

# 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, 2003 through September 30, 2004. The reporting period for this summary is **15 May, 2004 through 28 May, 2004**.

## Weather Conditions

**Table 1:** Weather Information for the Reporting Period (19 March, 2004 through 2 April, 2004).

| Location         | Max Temp (F) | Min Temp (F) | Snow Depth Last Report Period | Snow Depth This Report Period | Net Gain or Loss |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Mammoth          |              |              |                               |                               |                  |
| Tower            |              |              |                               |                               |                  |
| Madison          |              |              |                               |                               |                  |
| West Yellowstone |              |              |                               |                               |                  |

## Monitoring

### North Boundary Area

No monitoring occurred in the north boundary area during this period

## Hazing of Bison

### North Boundary Area

No hazing occurred in the north boundary area during this period

### West Boundary Area

On 15 May 21 bull bison were hazed successfully from [REDACTED] private property. A group of 26 bulls was hazed from the same property.

On 16 May 5 bulls were hazed successfully from [REDACTED] private property.

## Capture and Testing

### North Boundary Area

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

### West Boundary Area

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

## Bison Transported to Slaughter

|                        |           |                              |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|
| This reporting period: | 0 (West)  | Total since October 1, 2003: | 10 (West)  |
|                        | 0 (North) |                              | 264(North) |

## Interagency Bison Management Plan Shooting Operations

Shooting operations may be conducted as part of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP).

One bull bison was shot as a result of lethal removal operations during this reporting period.

|                        |                  |                              |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| This reporting period: | <b>0</b> (West)  | Total since October 1, 2003: | <b>2</b> (West)  |
|                        | <b>0</b> (North) |                              | <b>2</b> (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 added to future reports.

Natural Mortality this reporting period – **0**      Natural Mortality since October 1, 2003 – **43**

|               |         |                    |
|---------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1 Calf        | 4/28/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 4/21/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 Calf        | 4/20/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 unknown     | 4/04/04 | Bear Kill          |
| 1 Calf        | 4/04/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 4/03/04 | other              |
| 1 unknown     | 4/01/04 | Not Determined     |
| 1 Adult Bull  | 3/31/04 | Winter Kill        |
| 1 Calf        | 3/28/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 unknown     | 3/26/04 | Not Determined     |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 3/26/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 Calf        | 3/25/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 2 Calf        | 3/19/04 | Not Determined     |
| 1 Calf        | 3/19/04 | Winter Kill        |
| 1 yearling    | 3/18/04 | Winter Kill        |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 3/17/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 yearling    | 3/15/04 | Not Determined     |
| 1 Bull        | 3/12/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 Yearling    | 3/08/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 3/05/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 yearling    | 3/1/04  | Winter Kill        |
| 1 Bull        | 2/29/04 | Winter Kill        |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 2/25/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 2/25/04 | Wolf Kill          |
| 1 Calf        | 2/25/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Calf        | 2/25/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 F Yearling  | 2/25/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 2/20/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Bull        | 2/17/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Calf        | 2/19/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Bull        | 2/19/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Calf        | 2/03/04 | Possible Wolf Kill |
| 1 Calf        | 2/02/04 | Possible Wolf Kill |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 2/02/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 1/30/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 unknown     | 1/20/04 | Not Determined     |
| 1 Adult Bull  | 1/17/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Female Calf | 1/13/04 | Natural Unknown    |
| 1 Adult Cow   | 1/12/04 | Possible Drowning  |

|              |          |                                       |
|--------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Adult Cow  | 1/9/04   | Possible Wolf Kill                    |
| 1 Adult Bull | 12/11/03 | Natural Unknown                       |
| 1 Adult Cow  | 10/30/03 | (date found 11/03/03) Natural Unknown |
| 1 Adult Bull | 10/8/03  | 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, 2003 – **8**

|                 |          |                    |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1 Adult Cow     | 5/5/04   | MVA                |
| 1 Adult Bull    | 3/30/04  | MVA                |
| 1 Yearling Bull | 10/19/03 | MVA                |
| 1 Adult Cow     | 10/7/03  | Research Mortality |
| 1 Adult Cow     | 10/7/03  | Research Mortality |
| 1 Adult Cow     | 10/7/03  | Research Mortality |
| 1 Adult Cow     | 10/6/03  | Research Mortality |
| 1 Adult Bull    | 10/4/03  | MVA                |