

An American Buffalo Tale

Jack Rhyan



Vs

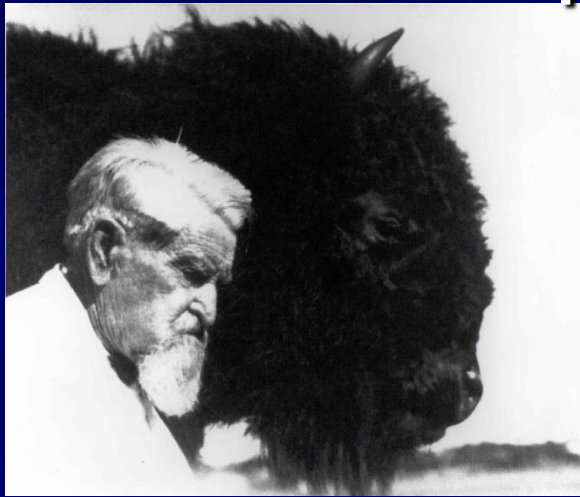
The Buffalo of Yellowstone National Park



Gateway with new Garden, Museum, dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt, April 14, 1909.

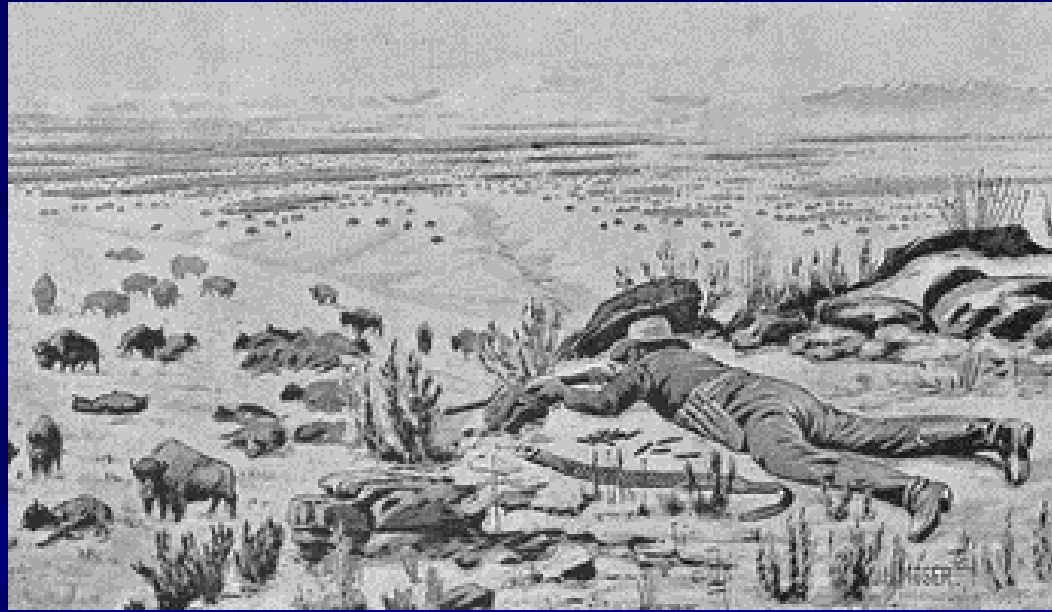


A tale of tribute to great people, great animals, tribes and agencies that have preserved the bison





“Anybody else? ... This here’s a school for *buffalo* hunters—and anyone who so much as *utters* the word ‘bison’ can join Morgenstern in the corner!”



What has been will be again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

Eccles: 1:19

Nothing makes men so imprudent and conceited as ignorance of the past and a scorn for old books. Joseph Joubert

How many were there?

20 – 90 million (60 – 70 million)

30 million – 1830

7 million - 1870

Cause of death?



A Hide Hunt

European roots
\$2.50 per hide/\$80 per day
Civil War veterans
Indian factors



- 77 in zoos & private herds
- 184 in 5 foundation herds
- Total 261 in captivity
- 85 wild sightings (MT, Dakota Terr., WY, CO, & TX)
- ~200 in YNP & 550 wood bison in Canada
- 1900, a census by Mark Sullivan showed 1024 buffalo in the US
- 1902, Senate request of bison status – USDA-USDOJ, 1126 in US, Canada, and Europe

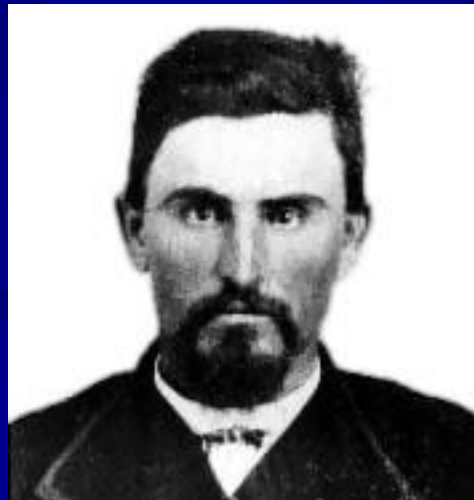
Bison numbers (1888) as estimated by William Hornaday



