

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <b>American bison – <i>Bos bison</i> (<i>Bison bison</i>)</b>			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>A</b>	Bison in Yellowstone are free-ranging and number 3500-3600; every year a few bison move seasonally beyond park boundaries, some into Shoshone National Forest. There are no free-ranging bison elsewhere in Region 2.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clark and Stromberg 1987</li> <li>• NatureServe 2001</li> <li>• South Dakota GAP 2001</li> <li>• Wyoming GAP</li> <li>• Yellowstone Online</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>B</b>	The only large, free-ranging herds of bison in North America are in Yellowstone and Wood Buffalo national parks, the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, and the Slave River lowlands. Smaller free-ranging herds occur in Alaska, in the Henry Mountains of southern Utah, in northeastern British Columbia, near Nahanni Butte, Northwest Territories, and in northwestern Saskatchewan. Occurs mainly as reintroduced, confined populations in many public and private parks and preserves.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapman and Feldhamer 1982</li> <li>• Clark and Stromberg 1987</li> <li>• NatureServe 2001</li> <li>• Yellowstone Online</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>A</b>	Attempted dispersal usually conflicts with private interests and results in hazing, herding, physical barriers, scare devices and shooting, mainly because of the possibility of disease transmission to domestic cattle.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NatureServe 2001</li> <li>• Yellowstone Online</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>A</b>	Does not occur in most of Region 2.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapman and Feldhamer 1982</li> <li>• NatureServe 2001</li> <li>• SD GAP 2001</li> <li>• WY GAP</li> <li>• WYNDD 2001</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>D</b>	Does not occur in most of Region 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2	<b>B</b>	There are stable amounts of suitable and potential habitat.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>C</b>	Habitat is not very vulnerable, however the conflict with the livestock industry limits distribution as mentioned in #3.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	•
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>B</b>	Reproductive rate is highest in animals between age 3 and 12-15; wild bison normally produce two calves every 3 years. Disease is not an important population influence; brucellosis is present, but has no apparent effects. Wolf and occasional grizzly bear predation is recognized as an important mortality factor, but is not destructive to bison populations.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapman and Feldhamer 1982</li> <li>• NatureServe 2001</li> <li>• Yellowstone Online</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): Mark Hinschberger & Sharon Nicholoff, Shoshone National Forest			Date: 09/13/2001

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:**

<sup>1</sup> Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	K
				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
								Thunder Basin NG	

**REFERENCES**

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