



BISON HARVEST

HARVEST A BISON AT AMERICAN PRAIRIE.

The harvest takes place on American Prairie's 27,000-acre Sun Prairie Unit where the herd numbers over 400. The bison can be found across the unit in habitats ranging from rolling sagebrush hills, willowed creek bottoms to rough Missouri Breaks type terrain.

American Prairie is a non-profit conservation organization working to create the largest nature reserve in the continental United States, a refuge for people and wildlife preserved forever as part of America's heritage.

Restoration of bison is essential to the mission of American Prairie. The goal of American Prairie's bison program is to establish an ecologically significant herd of bison that interacts with the landscape and people as they did historically.

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See back side for harvest details >>

RULES FOR BISON HARVEST DRAWING FROM AMERICAN PRAIRIE

GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY AROUND COVID-19, THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES.

RULES

- Pursuit of bison may only occur in areas designated on the unit map that will be provided to harvest recipients. Safety areas extend 400 yards from the nearest building or campsite. [View Map](#).
- Harvest recipients may only attempt to harvest during their assigned harvest dates.
- Harvest success is not guaranteed.
- Bison harvest is restricted to one bison less than two years in age.
- The harvest recipient is responsible for accurately identifying the age of the bison before shooting a bison.
- Shooting is only permitted from ½ hour before sunrise up to a ½ hour after sunset.
- Lead-free bullets are required. We recommend bullets 150 grain or larger.
- Archery weapons are not allowed.
- Harvest recipient and any person with the recipient must wear hunter orange.
- Vehicles permitted only on designated roads. No off-road motorized travel. Game carts, sleds, and/or pack animals are permitted for retrieval.
- Do not harvest a bison with pink or blue ear tags. These bison are part of research study and cannot be consumed.
- The harvest recipient is required to field dress and pack out the harvested bison.
- Bison are very large and difficult to field dress. Harvest recipients are responsible for safely killing, dressing, and packing out the harvested bison.
- No wanton waste. All four quarters and the edible portions along the spine (loins and hump) must be removed.
- Harvest recipients are required to view this [Montana Fish & Wildlife Parks Bison Hunting Video](#) - The video provides information on bison hunting and tips for success in the field before and after the shot. Information specific to the Greater Yellowstone Area is not applicable. Our bison herd is brucellosis free.
- Harvest recipients must check-in in person with American Prairie staff before accessing the property to review orientation packet, confirm bison harvest permission, and verify compliance with rules set forth.
- Harvest recipients must check-out in person with American Prairie staff to verify age and sex of harvested animal.

Helpful Information

Field dressing a bison is difficult work and recipients should plan accordingly. We recommend bringing assistance to field dress and pack out the bison. Using an outfitter is permitted. Though only the recipient may harvest the bison, they may bring other people to assist with field dressing and carry out.

- A Field Guide to Plains Bison - [Use this valuable resource](#) to learn how to age and sex bison in the field any time of the year.
- Tips on Shooting a bison - [Use this resource](#) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to help you make an ethical shot on a bison.
- Local Meat Processors. Please call ahead to ensure space and time availability.
 - Smith's Wild Game Cutting (406) 673-3296
 - Hi-Line Packing (406) 654-2697
- Please view our website for helpful resources: [Visiting American Prairie](#)

If you have additional questions, please email mail@americanprairie.org