

IUCN SSC Bison Specialist Group (North America section)

2016-2017 Report



Glenn Plumb



Dennis Jorgensen

Co-Chairs

Glenn Plumb ⁽¹⁾
Dennis Jorgensen ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ National Park Service, US (retired)
⁽²⁾ World Wildlife Fund-US, Northern Great Plains Program, Bozeman, Montana, US
⁽³⁾ Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada

Number of members

73



Mission statement

The purpose of the Bison Specialist Group (BSG) (North America section) is to contribute scientific evidence-based support for development and implementation of comprehensive and viable strategies and management actions to improve conservation and achieve ecological restoration of the American Bison (*Bison bison*) including Plains Bison (*Bison bison bison*) and Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) where feasible throughout the original range of each subspecies.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. The BSG (North American section) has completed an initial conservation status assessment in 2010 and an updated Red List assessment in 2017. (KSR #6)

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Conservation action

Conservation activities: produce a new long-term conservation action plan.

Red List: produce an updated and refined assessment of existing and new bison herds for an updated Red List assessment in 2022.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Under continuation of prevailing conditions, by the end of 2020, we expect there will be less than 20,000 adult individuals in highly fragmented/isolated public herds in the wild across northern Mexico, United States and Canada, including multiple small herds, and few large herds. While the BSG (North American section) has previously produced a conservation assessment (2010) and Red List assessment (2017), neither the SG nor any public agency has yet produced an overarching continental conservation action plan or strategy to provide guidance across all involved public and private sectors for highly integrated conservation actions intended to improve the long-term conservation of the species in the wild. During this quadrennium, the BSG (North American section) will provide leadership for multi-stakeholder, multi-partner inclusion in preparing and publishing an updated conservation assessment and a new long-term conservation action plan/strategy, to help inform the continued conservation of existing wild bison, increase new wild bison herds and total abundance and empower partners to undertake enhanced conservation actions where feasible in order to achieve the overarching objective of transitioning the American Bison from IUCN Red List Near Threatened status to Least Concern.

Fort Peck Plains Bison (*Bison bison bison*)
Photo: Clay Bolt



Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 6

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 019

KSR: Key Species Result



Fort Peck paper mache bison
Photo: Dennis Jorgensen