Buffalo Preservation

5 Foundation Herds

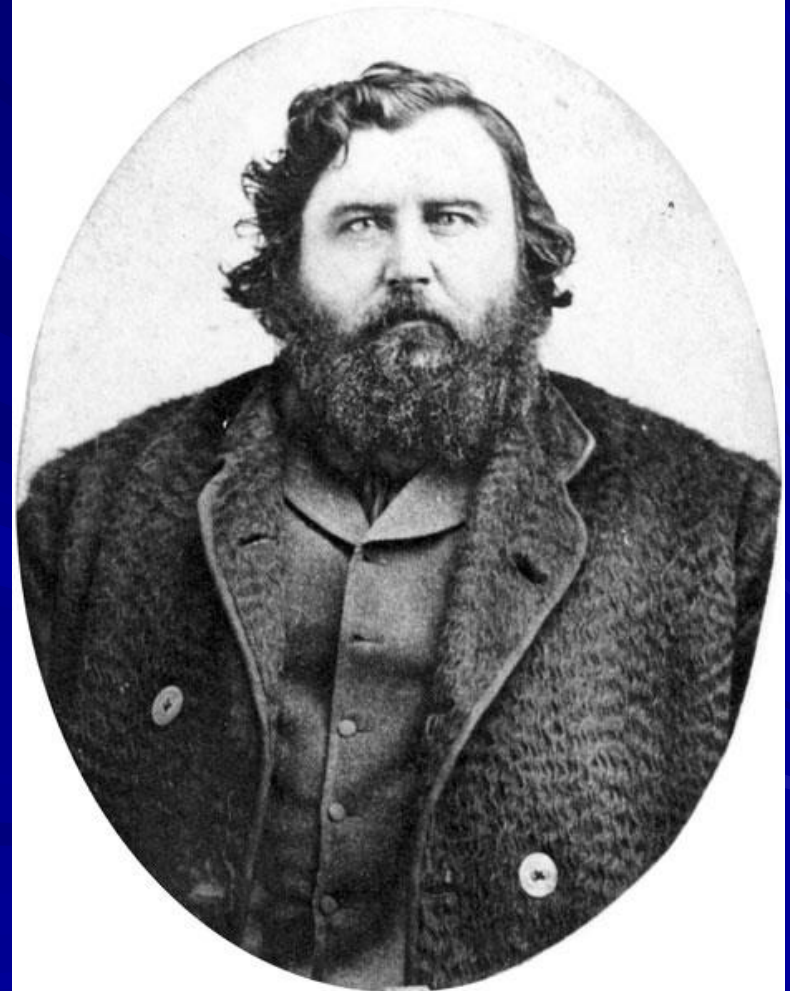
- McKay-Alloway herd
- Charles Goodnight herd
- Walking Coyote herd
- Frederick Dupuis herd
- Buffalo (Charles) Jones



McKay – Alloway Herd

Manitoba, Canada

- James McKay – guide, freighter, legislator
- William Alloway – veterinarian
- Charles Alloway – sportsman, adventurer
- 1873-74 captured 6 calves, lost 1

