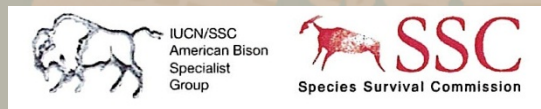


# A Trilateral Vision For 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bison Conservation



The background features a stylized, layered illustration of a natural landscape. It includes a range of mountains with horizontal hatching, a calm lake in the foreground, and a dark silhouette of a forest along the bottom edge. The text is overlaid on the upper and middle portions of this illustration.

Background


U.S. Department of Interior

National Commission of Natural Protected Areas

Wildlife Conservation Society

Parks Canada

Trilateral Vision



Everything about bison is large,  
*almost* everything about bison is local

wild charisma in an modern world,  
deep cultural identity and meaning,  
food and fibre,  
local to regional economy,  
landscape and population ecology,  
and innovative partnerships and relationships

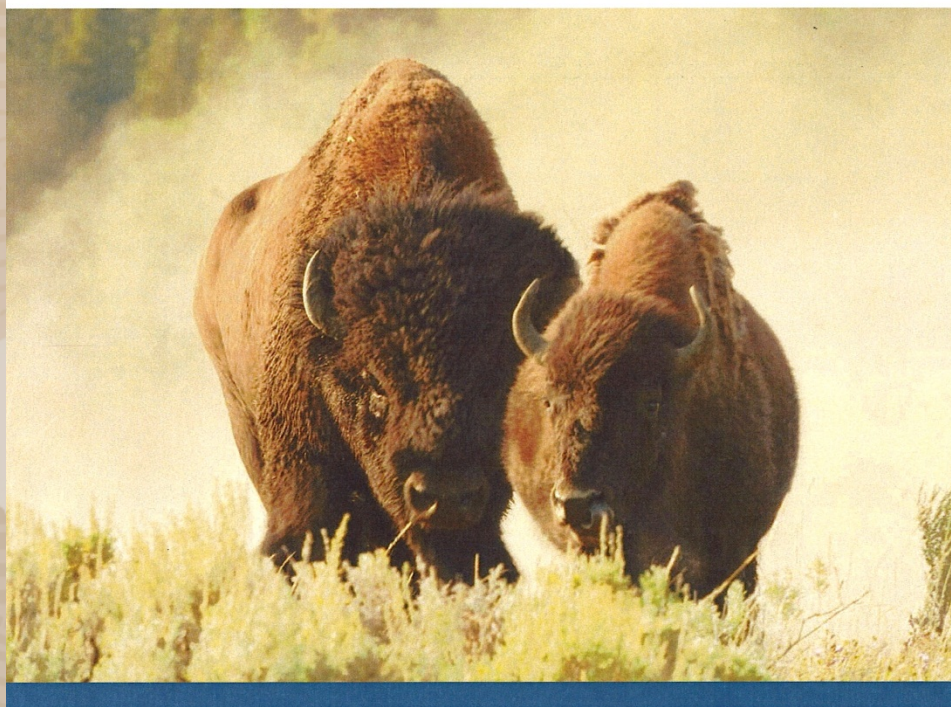
An unprecedented opportunity  
for a Trilateral Vision



# American Bison

## Status Survey and Conservation Guidelines 2010

Edited by C. Cormack Gates, Curtis H. Freese, Peter J.P. Gogan, and Mandy Kotzman







## American Bison

Status Survey and Conservation Guidelines 2010

Edited by C. Corrauck Gates, Curtis H. Friesse, Peter J.P. Gogan, and Mandy Hotzman



PACE Bisonte.

Bison reintroduction to historic range  
in Northern Mexico





## American Bison

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Edited by C. Cormack Gates, Curtis H. Friesse, Peter J.P. Gogan, and Mandy Hotzman



PACE Bisonte.  
Bison reintroduction to historic range  
in Northern Mexico



# WOOD BISON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY for the Northwest Territories



2010-2020



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources





**American Bison**  
Status Survey and Conservation Guidelines 2010

Edited by C. Corcoran-Greco, Curtis H. Peterson, Peter J. Stenger, and Melvyn Hochman



