

# Room to Roam

## THE POPULATION

**30 Million**

Conservative estimate of the bison roaming North America before the Civil War.

**23**

bison remaining in Yellowstone by 1902, following years of Western expansion that nearly eradicated the species beyond the park's borders.



**4,865**

bison in Yellowstone today, as a result of sustained conservation efforts.

## THE ACREAGE

**2.2 Million Acres**

Yellowstone National Park



**18 Million Acres**

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



**421,000 Acres**

Land adjacent to Yellowstone that Montana is considering opening to bison year 'round, for the first time in over a century

**"The wild things of this earth are not ours to do with as we please."**

**They have been given to us in trust, and we must account for them to the generations which will come after us and audit our accounts."**

*—William T. Hornaday  
Smithsonian naturalist,  
and a founder of the  
American Bison Society  
1913*

Today, you can spot bison on menus at steakhouses or in the grocery store freezer, which might lead you to believe the animals are thriving, but the number of bison still roaming wild is a tiny fraction of the larger population. Smaller still are the number with unique genetics, which makes the Yellowstone herd vital to the long-term survival of the species. But outdated measures devised to curb the transmission of disease from bison to cattle have led officials to confine and slaughter bison for decades. As the National Park Service begins to work with tribes, the State of Montana, and other agencies, NPCA hopes to carve out more space for the species, which has a special place on the landscape in and around Yellowstone.

## THE FEAR

**BRUCELLOSIS**—a bacterial disease which can affect cattle and bison, has prompted officials for decades each spring to use helicopters, pickup-trucks, and wranglers on horseback, to force bison back into Yellowstone boundaries. Management of the disease has also led to the ongoing slaughter of Yellowstone bison (below).



Number of cattle infected with brucellosis from bison. In the last 15 years, our understanding of this disease has evolved, offering an opportunity to save millions of taxpayer dollars, while giving Yellowstone bison more room to roam.



Number of bison that have been removed from the Yellowstone herd and shipped to slaughter since 2000, based on a population goal of 3,000—a goal agreed upon through an outdated court-ordered settlement, not scientific analysis.

## THE SOLUTION

**NPCA needs your support to persuade officials to do what's right for this iconic species, namely:**

1. Bison should be treated like other wildlife as much as possible, and that means providing them with more room to roam.
2. Fortunately, the National Park Service and Montana have begun to develop a new management plan for Yellowstone bison. This plan offers the opportunity to increase tolerance for bison beyond park boundaries.
3. NPCA is working to ensure the long-term survival of bison in and around Yellowstone while continuing to reduce the risk of disease transmission.



**Visit [www.npc.org/bison](http://www.npc.org/bison) to help ensure the protection of Yellowstone's iconic bison.**