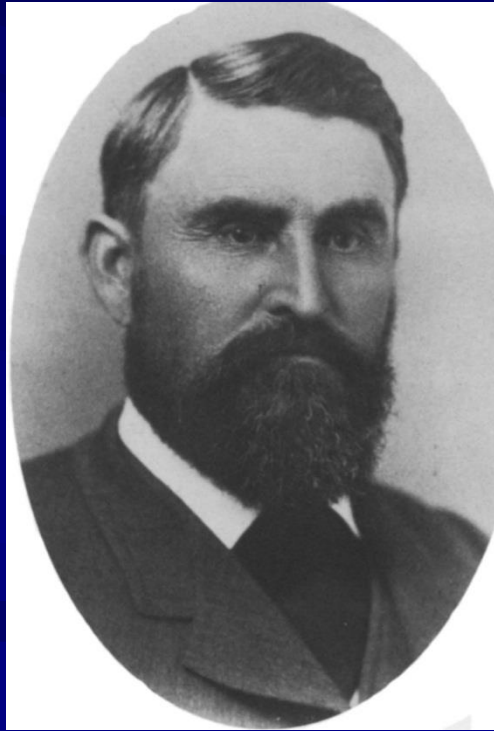


James McKay

Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Herd

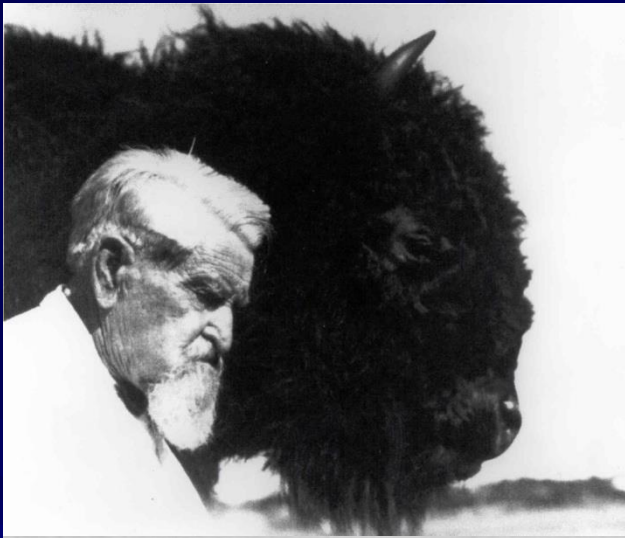
Goodnight, Texas

- Prominent cattle rancher - pioneers
- 1878 Started with 5 bison calves



Courtesy of the Panhandle-Plains Museum,
Canyon, Texas

Charles Goodnight and herd



Walking Coyote (Samuel Weld) and Mary Sabine Herd Flathead Valley, MT

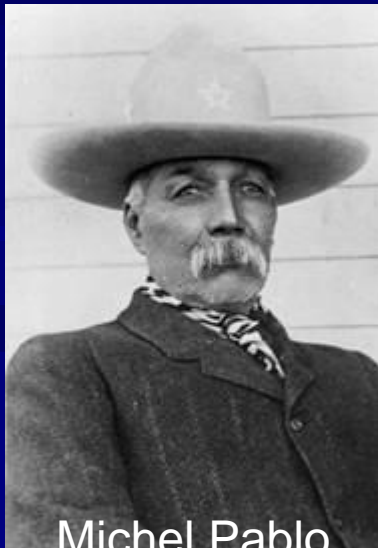
- 1878 Started with 7 calves captured in North-central MT near Marias River



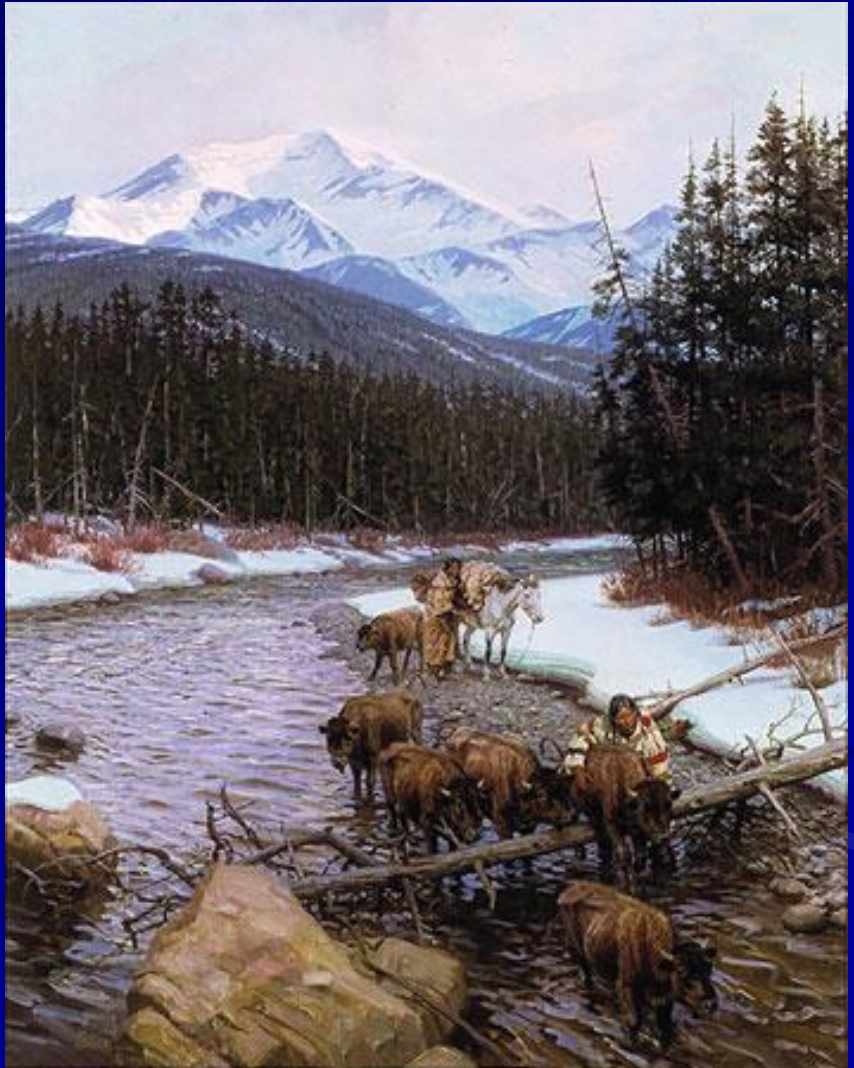
Painting by
Morten Solberg

Walking Coyote Herd (continued)

