

# WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020:

## GOALS

### GOALS (2019-20 Operations Plan)

#### 1. Stabilize Bison Population

- Remove 600-900 bison focusing on the northern herd

#### 2. Hunt/Trap Coordination

- Balance hunting and round-up of animals
  - Communication (daily briefings, weekly calls)
  - Monitoring (numbers north of Mammoth, harvest/trapping reporting)
  - Capture bison in a way that allows bison to move into conservation zones in the State of Montana

#### 3. Quarantine

- Enter approximately 110 bison into quarantine program

#### 4. Conservations Zones

- Exploration and use of out-of-park conservation zones
- Hazing and lethal removal to limit use beyond conservation zones

# WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020:

## IMPLEMENTATION 1. Stabilize Population

Removal Method		NORTH						WEST					
		Male		Female		Unk		Male		Female		Unk	
		A	Y	A	Y	Unk	C	A	Y	A	Y	Unk	C
HARVEST	Harvest (Mont)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Harvest (CSKT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	1
	Harvest (NPT)	10	0	11	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	16	0
	Harvest (CTU)	4	0	4	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Harvest (SB)	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Harvest (YN)	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Harvest (BT)	0	0	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Harvest (NA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Observed and unreported <sup>1</sup>	42	0	17	0	54	15	2	0	0	0	37	0
	NPS <sup>2</sup>	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MTFWP <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CULL	Captured and Consigned	38	34	202	42	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Removed to Quarantine <sup>4</sup>	0	33	0	41	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Capture Pen Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	MTDOL Management Shooting	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year to Date	<b>HARVEST</b>	69	0	38	0	80	34	4	0	5	0	53	1
	<b>CULL</b>	40	67	202	83	0	158	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	109	67	240	83	80	192	4	0	5	0	53	1
												<b>771</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Approximate Management Removal</b>												<b>834</b>	

