

Here is an example of what NOT to do:



Scanning this QR code will reveal an interaction between a group of young tourists and a bull bison in Yellowstone National Park. The bison in this video gave every indication he was agitated (as described in this brochure):



You'll notice that the bison turns and faces the group. Then his tail begins to move furiously. He also shakes his head repeatedly. Eventually his tail goes up into a question mark-like curl, signaling a possible charge. His warnings go unheeded. Luckily, no one was injured.

NEVER FORGET:
Bison are wild animals.



JASON SAVAGE

BISON RESOURCES:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
fwp.mt.gov

Yellowstone National Park
nps.gov/yell/

Bison education online resource
ibmp.info/bisoneducation.php

This series was created by
THE CITIZENS GROUP ON BISON EDUCATION
which is supported by Interagency Bison Management Partners



STAYING SAFE
IN BISON COUNTRY

Your responsibility when near bison:

WALKING

Give bison their space. Stay at least 25 yards away. Give them even more space during the summer rut (mating season) or if you notice a bison is agitated.



- ▶ Be aware of how close you are to bison so you don't startle one.
- ▶ Have an escape plan when close to bison and identify potential protective cover nearby (i.e., trees or a vehicle).
- ▶ If you find yourself too close to a bison, do not run. Instead, back away slowly.

CYCLING

- ▶ When biking near bison, move to the opposite side of the road and use a car as an escort if possible.

DRIVING

- ▶ Do not honk your horn or drive aggressively toward bison. If bison are on the road, be patient, drive slowly, and stay in your vehicle. Wait for bison to move along.



Handouts like the one at left are distributed at the gates of Yellowstone National Park to discourage visitors from engaging in dangerous situations with bison (below).



Signals a bison makes to indicate it may charge:

- ▶ stops what it's doing and looks at you or turns to face you;
- ▶ swings its head back and forth while staring at you;
- ▶ paws at the ground or hooks the ground with its horns;
- ▶ makes short bluff charges at you or snorts loudly; or
- ▶ moves straight toward you.

Other things to remember:

- ▶ Bison are especially quick and agile. Closely monitor changing behavior.
- ▶ Bison don't like fast-moving things near them, such as people who are running or bicycling.
- ▶ Bison don't like dogs. Keep dogs on a leash when bison are present and keep your distance.
- ▶ Keep your children with you and under control.
- ▶ Use a telephoto lens when photographing bison. That way you can maintain a safe distance.
- ▶ Throwing objects at bison may provoke an attack.

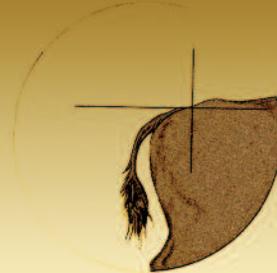


JUDY WANTULOK

More information:

If you have questions or concerns about bison, call your local wildlife manager. You can find that phone number by calling (406) 444-2535.

Watch the tail for clues of bison behavior:



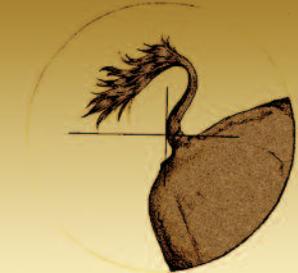
Position 1:
Bison is at rest and not agitated.



Position 2:
Bison is interested or curious.



Position 3:
Bison is agitated; this tail position is commonly used to warn other bison or people to move away. If you see this, you are too close.



Position 4: Bison is signaling that something is about to happen; this tail position might be used by two bison about to fight or a cow defending her calf. If you see this, you are too close.

(Note: Positions 3 and 4 are also similar to what is displayed prior to defecation.)