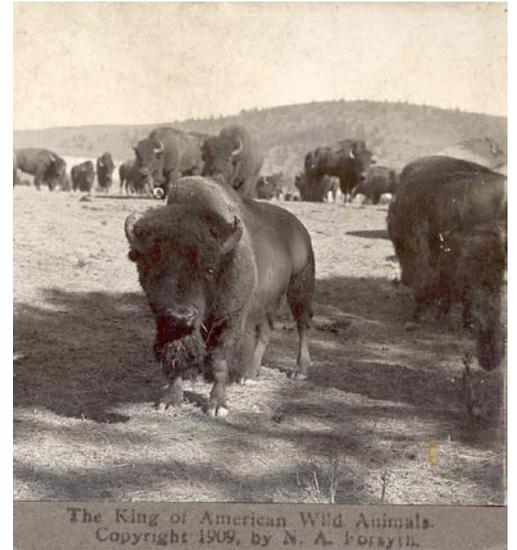


National Bison Range ~ Historical Outline and Trivia Tidbits



1903 First National Wildlife Refuge established by President Theodore Roosevelt at Pelican Island, Florida.

- 1908 May 23 – President Theodore Roosevelt signs legislation creating the National Bison Range
- 1909 October – First bison arrive at Refuge. The National Bison Society purchased them from the Conrad herd (Kalispell, MT) and donated them to the Bison Range.
- 1910 Spring – Eleven calves born first spring
- 1921 December 22 – Executive Order 3569 designates the Bison Range as ...”refuges and breeding grounds for birds.



1933 Big Medicine born. A rare white bison, he had with a brown top knot of hair and blue eyes.

1934 Civilian Conservation Corps works their first of just two summers at Bison Range. Builds Red Sleep Mountain Drive and front gate, puts in Day Use Area.

1959 August 25 – Big Medicine dies at age 26. He is on display at the Montana Historical Society's Montana Museum (Helena, MT).

- 1966 Self guided auto trips allowed around Red Sleep Mountain Drive.
An episode of the Lassie television show is filmed.
- 1982 New Visitor Center with displays open to the public.
- 1993 Record number of visitors in a year set – 217,2000.
- 2005 Ervin Davis, Bison Range Volunteer, receives National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year award.
- 2008 May 23 – Centennial Celebration and Birthday Bash.