- Trailed them over Cadotte Pass to Flathead Valley
- Arrived with 4 (6)
- 1883 – sold herd (12) to Pablo and Allard



Michel Pablo

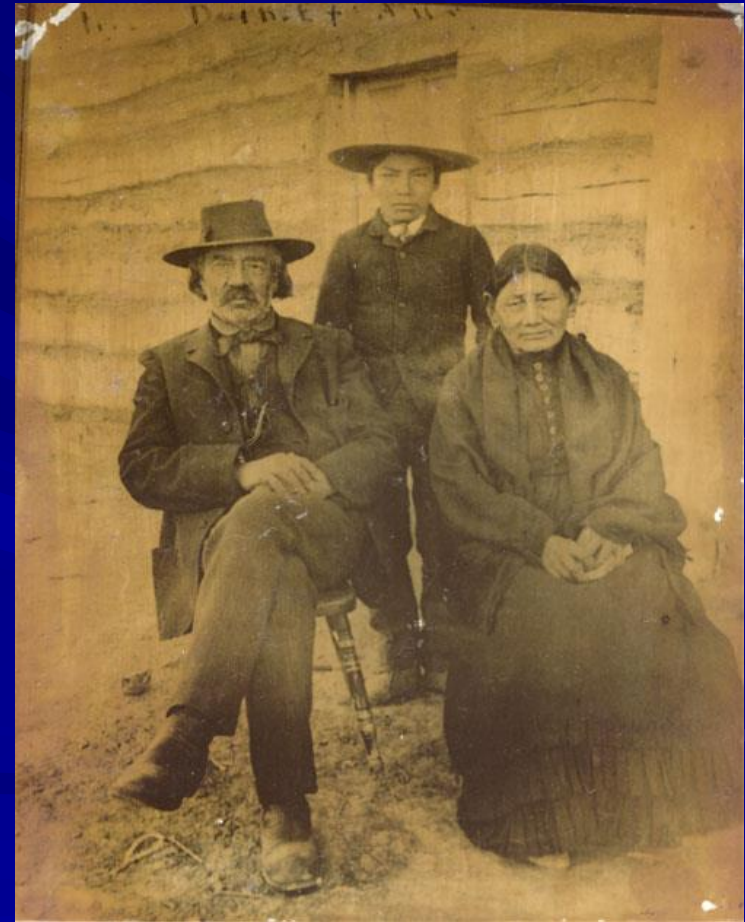


Painting by Tom Lovell

Fredrick and Good Elk Woman (Mary Ann) Dupuis (Dupree)

Trader-rancher Near Pierre, South Dakota

- 1882 – captured calves near Yellowstone River in Montana; 4 or 5 made it to ranch
- 1888 – 5 cows, 4 bulls 7 hybrids
- James “Scotty” Phillips bought herd in 1901-02
- Bison went to Custer State Park, SD, and other herds



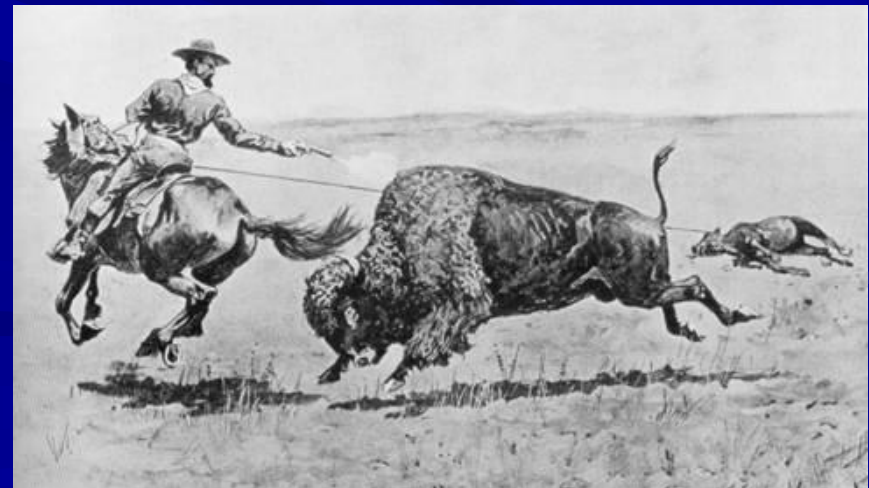
Charles J. “Buffalo” Jones Herd

Garden City, Kansas

- 1886, 87, 88,& 89 – captured 56 calves that lived
- 1889 – bought Bedson herd from Manitoba (1st time bison shipped by train)
- Also bought 10 bison from KS & NE owners
- 1893 – Sold 26 pure bison & 18 hybrids to Pablo-Allard
- Hybrids were sequestered on Wild Horse Island in Flathead Lake

