

# Buffalo Field Campaign



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Brian Daly, CMCR photo.

## Winter '98-'99

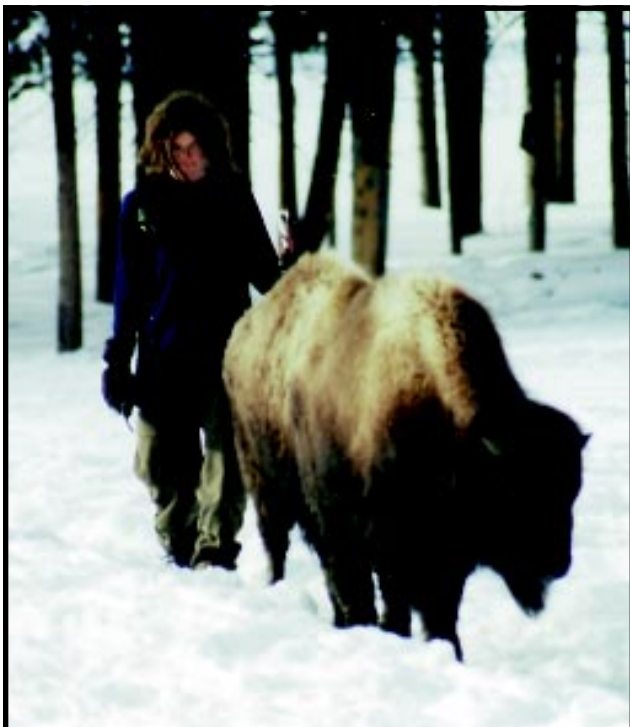
***Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working in the field every day to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild Buffalo.***

***Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers defend the buffalo on their traditional winter habitat and advocate for their protection. Our daily patrols stand with the herd and the ground they choose to be on, and document every move made against the buffalo.***

January 25—As sunrise broke on the snow-covered trees and distant mountains, two tripods blockaded a Forest Service road to a proposed buffalo capture facility on Horse Butte, prime winter buffalo habitat and habitat for threatened species like the bald eagle. Sitters have occupied two platforms for over two weeks now in the wind and subzero temperatures. Mysteriously, three more tripods have appeared. The DOL has not built the facility yet, and the sitters plan to stay until they are removed or the plans for the new trap are scrapped.

—BFC volunteer

Greg Raisman photo.



Matt McGovern-Rowan photo.

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers is the fiscal for Buffalo Field Campaign.

CMCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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Tiffany Brown photo.

## Scenes From this Winter...

"I squeezed into morning ski patrol the first day I was here, and have since fallen in love with the routine. Wake at 5 am... put on all the warm clothes I own... ski out to the park boundary in the dark... run in place to keep warm as we wait for the sun to rise while squinting into the trees for the unmistakable silhouette of buffalo. Then there's the horror in the pit of my stomach, and adrenaline rush when we realize buffalo are on unfriendly private land and susceptible to the DOL's guns. Witnessing the grace and dignity of the buffalo everyday crystallizes how sick the DOL's agenda is, and how noble is this troupe of volunteers who come to save the last wild buffalo herd.

—Kristin M.

"I was riding down the trail on the snowmobile at sunrise when I passed snowmobilers. The guns on their backs were for the buffalo. I turned to follow them. Suddenly they made a sharp left and stopped; they had found the buffalo. I pulled my sled between the guns and the buffalo. I knew that's what I'd do. There was no soul searching, none of that. It is why I'm here. The cops cuffed me. The DOL agents shot all six buffalo while I sat there watching, helpless. I fell to my knees and cried, and screamed, and prayed. That was the hardest, the darkest, most frustrating thing I have ever witnessed or been a part of."

—Corey Mascio

"We said no to bison slaughter for more than a hundred years, but they keep on killing. The genocide against the bison was part and parcel of the genocide of Indians. The recovery of the bison population in Yellowstone was to us a portent that our spirituality and traditional way of life could be rediscovered."