**PACÉ Bisonte.**  
Bison reintroduction to historic range  
in Northern Mexico



**WOOD BISON  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**  
for the Northwest Territories



2010-2020



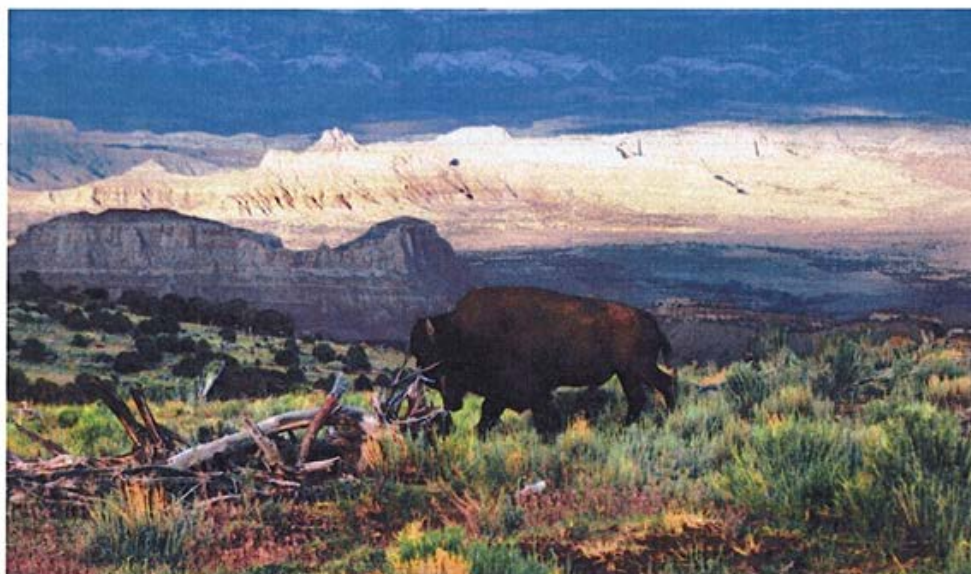
**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**



**Natural Resource Stewardship and Science**

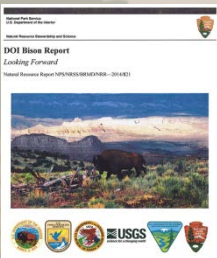
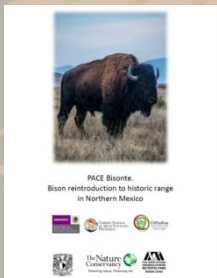
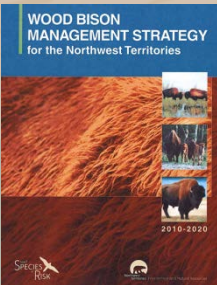
**DOI Bison Report**  
*Looking Forward*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/BRMD/NRR—2014/821



**USGS**  
science for a changing world





# Reintroduction Plan: Plains Bison in Banff National Park

March 2015



Canada



# What's Happening Across MX-US-CA?

- Northern Buffalo Treaty - 11 Northern Tribes-U.S. and Canada - Conservation and Culture
- linnii Initiative
- Bison restoration in Northern Mexico
- Wood bison reintroduction in Alaska
- US Department of Interior Bison Conservation Initiative
- US National Park Service – Call to Action: Back Home on the Range!
- NPS-FWS Bison Meta-Population Framework
- IUCN Population Viability Analysis
- New large landscape bison conservation plans for Banff National Park, Yellowstone NP, Grand Canyon NP, Great Sand Dunes NP and Preserve, Badlands NP, Baca Wildlife Refuge

