



FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION



CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBAL MEMBER

2022-23 YELLOWSTONE BISON HUNT REGULATIONS

OFF-RESERVATION BISON HUNT

The Seliš, Qlispe and Ksanka people have hunted bison in traditional territories since time immemorial. Then, as is today, bison was an important source of meat for Tribal families. Hunting for bison in the Yellowstone area is an exercise in our Treaty Rights under the 1855 Hellgate Treaty. Food sovereignty is an essential consideration for present day life, and big game animals both on and off the Flathead Reservation are available for this use. This hunt is tied to CSKT treaty rights and is the result of hard work by people within the Tribe to coordinate with the federal and state governments as well as an established Interagency Bison Management Plan that guides the activity. Bad choices made by individuals and their actions can jeopardize our Bison hunt, our Treaty Rights and the Treaty Rights for other Tribes as well. Please carefully review these regulations and visit our website at csktbisonhunt.org for updates to prevent violations. For updated bison availability from the field, call the bison hunt information hot line at (406) 275-2848.

- Any hunter convicted of violating any CSKT Tribal or Federal law, when engaged in the Yellowstone Bison Hunt, will lose their bison hunting privileges for a minimum of one year, or additional years depending upon the violation.
- Hunters will not be eligible for a permit for the bison hunt season until all outstanding citations for violations of prior Yellowstone Wild Bison Hunts have been resolved, including fulfillment of all sanctions imposed upon the hunter by the Tribal Court and/or Tribal Council.

This is a Bison targeted hunt, please refrain from taking other species near the Park, especially Moose or Elk. The State has limited or closed most hunting of Moose near the Park due to extremely low population numbers. Elk are abundant on the Flathead Reservation, please hunt elk there.

Bison Hunting Season: September 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023

Yellowstone Wild Bison Hunt Regulations

Adapted from the Tribal Member Regulations Section 9. Be advised to review the Hunting, fishing and Recreation Regulations for Members annually

- A. Members may engage in wild bison hunting on open and unclaimed lands, and other lands as provided by agreement with the State of Montana, off of the Flathead Indian Reservation subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Tribal Members eighteen (18) years of age or older, who have attended the current bison hunt orientation may obtain an Off-Reservation Bison Permit from the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation (unless otherwise restricted by special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council).
 - (2) A hunter must have his or her Tribal I.D. card and an Off-Reservation Bison permit in his possession while hunting or while in possession of a bison or parts thereof.
 - (3) If a hunter desires to take more than the annual harvest quota of bison in a permit year, or a member younger than eighteen (18) years old who has attended the current bison hunt orientation and wishes to obtain a permit, he/she may present his or her request to the Tribal Council at a duly convened council meeting. The Tribal Council shall have the right and power to grant or deny such a request based upon cultural or religious practices or need. If such a request is granted the Tribal Council shall direct the Division to issue the permit.
 - (4) (a) Any hunter convicted of violating any tribal or federal law, when engaged in the Yellowstone Bison Hunt, will lose their respective bison hunting privileges for a minimum of one year and the Tribal Council may revoke those privileges for additional years depending upon the violation.

(b) No hunter shall be eligible for a permit for the current Yellowstone Bison Hunt season until all outstanding citations for violations of prior Yellowstone Bison Hunts have been resolved, including fulfillment of all sanctions imposed upon the hunter by the Tribal Court and/or Tribal Council.
 - (5) The hunting of Bison is restricted by these regulations, annual harvest quotas and special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council.
 - (6) Bison hunting season is September 1st through the end of January of each winter season.
 - (7) The Off-Reservation Wild Bison Permit hunt area is described as those open and unclaimed lands found within the State of Montana and outside of Yellowstone National Park lands.
 - (8) The Off-Reservation Bison hunt season/permits may be closed by Tribal Council action under emergency conditions which would cause unusual vulnerability and harvest of bison. Closures will be implemented within 48 hours of Tribal Council action and such closures shall be announced through Tribal media venues. All permitted hunters are encouraged to call the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation during normal business hours (phone# 883-2888 or 675-2700) to verify the status of the bison hunt season before the start of any hunting trip.

- (9) A Bison Permit is valid for one either sex bison per year and hunters are prohibited from transferring their permit to another person or using a permit issued to another person. Elders or handicapped persons who receive a permit may request, from the Division, authorization for a designated hunter, who is a Tribal Member, to hunt for them. If such authorization is granted to a designated hunter, then the valid permit is transferred to the designated hunter.
- (10) Off-Reservation Bison permit shall consist of two parts, as follows:
- (a) A hunt report card. All permit holders are required to return the hunt report card within 7 days of the date the animal is harvested. Hunters who do not kill a bison are required to return the hunt report portion of the permit by February 15th to be eligible to receive a permit for the next year. The report card can be returned by mail or by person to the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Office in Polson.
 - (b) A hunt tag. The tag must be notched for the day and date the bison was taken and must be so marked at the time of the kill. Permitted hunters must accompany the carcass during transportation unless otherwise authorized by Council. The tag must be attached to the animal once the animal is taken and must remain attached until processing of the animal has taken place.
- (11) The only means of taking allowed are with a center- fire rifle with a 150 grain or larger bullet.
- (12) The use or aide of over snow vehicles (snowmobiles) for Bison hunting is allowed (shooting from or across groomed snowmobile trails is prohibited).
- (13) Non-Tribal members may assist a Tribal Member with the field dressing, retrieval and transportation of a downed bison to the Members' hunting vehicle but may not assist or accompany the Member with any aspect of the pursuit or harvest of the animal.
- (14) Hunters are encouraged to read the information and recommendations handout given with the permit to better care for the meat and be informed on Brucellosis.