—Scott Barta, a HoCank Winnebago involved in the issue



January 13— Yesterday, the DOL hazed eight bull buffalo from Red Canyon, forcing them to run 8 miles back towards Yellowstone Park, and pushed seven tired creatures into the Duck Creek trap. Two more hungry buffalo were lured into the facility today prior to the hazing operation. Before first light this morning, activist Sue Nackoney sat in the top of a 30 foot tripod on Duck Creek Road to prevent the buffalo from being trucked to the slaughter. She delayed the operation for 5 hours, though 5 buffalo were eventually shipped to slaughter.

—BFC Volunteer.



## The Buffalo Field Campaign (formerly Buffalo Nations)

Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working on the ground, everyday, to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of the Greater Yellowstone buffalo herd. Volunteers from around the world stand with buffalo who range outside of Yellowstone in order to call for the protection of these magnificent animals. Buffalo Field Campaign advocates for increased participation of Native American tribal governments in buffalo management.

Buffalo in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are not protected on their year-round habitat. Yellowstone Park does not provide sufficient winter range for the resident herds of wildlife due to the deep snows at its high elevations. Animals leave the park in order to forage on lower elevation grasses necessary for winter survival during harsh winters. When the buffalo follow their instinctual migration routes to lower elevations, they unwittingly enter a conflict zone where their needs for survival are undermined by Montana's politics.

During the winter of 1996-97, almost 1,100 Yellowstone buffalo were slaughtered when they crossed the arbitrary park boundary and entered Montana. These killings, combined with deaths from the unusually severe winter, resulted in a loss of nearly two-thirds of the Yellowstone buffalo herd. Today the wild herd is about 2,500 buffalo.

In the winter of 1997-98, volunteers worked to prevent another massive slaughter by patrolling the Yellowstone Park boundary, monitoring buffalo movements and documenting DOL actions against the buffalo. Although 11 buffalo were killed, our presence and effective media coverage showed the DOL that they could not kill the buffalo who left the park without the eyes of the world watching.

Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers stand with the buffalo all day from sunrise until sunset. We monitor buffalo that leave the park, shepherd them to safety when necessary, and take non-violent direct action to stop the DOL from capturing and killing buffalo. Our patrols watch buffalo from cars, skis, and snowshoes.

Buffalo Field Campaign enjoys the incredible support and participation of people in the local community. Landowners allow us to post signs on their property designating them as "Buffalo Safe Zones." We offer a fence maintenance and repair service to mitigate damage caused by wildlife. Locals join us on our daily rounds, and many support our patrols with hot drinks and warm food.



Greg Raisman, BFC photo.

January 7— As dawn broke over Yellowstone, BFC volunteers shepherded 10 grazing buffalo away from the buffalo capture facility. Eleven other buffalo had been lured with hay into the facility by the DOL the night before. One captive bull freed himself. Before the buffalo could escape the outermost fencing, DOL security blocked the only open gate. The buffalo saw the truck and broke through a closed gate as he jumped out to freedom. Eight of the ten buffalo remaining in the pens were shipped to slaughter, and three volunteers were arrested for taking non-violent direct action to stop the transport of the buffalo to slaughter.

—BFC Volunteer.

### A Petition to the Honorable: Mike Dombeck, Chief, US Forest Service; Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; Bill Clinton, President, United States:

We, the people, implore you to take immediate action to help the plight of one of our nation's great symbols, the largest and last free-ranging wild buffalo herd in the United States.

Montana's Governor Marc Racicot has made the Yellowstone buffalo into a political punching bag instead of managing them as wildlife. This is evident in Montana's refusal to let biologists manage them, and instead treating them as domestic cattle. Please be the voice of reason and action and end this debacle for the concerned citizens of the United States as well as the world.

Federal agencies and officials have continually failed to prepare a legally sufficient environmental documents analyzing the environmental impacts of buffalo management or to properly evaluate the impacts of the buffalo slaughter on imperiled species in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. Forest Service lands should be used for wildlife as intended by law. Current grazing allotments should be converted over to buffalo habitat.

It is necessary to stop wasting taxpayers dollars in managing these wild buffalo. It is time that you, as public servants, take personal responsibility and serve the public and address these issues.