Buffalo Jones

- Buffalo hunter
- Co-founder and Mayor, Garden City, KS
- State legislator
- Warden, Yellowstone National Park





"Pawnee Bill"
"Buffalo Bill"
"Buffalo Jones"

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The Story of the famous "Buffalo Jones" Expedition

LASSOING WILD ANIMALS IN AFRICA

By GUY H. SCULL

Field Manager of the Expedition

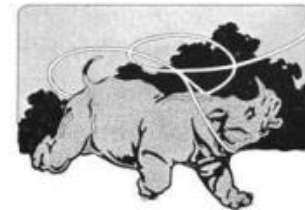
with Introduction by

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

and foreword by

CHARLES S. BIRD

32 Illustrations from the
Moving Picture Films taken on
the Expedition



LAST YEAR Colonel C. J. Jones, or "Buffalo Jones," as he is popularly called, headed an expedition to East Africa to prove that our Western cowboy could rope and capture the savage beasts of that country. In the face of ridicule from experienced British hunters and in spite of the terrific climate and the scarcity of game, he and his men succeeded in taking by ropes alone most of the great East African animals, including wart-hog, eland, hartebeest, giraffe, rhinoceros and lion.

Mr. Scull, field manager of the party, tells the wonderful story of this new hunting—of the cowboy faced with the problem of how to get a lasso off a giraffe, and of the rhinoceros which, captured by one leg, proceeded on the other three, dragging the horse after him. The final triumph came with the capture of a lioness, which took a full day and taxed the resources of horses, dogs, and men to the very utmost.

Col. Roosevelt states in his Foreword: "No hunting trip which ever took place in Africa was better worthy of commemoration."

Cloth, 12mo, \$1.25 net; postpaid, \$1.37

FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY
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Your courtesy in mentioning the Magazine when writing will be appreciated

Cattalo



The “Wild Herd”

“Mountain” Buffalo

Estimated number

1859: 1st report

1880: 600

1891: 200 – 400

1895: 200

1896: 25 – 50

1900: 39

1902: 25

1912: 49



Poaching and Preservation

- 1880'/90's – Lucrative (\$1500 for good head in NY)
- Laws without teeth
- Boone and Crockett Club (1887) Passed resolution to “promote useful and proper legislation toward the enlargement and better management of the YNP.”
- Plea for preservation in Boone and Crockett Club's American Big Game Hunting 1893 (Roosevelt and Grinnell)
- National Zoologic Park herd started – Hornaday (1891)
- Forest and Stream Weekly Magazine and its editor Dr. George B. Grinnell
- Arrest of Ed Howell by Scout Burgess 1894. F & S mag. Brought public attention to the plight of the buffalo.
- Captain Harris: “Don't allow that buffalo thief to beat you up in the corral while I'm gone”

The Introduced “Tame” herd

- 1896 Yellowstone Boat Company purchased few bison of Goodnight stock for exhibition; 8 were released in 1907.
- 1901- \$15,000 was appropriated to establish new herd of buffalo in YNP
- 1902 – 18 cows from remnant of Pablo-Allard herd and 3 bulls from Goodnight herd were purchased, received, and housed in an enclosure near Mammoth.



Origins (cont)

“It is our intention to feed and handle the new herd of buffalo in the same manner that domestic cattle are handled...and before turning them loose to brand them U.S. in such a way that they can always be identified as United States property.”

(Acting Superintendent Maj. Pitcher, Oct 14, 1902)



Early Days of Introduced Herd

- Added three wild calves
- Moved to Buffalo Ranch in the Lamar in 1907
- 1910 - herd was grazed on open range during daytime, pastured at night



Early Days (cont)

Pasteurellosis

- Experienced outbreaks of Pasteurellosis in 1911 (15%), 1919 (9%), & 1923 (9%).
- Developed bacterin in 1911 and vaccinated every 10 days. (Mohler and Eichhorn, 1913, Am Vet Rev, 42: 409-418.)
- Developed vaccine (Aggressin) from 1923 isolate. (Gochenour, 1924, JAVMA, 65:433-441.)
- Isolate became “buffalo strain” of *P. multocida*

Early days: Feeding

- Population of introduced herd: 1910 – 121; 1915 – 239; 1920 – 440; 1925 – 764.



Early Days: Herd Reductions

1917-1931 – 60% of bull calves castrated

1925 – First instance of herd reduction through slaughter (17 animals).

