

REPORT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BISON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Report Period: 05/18/01 to 05/24/01

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Current Weather Conditions: High temperatures in Mammoth ranged from 58°F to 77°F and low temperatures ranged from 24°F to 55°F for the reporting period. At Lake, between 5/21/01 and 5/24/01, low temperatures ranged from 25°F to 29°F, and high temperatures ranged from 53°F to 71°F. No report for West Yellowstone was available.

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. During a bison reconnaissance flight on 5/23/01, a total of 43 male bison were located outside Yellowstone National Park. This included: 6 on Horse Butte, 20 at Fir Ridge, 12 on the Grayling Arm of Hebgen Lake, one at the gravel pit near the junction of Highway 191 and 287, one at Cougar Creek, one at the West Yellowstone airport, and 2 at the Baker's Hole campground. 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 5/20/01, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) reported successfully hazing one male bison from Duck Creek; 7 male bison from the Madison River by Baker's Hole; and one male bison from Horse Butte back into the park. Unsuccessful attempts were made to haze 2 male bison from the Duck Creek area. National Park Service Personnel assisted MDOL with traffic control during hazing operations. In addition, MDOL reported 3 male bison outside the park at Lower Bear Trap and one male bison was sighted on Horse Butte. These 4 bison were not hazed.

On 5/21/01, while returning from clearing trail, National Park Service personnel observed a group of approximately 40 female bison and calves attempting to cross Highway 191 near

milepost 4, heading out the park towards Horse Butte. NPS rangers, on foot and horseback, successfully turned them back into the park.

On 5/22/01, MDOL successfully hazed 21 male bison from Duck Creek into the park. They were unable to haze one male bison from the same area. In addition, one cow and calf were located on the Madison Rim. They were hazed from Whiskey Point almost to the highway, but MDOL was unable to haze them into the park because of time constraints.

On 5/23/01, MDOL successfully hazed 13 male bison from Lower Bear Trap; 27 male bison from Fir Ridge, one male bison from private property on Horse Butte; and 2 male bison from Baker's Hole into the park. National Park Service and the Montana Highway Patrol assisted MDOL with traffic control. A MDOL helicopter was used during hazing operations.

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. No natural mortalities were reported for this period. Total reported natural mortality to date is 8 bison.

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