

IBMP Briefing Statement

Agency: National Park Service - Yellowstone National Park
Issue: Interagency Bison Management Plan update - 2007/2008
Date: August 6, 2008

Background:

- Summary of winter 2007-08 Interagency Bison Management Plan operations in the North Boundary Management Area.

Summary:

- 127 total hazing actions in North Boundary Management Area
 - First haze: 12/07 Last haze: Late May 08
 - 75% (95) were out of park response to support MT DOL.
 - Longest Haze: Yankee Jim Canyon to Stephens Creek (approx 10 miles).
 - Largest group hazed: 200+
- 1636 total bison captured in 29 operations at Stephens Creek facility; of these:
 - 1276 consigned to slaughter
 - 112 transferred to APHIS/FWP Quarantine Feasibility Study.
 - 538 tested
 - 24 vaccinated
 - Sero-status of 1636 animals handled: 45% sero-positive 55% sero-negative
 - 10 mortalities/euthanizations associated with capture facility.
 - 3 euthanized due to pre-capture injuries
 - 1 goring
 - 6 natural cause
 - Responded to assist MT DOL in out of park shooting operations for 7 bison
- 333 bison held at Stephens Creek released back into park on 5/19-20
 - 80 calves of the year
 - Longest holding period by over 1 month due to late onset of green-up

NORTH OPS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH

- Dec 07 2 hazings
- Jan 08 3 hazings
- Feb 08 16 hazings 640 captured 475 shipped 1 SC mort
- Mar 08 46 hazings 698 captured 538 shipped 2 SC mort 74 Quarantine 66 held
- Apr 08* 45 hazings 281 captured 263 shipped 7 SC mort 38 Quarantine 170 held
- May 08 15 hazings 17 captured 0 shipped 333 released

***Early April shift to focus on population conservation**

- Snowpack: Most severe in the last 10 years. See 2006-2008 comparative graph on reverse.
 - Jan/Feb snowpack severity divergence correlates to onset of capture operations (Feb. 8)
 - West Operations: Supported MT DOL in West Management Area operations
 - Using lessons learned from 06/07 the partners collaborated on a successful phased hazing strategy. Bison were moved sequentially in small groups through receptive staging areas to the Madison Junction/Fountain Flats area in the park.
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