

# American Bison Society Report Card 2016



- **WCS RE-FORMED THE AMERICAN BISON SOCIETY IN 2005**

- » Formed the Vermejo Vision 2006
- » Completed the Rangewide assessment of Bison 2008
- » Hosted biennial workshops—5 (including 2016) to date addressing ecological restoration, genetics, and social/cultural dimensions of ecological restoration
  - Principles of ecological restoration
  - Guidance for conservation of the bison genome
- » Produced a series of important science reports addressing: disease, fire ecology, herbivory, demography and an online Atlas of Bison Conservation.

- **THE IUCN BISON SPECIALIST GROUP UNDER THE SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION**

- » 2010 Bison Status and Guidelines
- » 2016 Red List Assessment

- **CONNECTING PEOPLE TO BISON**

- » The Linnii Initiative—hosting tribal dialogues to create a collective conservation vision, engage tribal elders and launch strategic restoration actions. 2010-16
- » Bison on the Edge Conference for bison restoration in Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan 2009.
- » The Buffalo Treaty among 15 Nations in Montana and Alberta 2014
- » Bison restoration conference session at SCB in Edmonton, AB, 2010
- » Fort Peck Reservation bison summit, MT 2015.
- » WCS completed national survey of attitudes followed by several Montana surveys of attitudes toward bison by NWF and Defenders of Wildlife
- » Bison Belong—Hosted community events to celebrate the return of bison to Banff NP 2015-16
- » Human Dimensions of bison restoration conference session—NACCB Madison Wisc. 2016
- » Annual Elk Island Bison Festival 2014-16
- » Caprock Canyons—Texas State Bison Music Festival 2010-16

- **CONNECTING PEOPLE TO BISON (CONT.)**

- » Vote Bison Coalition was formed in 2011-NBLA passed in 2016 naming bison as our national mammal and establishing National Bison Day
  - Hosted National Bison Day for three years 2013-15 designated through annual senate resolutions
- » ESRI Bison Story Map project-2016
- » NPS Bison Bellows-weekly bison stories in 2016- Part of NPS centennial celebrations

- **FEDERAL RESTORATION EFFORTS- CANADA, U.S. AND MEXICO**

- » On October 9, 2008, U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne created the DOI Bison Conservation and Management Working Group.
- » Yellowstone Quarantine Project-USDA/Montana FWP 2005-2010
- » DOI Secretary Ken Salazar initiated another secretarial order in 2012. It set out to assess the status of federal herds and find suitable ranges for Yellowstone bison from quarantine feasibility study.
- » COSEWIC report on status of bison in Canada-2013
- » DOI publishes bison report "Looking Forward" 2014
- » Banff Reintroduction by Parks Canada proceeds 2015-16
- » Grand Canyon EIS process initiated 2015-16
- » Trilateral Committee on Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management-bison discussion table 2015-16
- » Proposed Wood Bison Recovery Strategy for Canada- 2016
- » DOI/WCS Bison Science Project 2015-16

- **STATE BISON INITIATIVES**

- » State of Utah-Book Cliffs 2009
- » State of Alaska-Central Alaska 2015
- » State of Arizona and NPS collaborate on Grand Canyon Project 2015-16
- » State of Montana completes programmatic EIS 2016

- **NGO INITIATIVES**

- » Bison were introduced to American Prairie Reserve in 2005-now number over 800
- » TNC Broken Kettle Preserve in Iowa 2008
- » TNC Mexico-El Uno Ecological Reserve 2009
- » Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Project-Colorado 2015

- **TRIBAL RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION**

- » ITBC partners with NBA, WCS and Vote Bison Coalition for passage of NBLA 2011-16
- » Fort Peck Yellowstone herd development and Quarantine project 2012-16
- » Fort Belknap established Yellowstone herd in 2014 from Fort Peck bison
- » Blackfeet/WCS/Parks Canada bring Elk Island Bison home 2016
- » CSKT management of the National Bison Range-public discussion-decision pending

- **ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS**

- » Bronx Zoo in partnership with Colorado State University creates first bison born through embryo transfer-The calf was from Yellowstone genetic stock 2012
- » University of Saskatchewan reports first wood bison produced through in-vitro reproduction 2016.
- » Alaska Conservation Center host wood bison until reintroduction could proceed 2010-15
- » Oakland Zoo partners with the Blackfeet to help restore Elk Island NP bison in Montana 2016

- **BISON PRODUCERS**

- » Conservation guidelines for producers-NBA conservation working group 2016
- » NBA participates in National Mammal Campaign 2011-2016
- » Turner Properties supports the Yellowstone Quarantine Project 2010-14 until bison transfer to Fort Peck