

# REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 06/8/01 to 06/14/01

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

**Current Weather Conditions:** High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 40°F to 81°F and low temperatures ranged from 19°F to 34°F for the reporting period. High temperatures at West Yellowstone ranged from 39°F to 77°F and low temperatures ranged from 28°F to 39°F. At Lake, between 6/11/01 and 6/14/01, low temperatures ranged from 26°F to 43°F, and high temperatures ranged from 34°F to 60°F. On 6/12/01 and 6/13/01, between 3 to 10 inches of snow fell throughout the park.

### **Monitoring:**

North Boundary area- NPS personnel conduct daily road patrols to report bison locations and movements near the north and west park boundary areas. No bison were reported outside Yellowstone National Park's northern boundary.

West Boundary area- Park Service road patrols did not observe any bison outside the park boundary during the reporting period. See State Actions below.

### **Hazing:**

North Boundary area- The NPS did not haze bison during the report period.

West Boundary area- See State Actions below.

**Capture and Testing Operations:** The NPS did not conduct capture operations at the Stephens Creek facility.

**Bison Sent to Slaughter:** No bison were sent to slaughter.

**Shooting Operations:** The NPS did not conduct shooting operations during the report period.

**State Actions:** All hazing events took place on the Western boundary of Yellowstone National Park. On 6/9/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) personnel sighted one male bison on the Madison Rim. On 6/10/01, MDOL unsuccessfully hazed one bull from the South Fork of the Madison near Highway 20, and one male bison from private property in the Horse Butte area. The latter bison entered the eagle closure area, Zone 1, where it remained. On 6/14/01, MDOL personnel tracked one male bison in the Horse Butte area and one male bison near the South Fork of the Madison, outside the park. Neither bison was sighted and no hazing occurred.

**Additions:** Earlier bison reports failed to include several hazing operations and incidences where Park Service personnel assisted MDOL during hazing operations. On 4/16/01, a National Park Service ranger assisted MDOL with traffic control on Highway 191. On 5/11/01, 12 male bison were moved from the Lower Bear Trap area near Duck Creek, and one male bison was moved from private property near Highway 20, back into the park. National Park Service personnel assisted MTDOL with hazing operations. Three rangers assisted on horseback and one assisted

with traffic and as an observer in the contract helicopter. Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, Montana Highway Patrol, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks personnel also assisted during hazing operations. On 5/14/01, NPS rangers assisted MDOL personnel on horseback and with traffic control during hazing operations outside the park in the Duck Creek area. Sixteen male bison were moved further into the park near the Fir Ridge boundary.

**Bison Killed from Management Actions:** No bison were killed during this reporting period. Total bison killed from management actions is 5.

**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. Lake Resource Management personnel reported a bison carcass in the Yellowstone River near LeHardy Rapids. Cause of mortality appears due to natural causes. Sex of the subadult bison is unknown. Total reported natural mortality to date is 11 bison.

**Other Mortality:** No other mortalities were reported for this period. Total other bison mortalities reported to date is 10 bison.