

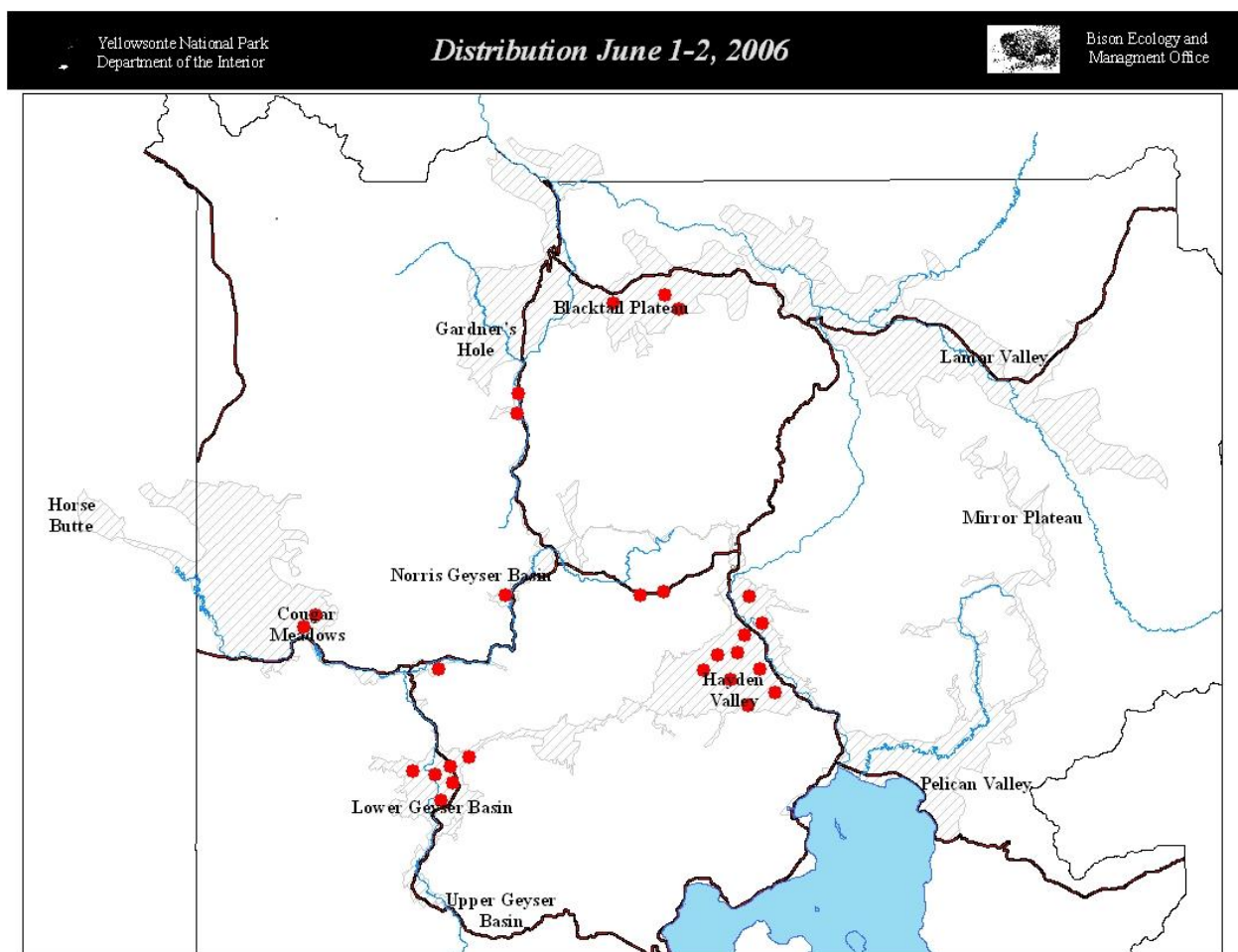
## YELLOWSTONE BISON POPULATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This report summarizes 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 1 October 2005 through 30 September 2006. The reporting period for this summary is **05 May through 01 June 2006**.

