



The National Wildlife Federation's Vision to Restore Bison to Tribal Lands and Cultures

The National Wildlife Federation has been working with tribal and federal partners for over 20 years and built the respect and relationships to make successful bison conservation possible, but we need your help to implement the next phase of bison preservation on tribal lands.



60 million

wild bison in pre-settled America



100

wild bison remaining in America by the early 20th century

THE CHALLENGE

Bringing genetically pure, free ranging bison back to tribal lands in large numbers.

ULTIMATE GOAL

Restore 1,000 free-ranging bison to 100,000 acres of habitat on the Wind River Reservation over the next decade.



1,000

 wild bison on

100,000

 acres of tribal land

The Wind River reservation offers over 750,000 acres of prime bison habitat, over 550,000 more acres than what is currently available to bison in Yellowstone.



WHY DO IT

Bison are an integral keystone species to the health of the American prairie ecosystem, as well as to the cultural, physical, and economic health of Native American communities.

Deemed America's national mammal in May 2016, the American bison is a large and thundering part of our national identity that has only recently been brought back from the brink of extinction, largely by the hands of Native Americans preserving herds on tribal lands. By investing in NWF's Tribal Bison program, you are investing in the future health of this iconic species; the spiritual, cultural, and economic health of this country's Native peoples; and preserving a part of our country's wild heritage for future generations to enjoy.

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S PLAN OF ACTION

By working with tribal partners, we will bring small herds of genetically pure bison from federal parks and refuges to protected tribal lands, one of the only places in the country where they can roam freely without the threat of being shot by ranchers and hunters. With the guidance of tribal and professional buffalo experts, the population will proliferate, growing the number of truly wild, genetically pure bison in the country while fostering a new conservation economy for the tribes who steward them.

Become a part of the American bison's story, and share in what could be one of the greatest conservation legacies of our time: restoring wild bison to the Great Plains once more.

To implement this vision, we anticipate a funding need of \$1.5 million over the next five years. Over the next year, the program requires \$300,000 to support the following needs:



\$100,000 - Infrastructure

Fencing and Corral, Water Well, Electrical Support

A corral will be used as an initial release location and to round up bison for health checks. A well will provide a year-round source of drinking water. Wire and electricity will be run to power an electric fence.

\$90,000 - Staff

Tribal Bison Manager, Representative, and Director

A tribal member is needed to manage daily monitoring of the herd. An official tribal spokesperson is needed to aid communication between the tribe and NWF. A NWF Tribal Partnerships Director is needed to manage NWF tribal relations and the overall bison restoration effort.



\$90,000 - Bison Care

Hay, Health Screening, and Transport

Hay feed for winter months, health checks and vaccinations, transport to tribal lands.

\$20,000 - Public Events and Tribal Education

Costs for bison releases and other ceremonies to commemorate bison restoration, community gatherings for tribal youth education, development of a bison ecotourism program, and informational materials to support these outreach activities.

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved, Contact Andrea Auguste: augustea@nwf.org or 303-441-5169

