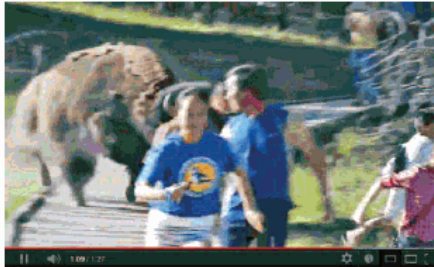


Bison Education Effort Update

- Brochure progress
- Funding
- Webpage
- Future outreach tools



Here is an example of what **NOT** to do:



Scanning this QR code will reveal an interaction between a group of young tourists and a bull bison in Yellowstone National Park. The bison in this video gave every indication he was agitated (as described in the inside of this brochure):



You'll notice that the bison turns and faces the group. Then his tail begins to move furiously. He also shakes his head repeatedly. Eventually his tail goes up into a question mark-like curl, signaling a possible charge. His warnings go unheeded. Luckily, no one is injured.

NEVER FORGET:
Bison are wild animals.

Working on video clearance

BISON RESOURCES:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
fwp.mt.gov

Yellowstone National Park
nps.gov/yell/

This series was created by
THE BISON EDUCATION GROUP
which is supported by Interagency Bison Management Partners



STAYING SAFE
IN BISON COUNTRY

1st Brochure

Your responsibility when near bison:

WALKING

Give bison their space. Stay at least 25 yards away. Give them even more space during the summer rut (mating season) or if you notice a bison is agitated.



- ▶ Be aware of how close you are to bison to avoid the chance of startling one.
- ▶ Have an escape plan when in close proximity to bison and identify potential protective cover nearby (i.e. trees or a vehicle).
- ▶ If you find yourself too close to a bison, do not run. Instead, back away slowly.

CYCLING

- ▶ When biking near bison, move to the opposite side of the road and use a car as an escort if possible.

DRIVING

- ▶ Do not honk your horn or drive aggressively toward bison. If bison are on the road, stop and stay in your vehicle.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

- ▶ If bison are on your private property, try to give them as much room as possible until they leave.



Handouts like the one at left are distributed at the gates of Yellowstone National Park to discourage visitors from engaging in dangerous situations with bison (below).



Signals a bison makes to indicate it may charge:

- ▶ Stop what it's doing and looks at you or turns to face you;
- ▶ Moves straight towards you.

Received permission to use

Other things to remember:

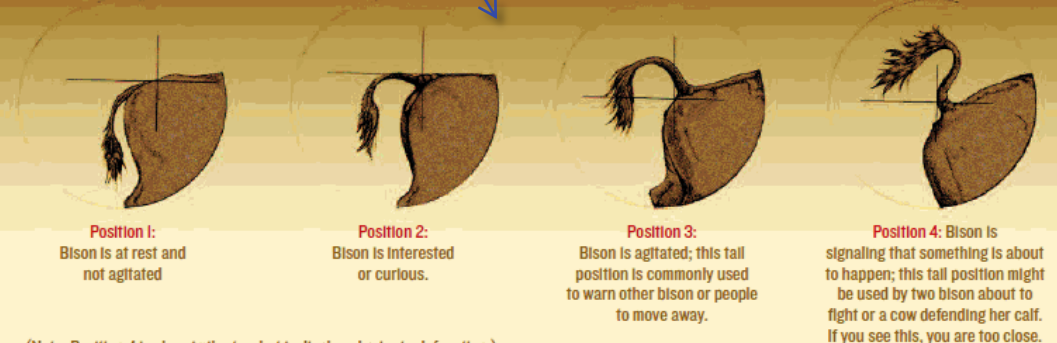
- ▶ Bison are especially quick and agile. Closely monitor changing behavior.
- ▶ Bison don't like fast-moving things near them, such as people who are running or bicycling.
- ▶ Bison don't like dogs. Keep dogs on a leash when bison are present and keep your distance.
- ▶ Keep your children with you and under control.
- ▶ Use a telephoto lens when photographing bison. That way you can maintain a safe distance.
- ▶ Throwing objects at bison may provoke an attack.



More information:

If you have questions or concerns about bison, call your local wildlife manager. You can find that phone number by call (406) 444-2535.

Watch the tail for clues of bison behavior:



(Note: Position 4 is also similar to what is displayed prior to defecation.)



This series was created by
THE CITIZENS GROUP ON BISON EDUCATION
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Name Change

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brought large-scale commercial hunting of bison (mostly for hides). Nearly 375,000 bison were killed each year.

Bison were driven to the edge of extinction (a census in Yellowstone National Park revealed fewer than 50 bison remained in 1902).

Conservation efforts to restore bison in Yellowstone National Park began in the early 1900s.

Bison poaching was difficult to control until 1900, when the Lacey Act—creating penalties for such crimes—was signed into law.

The U.S. Army safeguarded the small bison herd in Yellowstone National Park against poaching until 1917.

Early bison management involved feeding, culling, and herding the animals (much like cattle ranching).

