



# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## Interagency Bison Management Plan

### 2015 Operations

Public Meeting

April 23, 2015

West Yellowstone, Montana



# **Bison Harvest (214 total)**

## **Public Hunt (42 total)**

- **Gardiner basin: 29 total (28 males, 1 female)**
- **West: 13 total (7 males, 6 females)**

## **Subsistence Hunt (172 total; Gardiner)**

- **CSKT: 138 (94 males, 25 females, 19 calves)**
- **Nez Perce: 25 (18 males, 2 females, 2 calves, 3 unk)**
- **Shoshone-Bannock/Umatilla: 9 (8 males, 1 female)**

## **Issues / Comments**

- **Male-biased harvest; Firing line; Gut piles; Safety; No bison/pronghorn movement north of Gulch**



# Shipments to Slaughter/Research

## Captures at Stephens Creek

- **Three weeks: January 14<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - January 14-17, 23, and 30-31; February 2-5
- **Bison available for hunting north of park boundary on each capture day**
- **Few bison north towards Stephens Creek after February 8<sup>th</sup> due to mild weather**

## Distribution of Bison

- **514 total shipped; 4 holding/processing mortalities**
- **Salish-Kootenai (347); ITBC (138); Eastern Shoshone (22); APHIS (7)**



# **Total Removals: North Boundary**

## **Actual Removals**

- **719 total (264 males, 291 females, 161 calves, 3 unknowns)**

## **Objectives**

- **800-900 (240 males, 480 females, 180 calves)**

## **Issues / Comments**

- **Fewer females removed than expected**
- **Hunting effects on capture operations and vice versa**



# **Hazing Operations and Safety Issues**

## **Gardiner basin**

- **None in Yellowstone National Park**
- **MFWP / MDOL Comments**
- **Other Agencies and Native American Tribes**

## **West**

- **None in Yellowstone National Park**
- **MFWP / MDOL Comments**
- **Other Agencies and Native American Tribes**



# Remainder of the Season

## Gardiner

- ~150 bison from Gardiner to Mammoth
- 3 bison in Corwin Springs

## West

- ~750 bison from Madison Junction west
- Ongoing hazing by MDOL
- Haze-back in mid-May

## Issues / Comments



# Recommendations

## Pre-harvest meeting in May or June

- Agree to age, herd, and sex ratios for harvest
- Move the hunt away from the road
- Stagger hunt/no hunt days to allow bison movements (or something with similar effect)

## Highway 89 Speed Limit

- Reduce to 55 mph when bison guard in place
- State agencies coordinate with MDOT?

## 2016 Removal Recommendations in July



# Questions / Comments

