

Bison Hunt Areas and Seasons

○ Bison Extended Season Area

September 1 to March 31

Includes:

- 1 km west of the North Klondike Highway from Whitehorse to Braeburn
- 3 km north of the Alaska Highway from Whitehorse to the Slims River bridge
- Game Management Zones 3, 4 (except 4-03 and 4-51), 7, 8, 9
- Game Management Subzones 5-01, 5-04 to 5-07.

Hunting in the Extended Season Area helps keep bison within their core range. Hunting bison found near the highways is intended to reduce traffic incidents. Bison are less likely to be seen in this area compared with the Bison Management Area.

○ Bison Management Area

Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 and Feb. 15 to Mar. 31

Includes all of:

- Game Management Subzones 5-02, 5-03, 5-08 to 5-51.

Bison Map Recommended

Hunters are encouraged to purchase the **Yukon Wood Bison Core Range Map** (\$8+GST),

which includes hunting subzones and both Category A and B Settlement Lands, from any Environment Yukon office.

It can also be viewed or downloaded for free:

www.env.gov.yk.ca/maps/view/nav/3/17/421

The map insert in the Hunting Regulations Summary only shows Category A Settlement Lands.

After the Hunt

All bison hunters must:

Report the kill within 10 days to any Environment Yukon office.

867-667-5221 – Whitehorse

867-634-2247 – Haines Junction

867-863-2411 – Carmacks

Submit the incisor bar (lower jawbone) with meat on it to an Environment Yukon office **no later than 15 days after the end of the month** in which the bison was killed.



You must make every effort to track down and kill a wounded bison.

Bison Meat in the Freezer (in lbs)

Age	Female	Male
Calf	100	100
1	200	200
2	264	308
3	400	480
4	440	620
5	480	680
6+	480	760

A three-year-old bison can produce as much meat as a mature bull moose. The head and hide from a mature bison weigh about 450 lbs.

For more information on bison or bison hunting, contact Environment Yukon at **867-667-5221**.

HUNT WISELY: BISON



Yukon
Environment

July 2014

A Special Opportunity

By the late 1800s, wood bison were no longer found in Yukon. The reasons behind this are not clear.

Since the release of 170 animals between 1988 and 1992 as part of a national wood bison recovery program, the growth of the Aishihik Wood Bison Herd in Yukon has provided harvest opportunities for many.

In July 2011, the herd was estimated to number 1230 animals, making it the largest free-ranging wood bison herd in the world. Over 1400 bison have been harvested from the herd since hunting began in 1998.

Harvest by hunters is permitted in only two other herds in Canada. Hunting wild wood bison is a special opportunity.