<http://www.wildrockies.org/buffpet>

## Yes! I'd like to help support the Buffalo Field Campaign

Your contributions go directly to front line protection of the last wild buffalo.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Here's a tax deductible contribution, send receipt  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  Sign me on to the petition  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  Put me on your email list  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Put me on your Mailing list  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  Send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of this newsletter to redistribute  
 contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send contributions and requests to:  
Buffalo Field Campaign PO Box 957, West Yellowstone, MT. 59758

### Join us on the Front Lines or Support us from Afar!

We are on patrol all day, everyday, defending the buffalo on their critical winter habitat outside Yellowstone National Park, documenting every action taken against them. We have immediate openings for field volunteers. All volunteers are provided with room and board in a log house on Hebgen Lake, near West Yellowstone, Montana. If you can't visit in person, your tax-deductible contribution will make our patrols possible. Please contact us for volunteer information or with questions..

### Buffalo Bull

Buffalo Bull is a 50 minute documentary exposing the Yellowstone Buffalo slaughter. The film combines footage shot in the field since 1990 and interviews with local residents, politicians, and agency officials to present the issue in its historical and current context. The video is a must see for anyone interested in the plight of America's last wild, free-roaming buffalo herd. (52:00 VHS).

Print the order form at <http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/video.html> or send a \$20 check or money order to: Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers PO Box 7941 Missoula MT 59807.



Mid April—The DOL conducted a major militaristic hazing operation in West Yellowstone with 2 helicopters, 3 all terrain vehicles, a motor-cross bike, several four-wheel drive trucks and 2 horses. Three pregnant buffalo ducked into the woods to escape the chaos and gave birth. The newborn calves spent their first 2 weeks in a hidden grove with their mothers, north of the Madison River.

Brian Daly, CMCR photo.



Our patrol was with them when they moved. We watched them wake, rise, and start walking, testing the calves' new legs. It was clear that they were on their way back to Yellowstone, to join the gathering herd. Our main concern was Highway 191, a busy road with lots of trucks. As we got in position to warn traffic, the buffalo were standing on the bluff overlooking the highway.

Suddenly, as fast as they had run from helicopters two weeks before, they crossed their final obstacle to freedom. Down the 40 foot bluff, across the blacktop, and up the opposite bluff they thundered, into the park. They ran hard for at least a 1/2 mile, not even breaking for a mouth-full of the fresh green grass. Before disappearing, they stopped and graced us with a long stare.

—Mike Mease

Mark Alan Wilson photo.



## Showdown at Horse Butte

**S**pring, 1999— The State of Montana broke laws and violated citizens' rights while capturing and slaughtering America's last wild buffalo.

In an attempt to immobilize Field Campaign activists, the State arrested them on false charges, imposed bail restrictions to prevent them from being present at capture and hazing operations. They also repeatedly intimidated and threatened people. DOL agents knowingly violated Forest Service regulations and hazed buffalo through closed bald eagle critical nesting habitat on snowmobiles. In April and May, the DOL repeatedly hazed pregnant females and other buffalo with cracker-barrels from snowmobiles, ATVs, trucks, helicopters, and horses.

On March 18— the same day that the Montana State Legislature was hearing HB 643, a bill to transfer buffalo management to a wildlife agency instead of a livestock agency— more than 20 law enforcement officers from a variety of agencies gathered near West Yellowstone. They came to remove a blockade maintained by BFC volunteers that had prevented construction of the DOL's planned bison trap at Horse Butte for 2 months. Six activists were arrested, the blockade removed, and construction of the new facility was underway.

Later the same day, four buffalo walked from the Duck Creek trap to Horse Butte. When the law enforcement agents saw the buffalo approaching they blocked the road with their snowmobiles.

Volunteers who were walking with the buffalo were then followed by the agents, who tackled one without provocation and handcuffed him. Two others were quickly apprehended. The fourth videotaped the incident and was repeatedly assured that he would not be charged or arrested. When the sheriff arrived, the volunteer was taken into custody and his radio, video camera, and tape were confiscated. The activists spent a day in jail without charges being filed. Fortunately, the videotape clearly showed the charges to be false, and 3 of the 4 cases were dropped, with the last one still pending.

