trap, and 3 bulls from Red Canyon were successfully hazed back into the Park. Nine DOL, one NPS, and two MFWP employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV.

On 28 April, 20 mixed bison from Horse Butte, 4 mixed bison from the Madison, and 3 bulls from Duck Creek were successfully hazed back into the Park. Six DOL, one NPS, and one MFWP employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV.

On 1 May, 10 mixed bison from Duck Creek and 10 mixed bison from Fir Ridge were successfully hazed back into the Park. Two DOL employees performed the hazing on ATV.

On 2 May, 1 bull from [REDACTED] private property, 7 bulls from [REDACTED] private property, and 9 mixed bison from [REDACTED] private property were successfully hazed back into the Park. Five DOL employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV.

On 4 May, 71 mixed bison from Horse Butte, 22 mixed bison from Madison River Arm, 22 mixed bison from W hwy 191, 13 mixed bison and 5 bulls from Rainbow Point road, 3 bulls from upper Bear Trap, and 1 bull from lower Bear Trap were successfully hazed back into the park. Two NPS and six DOL employees performed the hazing on horse and ATV and by helicopter.

On 5 May, 1 bull from [REDACTED] private property, 12 mixed bison from the transfer station along hwy 191, 3 cows from Duck Creek, 9 mixed bison from the power line are along hwy 191, and 4 bulls from [REDACTED] private property were successfully. Five DOL and one NPS employee performed the hazing on horse.

Capture and Testing

North Boundary Area

No capture and testing occurred in the North boundary area this reporting period.

West Boundary Area

On 19 April, 37 mixed bison were captured.

On 1 May, 12 bulls were captured and not tested.

On 2 May, 5 bulls were captured and not tested.

Bison Transported to Slaughter

This reporting period:	16 (West)	Total since October 1, 2004:	81 (West)
	0 (North)		0 (North)

On 1 May and 2 May a total of 16 bulls were transported to slaughter having not been tested.

Interagency Bison Management Plan Shooting Operations

Shooting operations may be conducted as part of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). No bison were shot as a result of lethal removal operations during this reporting period.

This reporting period: 0 (West)
0 (North)

Total since October 1, 2004: 0 (West)
1 (North)

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 listed in future reports.

Natural Mortality this reporting period – 3

Natural Mortality since October 1, 2004 – 91

1 Calf	05/05/05	Natural Unknown
1 Adult Female	05/02/05	Natural Unknown
1 Adult Male	04/25/05	Natural Unknown

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.

OTHER mortality this reporting period – 0

Total since October 1, 2004 – 6

1 Adult Female	03/30/05	MVA
1 Adult Female	03/19/05	MVA
1 Adult Female	03/07/05	MVA
1 Adult Male	03/06/05	MVA
1 Calf Unknown	11/08/04	MVA
1 Yearling Cow	10/3/04	MVA