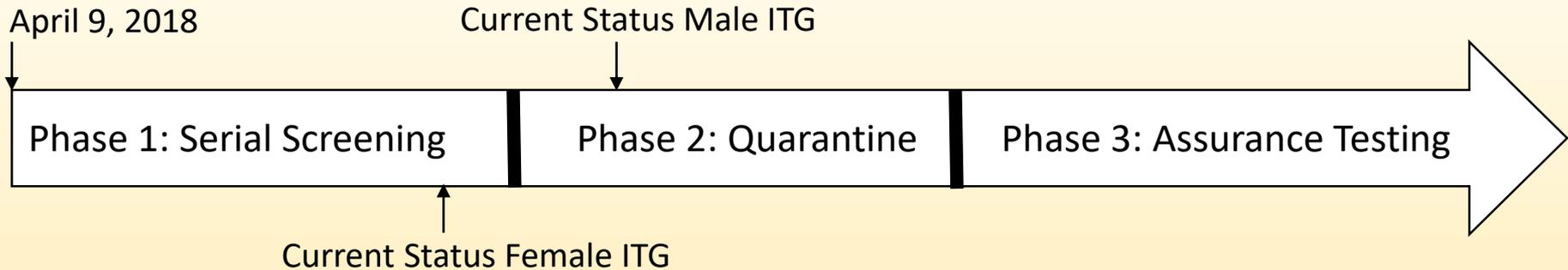


# STATUS OF BISON IN QUARANTINE IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



## Current Status

- 58 Males undergoing Phase II
- 21 Females undergoing Phase I → begin breeding & calving August 2019
- Goal: Transfer bison to Fort Peck after completing Phase II

## Background

- Selection: 71 Males/25 Females (about 2 years old at the time) selected April 9, 2018.
- Brucellosis Tests: Tested 9 times → Next test April 26, 2019
  - *Males*: 11 of 71 (15%) tested positive for brucellosis
  - *Females*: 2 of 25 (8%) tested positive for brucellosis
  - 3 animals removed b/c inconclusive tests & 1 died in captivity

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# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

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## GOALS (2018-19 Operations Plan)

### **1. Allow/Facilitate Bison to use available habitats**

- “Habitat learning”
- “Greater hunting distribution and harvest”
- “Greater distribution of bison that are not harvested or hazed back into Park”