# The Ecological Future of the North American Bison: Conceiving Long-Term, Large-Scale Conservation of Wildlife

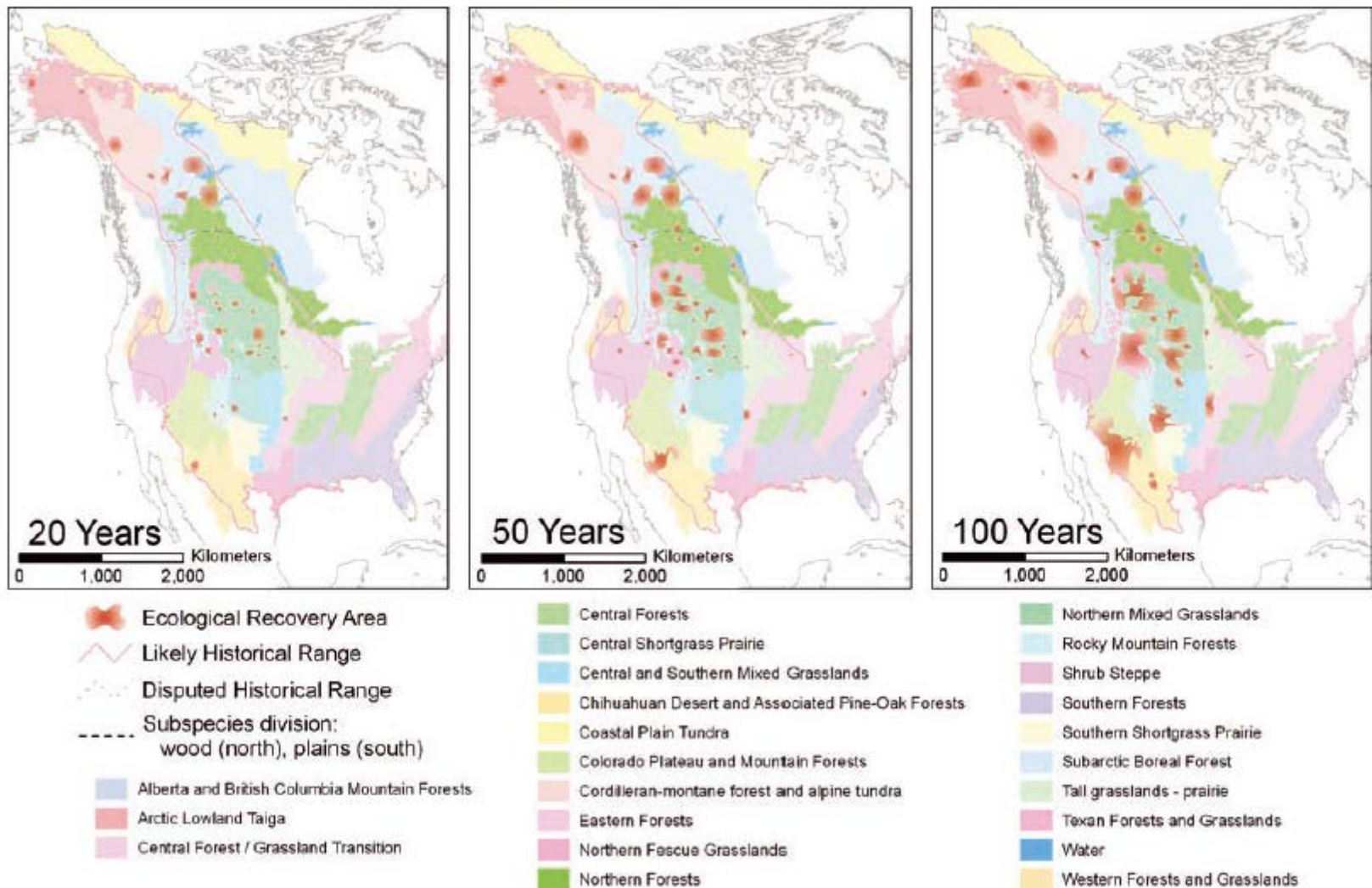
ERIC W. SANDERSON,<sup>a,\*</sup> KENT H. REDFORD,<sup>a</sup> BILL WEBER,<sup>a</sup> KEITH AUNE,<sup>b</sup> DICK BALDES,<sup>c</sup> JOEL BERGER,<sup>a,†</sup> DAVE CARTER,<sup>d</sup> CHARLES CURTIN,<sup>e</sup> JAMES DERR,<sup>f</sup> STEVE DOBROTT,<sup>g</sup> EVA FEARN,<sup>a</sup> CRAIG FLEENER,<sup>b</sup> STEVE FORREST,<sup>i</sup> CRAIG GERLACH,<sup>j</sup> C. CORMACK GATES,<sup>k</sup> JOHN E. GROSS,<sup>l</sup> PETER GOGAN,<sup>m</sup> SHAUN GRASSEL,<sup>n</sup> JODI A. HILTY,<sup>a</sup> MARV JENSEN,<sup>o</sup> KYRAN KUNKEL,<sup>i</sup> DUANE LAMMERS,<sup>p</sup> RURIK LIST,<sup>q</sup> KAREN MINKOWSKI,<sup>a</sup> TOM OLSON,<sup>r</sup> CHRIS PAGUE,<sup>s</sup> PAUL B. ROBERTSON,<sup>s</sup> AND BOB STEPHENSON<sup>t</sup>

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\*email [esanderson@wcs.org](mailto:esanderson@wcs.org)

†Current address: Organismal Biology and Ecology, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, U.S.A.

