



December 22, 2025



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**CTUIR Wildlife Program
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CTUIR Tribal Members- Bison Season Updates

There are currently over 5,300 bison in Yellowstone National Park. In recent years very few bison have traveled out of the park, so there has been less hunting opportunity. Since winter has been late in recent years, our hunters have been more successful later in March. The Yellowstone population of bison consists of two separate herds of bison, the Central and Northern herds. The Central herd migrates West to the West Yellowstone area and the Northern herd migrates North toward the Gardiner Area. Our membership can hunt in both the West Yellowstone Area and Gardiner Area of Montana on open and unclaimed lands. Custer Gallatin National Forest lands are the most common hunting areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

If you plan on hunting in the West Yellowstone Area, a CTUIR Conservation Officer will coordinate with your hunting party. A snowmachine is preferred when hunting the West Yellowstone area, however reminder tracks on ATVs and UTVs are not allowed on Snowmachine trails. If your hunting party decides to hunt in the Gardiner Area, CTUIR conservation officers will coordinate with your hunting party. Added, maps will be provided for each hunting party. Lastly, a requirement is to participate in bison orientation every three years, however anyone can participate yearly for the latest updates.

Some season reminders:

- A hunt party consists of 2 or more CTUIR Tribal Hunters, at least one to be 18 or older.
- Use centerfire cartridges that hold at least a 150-grain projectile. Note: A 6.5 Creedmoor does not meet this requirement.
- All must submit a Hunting Application 2 weeks prior to a planned hunt, for timely processing purposes. No exceptions will be made.
- Bison Season is From September 1, 2025 -March 31, 2026.
- Harvest only what your hunting party can handle and March is bulls only.
- All other CTUIR Regulations Apply.
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CTUIR Wildlife Program will Provide online and in person orientation on January 13th and February 10th, 2026, at Nixyaawii Governance Center. All information needed for this hunt is online or printed at Department of Natural Resources Office.

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