Previously, volunteers arrested while protecting buffalo were released on \$175 bail or on recognizance. This time the state prosecutor requested bond to be set at \$500. Conditions of release restricted the arrestees from going within 1500 feet of both capture facilities and all DOL operations. Although no one was convicted, everyone arrested was banned from private and public lands including National Forest and National Park lands. The legality of those restrictions are currently under challenge in court.

By the third week of March the bison trap was nearly complete. The first major capture effort at Horse Butte



Project Lighthawk, BFC photo.

occurred on March 31. With the help of numerous law enforcement officers, the DOL cordoned off the area and hazed 29 buffalo into the trap, 18 of which were shipped to slaughter. Activists video documented two DOL special use permit violations, including snowmobile hazing within 1/4 mile of an eagle nest site, and hazing within 1/4 mile of open water. They submitted copies of the videotape of these violations to both the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Forest Service, who only issued a warning to the DOL, refusing to shut them down.

On April 14 the DOL conducted their largest bison capture of the year, capturing 71 buffalo at Horse Butte and slaughtering 45. Six other buffalo died from injuries incurred in captivity. Four buffalo died while being held by the DOL. Two pregnant females testing negative for brucellosis were released by the DOL only to die from injuries sustained while confined.

Five BFC volunteers were arrested while protesting the capture and another 4 were illegally detained and never charged with a crime. One volunteer was tackled, cursed at, and held to the ground by DOL agents, although he did nothing to provoke or resist the arrest. After being detained and threatened for over an hour he was released with no charges.

From mid-April on, the DOL engaged in numerous hazing operations, scaring buffalo with cracker barrels from motorized vehicles and stampeding them back to the park. Many of those buffalo were about to or had just given birth. That harassment and stress can cause serious complications resulting in the death of mother and calf.

The arrests, the false charges, and the unreasonable conditions of release set by the court are examples of increasing power plays by the DOL in their attempts to thwart our ability to protect the buffalo. If we are to overcome such obstacles and save the Yellowstone buffalo we will need your help. Talk to your friends and spread the word about the issue. Write your elected officials and urge them to stop the slaughter. Contribute to the Buffalo Field Campaign so we can continue our campaign of non-violent civil disobedience and protect America's last wild, free-roaming herd of buffalo.

# What You Can Do

## Solutions to the Problem

- Buffalo should be managed by wildlife agencies employing contemporary wildlife management techniques with full public involvement and in conjunction with Native American tribes.
- Cattle vaccination would protect livestock far more effectively than, and at a fraction of the cost of, the current war against the buffalo.
- 98% of the lands used by the buffalo outside National Park boundaries are our National Forest lands. The Forest Service should close grazing allotments, or at least modify the stocking dates of such allotments to minimize buffalo/cattle overlap.
- If the buffalo herd grows beyond a truly science based carrying capacity of public lands adjacent to Yellowstone, buffalo could be relocated to 47 tribes who want to re-establish wild herds on tribal lands. Wild buffalo could be restored on public lands suitable for their recovery.
- The Department of Livestock is the wrong agency to control the fate of these magnificent creatures. Buffalo are not cattle and deserve all the protections that other wild species receive. All decisions affecting the buffalo should place emphasis on maintaining wild, free-ranging, self-sustaining herds.
- Under no circumstances should your tax dollars be wasted to pay for the capture of Yellowstone bison on public lands.

## Speak Out for the Buffalo!

It just takes a moment and can help make a difference! Use your pen, phone, or computer to urge our public officials to stop the slaughter and implement some common sense solutions to the problem (above). Letters to the editor of your local paper are also a great way to let people know about this atrocity. Check out our website for more info and speak out for the buffalo and future generations!

Mike Dombeck, Chief, Forest Service,  
Auditor's Bldg  
201 14th Street, S.W. at Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: (202) 205-1661  
email: Mike.Dombeck/wo@fs.fed.us

Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture  
200A Whitten Bldg  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20246  
Phone: (202) 720-3631; Fax: 202-720-2166

Let their bosses know that wild buffalo are important... do they even know what is happening?