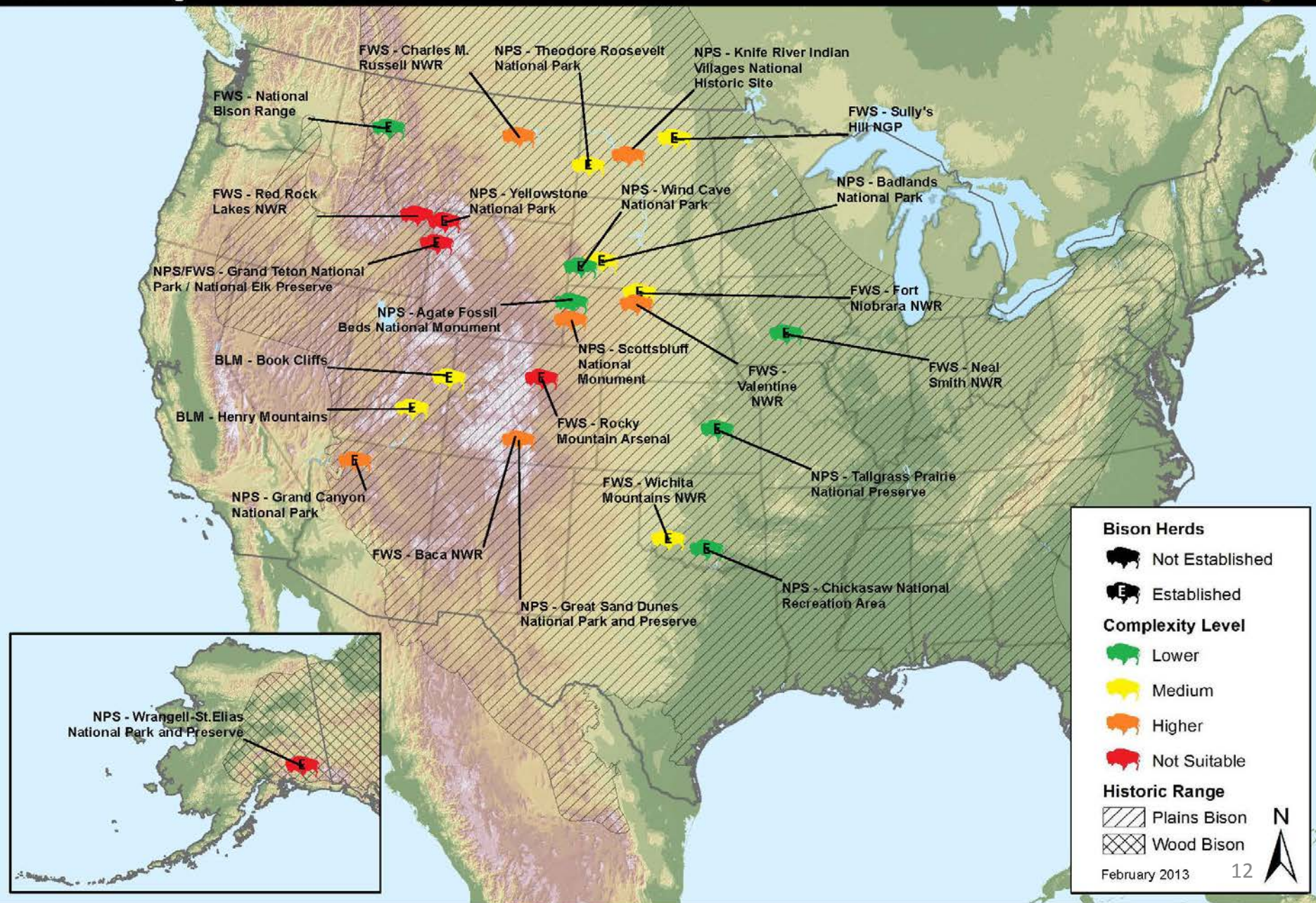
Paper submitted February 11, 2007; revised manuscript accepted August 21, 2007.



*Figure 2. Distribution of potential recovery zones over the next 100 years for the North American bison. Major habitat types are indicated by colored areas in the background.*



**Figure 1. Relative complexity of management and planning for consideration of placement of quarantined brucellosis-free Yellowstone-origin bison on DOI lands**