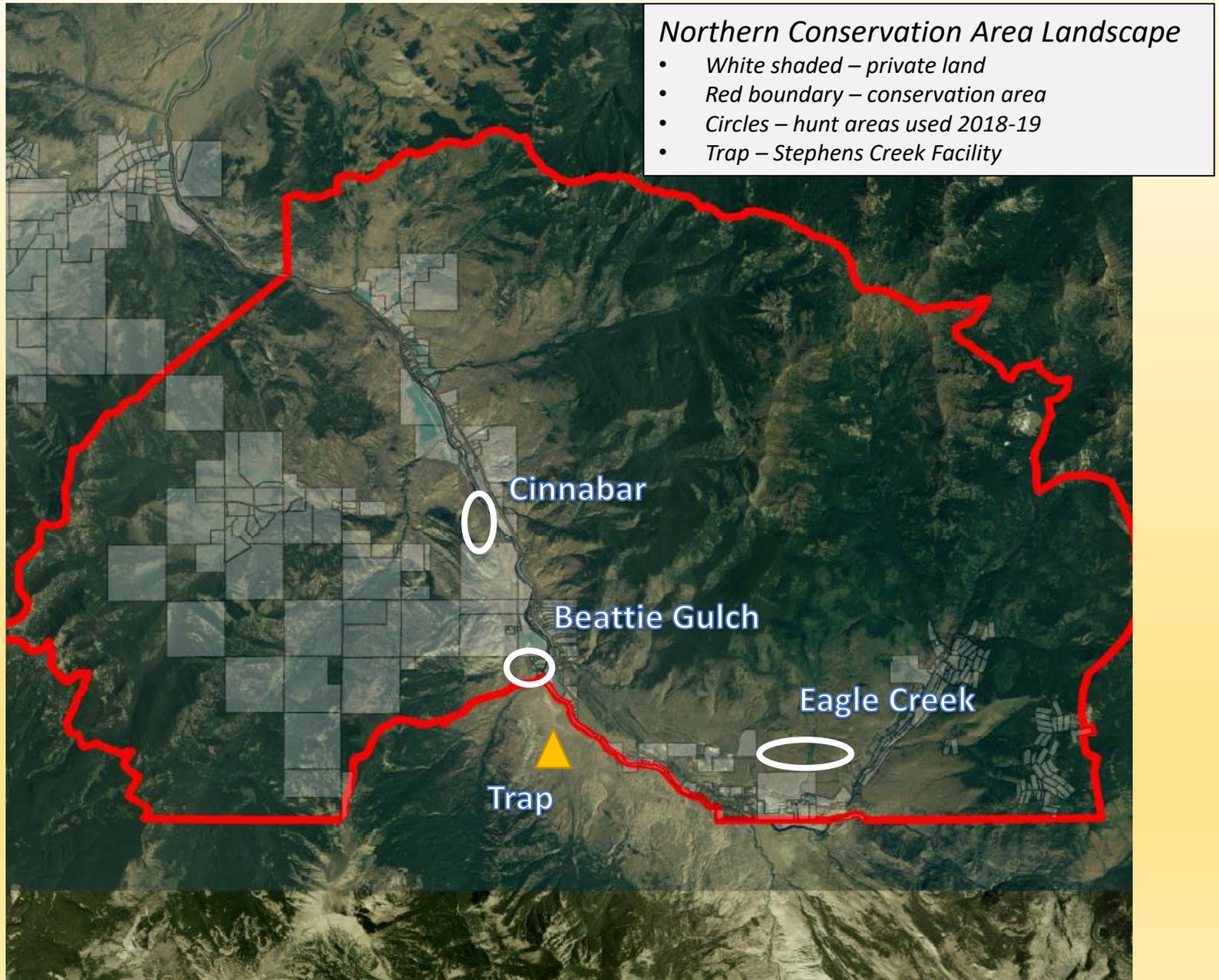
### **2. Allow for Hunting Opportunities**

- “Minimize capture when there are fewer than 200 bison north of Mammoth”
- “Reduce capture when hunter harvests are on track to approximate, or nearly achieve annual removal objectives”
- “Reduce capture when large numbers of hunters are present, if allowed by totality of harvest success, time of season, and anticipated bison migration”
- “Not capture a group... imminently exiting the Park until the group returns.. Unless necessary to meet removal objectives or reduce potential conflicts...”