Forest Service Regulations

- Know your hunt location and Forest Service use regulations for motorized use (off-roading, snowmobiling & ATVs): Forest Service enforces a **150-yard “no shooting zone” surrounding any developed facilities or sites** and safe food storage standards in bear country (**no gut piles within 200 yards of roads and facilities until December 1st**).
- **The Forest Service closed lands** east of US Highway 191 and north of the town of West Yellowstone **to all shooting**. Additionally, other lands above the town of Gardiner and the **road side buffer zone at Beattie Gulch** have “no shooting” restrictions.
- **Do not leave a downed bison unattended** or leave gut plies on or next to open roads (cut stomach (rumen) open when departing to spread/lower gut pile). For our use, **there is a 200-yard “clean area (no gut piles)” and “no shooting zone” from the Yellowstone Trail Road east into Beattie Gulch area.**
- **It is illegal to snowmobile without a Groomed Trail Permit** on groomed trails and **and** on public roads open to wheeled (cars) traffic, **other than** in the town site of West Yellowstone.

Emergency Bison Harvest Closures

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Be Bear Aware!!

Both grizzly bears and black bears inhabit the greater Yellowstone area and have been seen frequenting the area, especially during hunting season scavenging left behind carcasses.

Food Storage

1. All food, refuse or other attractants must be acceptably stored or acceptably possessed during daytime hours.
2. All food, refuse or other attractants must be acceptably stored during nighttime hours, unless it is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, or being prepared for acceptable storage.
3. Any harvested animal carcass must be acceptably stored, unless the carcass is being field dressed, transported, being prepared for eating, or being prepared for acceptable storage.
4. Camping or sleeping areas must be established at least 1/2 mile from a known animal carcass or at least 100 yards from a known acceptably stored animal carcass.
5. The responsible party shall report the death and location of livestock to a Forest Service official within 24 hours of discovery. Any Forest user finding dead livestock should contact the Forest Service.
6. Burnable attractants that cannot be completely consumed by fire (i.e., no post burning residue) must be packed out.

Hunting Essentials

Firearms and ammunition

The only means of taking a bison allowed are center-fired rifles. A 150-grain or larger bullet is required.

Hunter Orange

There will be several other hunters in the area, 400-square inches of hunter orange is strongly recommended.

Recommended equipment and tools

If you plan to field dress your own animal, bring:

- many sharp knives,
- sharpening system,
- large bone/meat saw,
- axe,
- sturdy rope, and
- large plastic tarps.

Block and tackle and a winch may be necessary, as well as a sled or game cart.

Snow machines, ATVs or horse may be necessary, but check with the US Forest Service for restrictions.

Help in the field

Due to the importance of this hunt, Tribal Council has approved for non-Tribal member family and/or friends to assist with field dressing and retrieving your animal after the harvest. This approval is has been authorized for the off-Reservation Bison Hunt **ONLY**.

Hunting Outfitters

Local outfitter may be available to hire to assist with field dressing and retrieval. This expense would be covered by the hunter and is not the responsibility of CSKT.

Brucellosis Safety

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that affects many Yellowstone bison. Extra precautions are required when field dressing and processing bison carcasses. The bacteria is concentrated in the reproductive tract and lymph nodes.

To protect yourself when handling your carcass, consider the following:

- Assume every bison is potentially infected with brucellosis.
- Always wear protective gloves when handling the carcass or viscera.
- Avoid direct contact with materials from the reproductive tract or milk.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth until you've had a chance to wash carefully.
- Be extra careful if you have open sores or cuts.
- Discard organ meats.
- Cook all meat that you are going to consume thoroughly, 160 degree temperature is recommended.
- It is strongly encouraged to not possess or transport the reproductive tissues of a bison from the kill site.

Emergency Contact Information

Tribal Game Wardens will patrol the hunt area and assist in the enforcement of all applicable hunting and hunter laws. Wardens will also respond to bison hunt emergencies. Hunters may also contact the Gallatin County Sheriff's Dispatch (for areas west of Yellowstone National Park) or the Park County Sheriff's Dispatch (for areas north of Yellowstone National Park) in the event of an emergency.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will not direct hunters to the location of bison in the field or assist with the field dressing and retrieval of bison.

Tribal Game Warden Information:

Dan McClure	TR-3	241-3345
Sgt. Garrett Fenton	TR-4	360-8193
Sgt. Howard Walker	TR-5	529-6199
Orsino Walker	TR-6	396-1528
Jacques Graham	TR-7	370-7759
Jesse Drennan	TR-8	274-1803

Tribal Dispatch: 406-675-4700

Tribal Game Warden Office Number: (406) 644-2211 ask for: Dan McClure

Other Emergency Contacts:

1-800-TIP-MONT --- 1-800-847-6668

Hebgen Lake Ranger District: (406) 823-6961

Gallatin County Sheriff's Dispatch: (406) 582-2124

Gardiner Ranger District: (406) 848-7376

Park County Sheriff's Dispatch: (406) 222-4172

The Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Bison Hunt Hotline

For updated bison availability from the field, call the bison hunt information hot line at (406) 275-2848.