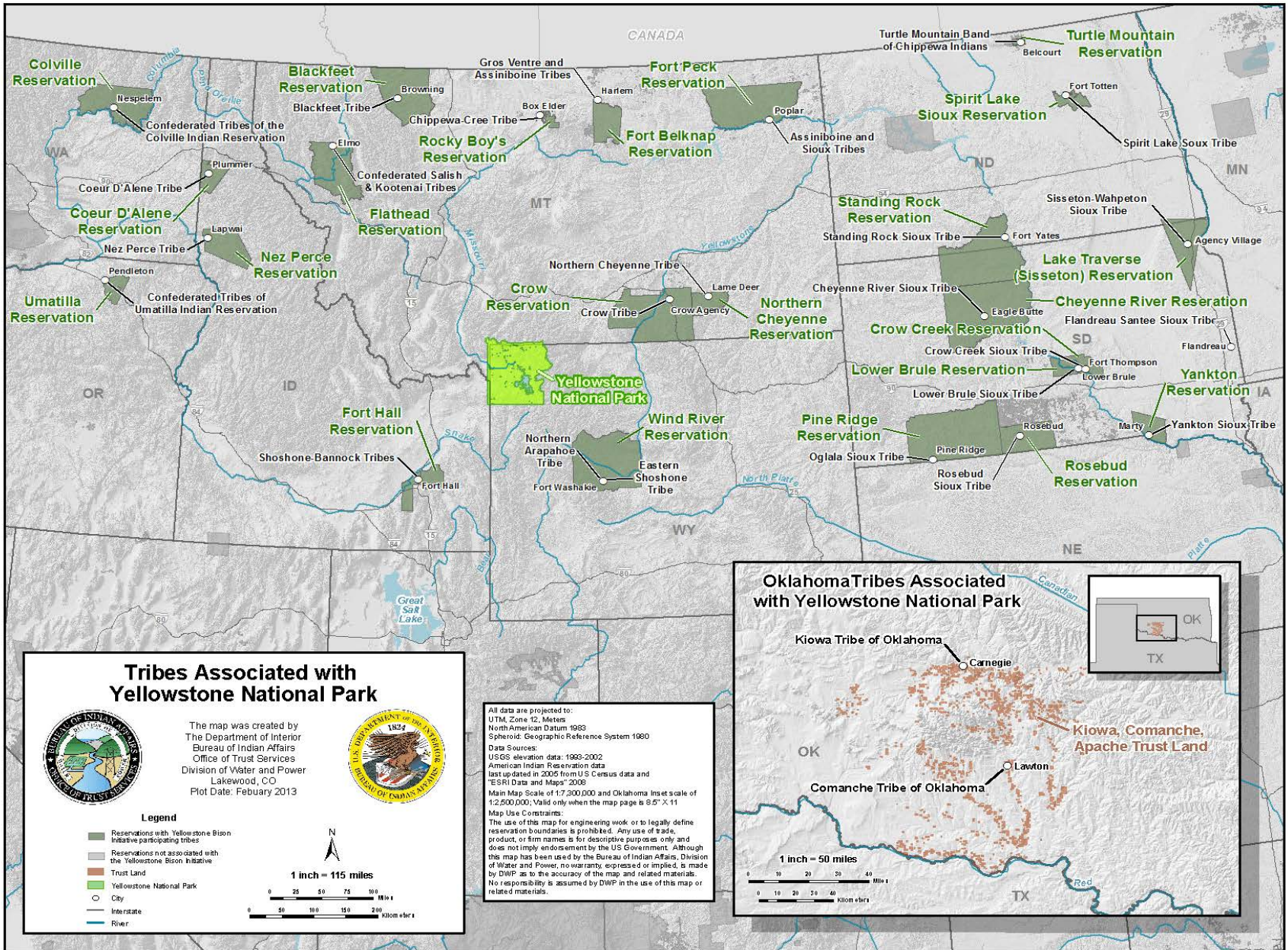




# US Department of Interior - Tribal Collaboration

- DOI is committed to *assisting American Indian tribes restore buffalo to tribal lands*. Below are examples of DOI's work with interested tribes.
- BIA has provided funding and *technical assistance to assist Fort Peck and Fort Belnap* to receive brucellosis-free Yellowstone bison
- NPS and the Oglala Sioux Tribe are working together to establish *a Tribal National Park and restore buffalo* on the South Unit of Badlands National Park
- For the *National Bison Range, FWS and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes* are developing an Agreement for the administration of non-inherently federal activities.
- The *InterTribal Buffalo Council* (ITBC) maintains existing agreements with multiple DOI units to receive bison and redistribute them to member tribes. ITBC recently signed an agreement with Yellowstone NP to receive and process Yellowstone bison and distribute them to member tribes for nutritional and cultural purposes.





## Tribes Associated with Yellowstone National Park

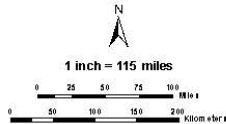


The map was created by  
The Department of Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Office of Trust Services  
Division of Water and Power  
Lakewood, CO  
Plot Date: February 2013



### Legend

- Reservations with Yellowstone Bison
- Reservations not associated with the Yellowstone Bison Initiative
- Trust Land
- Yellowstone National Park
- City
- Interstate
- River