**HARVEST: 284**

**PEN MORTALITY: 1**

**SLAUGHTER: 442**

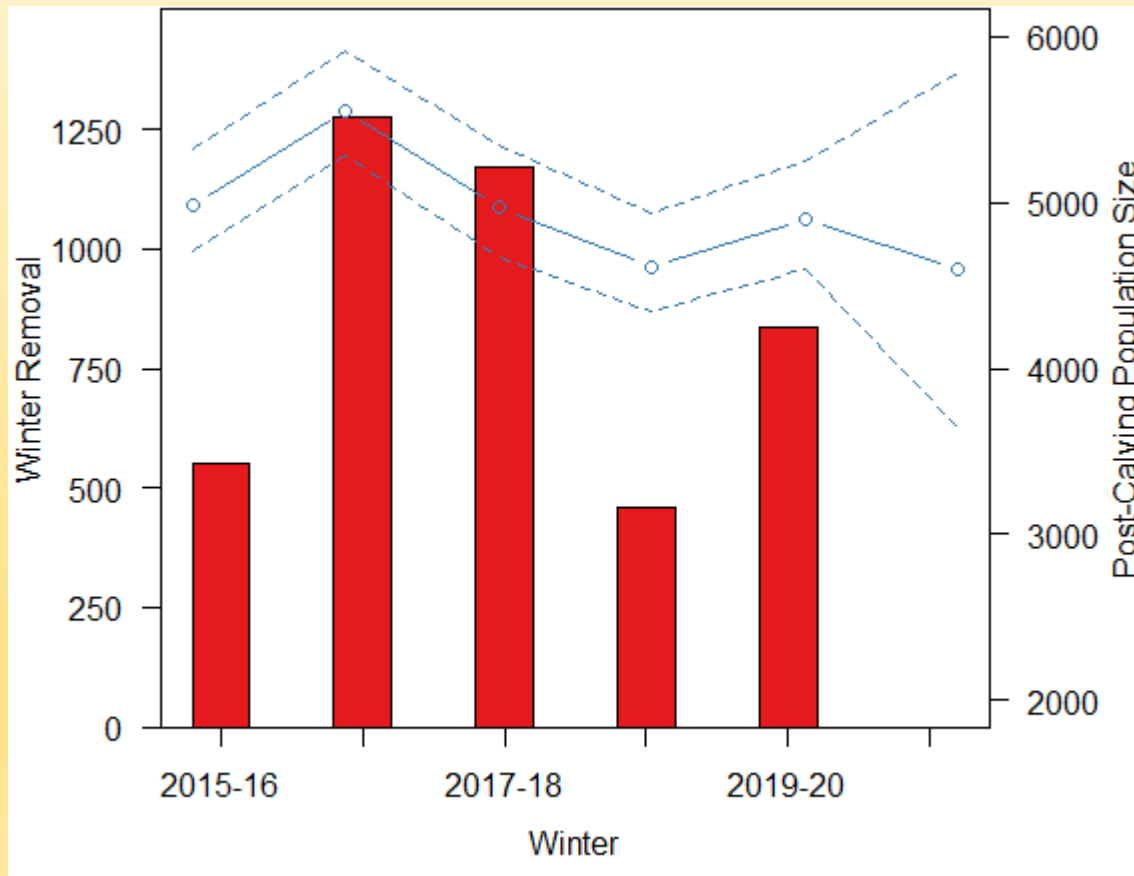
**MGMT SHOOTING: 2**

**QUARANTINE: 105**

# WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020: IMPLEMENTATION 1. STABILIZE POPULATION

## CURRENT STATUS

- Around 4,600
- Counting in 2020 depends on COVID-19 Risk Management



# WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020:

## IMPLEMENTATION 2. BALANCE HUNTS & CAPTURE

2/24 - 2/29

3/1 - 3/5

3/6 - 3/13

3/14 - 3/18

3/19-4/1

### HUNTING

- About 85 Harvests
- Unsuccessful Trapping

### HUNTING AND TRAPPING

- Hunts occurred each day of trapping
- About 30 Harvests
- Trapping Groups <50 at a time, 151 in multiple groups on 3/5

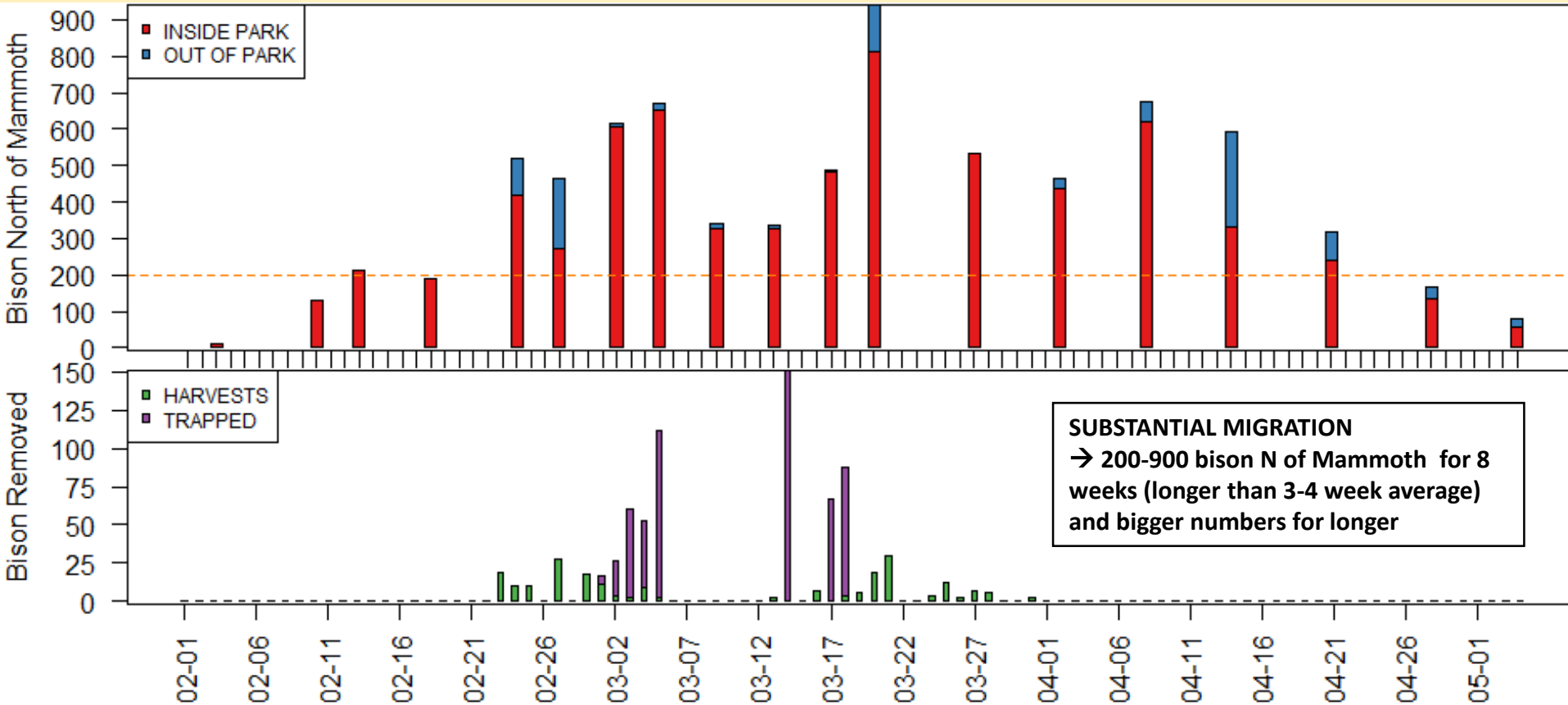
BISON CLOSER TO MAMMOTH  
Returned after late-season snow

