

Welcome aboard and thank you for your interest.

We believe that good conservation practices provide great benefits to all involved – the bison, the land, and the people. Furthermore, we believe that good conservation practices don't cost – they pay.

Much progress can be made when managers design and implement effective conservation management practices and engage with others of like mind. The program offered here will help managers of all experience levels increase their conservation effectiveness and help them engage with a wide variety of like-minded managers and thereby take their operations to even higher levels of conservation success.

The philosophy behind this program is neatly summed up in the following three statements:

1. For millennia, bison and people have relied on the land for sustenance. Even so, these lands thrived, blossomed and sustained massive herds of bison, which in turn supported many people. We believe that through wise stewardship, many people can yet still enjoy great herds of bison living on healthy, vibrant lands. We also believe that informed and caring people are the key to this vision.
2. The purpose of this Bison Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is:
 - A. To ensure that Conservation Partners do no harm to bison, land or people.
 - B. To foster innovation and creativity to benefit and sustain healthy bison, lands and people.
3. This program is not intended to inhibit or limit citizens' freedoms or liberties but will operate only with voluntary participation and a deep respect for personal property rights and individual choice.

Conservation Management Plans (CMP's) are to be written by the participant (or their agent) and are to be submitted for initial approval and successive annual progress reviews to the NBA Conservation Committee via this web-based application. Participants in the Conservation Management Program shall be members in good standing of the National Bison Association. Each CMP shall address all topics listed herein and include a plan for the ongoing monitoring of the listed points.

Successful participants will be recognized and awarded the honorary title of Master Steward. Participants that fall short will be counseled in a meaningful manner by the Auditing Board of Conservation Committee and offered the opportunity to resubmit one time for no additional cost.

Initial applications are \$250 and annual renewals are \$100.

Email Jim@bisoncentral.com for more info or for a list of approved CMP agents.

Enjoy the journey!

Conservation Management Plan Monitoring

Program Criteria	Program Description	Steward	Master Steward
<p>BISON. To conserve the genetic integrity of all living bison while fostering a framework whereby the specie can remain sound, robust and spirited, free from domestication, and continue to preserve the wild, independent nature of bison. Bison must be properly managed so as to protect and preserve neighboring property rights. Bison need to be properly managed to not only protect bison, but to also to build sound, respectful relationships with neighbors.</p>			
<p>Genetic Stewardship</p>	<p>Bison genetics can be shaped by interspecies cross-breeding as well as replacement selection protocols. Bison genetic selection should foster bison herds that are sound, robust and spirited, free from domestication, and continue to preserve the wild independent nature of bison.</p>	<p>Never engage in cross-breeding. Complete adherence to NBA Code of Ethics.</p>	<p>Never allow interspecies crossbreeding, remove from production, over time, any known negative interspecies genetic influence, and adhere to a genetic selection protocol for replacements that favors natural selection criteria.*</p>
<p>Handling/Facilities</p>	<p>Evidence of methods of low stress, safe animal handling methods currently being used, or under development, and provide proof of adequate handling facilities, such as corrals, chutes, etc. to ensure the safety and well-being of the bison in accordance with the above stated objective.</p>	<p>Adequate containment of bison</p>	<p>Low stress and safe handling facilities and practices are in place. Adequate containment of bison includes considerations for other local wildlife</p>

Health/Welfare	Provide proof of conformation to bison health/welfare standards as outlined in generally accepted husbandry publications such as the Bison Producer's Handbook.	Submit a comprehensive bison health/welfare plan.	Document progress on/adherence to the bison health/welfare plan.
LAND. To protect and conserve the environment by consistently improving the quality of soil health and watershed function, while increasing the plant and animal diversity in a balanced, healthful manner.			
Soil Health	Detail techniques used to increase the quality of soils as a vital living system.	Develop a plan to increase soil health.	Document a Positive Trend in Increasing Soil Health.
Erosion Control	Showcase methods used to minimize erosion and benefit the watershed quality.	Identify Erosion Concerns and develop a plan to arrest the erosion	Document progress on your soil erosion management plan
Plant/Animal Diversity	Provide examples of methods used to manage for a wide and increasing variety of plant and animal species.	Develop a plan to manage your land to benefit an increasing variety of plant and animal species.	Document progress on your plan to manage your land to benefit an increasing variety of plant and animal species.
PEOPLE. To foster the improvement of individuals and communities through creative and innovative advancements pertaining to their health, economic and educational opportunities.			
Community	Positively impact the American diet by starting or participating in a farmers market, helping get bison on a local restaurant menu, or supporting your local health fair. Encourage employee health improvement programs such as smoking	Identify opportunities to positively benefit the health of individuals and your community.	Provide evidence of how your efforts have positively impacted the health of individuals and your community.

	<p>cessation programs, exercise memberships, workplace safety programs. Support local EMS, fire and rescue services. Serve on a board. Provide meat for your employees. Be creative in ways to serve!</p>		
<p>Economic Opportunity</p>	<p>Develop new markets or create employment opportunities. Show how your conservation practices have increased economic activity.</p>	<p>Identify ways that your operation can provide a positive economic impact.</p>	<p>Document how your efforts have created or sustained a positive economic impact.</p>
<p>Leadership/Education</p>	<p>Host a workshop, attend the NBA conference, speak or write about your CMP in the local community, state or nation.</p>	<p>Identify how you can attain 8 credit hours of continuing education in the next year that pertains to your CMP.</p>	<p>Attend or host 8 credit hours of continuing education that pertains to your CMP annually. Provide documentation.</p>

** The National Bison Association provides services through the North American Bison Registry (NABR) that can help in developing genetic selection protocols.*