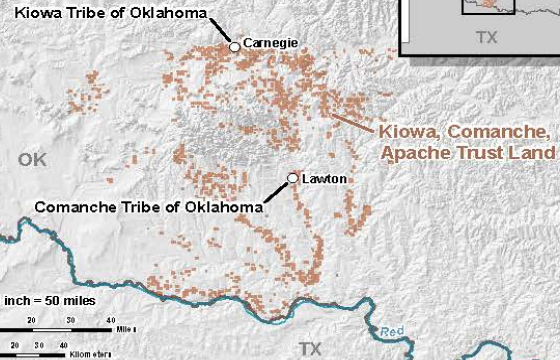
All data are projected to:  
UTM, Zone 12, Meters  
North American Datum 1983  
Spheroid: Geographic Reference System 1980

Data Sources:  
USGS elevation data: 1999-2002  
American Indian Reservation data  
last updated in 2005 from US Census data and  
ESRI Data and Maps 2008

Main Map Scale of 1:2,500,000 and Oklahoma Inset scale of  
1:2,500,000; Valid only when the map page is 8.5" X 11"

Map Use Constraints:  
The use of this map for engineering work or to legally define  
reservation boundaries is prohibited. Any use of trade  
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this map has been used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division  
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related materials.

## Oklahoma Tribes Associated with Yellowstone National Park







## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Park Service Bison Conservation Goals**

- For new restorations, seek to introduce bison to lands as unfenced herds.
- Continue efforts to support inclusion of tribes as collaborators on bison (Oglala Sioux Tribe & Badlands National Park, CSKT & National Bison Range).
- Encourage complimentary bison management with FWS, NPS and BLM where possible.
- Develop new conservation goals for demographics and genetic diversity for FWS and NPS herds.



# PACE Bisonte. Bison reintroduction to historic range in Northern Mexico



## COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

**CONANP:** Oscar Ramírez, Alfonso Prieto, Lizardo Cruz.

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:** Laura Paulson, Antonio Esquer.

**UNAM:** Rodrigo Sierra

**UAM:** Rurik List

**TMS:** Cindy Tolle



# Species at Risk Conservation Program (PROCER)

- ❑ PROCER is the federal government instrument for conservation and recover species at risk.
- ❑ An example of collaboration for recover species with several stakeholders
- ❑ The program use proxy species (priority, surrogate...)
- ❑ Increase effects of management and conservation measures in natural protected areas (NPA)





# PROCER supports the “PACE: Bisonte” (Action Program for Conservation Species: Bison in Mexico)

## Goals:

- ▣ Management of genetically pure Bison herd on the historical range, among local landowners, NGOs (TNC), universities and Mexican Government.
- ▣ Sustainable management of grasslands.
- ▣ Implement best management practice with landowners (cattle growers).
- ▣ Use the bison as an alternative at medium term.



**PROCER**  
PROGRAMA DE CONSERVACIÓN  
DE ESPECIES EN RIESGO

## Janos Valley Grasslands

- The Janos Valley Grasslands are located in Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion. Some priority species are: BTPD, Mexican Gray Wolf, Pronghorn, Golden Eagle, Black Bear and Bison.
- In 2005, the Conservancy purchased a 46,000 acre ranch and created the Rancho El Uno Ecological Reserve
- Federal ANP decreed in 2009 – 500,000 ha (1.3. M acres)
- The decree marks the first time Mexico is officially protecting grasslands.



# Rancho El Uno

## Grasslands:

- BMP Ranching
- BMP Agriculture

## Priority Species:

- BT Prairie Dog
- Gplden Eagle
- Pronghorn
- Grasslands Birds



## Environmental Education

- Schools
- Visitors
- Ecological Clubs

## Academia

- Research
- Thesis
- Field trips/practices





2014 Next Steps	Results in 2014. & Next steps
Increase herd size to 150 bison	66 ... 20 more expected in 2015
Explore availability in Yellowstone NP	No advance. Dialogue already start with NPS to define collaboration options
Improve infrastructure	New corral and lab were built. Maintenance, open new areas in the ranch.
Define new sites to host conservation herds	No advance. Still focus on increasing herd number, some potential sites identified. .... Work with ranchers who already have bison or want to have.
Continue education, outreach and collaboration with ranchers	Several workshops for ranchers were developed, more schools involved.... Workshops will be held this year, at least 10 ecological clubs will be created.
More research on uses of bison and potential market. We are members of NBA	We are talking about a field trip to NBA ranches with Mexico people (ranchers, gov. officials and specialist)
Increase collaboration (local, national and international)	In progress....