The concept of natural regulation, or letting nature take its course, was introduced in Yellowstone National Park in 1967.

Today, the Greater Yellowstone Area is home to around 3,000 to 5,000 bison dependent on weather and management activities.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
fwp.mt.gov

Yellowstone National Park
nps.gov/yell/

Bison education on-line resource
ibmp.info/bisoneducation.php

This series was created by
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which is supported by Interagency Bison Management Partners



BISON BASICS

BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND
A BRIEF HISTORY

2nd Brochure



Male bison

Bison biology

Bison are the largest terrestrial mammal in North America. As a native species, they play a unique role in the health and diversity of the ecosystem.

- ▶ Males, or bulls (left), weigh up to 2,000 pounds and measure up to 6 ½ feet at the shoulder.
- ▶ Females, or cows (right), weigh up to 1,200 pounds, and stand as tall as 5 ½ feet at the shoulder.
- ▶ A bison horn can reach 20 inches long. A bull's horns are larger in diameter than a cow's.
- ▶ A bison has a large, low-hanging head supported by a prominent hump above the shoulder and massive neck muscles used to plow snow away from feeding sites.



Female bison



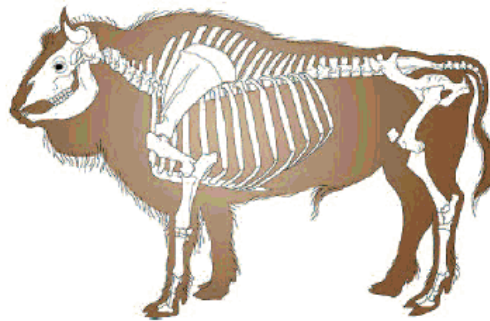
Scan this QR code to watch how a bison uses its head to find food in winter:



View more videos and publications at our on-line bison resource:
<http://ibmp.info/bisoneducation.php>



Bison wallowing



- ▶ Bison have an incisor-like canine tooth on their lower jaw and no upper incisors allowing them to gather 15 to 30 pounds of food per day.
- ▶ Bison hair is denser than that of cattle, providing good insulation against extreme conditions. Bison don't begin to feel chilly until temperatures dive below -20° F.
- ▶ Bison are extremely agile. They can jump up to 6 feet high and reach speeds of 35 mph. They are also very capable of climbing steep hills.
- ▶ If you see bison rolling in the dust, this is called wallowing. This activity creates a scent for mating, regulates body temperature, and protects against insects.



Bison social behavior:

Mature bulls three years and older usually stay by themselves or form small groups.

Cows, calves and immature bulls form groups of 20 to 100 during fall through spring and can congregate in even larger groups during the summer breeding season.

Bison tend to be on the move frequently and can travel up to 20 miles in a day, though typically around 2 to 5 miles per day. They will occasionally remain in the same location for a few days, usually during snowstorms and when temperatures are very cold.

While not normally aggressive, bison can become dangerous when they feel threatened especially during the peak of the rut (mating season) or when they sense that a calf may be threatened.

The peak of the rut generally occurs during the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. At this time, bison herds are at their largest, because lone males join back up with the rest of the group.



Bison Education Effort Update

- Brochure progress
- **Funding**
- Webpage
- Future outreach tools



Bison Education Effort Update: **Funding**

- In addition to time spent coordinating efforts, FWP's Information & Education office has committed \$500 for initial printing costs.
- Is it possible for other agencies to match that commitment?
- Is it possible for NGOs to support based on group outreach?
- Printing costs will be in the range of \$1,000 per 10,000 brochures

Bison Education Effort Update

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Web space available for bison education at IBMP.info

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying the website ibmp.info/bisoneducation.php. The browser's address bar shows the URL and the page title "Interagency Bison Management Plan". The website's navigation menu on the left includes links for HOME, LIBRARY, MEETINGS, ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, BISON EDUCATION, LINKS, NEWS, and SITE UPDATES. Below the menu is a Google Custom Search box with the text "Search IBMP".

The main content area features the heading "Interagency Bison Management Plan" and a sub-heading "Bison Education". The text reads: ****COMING SOON****
Bison Education
In November 2011 a [Citizens' Working Group recommended](#) that the IBMP Partners *Develop and implement a strong, factual education component so an informed public is involved in the discussions* (see Population Management section, #15). This web page will be part of the response to that recommendation. Several brochures have been in production through the fall of 2012. Those brochures, along with other information, will be released via this page by December 31, 2012. Those brochures will be a part of the planned education campaign, which is envisioned as a collaboration between the Partners and the CWG.

At the bottom of the page, there is a vertical stack of logos for various agencies: National Park Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, U.S. Forest Service, APHIS, Montana Department of Livestock, and another agency logo.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as 10:38 AM on 11/27/2012.