1928 – Constructed abattoir at Buffalo Ranch



Early Days: Translocations

- Beginning in 1908 – Bulls moved to Mammoth corrals
- 1922 – permission for sale or other disposition of surplus
- Animals donated to zoos and other institutions



“Show Pens”



Early Days - Spectacularization

- 1920s Buffalo Plains Week Stampedes
- 1926 “The Thundering Herd”



1920's



1930's – Shift in Management Philosophy and Policies

- Required scientific study before developing management programs
- “... less interference with biotic relationships prior to properly conducted investigation.”
- Artificial feeding, predator control, and other protective measures only when needed.
- Population of ungulates not to exceed carrying capacity of range.
- Natural presentation of wildlife to public.
- Animals' dependence on man discouraged.
- 1932-Rush recommended Lamar herd size “about 1000”

1930's



1940's

- Supplemental feeding only when needed
- Severe winter of '43/44, buffalo migrated down Paradise Valley close to Livingston.
- Lamar population reduced and maintained at 300.
- 1947 - Handling facilities at Ranch improved to facilitate testing and slaughter operations.



Brucellosis

- 1917 – First report of brucellosis in YNP bison. (Mohler, 1917, Annual Reports, USDA 105-106.)
- 1932 – First report of brucellosis in elk in YNP.
- Source of *B. abortus*?



- 1941 USFWS recommended only seroneg buffalo be used in filling requests for live shipments & these be vaccinated.
- 1944 AVMA report that NPS was permitting shipment of bruc-infected buffalo to areas free of the disease.
- Live shipments were temporarily suspended

Brucellosis (cont)



Brucellosis (cont)

- Portions of Lamar herd vaccinated with strain 19 in 1941, and 1946 – 48.
- In 1948 report of vaccine field trial, Dr. Coburn (USFWS) reported reduced seroprevalence in vaccinated animals.
- Recommended continuation of vaccination of calves and yearlings. Also recommended only shipping immature seronegative animals for live release.