# Collaboration Opportunity

- Increase the scale of Bison recovery actions at continental level. To design and implement a continental cooperation program for bison recovery
- Exchange best results implemented in each country,
- Preserve the Bison genetic population purity
- Collaboration among Governments and stakeholders to improve the recovery of bison in North America



# THE IINNII INITIATIVE





# The linnii Initiative

- ▣ linnii Initiative “Kick-off” 2011
  - Vision Statement
- ▣ Economic Summit 2012
- ▣ Entrepreneurs Workshop 2014
- ▣ Reintroduction and Business Plans 2014

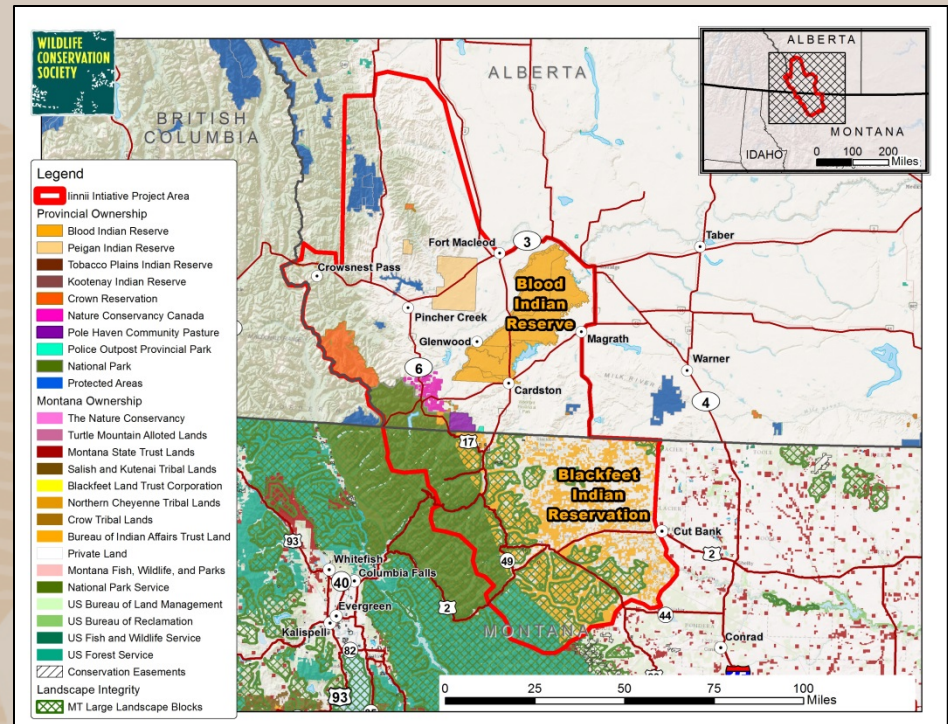




# Reinforcing Ancient Connections with Bison

## Transboundary Dialogues

- Siksika, Kainai, Pikanii – Blackfeet tribal elders
- Connecting the youth
- Dissolving boundaries
- Healing the land and People





# Community Outreach





# Ongoing Dialogue with Elders



# Expanding the Camp

- ▣ Northern Buffalo Treaty
  - 11 Northern Tribes-U.S. and Canada
  - Conservation and Culture





# Inspiring Good Policy and Best Science

- ❑ National Bison Legacy Act
- ❑ DOI Bison Working Group
- ❑ ABS Biennial Conferences
- ❑ IUCN Bison Species Group



Photo by Audrey Hall

# Restoration of Plains Bison in Banff National Park of Canada



A stylized, textured background illustration in shades of brown and tan. It depicts a mountain range with a large, dark silhouette of a bison in the foreground. The bison is facing left, and its body is composed of horizontal lines. The mountains in the background are also textured with horizontal lines. The overall style is graphic and artistic.

