

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 **10 May 2005 thru 28 May 2005**.

Monitoring

Table 1. Yellowstone National Park Bison Management Zone Ground Count

NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONE	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05
IBMP Zone 1	0	8	62	66	14	11
IBMP Zone 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eagle Creek SMA	5	11	89	21	24	0
Hellroaring/Cottonwood Creek	475	165	345	105	23	12
Blacktail	103	385	207	404	322	266
Swan Lake Flats/Gardner's Hole	90	41	0	4	5	0
Total For Northern Zone	673	610	703	600	388	289
WESTERN MANAGEMENT ZONE						
IBMP Zone 1	20	36	38	8	70	0
IBMP Zone 2	0	0	0	199	17	0
Cougar Meadows	43	0	0	44	130	166
West of Madison Junction	0	0	82	380	268	429
Total for Western Zone	63	36	120	631	485	595

Hazing of Bison

North Boundary Area

On 10 May, 11 mixed bison from near Reese Creek were hazed further into the Park. Three NPS employees performed the hazing horseback.

On 11 May, 1 bull from Corwin Springs was hazed along highway 287.

On 13 May, 13 bulls from [REDACTED] private property were hazed in to the Eagle Creek SMA. 1 MTDOL employee performed the hazing horseback.

West Boundary Area

On 11 May, 182 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. One hundred forty were hazed from Horse Butte, 15 from the south fork of the Madison, 16 from Fir ridge, 6 bulls from Duck Creek and 4 bulls from lower Bear Trap. Two NPS, 2 USFS, 2 MFWP, 7 MTDOL, 1 GCSO and 1 MHP personnel assisted in the operation employing horses, an ATV and a helicopter.

On 12 May, 22 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. Six bulls were hazed from the junction of highway 191 and 287, 14 from mile marker 2.5 on highway 191, 1 bull from [REDACTED] private property and 1 bull from the Rainbow Point road. Two NPS, 1 MFWP, 4MTDOL and 1 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and an ATV.

On 13 May, 161 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. One bull was hazed from lower Bear Trap, 16 bulls from [REDACTED] private property, 16 from Cougar Creek, 66 from Horse Butte, 58 from the south fork of the Madison and 4 from Baker's Hole. Three NPA, 2 MFWP, 8 MTDOL and 2 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses, an ATV, cracker rounds and a helicopter. Helicopter hazing of one of the groups while it crossed the

Madison River resulted in two calves becoming separated from the group. They were never again seen with the group.

On 14 May, 10 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. Two bulls were hazed from Baker's Hole, 6 bulls from [REDACTED] private property and 2 from state road 6697. One NPS, 2 MFWP, 5 MTDOL and 1 West Yellowstone PD personnel assisted in the operation employing horses.

On 15 May, 64 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. Forty were hazed from Baker's Hole. 8 bulls from [REDACTED] private property, 1 bull from Horse Butte, 12 from mile marker 1 on highway 191, 2 from the transfer station along highway 191, and 1 bull from the junction of highway 191 and 287. One NPS, 1 USFS, 1 MFWP, 6 MTDOL and 1 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and an ATV.

On 16 May, 15 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. Five were hazed from Horse Butte and 10 from sate road 6697. One USFS, 1 MFWP, 3 MTDOL and GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses. During the operation a cow and calf were left because of the calf's young age and a second cow and calf group fled into adjacent brush out of sight.

On 17 May, 16 mixed bison were hazed into the Park. Five bulls were hazed from Duck Creek and 11 from the Madison Rim. Two NPS, 1 MFWP and 6 MTDOL personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and an ATV.

On 18 May, 6 bison were hazed into the Park from USFS land north of West Yellowstone. One NPS and 2 MTDOL personnel assisted in the operation employing horses.

On 24 May, 13 bison were unsuccessfully hazed. Thirteen were hazed from the south fork of the Madison River. One NPS, 1 USFS, 1 MFWP, 7 MTDOL and 2 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses, an ATV and a pickup. The animals fled into thick brush outside of the Park.

