

# BID INVITATION SALE OF LIVE BISON

National Bison Range  
58355 Bison Range Road  
Moiese, Montana 59824  
Phone (406) 644-2211

**Date Issued: August 31, 2015**

**Bid Opening: September 21, 2015**

The National Bison Range is offering a minimum of **45** live American Bison (buffalo) for sale by sealed, competitive bid. Top bid per animal for each group will be awarded first, then the second highest bid, and so on until all animals in each sex and age group have been awarded. Bids are accepted for one or more animals. Bids will be considered in whole dollars only (no cents).

**Sealed bids in single copy will be received at the above address until 2 P.M. (Mountain Daylight Saving Time), on the date specified.**

**Bid envelopes should be marked "Bison Bid – open 2 P.M., Monday, September 21, 2015".**

**See Sales Conditions that are Included for important information.**

GROUP	QUANTITY AVAILABLE	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER DESIRED	PRICE BID PER ANIMAL	TOTAL BID
1	20	Yearling Males		\$	\$
2	21	Yearling Females		\$	\$
4	2	Two Year Old Females		\$	\$
6	1	Three Year Old Females		\$	\$
8	1	Four Year Old Females		\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$

Name of Individual or Firm (Please print):

Signature:

Address

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Check to **USFWS** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (US FUNDS)

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL BISON RANGE

## 2014 Disposal of Surplus Bison

### Successful Bids

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number Sold</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>
Yrlng Males	13	\$1,876	\$613	\$15,707
Yrlng Females	26	\$1,405	\$479	\$25,397
2 Yr. Males	2	\$1,807	\$1,510	\$3,614
2 Yr. Females	4	\$1,827	\$1,529	\$6,800

**TOTAL SOLD 45 \$51,518**

Total number of bidders= 12 Number of successful bidders= 11

Plus 16 animals donated

Total reduction of bison herd in 2014-- 61 animals

Please Note: Bid packets are available for viewing and download on our new website at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/), and can be requested to be received via email.

Also, we invite you to check out the [National Bison Range on Facebook!!](#)

Thank you for your interest.

## SALES CONDITIONS

1. Bidders may bid on one or any number of animals. No multiple choice bids will be accepted, bid only on the animals wanted. Bids will be considered in whole dollar amounts only (no cents).
2. A 10% deposit is required with all bids. **All deposit checks should be made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. funds).** Deposit checks will **ONLY** be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Successful bidders that decline will forfeit their deposit.
3. No bids will be accepted by phone or after closing date.
4. All animals will be delivered to buyer's trucks between the dates of October 7-9, 2015. Exact date of delivery will depend on number purchased per buyer and required health tests. Out of state buyers will be notified to pick up bison on Thursday, October 8 or Friday, October 9, depending on timelines for required testing.
5. The National Bison Range (NBR) bison come from outside the designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area in Montana. **If special testing is required, bidders will be responsible for arranging and payment of such testing.**
6. The National Bison Range and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provide an on-site veterinarian to conduct veterinary inspections and other necessary testing. The NBR will permit brucellosis and tuberculosis testing of bison leaving the National Bison Range to meet animal health requirements of a receiving state. This must be arranged by the buyer with our on-site veterinarian. The NBR will provide holding facilities, feed and water for the 3 days required for tuberculosis testing. Costs incurred for these tests, a certificate of veterinary inspection, and any additional testing required by receiving states, are the responsibility of the buyer.
7. Bison from the National Bison Range are wild animals. As with all federal and state agencies managing wildlife; the USFWS makes no certification as to the suitability for human consumption. Meat inspection is responsibility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and can be arranged independently through cooperating slaughter establishments.
8. NBR has developed a herd-health monitoring program for bison. This program is designed to assess the presence and prevalence of diseases in the population as a whole, and not to determine presence or absence of disease in individual animals. This program is part of an adaptive management process and emphasis varies according to current and local wildlife threats and/or needs for early detection and rapid response of wildlife diseases. Some agents of diseases such as Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), Johne's disease (paratuberculosis), and Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), have been detected at very low levels or preliminary data suggests they may be present.
9. **Selection of animals is predetermined by our regional wildlife health office.** Sale animals are identified and herded into sale pens during our annual roundup. This process will occur on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 and 4:30 pm and is open for public viewing. Reasonable effort will be made to deliver normal and apparently healthy animals.
10. Yearling animals are approximately 16 months old.
11. An appropriate "Bill of Sale" will be given each buyer.
12. Hauling equipment must be sturdy, well ventilated and covered with solid paneling to prevent bison from seeing outside the trailer. Bison settle down quicker when outside visual stimuli are eliminated. It is recommended that buyers plan on hauling two-year old bulls separately from females. Three-year old bulls and older should be transported individually or in individual compartments. Yearling bulls can be hauled in groups or with cows. Light pickup stock-racks or small trailers are not sturdy enough for any animal over a yearling and will not be loaded.
13. **All trucks and trailers must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entry into the National Bison Range. Buyers must check in at the Visitor Center. Equipment will be inspected and sprayed with a disinfectant before being directed to the loading station. Vehicles with unclean beds will not be loaded.**