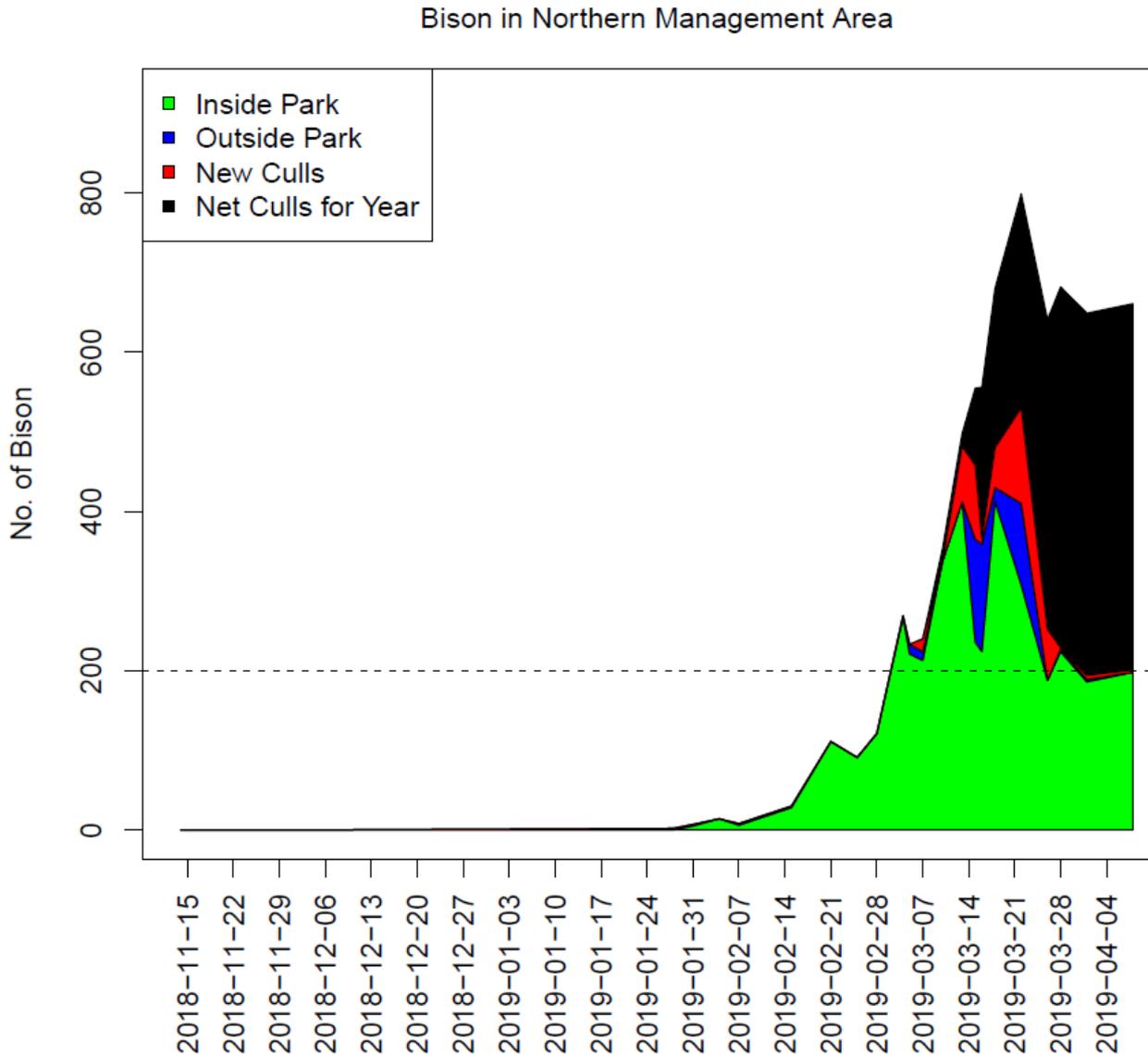
### **3. Stabilize Bison Population**

- Remove 600-900 bison focusing on the northern herd

# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19



# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

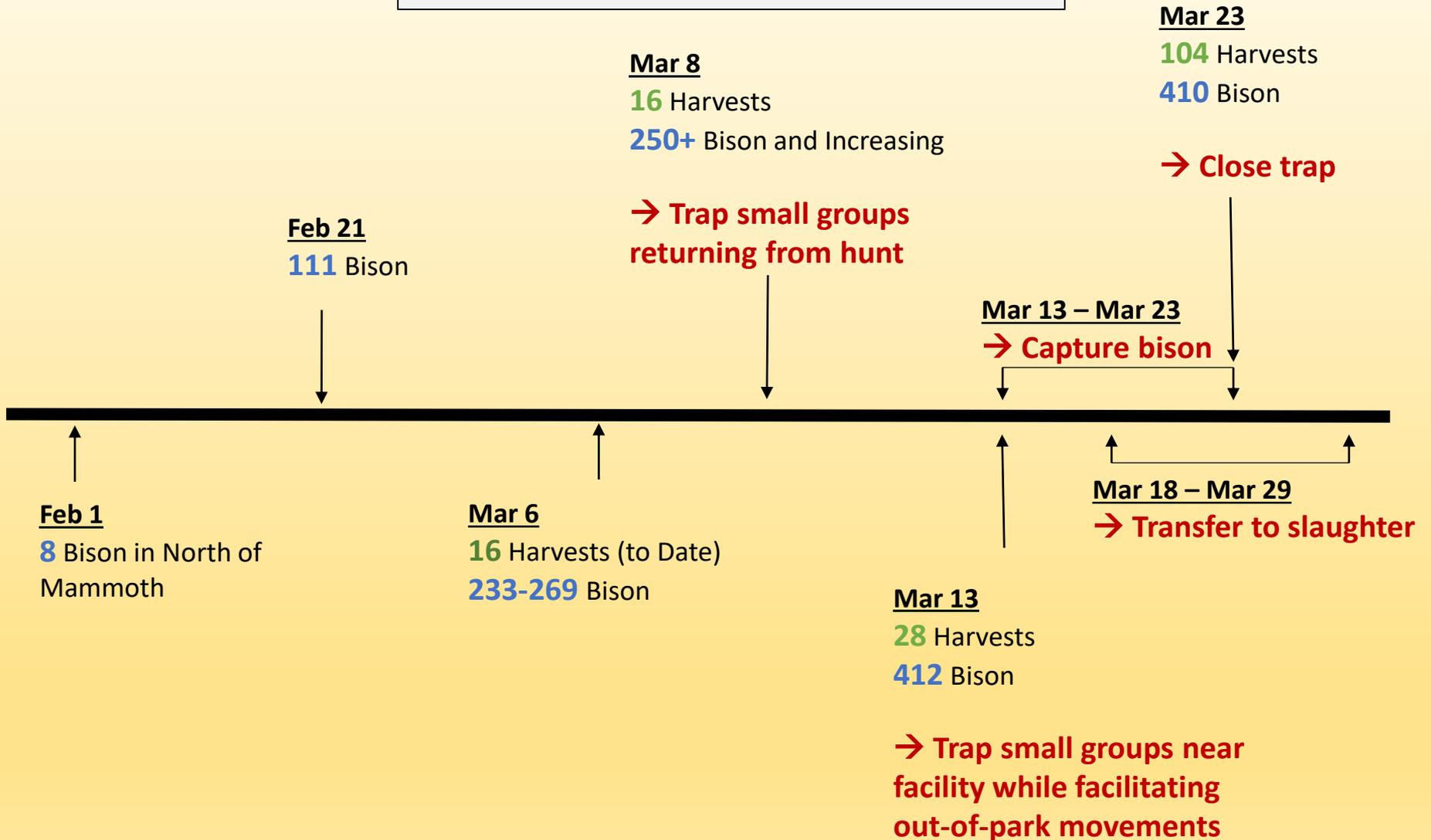


## SUMMARY

- 400-500+ in Management Area (north of Mammoth) for about 3-4 weeks 3/7-3/22
- Annual migration peaked near 800 animals, which is near the long-term prediction given the population size
- Migration occurred later than most years, but lasted about the same amount of time (3-4 weeks)
- Limited conflict outside park
- Facilitated hunting opportunities during migration
- Removed around 462 which predicts a stable to slightly increasing bison population

# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

## Timeline of 2018-19 Management Operations



# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

## **Communication**

- Daily communication with local wardens to update # trapped, # harvested & plan
- Did not change trapping plans without communicating to wardens on the land the night before

## **Monitoring**

- Constant monitoring to ensure bison groups near boundary, out of Park, or actively hunted
- Comprehensive “basin” counts every 1-3 days

## **Reporting**

- Updated Management Summary to IBMP.info every 7 days

## **Implementation**

- Plowed snow to facilitate movements
- Clearly defined constraints for trapping
- Trap small groups 2 to about 40 animals