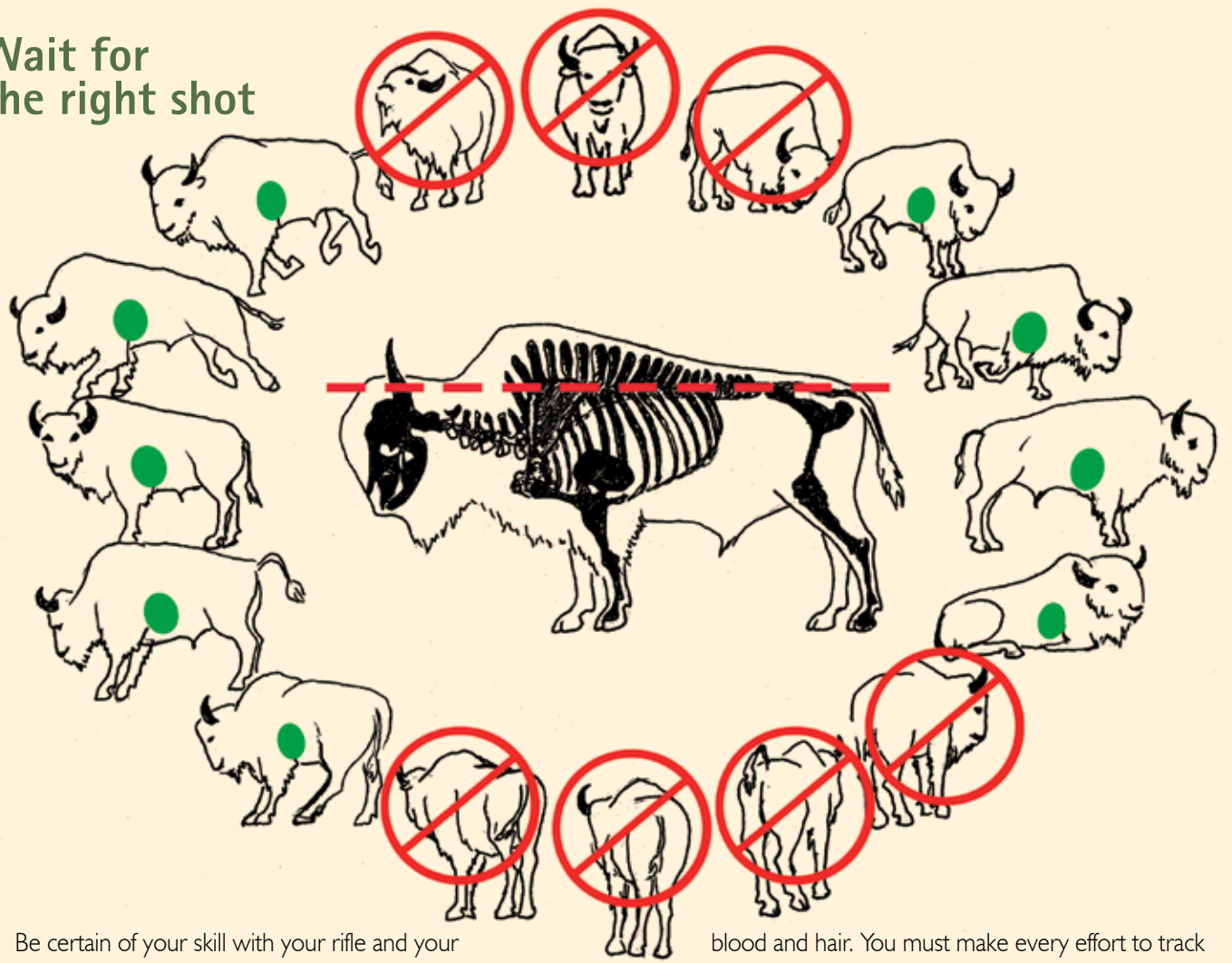
Be Respectful When Hunting

- Follow existing trails, especially in the fall. Do not create new permanent trails.
- Respect private residences and property, and do not leave gut piles nearby.
- Do not use marked trapper trails – look for Active Trapline identification signs before following snowmobile tracks in winter. Never interfere with trap sets. Trapping season is October 1 to March 31. Unless you have permission, do not use or disturb trappers' cabins or the traps and equipment you may find there.
- Be respectful of other hunters and backcountry travelers, especially in the Extended Season Area in the fall and early winter.

Hunt Ethically

Conservation Officers have observed that several animals harvested last season had been wounded previously. Wounded bison can suffer for years from bullet injuries and in many cases die a slow, painful death. Ethical hunters make every effort to track down and kill a wounded bison.

Wait for the right shot



1. Be certain of your skill with your rifle and your ability to cleanly kill a bison. If you can't hit the heart/lung area well, don't shoot. Avoid long distance shots and poor angle shots.
2. Remember that the kill zone on bison looks much lower than on other species because of their hump. Don't shoot too high. The vital organs are all below the base of the horns.
3. Head shots made from a distance are not effective. Shoot from as close a range as possible and aim for the heart/lung target area. An animal standing broadside will give you the best shot. Be cautious about deflections and ricochets off heavy bone.
4. If you're not sure whether you hit a bison, check the area carefully for signs of a hit such as blood and hair. You must make every effort to track down and kill a wounded bison.
5. Monitor a downed bison carefully to make sure that it is dead and not only wounded. Have a follow up shot ready in case the bison gets up – especially when you approach it.
6. Take follow up shots to ensure the bison is hit adequately. Head shots should only be used to dispatch animals at close range.
7. Choose a bison that is separate from the herd and keep an eye on it after it has been shot. Wounded animals may rejoin the herd and can be difficult to track.

Harvest a cow now



COW:

- Rectangular head shape
- Thin horn base
- Smaller hump



BULL:

- Triangular head shape
- Thick horn base
- Large hump

Choose a Cow, Not a Bull

Hunters are encouraged to harvest cows. If there is more than one hunter with a permit and seal in the party, consider taking the calf in addition to the cow. This will help limit the growth of the herd and keep the sex ratio balanced. The bison hunt is used to manage the herd at a population of at or near 1000 animals post hunt. Please take the extra time to identify a cow.

To learn how to tell the difference between cow and bull bison, review the Wood Bison section of the *Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary*, or watch the updated video *Wood Bison Field Identification* available online at www.env.gov.yk.ca/bison.



Check whether the bison is wearing a collar before shooting. If you mistakenly kill a collared bison, you must care for the meat and report it right away.

Bring the collar to Environment Yukon so they can check the capture dates and let the hunter know if the meat is safe to be eaten, because of the drugs used to capture and collar the bison.

Do not shoot at running bison.

Permissions Required

- Hunters need written permission from the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and/or the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation if they intend to harvest bison on Category A and B Settlement Lands in both the Bison Management Area and the Extended Season Area. Contact CAFN at 867-634-4200. Contact LSCFN at 867-863-5576.
- All bison hunters require permission to hunt within 1 km of any residence, whether occupants are present or not. Be aware of the direction you are shooting as bullets can travel farther than 1 km.



Bison are big, the meat needs to COOL.
Skin, gut and quarter is the RULE!



Even at -30°C, bison meat can spoil if not dealt with properly. The thick hide, fat, and hair on bison are incredible insulators. The hide must be removed immediately followed by the guts. Quartering the animal as soon as possible will also help cool the meat.



A properly field dressed bison. All of the meat has been removed.



The only parts that should be left behind in the field are the gut pile, the spine and perhaps the head and hide. Other bones can be left only if all the meat has been removed. No meat can be left in the field.



Every year charges are laid for meat wastage and, on conviction, Yukon courts have imposed significant penalties on offenders. Watch the video on how to field dress bison at www.env.gov.yk.ca/bison or borrow it from Environment Yukon's Whitehorse office.

If you observe unethical or suspicious activity, call

**Turn in Poachers & Polluters
1-800-661-0525**

Or report it online at www.env.gov.yk.ca/tipp

All calls are anonymous. Cash rewards may be available if your information leads to a prosecution.

Minimum Firearm Requirements:

Centre fire rifle

- .30 calibre or larger
- minimum 180 grain bullets (premium ammunition designed for large or dangerous game and loaded with expanding copper, bonded, or partition-constructed bullets is highly recommended)

- minimum 2800 ft/lbs energy at the muzzle

A .30-06 rifle with 180 grain bullets meets the minimum legal requirements.

OR

Black powder rifle

- .50 calibre or larger
- firing an elongated bullet with minimum 90 grain charge
- minimum 2800 ft/lbs energy at the muzzle

OR

(legal but not recommended)

- .54 calibre or larger
- firing a round ball with minimum 120 grain charge
- minimum 2800 ft/lbs energy at the muzzle

Note: Hunters using a black powder rifle must have a centre fire rifle (see above) accessible as back up.

Bows may not be used to hunt bison.