# Banff Vision

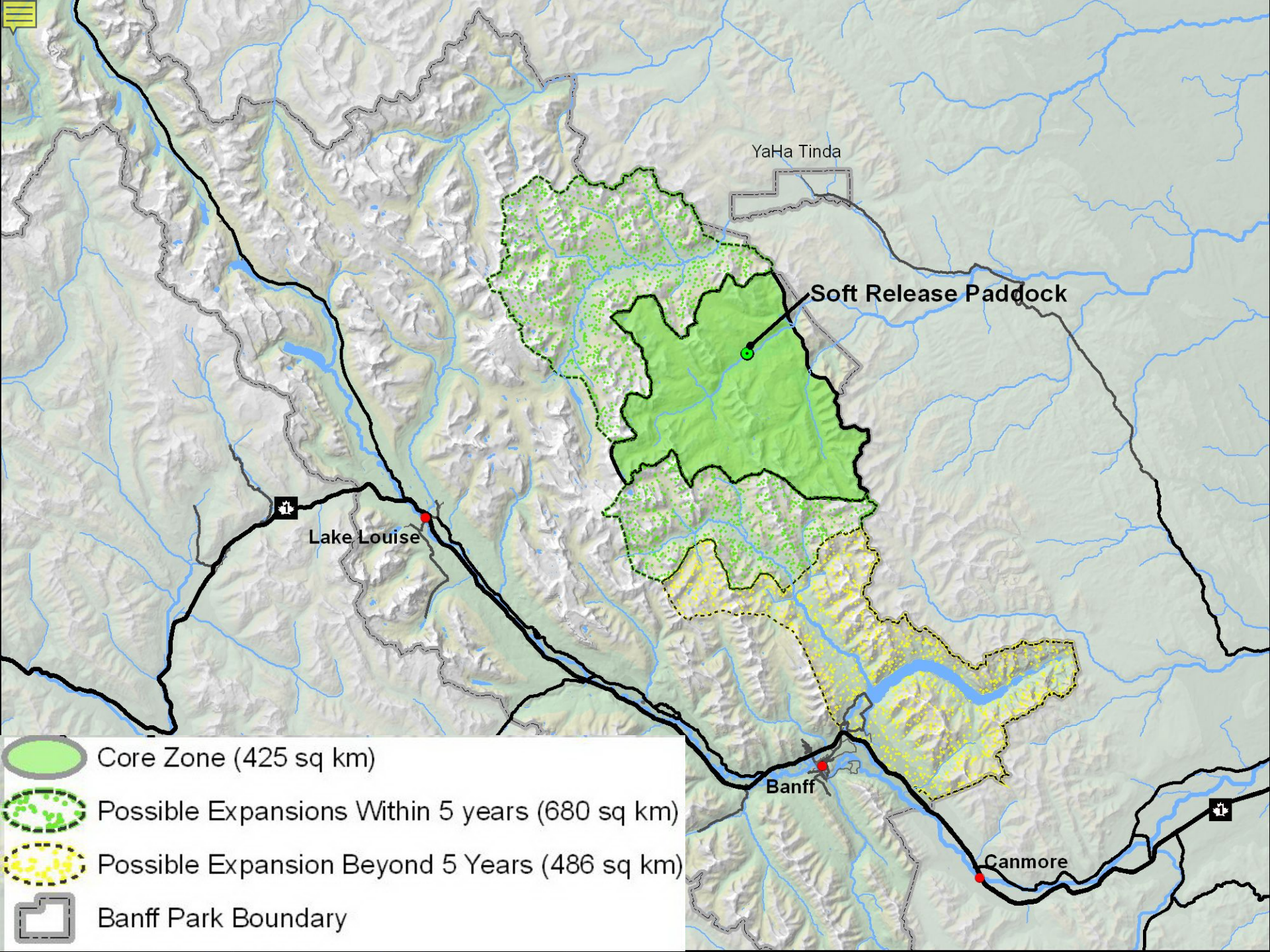
Restore a wild, free-roaming bison population

- supports ecosystem integrity,
- enriches experience of visitors,
- facilitates cultural connections,
- enhances learning and stewardship,
- addresses concerns of neighbours, and
- is compatible with existing activities and infrastructure.











# Banff Opportunities

- ▣ Sharing of traditional knowledge
- ▣ Input on reintroduction plan
- ▣ Habitat management (prescribed fire)
- ▣ Bison monitoring and management
- ▣ Future culling, bison meat and materials
- ▣ Participation and leadership of cultural and spiritual celebrations





# Bison Restoration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Conservation at larger scales

Federal lands as landscape anchors

Unique models of Shared Stewardship

Business models for economy and conservation

Relationships then partnerships





## A Trilateral Vision For 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bison Conservation

Develop a Letter of Intent between Mexico, United States and Canada to be presented for signature at the 2016 Trilateral that will identify a roadmap to develop and implement a wide array of shared bison science, stewardship, education and outreach activities that build upon the wide array of local bison conservation activities towards comprehensive and sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation of the North

# Trilateral Vision Collaborators:

**Glenn Plumb**, Chief Wildlife Biologist, National Park Service

**Steve Torbit**, Asst. Regional Dir. , US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Keith Aune**, Chair, IUCN North American Bison Species Specialist Group

**Oscar M. Ramírez Flores**, Priority Species Director, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)

**Lizardo Cruz Romo**, Priority Species Deputy-Director, CONANP

**Martín Sánchez Vilchis**, Priority Species Chief of Department, CONANP

**Jesus Antonio Esquer** (BSc), The Nature Conservancy

**Justina Ray**, Co-Chair, COSEWIC Terrestrial Mammal Committee

**David Gummer**, Parks Canada