## **Conflict Management**

- 1 hazing event / 1 road kill

Cinnabar

Beattie Gulch

Eagle Creek



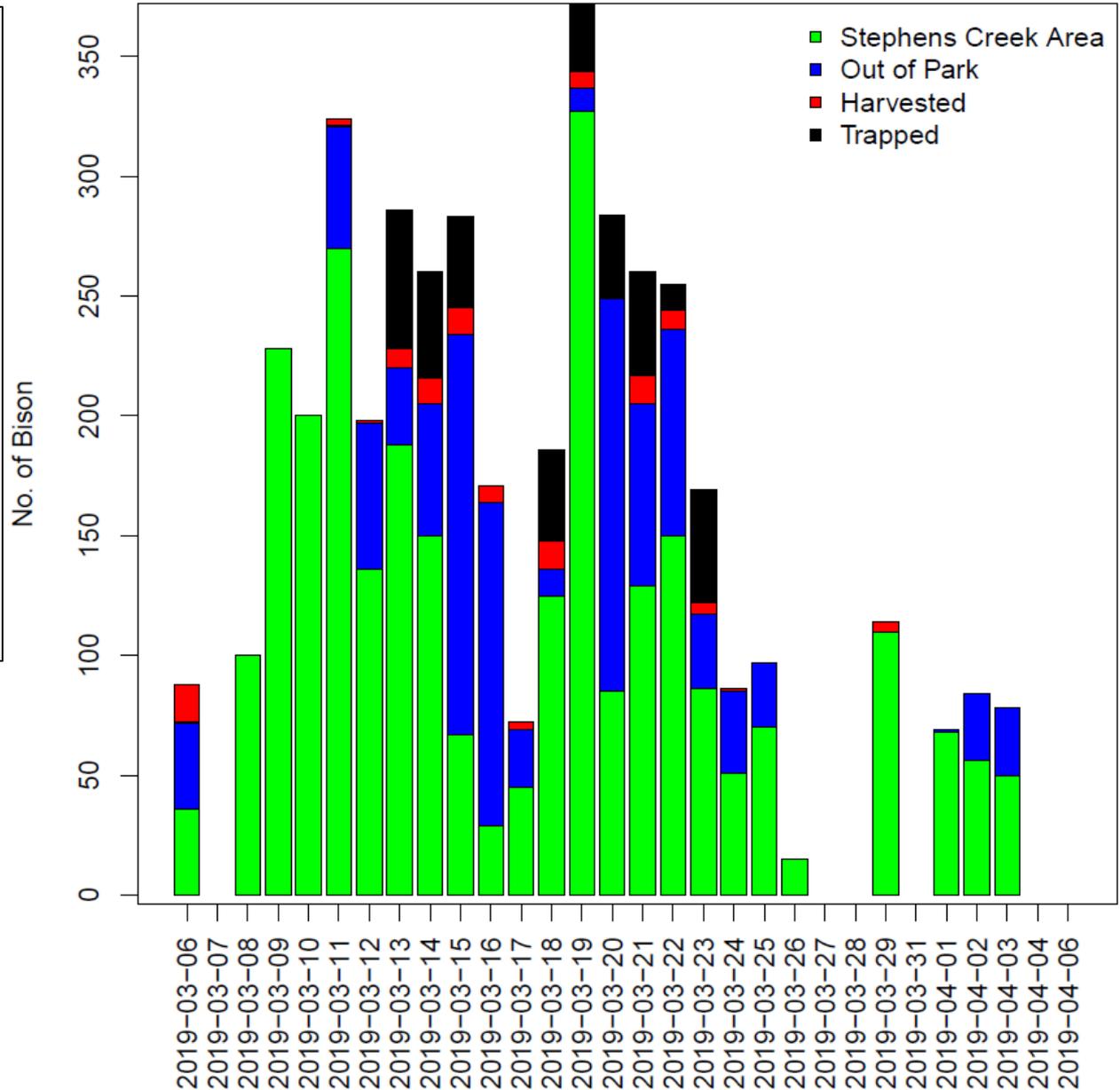
# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