Pres. Bill Clinton;  
email: president@whitehouse.gov  
Vice Pres. Gore;  
email: vice.president@whitehouse.gov  
The White House mailing address is:  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D.C. 20500  
Phone: (202) 456-1414; Fax: (202) 456-2461

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone: (202) 208-7351  
email: exsec@ios.doi.gov

Robert Stanton; Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
email: dir@nps.gov



### Montana Folks responsible for the killing:

Montana Department of Livestock  
Box 202201  
Helena, MT 59620  
The DOL's acting director is Marc Bridges. Phone from Montana at (800) 523-3162; ext. 3 or from out of state (406) 444-2023

Governor Marc Racicot  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620  
Phone: (406) 444-3111  
within Montana: (800) 332-2272  
fax: (406) 444-4151

Montana Tourism Development & Promotion Division;  
Travel Bureau of Montana  
Matthew Cohn, Director;  
email: matthew@travel.mt.gov  
Will you spend your money in a State with such politics?  
Phone calls are good (& free)... (800) 847-4868

Schedule a showing of "Buffalo Bull" in your community. Contact us for more info!

Tax deductible monetary contributions to Camp will be used for housing, food and gas. Please consider supporting Buffalo Field Campaign... your money will be used wisely. Hold a benefit in your community! Unlike other national organizations, we are in the field with the buffalo 365 days a year!

This is a grass roots effort. If you don't speak out... who will? Pass this newsletter and info on to your friends and family.

For the buffalo!





*What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.*

*—Blackfoot warrior Crowfoot, last words, 1890*

## The “Crisis” In Current Buffalo Management

State and Federal management agencies justify killing buffalo by saying the buffalo pose an unacceptable risk of brucellosis transmission to Montana cattle, and that the cattle industry must protect its brucellosis-free status. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease present in both domestic animals and wildlife such as elk, deer and moose. Infected domestic cows tend to abort their first calf and then birth normally, although it does not seem to affect wildlife.

### Facts:

- The available scientific evidence demonstrates that the risk of brucellosis being passed to cattle is extremely remote. There has never been a documented case of brucellosis transmission from buffalo to livestock in a natural setting.
- In Grand Teton National Park, buffalo and vaccinated cattle have co-mingled for over 40 years without a single cow contracting the disease.
- Management agencies have not addressed possible brucellosis transmission from wildlife such as coyotes, elk, deer, moose, and others. If managers truly believe brucellosis is a threat, they would manage the disease instead of the buffalo.
- The federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will not revoke Montana’s brucellosis-free status if the state tolerates the presence of “low risk” buffalo such as bulls and calves. Of the 1,095 buffalo killed in the last two winters, almost half posed a low risk for transmission (346 were bulls, 149 were yearling calves).
- Costly cattle import restrictions, imposed by other states, are supposedly feared. Yet, only the federal government can impose restrictions, and all states must respect the federal brucellosis classification.



Meghan Fay, CMCR photo. 1997.

*“These men have done in the last four years more to settle the vexed Indian question than the entire regular army has done in the last 40 years. They are destroying the Indians’ commissary and it is a well-known fact that an army losing its base of supplies is placed at a great disadvantage. Let them kill, skin, and sell until the buffaloes are exterminated. Then your prairies can be covered with speckled cattle.”*  
General Phil Sheridan, 1870s.



## What Happens to Buffalo Entering Montana?

Buffalo that cross the invisible park boundary are put into the deadly grasp of the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), an agency with no wildlife management training or experience. DOL agents chase, capture and kill buffalo that enter the state. However, the DOL’s mandate is to promote Montana’s livestock industry—the ultimate dis-incentive for managing a wild buffalo population.

