



VOTE BISON CAMPAIGN

The Vote Bison campaign seeks to make the American bison the ‘*National Mammal of the United States*’ and celebrate National Bison Day annually on the 1st Saturday of November. Bison—our largest land mammal—once ranged from Oregon to New Jersey and Alaska to Mexico and now exist in all 50 states. Bison became a symbol of U.S. frontier culture as the herds inspired awe in western explorers and sustained early settlers and traders. Bison were integrally linked with the economic, physical and spiritual lives of Native Americans; and were central to their sustenance, trade, ceremonies and religious rituals. Men and women from all walks of life, including ranchers, Native Americans, industrialists, and President Theodore Roosevelt initiated a monumental effort to save bison from extinction in 1905. This grassroots campaign to save bison on small refuges in Oklahoma, Montana, and South Dakota served as the world’s first successful wildlife restoration effort.

Bison are an American icon. Bison are profiled on coins, depicted on the Department of the Interior’s seal, and featured on logos of sports teams, businesses, and academic institutions. Three states have designated bison as their official state mammal or animal. Designation as the National Mammal would celebrate bison’s special place in our national heritage, as well as the contributions bison make to American life now and will for centuries to come.



Bison of the Grand Teton National Park

NATIONAL BISON DAY

Senators have introduced a resolution to recognize that Native Americans, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators and other public and private partners will spearhead a national celebration of this American icon, the North American bison, on November 2, 2013 – **National Bison Day**.

BISON TODAY

Bison are an important animal in many sectors of modern American life. Bison continue to sustain and provide cultural value to Native Americans and Indian Tribes. More than 60 tribes are working to restore bison to over 1,000,000 acres of Indian lands in places like South Dakota, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Montana. Bison production on private ranches is in its strongest economic condition in more than a decade. The total value of privately-owned bison on more than 4,000 bison ranches in the U.S. was estimated to exceed \$280 million in 2012. This trend bodes well for bison ranches in states like South Dakota, Nebraska, Texas, Colorado, North Dakota and Montana, which create jobs, provide a sustainable and healthy meat source, and contribute to our nation's food security.

Bison are highly desired by the sporting public. Utah, Alaska, Montana, and Wyoming are hosting successful annual hunts helping to finance management efforts. Bison provide enjoyment and education to millions of visitors who recreate in America's great outdoors. And, tourists eager to view both public and private bison herds contribute to the economies of rural communities. Bison herds for public enjoyment and use are found on state and federal lands including Yellowstone National Park, Wind Cave National Park, Custer State Park, Caprock Canyon State Park, and Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge.

2012 'VOTE BISON' CAMPAIGN

Senators Enzi (WY) and Johnson (SD) and Congressmen Clay (MO) and Fortenberry (NE) introduced the National Bison Legacy Act (S. 3248/H.R. 6304) in 2012 and were joined in support by 27 members of Congress. An outpouring of enthusiasm from people across the country generated over 80,000 letters asking Congress to designate bison as the National Mammal of the United States. November 1st marked the inaugural "National Bison Day" featuring events in South Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Washington, DC. The Vote Bison coalition ended the year with a remarkable 34 members representing bison producers, Native Americans, conservationists, educational institutions, sportsmen/recreationists, zoological institutions, health organizations and businesses.



Nearly 150 people participated in National Bison Day activities at the event at Plaza Park in Las Vegas, NM. Kids and adults painted large murals of bison, helped set up a tipi, and read books about bison.



Over 200 people attended the National Bison Day event on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, which featured Teddy Roosevelt of the Washington Nationals' Racing Presidents in recognition of President Roosevelt's leadership in saving bison from extinction.



Boomer the Bison encouraged Bethany College students to send letters to their members of Congress in support of the National Bison Legacy Act as part of Bethany's National Bison Day activities.

For more information, check out:
WWW.VOTEBISON.ORG