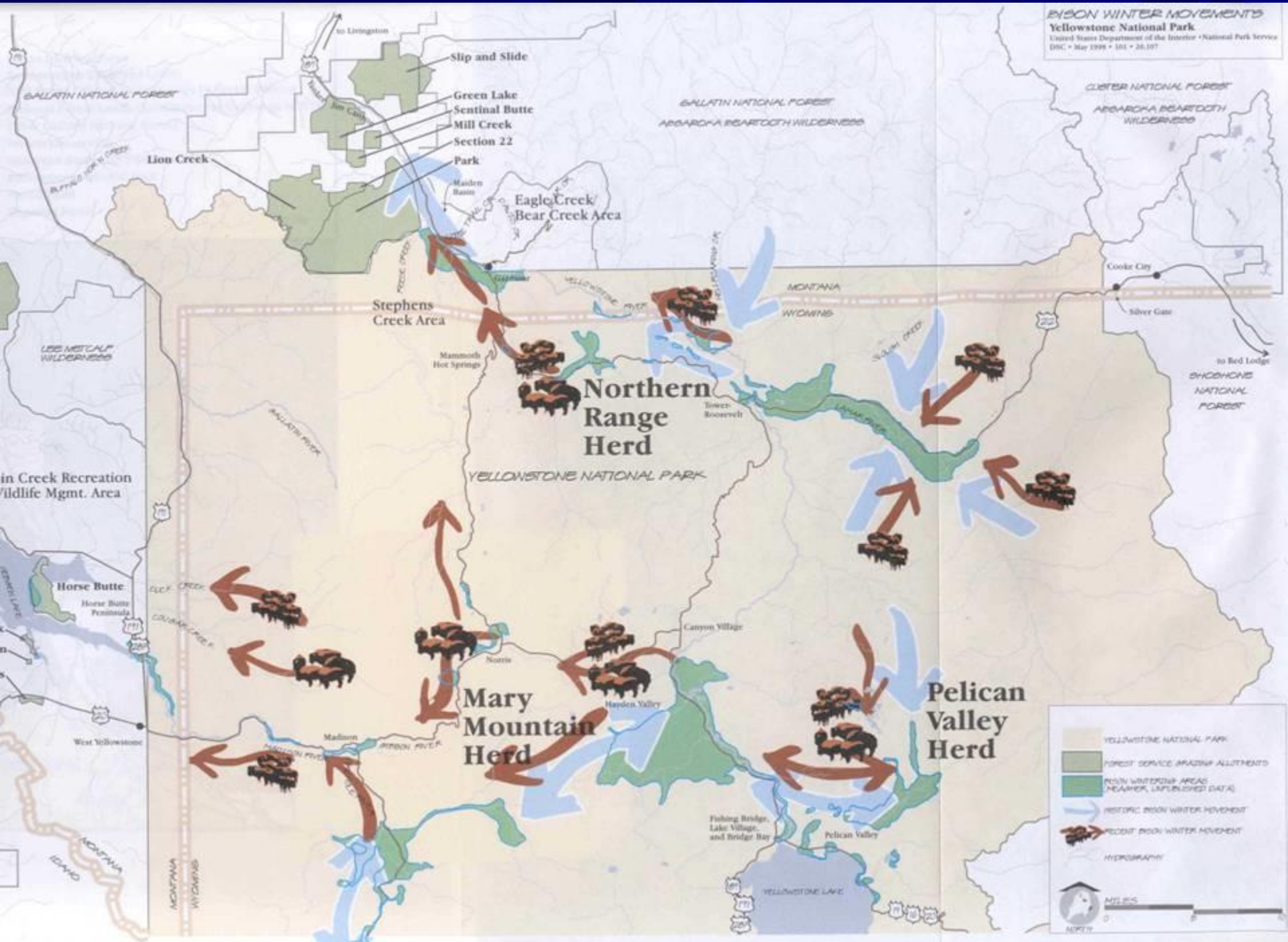
1950's and 60's

- Discontinued vaccination; inability to vaccinate the “wild herd.”
- Continued reductions by slaughter and live shipments. (Shooters and butchers)
- Required single test before shipment for bison and elk.
- 1967 – Adopted Natural Regulation policy

1970's to Present

- 1980's and 90's - buffalo began somewhat regular winter migrations out of YNP; 1988/89 and 96/97 were largest out migrations.
- 1985 – 1991 MT had bison hunts.
- 1995 – GYIBC MOU signed
- 1990's – Research in bison demonstrated brucis disease
- 2000 – Interagency Bison Management Plan Record of Decision signed.
- 2005/06 – ~ 1000 animals captured & sent to slaughter or quarantine
- Montana reinstated hunts





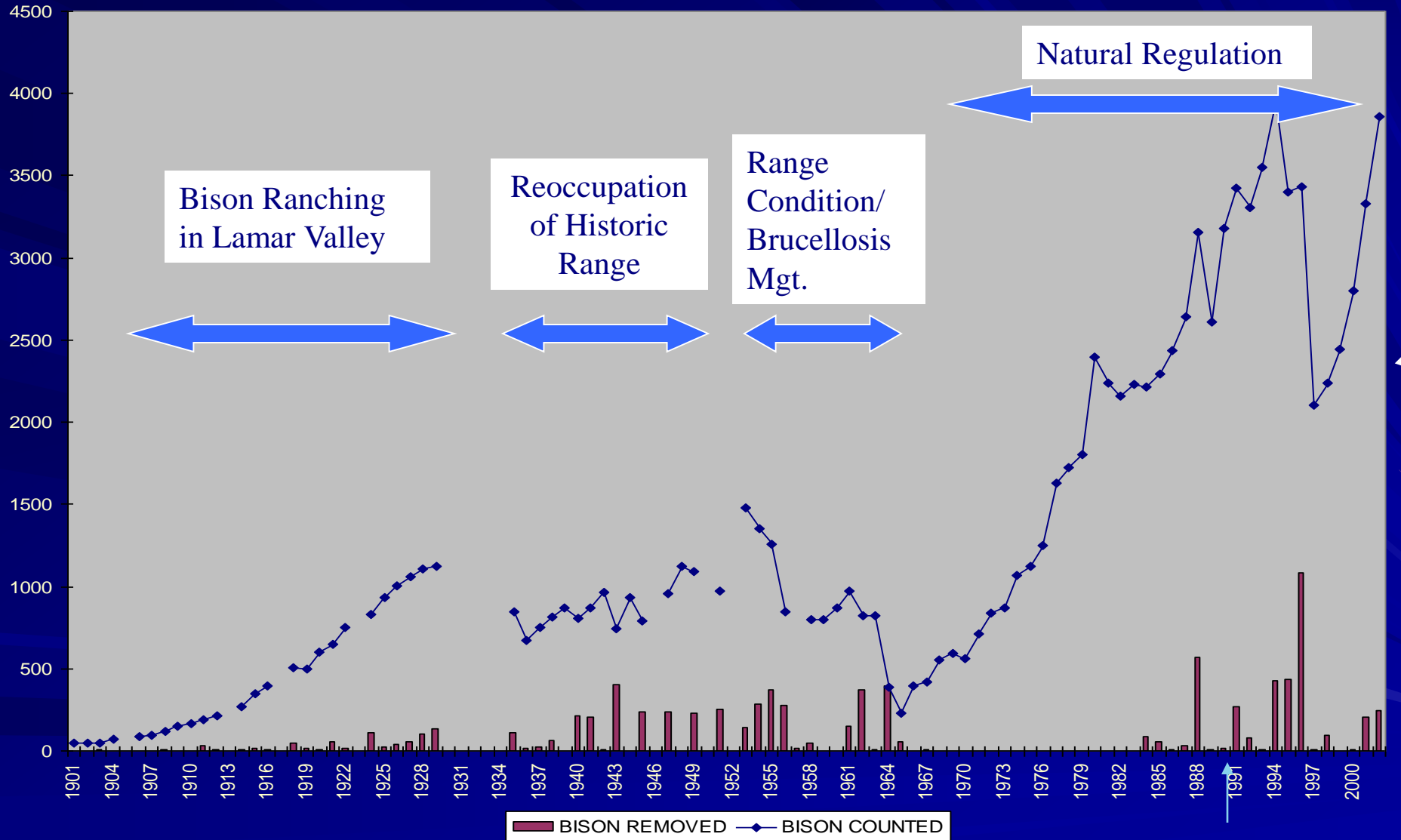
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