## *National Bison Range Bison Conservation and Management - 2015*

The National Bison Range (NBR) will maintain a herd of approximately 320 bison, for the purpose of conserving bison as a species, maintaining genetic diversity, and providing public opportunity to view bison in a natural prairie setting. All NBR bison are rounded up each October and herded through a corral and chute system. This year up to 80 bison will be removed from the herd with 45 sold through a sealed mail-in bid process and up to 35 donated through the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council. Animals to be sold in a given age/sex class are pre-selected and are taken out of the herd throughout the 2 day roundup process. Sale animals are generally 4 years old or less and no calves are sold.

In order to most effectively study and manage disease risk to NBR bison, we have developed a herd health disease surveillance program. Each year, specific adult age/sex classes are targeted for disease testing prior to release back to the Refuge. Those targeted animals and all sale animals are directed through a chute for microchip scanning, blood sampling, and proper tagging for transport if sold. The NBR runs a standard panel of tests each year for several viral diseases, including Bovine Virus Diarrhea (Types 1 and 2), Parainfluenza-3 and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, as well as testing based on current and local wildlife threats and/or needs for early detection and rapid response of wildlife diseases. Some agents of diseases such as Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), Johne's disease (paratuberculosis), and Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), have been detected at very low levels or preliminary data suggests they may be present.

The National Bison Range (NBR) bison come from outside the designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area in Montana and have not been vaccinated for brucellosis since 1997. Studies have demonstrated that RB51 is ineffective as a vaccine in bison. Although NBR bison are not vaccinated for brucellosis, sporadic brucellosis testing is performed for surplus bison shipped to states requiring testing. BVD vaccinations were administered to NBR bison in 2010 during the annual roundup upon suspicion of a disease incursion, while simultaneous ear notch antigen tests were initiated. Both testing at this level and vaccinations were discontinued after no positive results were found.

Based on the results of a federal bison genetics project, NBR bison were found to have a very high level of genetic diversity, with one of the highest levels of allelic richness, heterozygosity, and private alleles of the federal herds tested in this study. NBR bison also have a very low level of cattle gene introgression. NBR has had only 12 animals brought into the herd in the last 100 years, and the NBR bison herd is not augmenting bison from outside sources at this time in order to preserve the high genetic quality and low levels of cattle gene introgression.

The NBR has each bison marked with a microchip for individual identification and record keeping. Since 2005, we have used a microchip scanner at our scale that helps us direct animals to the chutes or back out to the Refuge based on past genetic and disease testing history, greatly improving our ability to be selective and significantly decreasing the amount of animal handling. NBR continues to work with microchip and software developers to improve efficiency at the roundup.