



### Special Refuge Regulations

- The Refuge is closed to all public use at night. The exact time is posted at the entrance.
- Remain at your vehicle and on the road. Wildlife can be dangerous, do not approach them.
- Walking away from the road is allowed only on designated trails.
- All passengers must remain seated, or inside the bed of a truck, while the vehicle is in motion.
- To protect wildlife and visitors, pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.
- Collection or disturbance of natural objects, such as, plants, animals, feathers, antlers, or rocks and minerals is not allowed.
- Motorcycles and bicycles are allowed only on the paved roads below the cattle guards.
- Trailers and towed units are only allowed on the West Loop.
- Vehicles over 30 feet are not allowed on Red Sleep Mountain Drive or the Prairie Drive.
- Camping and overnight parking is prohibited.
- Fishing Regulations are available at the Visitor Center.

### National Bison Range

406-644-2211

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/)

### After Hours Contact

Lake County Sheriff 406-883-7301  
Emergency – Call 911



## Red Sleep Mountain Drive Self-Guided Tour (This information refers to the areas at the round numbered signs along Red Sleep Dr.)

1. These grasslands are made up of a combination of native bunchgrasses and broad-leaved plants called forbs. The plants are dry-land adapted and can survive the Bison Range's average precipitation of only 13 inches per year. Some bird species nest only in these bunchgrasses.
2. Pauline Creek is an intermittent stream with several small impoundments that supply water for wildlife. The streamside thickets are supported by water seeping out from the creek. Watch for song birds that use this area. In summer, bears frequently search here for berries.
3. Elk Lane joins most of the eight grazing units of the Refuge and leads to the roundup corral. Bison are held in this lane during roundup each fall. Springs in the lane and elsewhere on the Range have been improved with watering troughs for better wildlife water supply.
4. Edge habitats are excellent places to view wildlife, especially birds. Each habitat has its own complement of wildlife species. The edge between two habitats will harbor species from both and some are creatures that live only along edges.
5. Forest communities thrive at the higher elevations, on the cooler north sides of the hill, and in moist draws and depressions. Douglas fir grow on the north sides where their seedlings can get a foothold. Ponderosa pine are found on the dryer, warmer south sides of the hills.
6. The High Point of Red Sleep Mountain Drive is 4,700 feet above sea level. The highest spot on the Refuge, at 4,885 feet, is to the south. The display describes historic Glacial Lake Missoula, which helped to form this valley.
7. Grasslands have evolved along with the grazers. Bison, elk and pronghorn use this prairie resource. Grasses grow from the base of the stem so they can still continue to grow after being grazed. Different animals eat different kinds or parts of plants at different growth stages and thus minimize competition.
8. Buffalo wallows are dry dust beds, often found in clay banks. Bison roll here to rid themselves of insects. They also display dominance by displacing lower-ranked animals from the wallows.
9. River bottom woodlands of Cottonwood and Juniper are sub-irrigated from the stream and provide lush vegetation and cover.
10. The Bison Corrals provide for safe handling of the bison during the annual roundup. At this time, bison are identified, marked and checked for health.

### Special Precautions For Your Safety and For the Protection of Resources

- ❖ Bison can be very dangerous. For your safety, keep your distance.
- ❖ All wildlife will defend their young.
- ❖ Rattlesnakes are not aggressive, but may strike if threatened or surprised. Watch where you step and do not go out into the grasslands.
- ❖ The Red Sleep Mountain Drive is a one-way mountain road. It gains 2,000 feet in elevation and averages a 10% downgrade for about two miles. Be sure of your braking power.
- ❖ Watch out for children on roadways, especially in the picnic and residential area and at viewpoints.
- ❖ Refuge staff are trained in first aid and can assist you. Contact them in an emergency.

### Wildlife of the National Bison Range



Bull Bison



Bighorn Sheep



Black-billed Magpie



Golden Eagle



Pronghorn Antelope



Elk



Mule Deer



Whitetail Deer

