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The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

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NBA Weekly Update for May 27, 2022

The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.



NBA Office Closed Monday for Memorial Day Holiday

The NBA office will be closed on Monday, May 30 in honor of the Memorial Day holiday. For those needing assistance, we will be back in the offices on Tuesday, May 31.

Registration Now Open for June 18th NBA Regenerative Field Day - North Dakota

[Registration is open](#) now for the June 18th NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day in

North Dakota! Please [register here](#) by June 15th. Just \$30/person to attend which includes lunch, ranch tour, and more!



Photo Credit: Justin Roemer

National Bison Regenerative Ranching Field Days

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce its *National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series*, which will span the summers of 2022 and 2023 featuring six one-day workshops on bison farms and ranches in the states of IL, MN, ND, OH, SD, and WI. The field days will also include expert speakers offering first-hand knowledge on how to properly manage bison grazing and handling to maximize their regenerative potential as a livestock species.

Bison have evolved in concert with North American grasslands for over 200,000 years. As a keystone species in the region, and when managed properly, bison have the potential to maintain soil health and fertility, and improve carbon sequestration through the expansion of grasslands, all the while providing a valuable livestock component to working farms and ranches across the upper Midwest.

The bison operations hosting the events encompass everything from cow-calf operations, gate-to-plate and direct marketing, to agritourism-focused farms and ranches. These operations exhibit a wide range of successful bison businesses across the North Central region. See confirmed 2022 workshops to the right. 2023 will include field days at the following farms and ranches, final days to be determined:

June 2023 - Cherokee Valley Bison – Thornville, Ohio
September 2023 - Double J Bison Ranch – Baldwin, Wisconsin
October 2023 - Sleepy Bison Acres – Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Registration will open soon at www.bisoncentral.com.



2022 Field Days

June 18th
Heartland Bison Ranch

Rugby, ND

September 10th
Antelope Creek Bison

Mission, SD

October 15th

Ruhter Bison

Woodstock, IL

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Get Registered for the 2022 IBC!

You are invited to a four-day convention for bison producers, marketers, researchers, and industry experts.

Full Conference Registration*: \$441.00 CAD

Full Conference Family Registration*: \$892.50 CAD – Ticket includes admission for three persons (16+) in the same family (SAVE \$430.50)

IBC 2022 - Convention Agenda



Tuesday, July 12 – TCU Place

6 PM – 11 PM | Opening Night Reception - Taste Saskatchewan

Come socialize at TCU Place and enjoy a selection of appetizers and drinks from some of our favorite local breweries and distilleries.

Wednesday, July 13 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Keynote speaker and presentations

1 PM - 5 PM: Tours (must be pre-registered. Sales close July 10, 2022. If you would like to book the tour after the date, please check in with the INFORMATION DESK at TCU Place.)

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet

Dinner and networking

Thursday, July 14 - TCU Place

9 AM - 4 PM: Keynote Speakers and Breakouts

For more details, please visit our website

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet

Dinner and networking

Friday, July 15 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Speakers and Breakouts

12 PM - 2 PM | Farewell Luncheon

Learn more and register for the IBC at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/international-bison-convention-2022-registration-126340121705>.

Bison App Webinars Planned for Summer 2022

The NBA Bison App is a powerful tool that producers can use to track, measure, and analyze your bison operation and is available at no charge for Apple and Android devices. Learn more and download it at - <https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/>.

The only bison-specific field app in the marketplace today, the app's extensive features result in a very powerful herd management tool that literally fits in the palm of your hand.

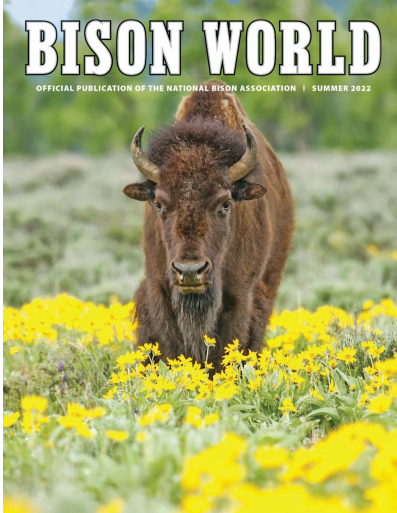
App features include animal photo ID, birth date, herd, and tag ID, weight, gender, vaccination/dewormer schedule, North American Bison Registry animal history, notes for things like body condition, health, transfer history, animal test results, genetic/parentage information, calving rates, and more.

Mark your calendars to learn everything you need to know to take advantage of this innovative bison tool. Each webinar will have a different theme and will take you through all the steps from downloading and registering, to entering animals and data, analysis and more.

- June 16th
- July 21st
- August 18th
- September 15th

Webinar dates are below, all to begin at 5 p.m. MT. All webinars will be recorded and available to members in the video archive section of www.bisoncentral.com.

**Advertising Opportunities in the Fall
Issue of Bison World**



Production will soon be underway on the Fall issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of the Fall magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is July 10 with final materials being due by August 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for the Fall issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.