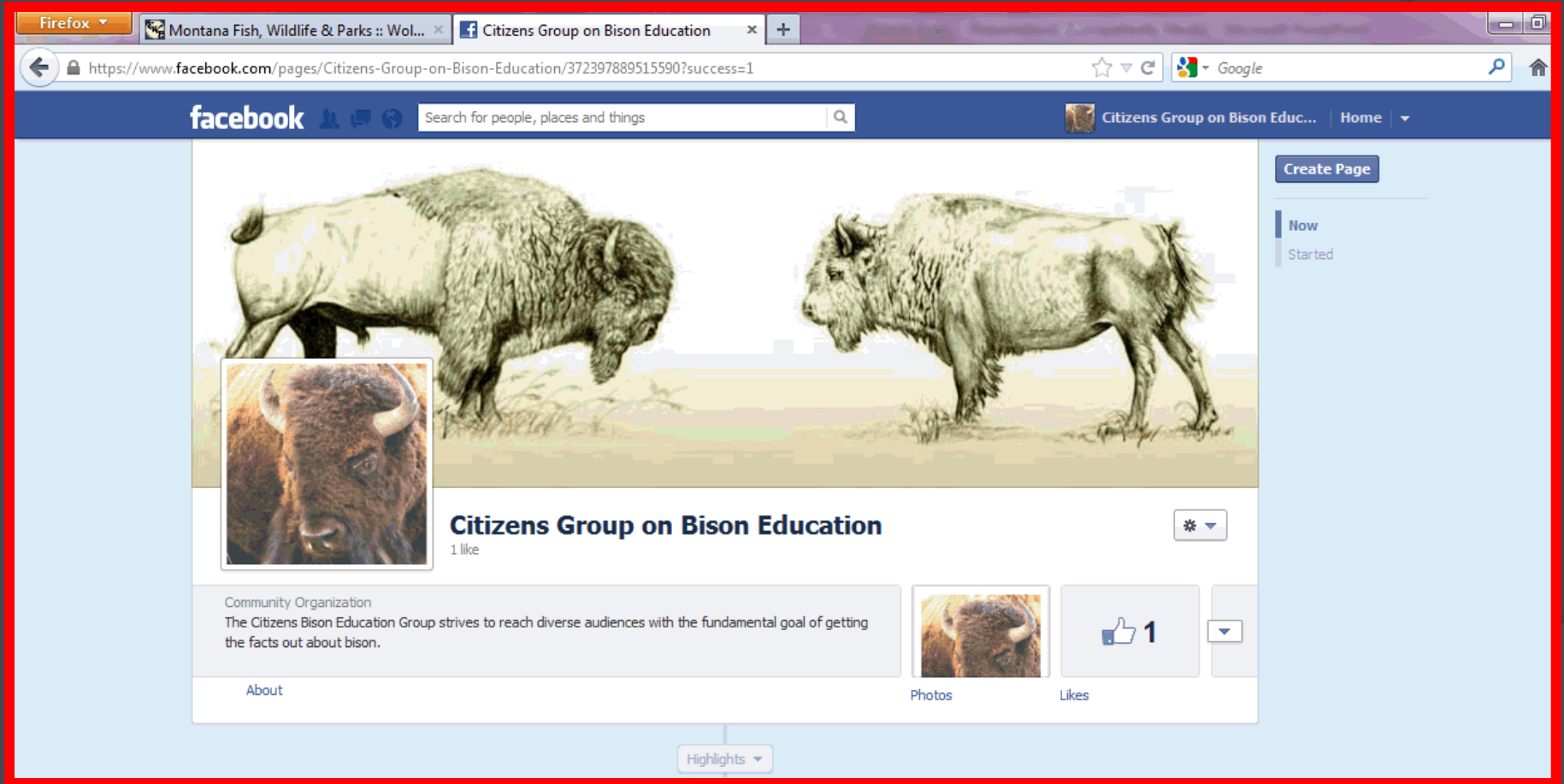
Bison Education Effort Update

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Bison Education Effort Update: **Future Outreach Tools**

Social Media



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the Facebook page for the 'Citizens Group on Bison Education'. The browser's address bar displays the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Citizens-Group-on-Bison-Education/372397889515590?success=1>. The Facebook header includes the search bar and the page name 'Citizens Group on Bison Educ...'. The main content area features a large banner image of two bison in a field, with a smaller inset image of a bison's head. Below the banner, the page name 'Citizens Group on Bison Education' is displayed with '1 like'. The 'About' section identifies the group as a 'Community Organization' with the mission: 'The Citizens Bison Education Group strives to reach diverse audiences with the fundamental goal of getting the facts out about bison.' Navigation tabs for 'About', 'Photos', and 'Likes' are visible, along with a 'Highlights' dropdown menu at the bottom.



Firefox Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks :: Wol... Citizens Group on Bison Education

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Citizens-Group-on-Bison-Education/372397889515590?success=1

facebook Search for people, places and things Citizens Group on Bison Educ... Home

Create Page

Now Started



Citizens Group on Bison Education
1 like

Community Organization
The Citizens Bison Education Group strives to reach diverse audiences with the fundamental goal of getting the facts out about bison.

About Photos Likes

Highlights