

IBMP Briefing Statement

Agency: Montana Department of Livestock
Issue: IBMP Partner Update – 2007/2008
Date: August 6, 2008

Background:

- Summary of 2007-2008 bison carcass distribution.
- Summary of 2007-2008 west side operations.

Summary

- 1435 bison were hauled to slaughter and distributed by MDOL during the 2007-2008 bison season. 69% of those were distributed to tribal organizations in 15 different states. 14% were distributed to urban Native American groups, 12% to food banks and 5% to volunteer fire departments.
- West side operations began on February 26, 2008 and encompassed 19 operations and involved 831 animals. Of these, 158 were shipped to slaughter, 673 were hazed back into YNP. No testing or vaccination was performed on the west side.

West Side Operations by Month

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|------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| • Feb 08 | 0 hazings of 0 animals | 30 captured | 30 shipped |
| • March 08 | 0 hazings of 0 animals | 77 captured | 77 shipped |
| • April 08 | 2 hazings of 2 animals | 42 captured | 42 shipped |
| • May 08 | 8 hazings of 671 animals | 9 captured | 9 shipped |

West side operations began later than usual to attempt to accommodate both state licensed and tribal hunters while at the same time maintaining management authority under the IBMP. MDOL continuously monitored the Zone 2/Zone 3 boundary and stood ready to haze back and/or capture if necessary.

Snow levels in the West Yellowstone area were at record levels causing hazing operations to begin more than a month later than the previous year. Working in cooperation with the IBMP partners, MDOL engaged in a haze to habitat program, delaying hazing operations until there was adequate feed in the Park for the hazings to be successful. This resulted in a vast majority of the bison needing to be hazed a single time.

MDOL and the state veterinarian are confident that at no time did a bison calve on property where cattle were to be grazing later in the year.

Contact:

Dr. Martin Zaluski, State Veterinarian, (406) 444-2043 mzaluski@mt.gov
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer, (406) 444-9321 cmackay@mt.gov