

Montana Bison Association – Position Statement on Bison Management

The Montana Bison Association (MBA) believes it is imperative to actively manage a bison herd to maintain and sustain this species successfully within the State of Montana. Regardless if the herd is considered domestic (commercial) or wild free roaming; active management of the herd includes integrated management of grazing land, water, animal health testing, disease traceability and animal identification. All herd management regardless of designation must comply with the Montana Department of Livestock and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection regulations. Management requires a dedicated and competent human component that ensures containment and manages herd size appropriate for the capacity of the property. These measures must be met and paired with a perpetual plan for dedicated management. Each management plan must be independently tailored and frequently revisited. The MBA encourages using the Bison Producers Handbook Volumes 1 and 2; and incorporate these readings into the herd and land management plans.

The Montana Bison Association endorses the National Bison Association Conservation Management Plan and asks members to voluntarily adopt this plan for their operation.