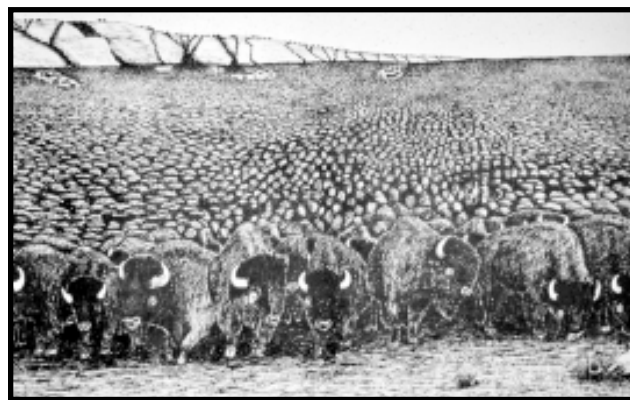
When buffalo enter Montana, DOL agents on snowmobiles, ATVs, horses or trucks round them up and force them to run for up to ten miles and over barbed wire fences back to the park. As the snow accumulates, continued hazing stresses the buffalo unnecessarily and causes winter kill. Buffalo Field Campaign documented a herd of over 100 elk running from a DOL snowmobile during bison hazing, running over barbed wire fences, and getting injured.

DOL baits their capture facilities with hay or rounds up buffalo and hazes them into the trap to test them. These traps are a maze of cattle fences and plywood that funnel captive buffalo into small chutes for testing. This process subjects wild buffalo to unnatural confinement, which causes the animals to break horns, panic and gore each other. DOL agents hit captive buffalo with sticks, shock them with cattle prods, and chase them with Bobcat mini-tractors.

The test that the DOL conducts is a blood test which can only prove that the buffalo might have been exposed to brucellosis, not that they have or could transmit the disease. About 50% test positive and are sentenced to death, even though most of those, because of sex, age or reproductive status, could not, if infected, transmit the disease.

According to the results of tissue and blood tests conducted by State and Federal officials during the winter of 1991-92, less than one-half of one percent of Yellowstone bison were infectious. Of the 218 bison sampled, not one, at the time of death, was capable of transmitting brucellosis bacteria to cattle.

The DOL even shoots buffalo in the field without testing them for brucellosis. Even worse, in the winter of 1996-97 the DOL shot buffalo in the field even after they had already captured and released them after they tested negative for brucellosis.



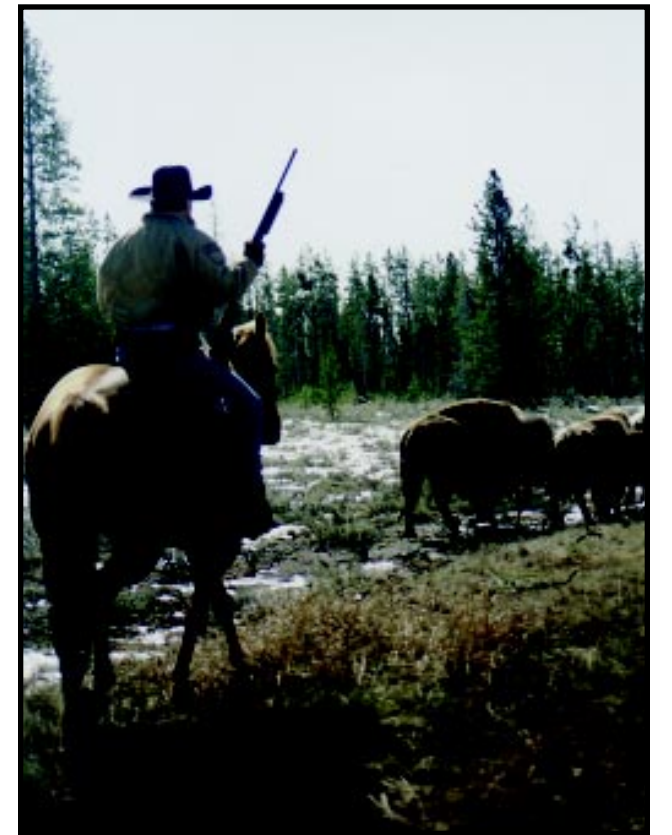
## Is History Repeating Itself?

