

IBMP Briefing Statement

Agency: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Issue: Bison Hunt Monitoring
Date: Aug. 28-29, 2008

Background:

- As authorized by the 2003 Montana Legislature under SB 395 (MCA 87-2-730), FWP conducts annual wild bison hunts.
- The first of these bison hunts was implemented in 2005, with subsequent hunts in 2006 and 2007.
- The previous and upcoming hunt season structure allowed for 44 either sex bison permits. In addition 100 cow/calf supplemental permits could be issued based on the migration of bison out of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) into Montana based on monitoring.
- If monitoring shows 60 or more bison in either the West or North hunting districts then additional permits may be offered.

Current Status:

- Entering fourth year of renewed bison hunting in Montana.
- Entering second year of implementing supplemental permits based on migration.
- 38 supplemental cow/calf permits were issued in 2008/2009 season. All of those were issued in the western hunting district.
- During the 2007/2008 hunting season the number of bison outside of YNP was conducted three times from aircraft. Daily to weekly ground observations also occurred.
- Aircraft monitoring for the coming hunting season will depend on budget availability, weather conditions and migration activity. Daily to weekly ground observations will continue.

Contact:

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