

## Suggested Sections for Regional Bison Management Plan:

### 1) Background and Current Status of SRPB

- *More information regarding the population of this herd.*
- *“State of the herd” status report*
- *Have Daniel Fortin present his findings by conference call and we run the presentation to let this group understand what research has been done to date*
- *Status report for showing trends for bison, moose, elk, caribou, wolves.*
- *Historical population trends*

### 2) Disease Monitoring and Management

- *Disease issues and how disease affects local land owners/ impact outside of park/impact on human consumption*

### 3) Critical Habitat Assessment and Planning

- *Nutritional needs for bison*
- *Need for habitat discussion and potential habitat modification impacts*
- *Incorporate Bison Stewards vegetation data into the report*

### 4) Population Demographics - Monitoring and Managing Trends

- **Monitoring and Management Tools/Guidelines**
  - *Target levels for harvesting and population size, trigger thresholds for harvest levels, Bison Stewards actions, other management strategies.*
  - *Ensure that the bison population will be sustainable and healthy*
- **Long-term conservation of genetic diversity**
  - *Genetic diversity-what is the current status? How should the long-term genetic health be determined and managed? Do we have a “pure” herd or not? How do we manage the population for genetic diversity.*
- **Population viability analyses**
  - *Adaptability and Species at Risk: is the management plan adaptable if plains bison make the SARA list?*

### 5) Human Bison Interactions

- **Managing bison/cattle interactions (physical and genetic)**
  - *Impact of or from industry outside the park/impact on the bison from industry*
  - *Land/herd conflicts*
  - *Determine if the SRPB have cattle genes or not.*
  - *Management of nearby domestic bison herds and potential interaction with SRPB.*
  - *Relationship between man and bison herd – what activities and how has it impacted bison/ positive and negative*
  - *Bison safety issues*
- **Mitigating and monitoring property damage**
  - *Determine who pays for various expenses associated with compensation, research dip programs*
  - *Community harvesting pros and cons – harvesting pressures on the herd!*
  - *Hazing and herding roles and responsibility. Is hazing and herding a good idea?*

- *What role do the bison stewards play in this process. Bison Stewards should play a role in “engaging” both aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and organizations AND local landowners.*
- *Should have MOE take on a more regulatory role of the bison herd outside the park. Example, when the population is below XX animals the hunting should be restricted.*
- *Historical conflict information*
- *Harvesting levels must be taken into account*
- **Understanding and promoting First Nation and Métis traditional and current relationships with plains bison**
  - *Information gathering on historical range, pre-settlement information, issues that may have an influence*
  - *Treaty rights*
  - *Monitoring and tracking harvesting activity outside the park*
  - *Traditional use of habitat and bison of the area, gather information from elders(aboriginal and non-aboriginal)from the area, history of this area and the bison.*
  - *Have a presentation on this particular bison population to explain what the pressures of harvesting by Aboriginal communities.*

#### 6) Promoting Social/Economic Benefits of SRPB

- *Impact from bison on economic activity, both positive and negative*
- *Incorporate Bison Stewards sociological data into the report*
- *How would increased tourism impact farming activities*
- *Plan adaptability – who benefits from bison and how?*

#### 7) Communications Strategy

- *How we communicate internally and outside this advisory committee/ensuring it is a priority through this process*
- *Effective communication throughout the entire process is very important*

#### 8) Budget