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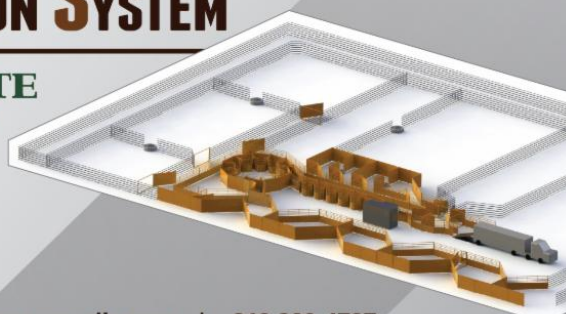
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Native tribes celebrate Montana land ownership and bison range restoration
(From opb.org)

A narrow gravel road takes visitors zig-zagging up a mountain, alongside a creek, and, if

they're lucky, they'll see buffalo roaming freely on the terrain.

The bison range sits on more than 18,000 acres of undeveloped land in northwest Montana — land taken by the U.S. Government without the consent of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

In 2020, Congress passed a law that transitions management of the land from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service back to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who signed off on the law last year, said with the loss of tribal homelands in the early 1900s and depletion of bison herds, Plains tribes lost traditional connections with the mammal.

"But in spite of that tragedy and loss, we are still here. You are still here. And that's something to celebrate," Haaland told a crowd celebrating the restoration of the bison range at the Salish Kootenai College over the weekend.

She said returning management of the land to the tribes is a culmination of Native peoples' resilience, conservation guided by Indigenous knowledge, and the Biden administration's commitment to honor treaty obligations. She called it a return to something pure and sacred.

"When our Indigenous ancestors lived on this land alongside the plethora of animals, and they each respected their place and the balance of nature," Haaland said. She said the people then relied on bison for food and subsistence, believing future generations would do the same.

"We all know history took a brutal and tragic turn after that," Haaland said, referring to settlers colonizing Indigenous people and hunting bison near extinction. And that history wasn't represented accurately at the bison range's visitor center.

Whisper Camel-Means, the tribes' division manager for the wildlife refuge, said under the Fish and Wildlife Service supervision the tribes' story wasn't quite correct. She said the exhibits there previously used a different tribes' word for bison.

"We're not lumped together Indian language, Indian things. We're Séliš, we're Qlispé, we're Ksanka. We all have different stories," Camel-Means said.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have corrected inaccuracies at the visitor center located on the Flathead Reservation. They previously tried to change the information but couldn't because they said the Fish and Wildlife Service prioritized wildlife preservation.

The visitor center is now open, featuring new exhibits that better reflect the tribes' involvement in bison conservation. Oral histories now included there recount how the U.S. discriminated against and excluded tribal members from land management operations when it was turned into a wildlife refuge.

A documentary recently produced by the tribes titled "In the Spirit of Atatice" sets the record straight about who initially brought bison to the area.

Full story [here](#)

After months on the loose, Tyson the bison safely captured (from *Dailyherald.com*)

A bison that had been living in the Lakewood Forest Preserve near Wauconda has been captured -- just days before a deadline the district set to have it removed as a potential safety hazard.

The 1,300-pound bison was "safely and humanely" located, captured and removed about 2 a.m. Wednesday by a professional livestock specialist, according to the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

"We are thankful the animal has been removed from the forest preserve safely before Memorial Day weekend when attendance at preserves increases," said Mike Tully, the district's chief operations officer.

The bison escaped last fall while being delivered to the Milk and Honey Farmstead in Wauconda and has been roaming western Lake County since. Nicknamed "Tyson" and "Billie" at various points in her travels, the bison settled in at Lakewood in April.

She had been sighted hundreds of times in various communities and had become a local curiosity.

Some thought the animal harmless unless provoked. Others feared the bison posed a potential safety risk to visitors and equestrians who ride at Lakewood, the only forest preserve in the system that has trails for horses only.

Citing visitor safety as a concern with the upcoming holiday weekend and beyond, forest preserve officials last week said they wanted the bison removed from Lakewood by Memorial Day.

Forest district rangers and would-be keeper Scott Comstock of Milk and Honey Farmstead were able to lure the bison into a barn with food. But previously, she always managed to elude them before the barn door could be closed to contain her inside.

Comstock was put on notice and subject to fines of up to \$500 per day because the bison is considered livestock, which is not permitted in forest preserves. Tully said it most likely will be recommended that the fines be waived.

Last Friday, the district sought professional help for the bison's capture. Matt Noble, owner of Loose Cattle Caught, used a crew of specialists, a drone, horse and dog to search for the bison. The company had reached out to Public Safety Director John Tannahill and the fee will be worked out with the bison owner, Tully said.

The bison was located early Wednesday and lightly tranquilized to slow her down but it did not make her fall to the ground or otherwise put her in danger, according to forest preserve officials.

The bison slowly made her way to the barn for food and the door was closed behind her. A trailer was backed into the barn and the bison was taken to Noble's compound. She is healthy and under observation, according to the district.

"The safety of our users and the animal has been our No. 1 priority throughout this process," Tully said. "Bison is considered domestic livestock, therefore a forest preserve is not an appropriate place for it to call home."

