



## National Bison Range

- |                           |  |                |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| Refuge boundary           | Cattle guard                                 | Restroom       |
| State highway             | Numbered signs                               | Tables         |
| Paved road                | Linked symbols designate accessible features | Fishing access |
| Auto tour route (one-way) | Refuge headquarters                          | Parking        |
| Auto tour route (two-way) |  |                |
| Hiking trail              |  |                |

**National Bison Range**  
 58355 Bison Range Rd  
 Moiese, MT 59824  
 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

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**For Refuge Information**  
 1 800 / 344 WILD

**For State relay service**  
 TTY / Voice: 711

June 2018





*This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

# National Bison Range

## Visitor Information and General Regulations

### Welcome

Welcome to the National Bison Range, one of over 566 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

### Visitor Information

- The Refuge is open daily, from dawn to dusk. Hours vary seasonally and are posted at the entrance.
- Wildlife can be dangerous, do not approach them. Hiking is allowed only on designated trails. Remain at your vehicle and on the road.
- All passengers must remain seated inside of the vehicle, or bed of the truck, while the vehicle is in motion.
- The Refuge has three wildlife drives. Vehicles over 30 feet long or trailers are welcome on the West Loop Road. They are prohibited on Prairie or Red Sleep Mountain Drives. Trailers can be left at the visitor center parking lot.
- Motorcycles, bicycles, and ATVs are allowed only on the paved roads below the cattle guards.
- The Red Sleep Mountain Drive is a 19-mile, one-way gravel loop that gains 2,000 feet in elevation with switchbacks and 10 percent grades along the drive.
- Pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.
- Removal or disturbance of natural objects and artifacts is prohibited.
- Camping and parking after the Refuge is closed is prohibited.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

### Red Sleep Mountain Drive Self-guided Tour and eBird Hotspots

The following information corresponds with numbered signs located along the Red Sleep Mountain Drive. You are invited to document bird sightings by stopping at vehicle pull-outs near these signs and recording a complete list of birds observed in three minutes. (Please remain next to your vehicle.)

1. The expansive grasslands on the National Bison Range consist of native bunchgrasses and wildflowers. Some species of conservation concern, like the grasshopper sparrow, nest only in these bunchgrasses.
2. Pauline Creek is an intermittent stream with several small impoundments that provide water for wildlife. Watch for a variety of songbirds that use this area. During the summer season, black bear search these thickets for berries.
3. Elk Lane was constructed to aid in bison management by joining the grazing units within the Refuge to a corral system. In spring and early summer look for abundant wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife.
4. Edge habitat is found in areas where two different habitat types meet. These "edges" are excellent places to view wildlife, especially birds. Watch for the Lewis's woodpecker foraging for flying insects.
5. Forest communities thrive at high elevations and in moist draws and depressions. Watch for red-naped sapsuckers in this habitat.
6. High Point trailhead is 4,700 feet above sea level. The highest elevation on the Refuge is 4,885 feet above sea level, and is a 1-mile hike from the trailhead to a display that describes historic Glacial Lake Missoula, which helped to form this valley.

7. Grasslands have evolved along with grazing animals such as bison, elk, and pronghorn, who depend on the grasslands for survival. Listen for the buzzing songs of clay-colored and grasshopper sparrows in the grasslands.

8. Buffalo wallows are shallow, circular depressions in the ground, often found in clay banks. Bison roll in these areas to rid themselves of insects. They also display dominance by displacing lower-ranked animals from the wallows.
9. Cottonwood and juniper trees line the creek and provide lush vegetation that serves as cover for wildlife. Watch for bald eagles year-round and for trumpeter swans in Mission Creek during the winter.
10. The bison corrals were built by Refuge staff to provide a place for safe handling of the bison during the annual roundup. At this time, bison are identified, tagged, and checked for health.

### Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 406 / 644 2211, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.