



2021-2022 Bison Hunting Regulations

Yakama Nation Tribal Council Fish & Wildlife Committee

Adopted by Fish & Wildlife Committee Action No. 024-2022-2

1. These 2021-2022 Bison Hunting Regulations ("Regulations") are adopted pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Yakama Law & Order Code ("Wildlife Code"), and are intended to supplement the Wildlife Code's existing requirements. Yakama Members are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and adhering to both the Wildlife Code and these Regulations. Copies of the Wildlife Code are available from the Yakama Nation Office of the Code Reviser, who can be reached at (509) 865-5121 ext. 4589.
2. The Yakama Nation's 2021-2022 bison hunting season opens on Monday, December 6, 2021 and closes on Saturday, February 26, 2022 for bulls, cows, and calves. Yakama Members may not hunt bison outside of this hunting season.
3. Yakama Nation bison hunting permits only authorize bison hunting on open and unclaimed lands in and around either Gardiner, MT or West Yellowstone, MT. If hunting in and around West Yellowstone, MT, Yakama Members are permitted to use snow vehicles to hunt, take, and/or transport harvested bison.
4. Without waiving the Yakama Nation's Treaty-reserved hunting rights, Yakama Members may only hunt bison, as opposed to any other wildlife species, on open and unclaimed lands in and around either Gardiner, MT or West Yellowstone, MT, in accordance with these Regulations and the Wildlife Code.
5. Yakama Members may only hunt bison when in physical possession of both their Yakama Nation enrollment card and a valid bison hunting permit signed by the Chairman of the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Committee or his designee.
6. Yakama Members must be 18 years of age or older, or at least 16 years of age and accompanied by an adult family member, to be eligible to receive a bison hunting permit.
7. Yakama Members must bring at least 1 other individual over the age of 16 to participate in the bison hunt as either an additional hunter or support crew member.
8. Yakama Members must submit a completed 2021-2022 Montana Bison Hunt Permit Request Form ("Permit Request") to the Wildlife, Range & Vegetation Resources Management Program ("Wildlife Program") to be eligible to receive a bison hunting permit.
9. Yakama Members must list the names of their entire hunt team, which includes all proposed additional hunters and support crew members, on the Permit Request, up to a maximum of four additional hunters and support crew members

(e.g. 1 lead hunter and no more than 4 additional hunters). Yakama Members may list alternate additional hunters and support crew members on the Permit Request.

10. All additional hunters, support crew members, and alternates listed on the Permit Request, must be enrolled Yakama Members.
11. The lead hunter and all additional hunters, support crew members, and alternates listed on the Permit Request must complete and attend the Wildlife Program's 2021-2022 Bison Hunt Orientation. A virtual presentation of the Bison Hunt Orientation will be available on the Wildlife Program's website.
12. The Wildlife Program will distribute permits that are specific to either Gardiner, MT or West Yellowstone, MT. Permits to hunt bison in and around Gardiner, MT last for a duration of 1 week. Permits to hunt bison in and around West Yellowstone, MT last for a duration of 2 weeks.
13. Only 1 hunt team may hunt bison in and around Gardiner, MT at a time. Only 2 hunt teams may hunt bison in and West Yellowstone, MT at a time.
14. The Wildlife Program will distribute permits to hunt bison in and around Gardiner, MT based on the hunt teams' preferred dates. If more than 1 hunt team requests to hunt in and around Gardiner, MT during the same 1 week period, then the Wildlife Program will draw from a lottery to determine which hunt team will hunt in and around Gardiner, MT during that period.
15. The Wildlife Program will distribute permits to hunt bison in and around West Yellowstone, MT based on the hunt teams' preferred dates. If more than 2 hunt teams request to hunt in and around West Yellowstone, MT during the same 2 week period, then the Wildlife Program will draw from a lottery to determine which hunt team will hunt in and around West Yellowstone, MT during that period.
16. Yakama Members may only receive or be listed as an additional hunter or support crew member on 1 bison hunting permit per bison hunting season.
17. Each hunter listed on a valid bison hunting permit is authorized to harvest two bison.
18. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Yakama Members must wear a face mask or shield during hunt coordination meetings.
19. Yakama Members may not discharge firearms across public roadways, bodies of water, structures, and persons, and must be a reasonably safe distance away from public roadways, bodies of water, structures, and persons before discharging a firearm.
20. Yakama Members who successfully harvest bison must report their harvest to the Yakama Nation Game Wardens or Wildlife Program within 48 hours.

21. Yakama Nation Game Wardens are authorized and directed to immediately revoke a Yakama Member's bison hunting permit if the Yakama Member recklessly wounds a bison that retreats into Yellowstone National Park or onto private property where the bison is unrecoverable.
22. Yakama Members may not hunt on Sundays.
23. In accordance with Section 32.110.02 of the Revised Yakama Law & Order Code, any violation of these Regulations by an Indian is a greater offense subject to a maximum of 180 days imprisonment and/or a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00, and by a non-Indian is a civil offense that could result in an order for payment of a civil fine and restitution, amongst other costs.

Important Contact Information:

Yakama Nation Wildlife Program
P.O. Box 151 / 401 Fort Road (4690 SR 22)
Toppenish, WA 98948
Phone: (509) 865-5121 ext. 6307

Yakama Nation Game Wardens
Yakama Police Department
50 Wishpoosh Road
Toppenish, WA 98948
Phone: (509) 865-5121 ext. 4561