

# Proposed Bison Management Plan Objectives

- 1) Cooperatively manage SRPB
- 2) Ensure long-term conservation
- 3) Achieve reduction in conflicts
- 4) Gather necessary information
- 5) Recognize and promote social/cultural importance



# 1) Cooperative Management

- Sturgeon River Plains Bison are a regional resource
- Span jurisdictional boundaries
- Management requires cooperation
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
  - Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards
  - Local stakeholders/landowners
  - Aboriginal communities and groups



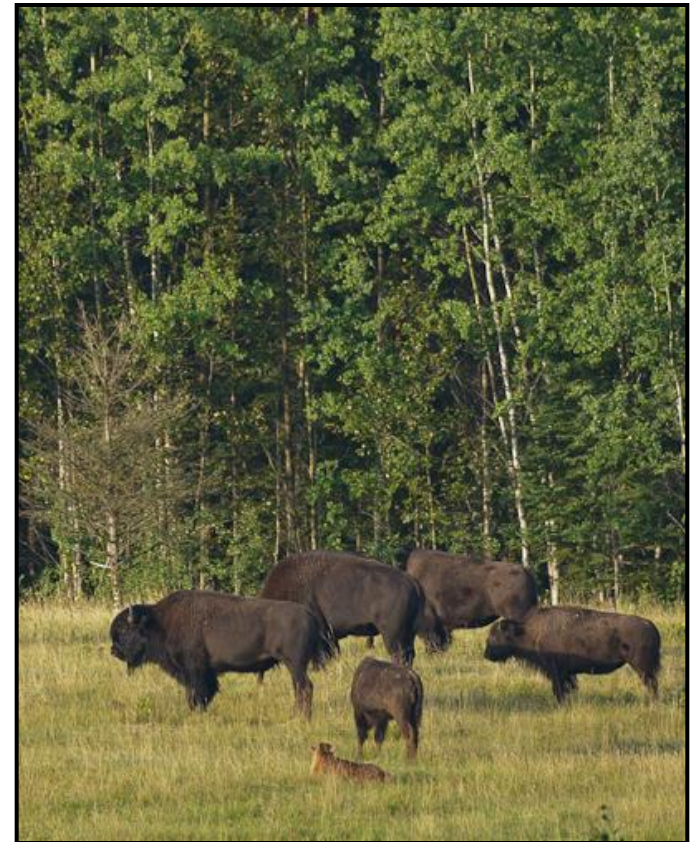
## 2) Long-term Conservation

- Maintain natural ecosystem processes
  - i.e. habitat, predator/prey relationships, and disease
- Conserve free-ranging status
- Ensure long-term genetic viability



## 3) Reduce Conflicts

- Increase residence time in PANP
  - Diversionary fencing
  - Salt-licks
  - Habitat restoration (prescribed burning)
  - Motion-sensor sirens
- Herd bison back into Park
- Bison Stewards Fencing Program





## 4) Gather Information

- Continued research with Laval University
- Explore new research collaborations
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Monitor for disease
- Frequent population estimates
- Genetics research



## 5) Promote Social/Cultural Importance

- Recognize significance of bison herd to local residents, First Nation and Métis communities, and all other Canadians
  - Historic and cultural importance
  - Tourism and economic opportunities
  - Education opportunities
  - Promote conservation



# The Plan-Building Process

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- Bottom-up approach
  - All levels actively participate
- **Management Team** works with **Consulting Committee**
- Consulting Committee has representatives from all interested/concerned parties
- Frequent workshops to discuss management options and provide input – strive for consensus
- Frequent opportunities to provide feedback

# Potential Timeline

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March 2 2011	First Consultation Committee Meeting - discuss process and management plan contents
March – May 2011	3 Workshops with Consultation Committee - work through management topics in stages - guest experts will provide background information
July – Aug 2011	Bison Stewards fencing demonstrations and management discussions
Sept – Dec 2011	3 Workshops with Consultation Committee
March 2012	Draft Management Plan Development Complete



# Review Process

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March 2012

Plan peer-reviewed by external experts

April 2012

Open houses for public to review draft management plan

May – August 2012

Finalize management plan

September 2012

Sign off on Sturgeon River Plains Bison management plan