Sixty-five million buffalo once roamed America from coast to coast. Buffalo were essential to the survival of Plains Indians, providing spiritual guidance, food, shelter, and tools. 19th century American military leaders recognized the Indians’ dependence on the buffalo and launched an all out attack on the Indians’ very source of life. Buffalo were killed by the millions and their remains were left to waste on the prairies. By 1900 only a few hundred buffalo remained, most in captivity. In the remote backcountry of Yellowstone National Park, the last 23 wild buffalo survived, the ancestors of today’s herd.

By 1997 the Yellowstone buffalo herd numbered 3,500— one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history. Unfortunately, the success was short lived. Buffalo are no longer welcome on the public lands outside of Yellowstone, their traditional winter habitat, having been displaced by powerful cattle interests. The buffalo slaughter of the 19th century has resumed. The State of Montana and federal government agencies are killing the direct descendants of the buffalo brought back from the brink of extinction in the last hundred years.

## A History of the Yellowstone Buffalo

- 1810— 65 million wild buffalo in the United States
- 1850-80— 80 million buffalo shot, their remains left to rot on the prairies
- 1872— Yellowstone National Park established
- 1895— 800 buffalo remain in the United States, most in captivity
- 1896— 23 buffalo left in Yellowstone; wild buffalo on the brink of extinction
- 1902— 21 buffalo reintroduced to Yellowstone from herds in Montana and Texas
- 1907— Bison Ranch established in YNP’s Lamar Valley
- 1917— Brucellosis discovered in Yellowstone buffalo (introduced by cattle)
- 1952— Bison Ranch ceases operations
- 1954— 1,500 buffalo in the Park; Park officials decide Yellowstone can only support 400 bison, start shooting bison inside the park
- 1966— 397 Buffalo left in Yellowstone; Park implements policy of natural population regulation; shooting stops
- 1985— Montana Legislature enacts bison hunt; “hunters” can apply for a permit
- 1988— 2,750 buffalo in Yellowstone
- 1989— Buffalo hunt stopped due to public opposition
- 1991-95— Montana Fish & Game shoot buffalo leaving park in winter
- 1995— 4,500 buffalo in Yellowstone; Montana legislature gives control (shooting and capture duty) to the Department of Livestock (DOL)
- 1996-97— During a severe winter, DOL and NPS kill 1,084 buffalo; an estimated 1,800 die from the severe winter; herd reduced by two-thirds
- 1997-98— Buffalo Nations Field Camp formed— volunteers protect buffalo leaving the Park; DOL kills 11 bison; 1,700 wild buffalo in the Yellowstone area, few elsewhere
- 1998-99— DOL slaughters 94 animals. Many BFC volunteers are arrested protesting the capturing and slaughtering.
- 1999— Tatanka Oyate Mani, “They Walk for the Buffalo,” a 500 mile native walk from South Dakota to Yellowstone in February. Tribal Consultation with YNP held in May.



## The Yellowstone Buffalo

Yellowstone buffalo live in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as part of an intricate web of species who depend upon each others presence for survival. Scientists call buffalo a “keystone species” which reflects the crucial role they play in the perpetuation of a functioning ecosystem.

The forests and fields surrounding Yellowstone provide rich wildlife habitat for many endangered and threatened species. Grizzly bears, gray wolves, trumpeter swans, eagles, peregrine falcons, lynx, wolverine, harlequin ducks are among the animals that roam the lands where buffalo roam in the winter.

Sagebrush, grasses, and wildflowers dot the meadows. National Forest lands on Horse Butte is speckled with old-growth trees. Southeast from the butte lies burnt and downed lodgepole for pine marten and woodpeckers. Slopes and bottom lands contain a mosaic of Douglas-fir and Lodgepole forest. An incredible diversity of plant species including slender white paintbrush and large-leaved balsamroot grow on the peninsula.

The Yellowstone buffalo herd have established a winter/spring migration corridor that leads them to Horse Butte. The buffalo winter there and calve in the spring. Grizzly bears need the essential food source of winter killed buffalo carcasses that they find.

When the sun has melted the deep snows, and the time is right, the buffalo use these wildland habitats to return to Yellowstone Park.