



Protecting Montana's wildlife, land, waters, and hunting & fishing heritage for future generations.

Board Resolution on Bison Restoration in Montana

Whereas Bison are the only large endemic wildlife species in Montana to not be restored and defined as wildlife under Montana statute;

Whereas in 2014 MWF passed a resolution to establish a conservation herd of at least 1,000 bison ranging over an area of at least 100 square miles that provides viewing for the public as well as regulated hunting;

Whereas the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) current Conservation Plan states that the CMR would cooperate with MFWP to restore wild bison to an appropriate location on the CMR; and

Whereas there is a proposal from the Tribes of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council that has been submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to establish an Intertribal Bison herd on the CMR; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF);

1. Reaffirms that it fully supports establishment of a conservation herd of at least 1,000 bison ranging over an area of at least 100 square miles that provides viewing for the public as well as regulated hunting.
2. Urges that bison establishment includes an open public process, Tribal involvement and leadership, minimizes conflicts with livestock, certified disease free, classified as wildlife under Montana law, outlines handling of excess bison, adequate containment infrastructure and strategies, and dedicated funding and staff.

Moved: John Salazar

Second: Jim Vashro

Passed 14 for and 0 against

April 15, 2023, at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation