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let us help you free of charge

HOW TO HELP

YES, I want to help support the *Wood Bison Initiative* by making a tax deductible contribution.

- Wood Bison Program \$ _____ U.S. Dollars
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Conservation Force is a 501(c)(3) Public Charitable Foundation

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Wood Bison INITIATIVE



CONSERVATION FORCE

WOOD BISON HISTORY

An estimated 200,000 wood bison existed in Canada in the early 1800s. The number plummeted to 250 by the early 1900s and pure wood bison were thought extirpated by the late 1900s. Then a small captive population of pure wood bison was discovered and reintroduced as part of a *National Wood Bison Recovery Plan*. Today, there are more than 6,600.

RECOVERY IN THE YUKON

The Yukon province was the first to meet the recovery goals of the Canadian Wildlife Service's *National Wood Bison Recovery Plan*. Since 1998, the Aishihik Herd in southwest Yukon has been above the goal of 400 free-ranging animals. The management objective for the Aishihik Herd is to maintain a stable population between 400 and 500 animals. However, the herd is growing at an annual rate of 15 to 18 percent.

YUKON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The *Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team* provides technical advice on the management of the bison. Hunting harvest is an important component of Yukon's wood bison management strategy. A closely monitored permit hunt by First Nations, residents, and non-residents is used to regulate the growth of the herd. An annual harvest of about 70 animals in the Aishihik Herd is necessary to maintain the herd within the social and biological carrying capacity of 400 to 500 animals.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS

The wood bison is listed on CITES Appendix Two and as "endangered" under the ESA. The ESA regulations allow trophy imports of ESA "endangered" species provided that the hunting "enhances" the survival of the species in the wild. Conservation Force has spearheaded the effort to establish U.S. imports and will assist you.

CONSERVATION FORCE'S WOOD BISON INITIATIVE

Conservation Force successfully campaigned to downlist the wood bison from Appendix One to Appendix Two to encourage sustainable use for its long term propagation and survival. We've led the effort to reform the import permitting practices of the U.S. Now Conservation Force is assisting all interested parties by spearheading the effort to establish the import of wood bison trophies in the US because of its potential contribution to the very successful recovery program. Conservation Force has assisted all US import permit applicants from the origin and continues to do so as a public conservation service.

ENHANCEMENT OF SURVIVAL THROUGH REGULATED HUNTING

The annual hunt has proven to be an important conservation tool for reintroduced wood bison in the Yukon. Hunting was one of the inceptual incentives for reintroducing the bison. Direct benefits to wood bison from hunting include:

- an enhanced value and greater appreciation by the local people of having the wood bison on the land;
- population regulation of the herd within the confines of the social and biological carrying capacity and, therefore, an increased comfort by local communities in hosting the reintroduced species;
- a high duty of care and attention by wildlife management agencies and bodies arising from the fact the population is harvested;
- revenues generated for bison field recovery and monitoring derived from permit applications and contributions by sport-hunting organizations such as FNAWS and Conservation Force; and
- education of all concerned about wood bison conservation through a mandatory hunter education course about its status, recovery efforts and uniqueness.

HOW TO IMPORT YOUR TROPHY

- 1 Complete a USF&WS "endangered" species trophy import permit application available from Conservation Force. Copy us with your application.
- 2 We need written authorization to be your legal representative. We will provide you with that authorization form. We help at all stages of the process, free of charge.
- 3 The USF&WS has a special ESA rule that requires a finding of "enhancement" before issuing a permit to import hunting trophies of species listed as "endangered." On a separate sheet of paper with your application you should state, "6. See the enhancement information previously submitted by Conservation Force and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch of Yukon Environment." Quote the five points in the *Enhancement of Survival Through Regulated Hunting* section of this brochure if you wish and add your own thoughts and observations.
- 4 Copy us with all correspondence you get from the USF&WS, particularly the permit application number you are assigned.