On 25 May, 44 bison were hazed into the Park. Five bulls were hazed from [REDACTED] private property, 1 bull from Horse Butte, 2 bulls from Duck Creek, 4 from Baker's Hole, 12 from the Rainbow Point highway, 6 from the Madison river bridge at highway 191, 10 from the Madison River Rim and 2 from the south fork of the Madison River. One NPS, 1 USFS, 1 MFWP, 6 MTDOL and 1 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and a helicopter. Two animals hazed along the Madison River fled into thick brush. The bison along the south fork were left because of a calf's young age.

On 26 May, 2 bison were successfully hazed into the Park and 2 were left due to the young age of a calf. The animals that were left were along the south fork of the Madison. The bison hazed into the Park were along highway 191. One NPS, 1 MFWP, 5 MTDOL and 2 GCSO personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and an ATV.

On 27 May, 6 bison were successfully hazed into the Park. Four bulls were hazed from [REDACTED] private property, 1 bull from the south side of the Madison River and 1 bull from the north side of the Madison River. Twenty-eight bison were unsuccessfully hazed from Horse Butte. One NPS, 4 MTDOL, 1 GCSO and 1 West Yellowstone PD personnel assisted in the operation employing horses and an ATV.

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 are this reporting period.

Bison Transported to Slaughter

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

Total since October 1, 2004: 82 (West)
0 (North)
(17 calves transported to quarantine)

On April 19th 37 animals were tested at the Duck Creek Facility and their disposition is unknown.

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 – 25

Natural Mortality since October 1, 2004 – 109

Date:	Age/Sex	Location	Cause of Death
05/03/2005:	Yearling Bull	Cougar Meadows	Natural Unknown
05/04/2005:	Unknown	Cougar Meadows	Predation
05/11/2005:	Adult Cow	Little America`	Natural Unknown
05/10/2004:	Unknown Adult	Indian Pond	Natural Unknown
05/11/2005:	Adult Cow	Madison River	Natural Unknown
05/15/2005:	Adult Cow	Wraith Falls	Natural Unknown
05/14/2005:	Adult Bull	Jardine	Natural Unknown
05/09/2005:	Adult Cow	Hayden Valley	Natural Unknown
05/08/2005:	Adult Cow	Hayden Valley	Natural Unknown
02/11/2005:	Unknown	Rabbit Creek	Natural Unknown
05/04/2005:	Unknown Adult	Lodge Creek	Natural Unknown
05/16/2005:	Unknown Calf	Buffalo Ford	Natural Unknown
05/13/2005:	Adult Bull	Gibbon Meadows	Drowning
05/12/2005:	Unknown Calf	Peregrine Knolls	Natural Unknown
05/13/2005:	Unknown Yearling	Fountain Flats	Natural Unknown
04/15/2005:	Adult Cow	Hellroaring Slope	Natural Unknown
05/18/2005:	Unknown Calf	Madison River	Natural Unknown
05/20/2005:	Unknown	Cougar Meadows	Natural Unknown
05/17/2005:	Adult Cow	West Entrance Road	Natural Unknown
05/23/2005:	Adult Cow	Trout Creek	Natural Unknown
11/11/2004:	Adult Cow	Trout Creek	Natural Unknown
05/01/2004:	Adult Cow	Hayden Valley	Natural Unknown
04/15/2005:	Unknown Calf	Lamar River	Drowning
04/15/2005:	Unknown Calf	Lamar River	Drowning
04/05/2005:	Adult Bull	Pelican Creek	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 – 4 Total since October 1, 2004 – 10

Date:	Age/Sex	Location	Cause of Death
05/15/2005:	Adult Cow	West Entrance Road	MVA
05/21/2005:	Unknown Calf	Gibbon Falls	Dispatch of Injured Animal
05/18/2005:	Unknown Calf	Highway 191	Other
05/18/2005:	Unknown Calf	Highway 191	Other

Note: Over the course of the winter there have been numerous bison hit and killed by cars north of West Yellowstone along highway 191 and the precise number is still unknown, the best estimate is twenty animals.