The next report will be distributed in July and will include a preliminary post-calving population estimate.

### **PARKWIDE DISTRIBUTION:**

Distribution information is provided by ground-based surveys conducted by biological field technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office.



*Red points illustrate the location of a park-wide representative sample of marked individual bison.*

General Trend: Bison continue to move into the Hayden and Lamar Valleys.

### MANAGEMENT ZONE COUNTS:

Management zone count information is provided by monthly ground based surveys conducted by biological field technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office. The tables below summarize the Management Zone Counts for the winter season of 2005-2006.

<b>NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONE</b>	<b>17 November 2005</b>	<b>1 December 2005</b>	<b>10 January 2006</b>	<b>19 Jan 2006 (flight)</b>
IBMP Zone 1	9	13	275	180
IBMP Zone 2	0	0	0	0
Eagle Creek SMA	12	9	41	1
Hellroaring/Cottonwood Creek	49	180	241	360
Blacktail Plateau	180	212	78	75
Swan Lake Flats/Gardner's Hole	61	1	3	24
<b>Total For Northern Zone</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>640</b>

<b>WESTERN MANAGEMENT ZONE</b>	<b>16 November 2005</b>	<b>22 December 2005</b>	<b>22 Jan 2006 (flight)</b>
IBMP Zone 1	142	94	49
IBMP Zone 2	0	65	67
West of Madison Junction	46	0	55
<b>Total for Western Zone</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>171</b>

<b>NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONE</b>	<b>27 February 2006</b>	<b>3 April 2006</b>	<b>2 June 2006</b>
IBMP Zone 1	211	333*	0
IBMP Zone 2	0	0	0
Eagle Creek SMA	88	29	3
Hellroaring/Cottonwood Creek	269	159	3
Blacktail Plateau	132	113	105
Swan Lake Flats/Gardner's Hole	0	10	4
<b>Total For Northern Zone</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>115</b>

<b>WESTERN MANAGEMENT ZONE</b>	<b>1 March 2006</b>	<b>4 April 2006</b>	<b>25 May 2006</b>
IBMP Zone 1	77	110	142
IBMP Zone 2	91	39	0
West of Madison Junction	40	69	360
<b>Total for Western Zone</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>502</b>

### HAZING OPERATIONS:

Hazing operations that occur near the North and West Boundaries are primarily conducted and reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection and MT Department of Livestock respectively.

**North Boundary Area:** 4 hazing events were reported.

5 May 2006: 35 mixed age/sex class bison were hazed from the boundary at Reese Creek to near Chinese Gardens, south of the North Entrance Kiosk.

5 May 2006: **52** mixed age/sex bison were hazed from Rifle Range Flats, east of the North Entrance Kiosk, towards Rescue Creek.

15 May 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed from outside of the Park on USFS land towards Powerline Flats, near the North Entrance Kiosk.

19 May 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed from near the Corwin Springs Bridge back into the Park.

**West Boundary Area: 26** hazing events were reported.

10 May 2006: **42** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Horse Butte.

10 May 2006: **3** bull bison were hazed from Corey Springs, along Highway 287.

10 May 2006: **6** bull bison were hazed into the Park along Duck Creek.

10 May 2006: **24** bull bison were hazed into the Park from [REDACTED] property near Duck Creek.

10 May 2006: **2** bull bison were unsuccessfully hazed into the Park from near Red Canyon.

11 May 2006: **60** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Horse Butte.

11 May 2006: **50** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the north rim of the Madison River, west of Highway 191.

11 May 2006: **15** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the north rim of the Madison River, east of Highway 191.