## Hunting

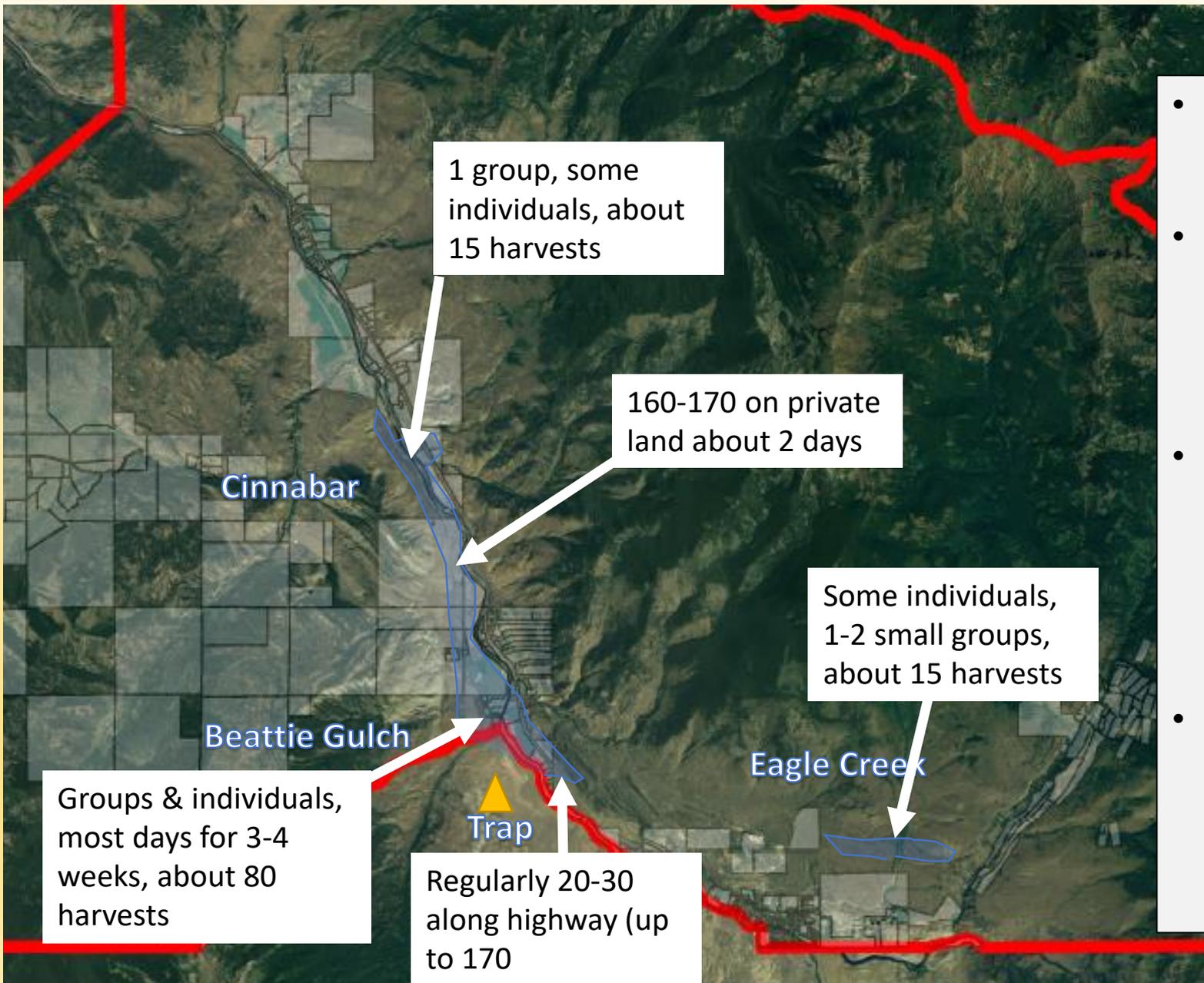
- 28 prior to March 13
- 84 March 13 – March 23 (during trapping)
- 11 after March 24

## Trapping

- Occurred March 13 – March 23
- No Trapping on weekend March 16-17
- Harvests occurred every day of trapping when hunters were present



# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19



- Some out-of-park use
- Most bison in Eagle Creek or Beattie Gulch were hunted
- Around March 15<sup>th</sup> (for about 2 days) about 160-170 North of Park
- Regularly 20-30 bison along Highway 89 (up to 170) March 13-25<sup>th</sup>

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# UPDATE ON WINTER OPERATIONS 2018/19

Date	Removal Method	NORTH						WEST						
		Male		Female		Unk		Male		Female		Unk		
		A	Y	A	Y	Unk	C	A	Y	A	Y	Unk	C	
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>HARVEST</b>	58	4	19	0	14	17	1	0	0	0	1	0	
	<b>CULL</b>	27	47	135	41	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	85	51	154	41	14	115	1	0	0	0	1	0	
														<b>460</b>
														<b>2</b>

## Goal

- Facilitate Out-of-Park Movements
- Support Hunting
- Reduce and Respond to Conflicts
- Stabilize or Slightly Decrease Population
- Minimize Removal of Central Herd

## Trap

- 348 captured
- 1 mortality
- 347 transferred to tribes

## Hunt

- About 115 North
- About 2 West

## Quarantine

- 0 entered quarantine

## Herd Removals

- Radio collars in Area:
  - 1-7 Northern Feb 21 – Apr 8,
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Central discovered Apr 8
- Radio collars removed: 4 Northern, 0 Central

## Sex Ratio & Age Structure

- Slight female bias (60%)
- Juvenile bias (47%)

## Brucellosis Prevalence

- Adult Females 60%
- Adult Males 80%
- Juveniles 20%