



*Region Three
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718*

Dear Hunter,

October 22, 2020

We are contacting all successful applicants who received a bison license for Hunting District 385. We want to make you aware of a very small area within the hunting district that receives intensive hunting pressure and hunter congestion: Beattie Gulch, a 0.5 square mile area northwest of the town of Gardiner, MT, located on USFS National Forest land and adjacent to Yellowstone National Park (see map below). This is an area where bison commonly leave the Park, where hunters congregate, and where hunter safety is a concern. We encourage hunters to hunt elsewhere in the hunting district.

There are currently numerous ongoing bison hunts, including the state-licensed hunt for which you received a license, and numerous tribal hunts. Four of the seven tribes currently hunting in this area have developed and agreed to hunting procedures to improve hunter safety in Beattie Gulch. While we strongly recommend avoiding the area, if you decide to hunt in Beattie Gulch, we ask that you coordinate with the tribes, and attend their daily coordination meeting to ensure safe hunting for you and others. The meeting is held at a tribal command center located at Beattie Gulch. We ask that you attend this meeting any day you decide to hunt in Beattie Gulch.

High numbers of bison carcasses accumulate in Beattie Gulch in years when large numbers of bison migrate out of Yellowstone National Park. These carcasses cause concerns including human safety, bear mortality, lead poisoning of scavengers, impacts to recreational use of the area, and impacts to nearby residents and businesses. If you harvest a bison in Beattie Gulch, please if possible, remove the carcass, open and separate the rumen from the other organs, and disperse the rumen contents. Bones, heads and hides should be removed from the site. We appreciate your cooperation, and your willingness to take these voluntary actions in order to address these problems.

If you have questions regarding your bison license, the daily tribal hunt meeting, or general status of hunting in the area, please contact the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters at (406) 577-7900. I wish you good luck with your hunt.

Sincerely,

Mark Deleray
Regional Supervisor