11 May 2006: **30** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from south of the Madison River.

11 May 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed into the Park along Duck Creek.

11 May 2006: **3** bull bison were hazed into the Park from private property near Upper Bear Trap.

15 May 2006: **5** bull bison were hazed into the Park from private property near Upper Bear Trap.

15 May 2006: **19** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park along Duck Creek.

15 May 2006: **20** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the south Fork of the Madison River.

15 May 2006: **10** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the north rim of the Madison River.

15 May 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed from Corey Springs, along Highway 287.

15 May 2006: **3** bull bison were hazed into the Park from near Rainbow Point.

15 May 2006: **9** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Horse Butte.

16 May 2006: **19** mixed age/sex class bison were unsuccessfully hazed into the Park along Cougar Creek.

17 May 2006: **19** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the junction of Highways 287 and 191.

17 May 2006: **1** bull bison was hazed into the Park from [REDACTED] property.

18 May 2006: **9** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from [REDACTED] property.

19 May 2006: **10** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from along the Madison River.

23 May 2006: **4** bull bison were hazed into the Park along Duck Creek.

23 May 2006: **8** bull bison were hazed into the Park from [REDACTED] property.

23 May 2006: **23** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from along the Madison River.

The following **7** hazing events occurred during the last reporting period.

3 May 2006: **92** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed from Red Canyon to the Park Boundary.

3 May 2006: **24** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Baker's Hole.

3 May 2006: **48** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from the South Fork of the Madison River.

3 May 2006: **225** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Horse Butte.

4 May 2006: **38** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park along Duck Creek.

4 May 2006: **14** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Fir Ridge.

4 May 2006: **110** mixed age/sex class bison were hazed into the Park from Horse Butte.

**CAPTURE OPERATIONS:**

Capture operations that occur near the North and West Boundaries are primarily conducted and reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection and MT Department of Livestock, respectively.

**North Boundary Area: 0** bison were reported captured

**West Boundary Area: 0** bison were reported captured.

**Bison Transported to Slaughter**

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Slaughter this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Slaughter (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>
North	<b>0</b>	<b>849</b>

**Bison Transported to Quarantine:**

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison to Quarantine this reporting period</i>	<i>Total to Quarantine (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
North	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>

**Interagency Bison Management Plan Shooting Operations:**

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Bison Shot this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Shot this operating season</i>
West	<b>0</b>	<b>6*</b>
North	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

\* 2 bull bison shot during September 2005 in Zone 3 of the WMA

**Capture Pen Mortalities:**

<i>Boundary</i>	<i>Capture Pen Mortality this reporting period</i>	<i>Total Pen Mortality this operating season (Oct 1 – pres)</i>
West	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
North	<b>0</b>	<b>8*</b>

\* This does not include 3 stillborn calves (April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Other Mortality:**

“Other Mortality” includes all documented carcasses that are found on the Yellowstone landscape by biological technicians of the YNP Bison Ecology and Management Office, hunter-take reported by MT Fish Wildlife and Parks game check stations and Motor Vehicle related mortalities reported by the YNP Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection.

<i>Total Mortality (Oct 1 – pres)</i>	<i>Hunter Harvest this reporting period</i>	<i>Total HunterHarvest (Nov 15 – pres)</i>	<i>Other Mortality this reporting period (accidents, predation, etc.)</i>	<i>Total Other Mortality (Oct 1- pres) (accidents, predation, etc.)</i>
203	0	45	54	158

Many of the “Other Mortality” documented this reporting period resulted from compilation of the winter carcass surveys performed by numerous work groups within Yellowstone National Park, including the Bear Management Office and Wolf Project.

FY Year	Boundary	Month	Hazing Events	Mngmt Shootings	Total Captured	Captured & Tested	Consigned to Slaughter without being Tested	Consigned to Slaughter (Test Positive)	Consigned to Slaughter (Tested Negative)	Released/Held (Test Negative)	Released/Held (Not Tested)	Vaccinated	Consigned to Quarantine	Capture/Pen Mortality
2005	West	September	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	North	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	October	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	November	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	December	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	January	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	January	20	0	673	98	572	6	5	0	0	0	87	3
2006	West	February	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
2006	North	February	19	1	266	0	266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	West	March	6	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	March	29	0	310	0	0	0	0	0	308	0	0	0
2006	West	April	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	April	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2006	West	May	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	North	May	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sum</b>			<b>140</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>8</b>