### PRIORITIZING CAPTURE

- About 360 removed as of 3/13 (117 Harvests, 240 Trapped)
- Capture available groups
- Aim for 500-600 captured
- No longer ensure bison N of Trap; 11 Harvests

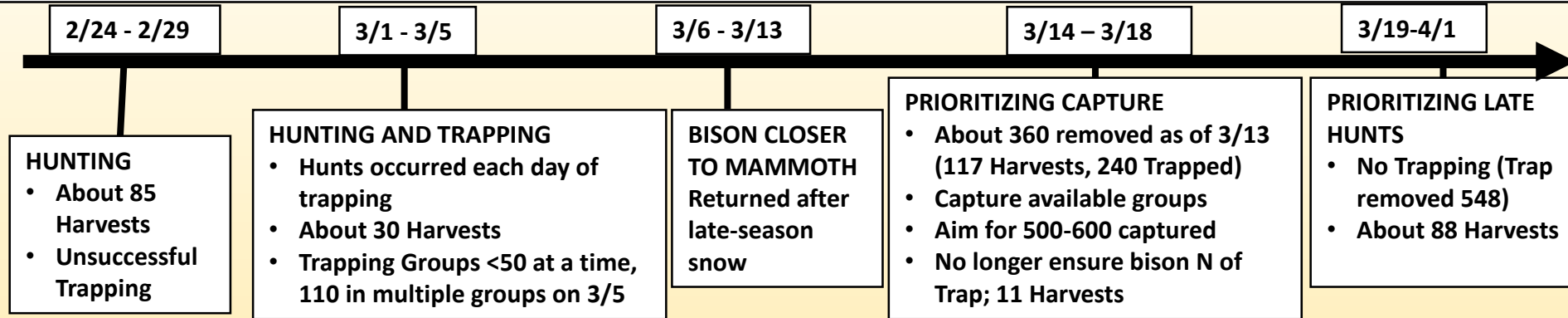
### PRIORITIZING LATE HUNTS

- No Trapping (Trap removed 548)
- About 88 Harvests



# WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020:

## IMPLEMENTATION 2. BALANCE HUNTS & CAPTURE



### LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. Need for continuous assessment of hunt/trap coordination strategy based on best available knowledge from monitoring and reporting**
  - Timely harvest reporting
  - Daily and weekly monitoring of bison and hunters
- 2. Transitions in implementing hunt/trap coordination created conflicts**
  - Hunt/Trap Calls
  - On-the-ground coordination
- 3. Overall met common interests of satisfying removal objective, limiting numbers in conservation areas, supporting tribal hunting and providing animals to the quarantine program**
- 4. There is a narrow window for capturing animals**
  - Limited by slaughterhouse capacity; timing of migration; pregnancy; and balancing hunts and capture
  - Need a well-established plan, good decision-making and communication

**WINTER OPERATIONS 2019-2020:  
IMPLEMENTATION 3. QUARANTINE**

**Selected 105 Bison for Brucellosis Quarantine**

- 1. Composition: 33 males (22 mo age at the time) and 72 females (10 or 22 mo age at the time)**
- 2. Begin Phase 1 Serial Screening August 2020**
  - Remove animals with positive blood test for brucellosis until all animals test negative
  - Separate into 3 ITGS based on sex and age
  - Likely transfer 1 ITG of females to APHIS
- 3. Male ITG will likely qualify for release to the Fort Peck Tribes in Fall 2021**
- 4. Limited capacity for accepting animals into quarantine this upcoming winter**