- FOREST SERVICE GRASSING ALLOTMENTS
- POUN WINTERING AREAS (NEAREST UNPUBLISHED DATA)
- HISTORIC BISON WINTER MOVEMENT
- RECENT BISON WINTER MOVEMENT
- HYDROGRAPHY

0 10 20 MILES

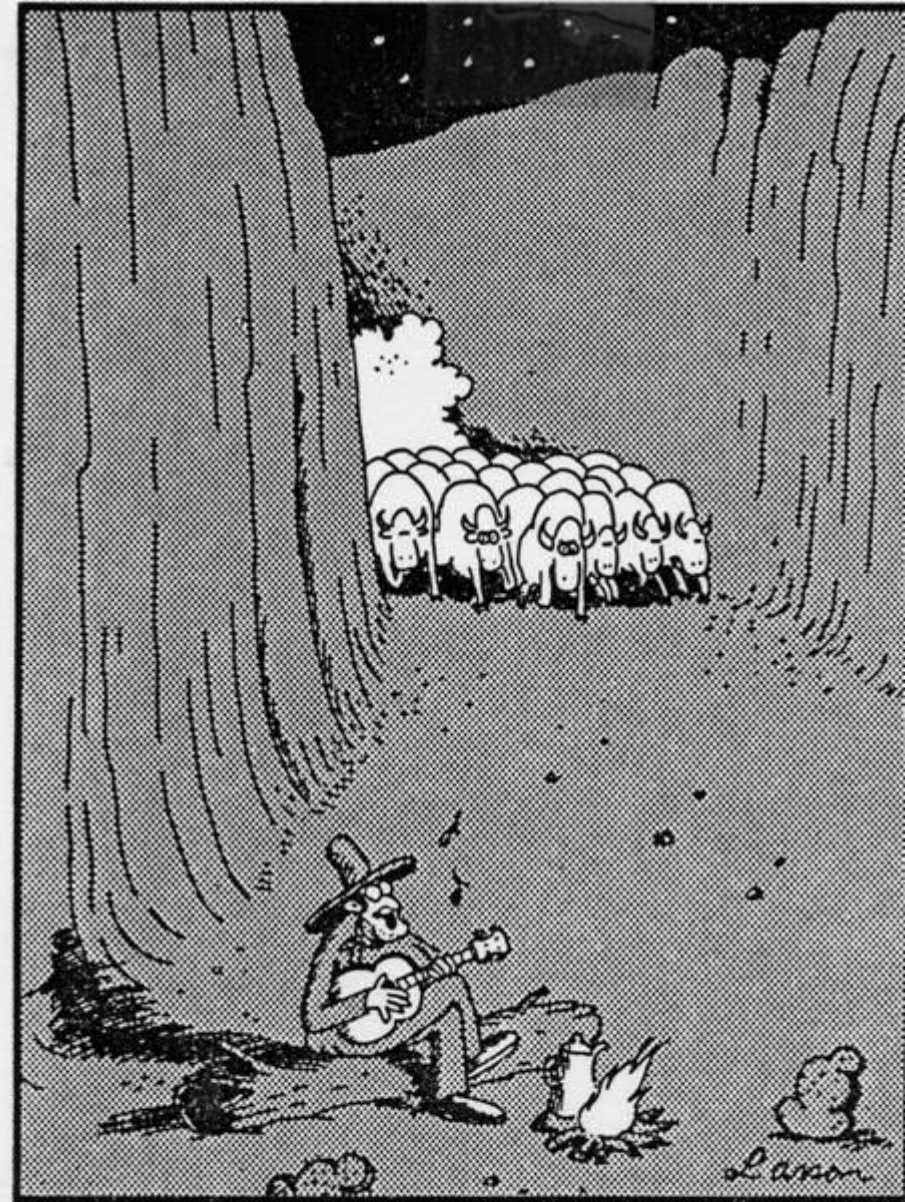
NORTH

Bison Population Counts and Removals in The Last 100 Years



GYA Bison *Brucella* abortions/calf deaths

- 1917 ? 2 aborting cows were seropositive (YNP)
- 3/28/89 cow with endometritis (Jackson herd)
- 3/26/92 near-term fetus (YNP)
- 3/10/95 retained placenta cow (YNP)
- 4/23/96 term fetus stillborn (YNP)
- 2/22/99 placenta, fetus not found (YNP)
- 4/12/99 & 5/25/99 near-term fetuses (YNP)
- 6/1/99 2-week-old calf (YNP)
- 4/5/01 term fetus, 3/7 & 4/2/01 #848 & 805 (YNP)



"Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam ..."

Contributors & Helpers

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(retired)

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