What happens to Tyson from this point on is between the specialist and the owner, Tully said, and the district no longer is involved in the matter.

Minnesota State Park Reports Amazing Record Number of Bison Calves

(From kroc.com)

A Minnesota state park recently made an exciting announcement about its growing bison herd. The herd lives at Minneopa State Park in Mankato, Minnesota, and park officials are reporting a record number of bison calves that were born into the herd this spring.

This bison herd is genetically rare so it's really exciting to see a record number of calves being born. Park officials are estimating that 16 calves were born this year. Scott Kudelka, the Minneopa area park naturalist for the Department of Natural Resources, talked to MPR News about the calves. He said that there may actually be 14 calves instead of 16 because "the problem with calves is they never want to lie or stand in one area".

Whether the number is 14 or 16, that still is a record number of newborns since the bison were reintroduced to Minneopa State Park in 2015. The previous record was 13. I mentioned that the herd is genetically rare, and that's because they're "bison that have not been significantly cross-bred with cattle." In 2021 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Zoo teamed up to help protect these bison which is why they were then reintroduced to the Minneopa State Park area.

The goal with this herd is to get their numbers up to 500. Currently, after these calves were born, there are about 47 bison. So while there's still a ways to go, it's very exciting that 16 (or 14) new calves were born this spring. We're going in the right direction!

American Prairie holds drawing for bison harvest

(from Missoulian)

American Prairie has opened a permit drawing for its annual public bison harvest on its Sun Prairie property. The harvest is in addition to the hunting opportunities for a variety of wildlife species that are already available on American Prairie land.

This year, American Prairie is offering 31 opportunities, with most being awarded in a way that gives preference to the people who live and work in Montana and the communities nearest to American Prairie.

American Prairie is awarding bison harvest opportunities through an online drawing that is free to enter. Harvests will be designated as follows: seven opportunities for local residents, 11 for Montana residents, five for members of Montana's Indigenous communities, and two for the general public worldwide. Six additional harvest opportunities are being given to various charities to benefit those organizations.

The drawing is free to enter and registrants awarded the opportunity to harvest are required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$300. Eligible individuals must fill out and submit the form by 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2022. The recipients will be randomly selected on July 8, 2022.

Complete details, terms, rules, and a link to enter the drawing are available online at americanprairie.org/bison-harvest.

Virtual Conversation-Based Drought Panel Planned for June 8

(from Society of Range Management)

Just over 60 percent of the U.S. was in some degree of drought as of May 24, 2022, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. What's worse is that over half of the country reached drought status back in the summer of 2020 and has remained there since.

Given such, drought has been cussed and discussed in-depth for the past two summers, but Good Grazing Makes Cent\$, a new program by the Society for Range Management, along with the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, is planning a unique panel discussion driven specifically by real ranchers, with real questions, answered by real experts.

Join other ranchers and range managers on June 8 at 7 p.m. for the free event, "When in Drought... Real Talk with Ranchers" on Facebook or YouTube. The live discussion will cover planning for drought, marketing cattle during a drought, managing grass through drought, and more.

The panel will be moderated by Dave Voth, a ranch manager in Nevada, who experienced firsthand the tough decisions drought brings to an operation last summer.

"This is the year that I've learned probably as much as I'm ever going to learn about drought," Voth said late last summer. "I've learned all the things I should have done and wish I would have planned out better. Going through the steps of planning for drought and trying to maintain that upper hand both with your grass and your marketability of your

calves every year starts in the year before the drought.”

While much of the U.S. is in the midst of drought right now, there is still value in planning ahead and resources to help make the best decisions for your operation in the months ahead.

Panelist ShayLe Stewart, DTN Livestock Market Analyst and founder of *Cattle Market News* will help viewers understand the many dynamics impacting the cattle markets and how to take these into consideration when making challenging marketing decisions during drought.

Grace Woodmansee, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor at UC Cooperative Extension, Siskiyou County, will further explain the “Drought Decision Support Tool” and how both planning ahead while practicing flexibility during drought can help avoid sunken costs.

Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (RSA) Conservation Coordinator Martin Townsend will add perspective on best management practices for range conservation and further explain the 15-step drought plan RSA member Dale Veseth of Malta, Montana, created and recently implemented during last summer’s drought.

The event is focused on real conversation, so panelists will briefly present, leaving plenty of time for live questions and answers which can simply be submitted by commenting during the livestream. The livestream can be found [here](#) or by searching for “When in Drought...” on Facebook. It can also be viewed on the Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ YouTube channel [here](#) or by searching YouTube for Good Grazing Makes Cent\$.



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Save the Date!

- 6/03/2022 - Texas Bison Association Spring Conference - TX
- 6/17/2022 - Montana Bison Association - MT
- 6/18/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Rugby, ND
- 6/23/2022 - Western Bison Association Spring meeting - UT
- 6/23/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 7/06/2022 - ITBC 3rd Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop - SD
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK
- 7/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 8/15/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 10/13/2022 - ITBC 3rd Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop - SD
- 10/15/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Villa Grove, IL
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 11/9/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - Online
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS

- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/11/2023 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to jim@bisoncentral.com and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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