

Winter Operation 2021-2022

Total Bison Removed from the population: 834 Bison

Total Harvested: 284 Bison

Total Transferred to Slaughter Facilities: 442 Bison

Total Transferred to Quarantine Facilities: 105 Bison

(Including: 1 pen mortality & 2 management removals)

NPS Winter Operations Goals:

1. Stabilize Bison Population

- Current Yellowstone population is estimated around 4,600 bison.
- Remove 600-900 bison during the 2019-2020 season, focusing on removal within the northern Gardiner herd.

2. Balance Hunts & Capture (Lessons Learned)

Need for coordination and communication between trap/hunt parties

- Harvest reporting should be in a timely manner by All hunt agencies
- Daily & weekly monitoring of bison and hunters should occur

Addressing Hunt/Trap conflicts

- Hunt/Trap calls
- Better on-the-ground coordination

Met Common interests

- Removal Objectives, limiting bison numbers in conservation areas, supporting Tribal hunting and providing animals to the quarantine program

Address the Narrow window for capturing bison

3. Quarantine

- Enter approximately 110 bison into quarantine program

4. Conservations Zones

- Exploration and use of the out-of-park conservation zones
- Hazing and lethal removal to limit use beyond conservation zones

- Bison should be removed selectively to retain the current age and sex structure.

- Population management actions during winter 2018-2019 should focus on the northern herd. To focus on the northern herd, we recommend all state and tribal harvests and captures of bison occur in the northern management area.

- When the number of bison north of Mammoth Hot Springs exceeds 200, the National Park Service may initiate capture of bison at the Stephen's Creek facility. Some bison will be allowed to pass by the facility to provide treaty and state hunting opportunities.