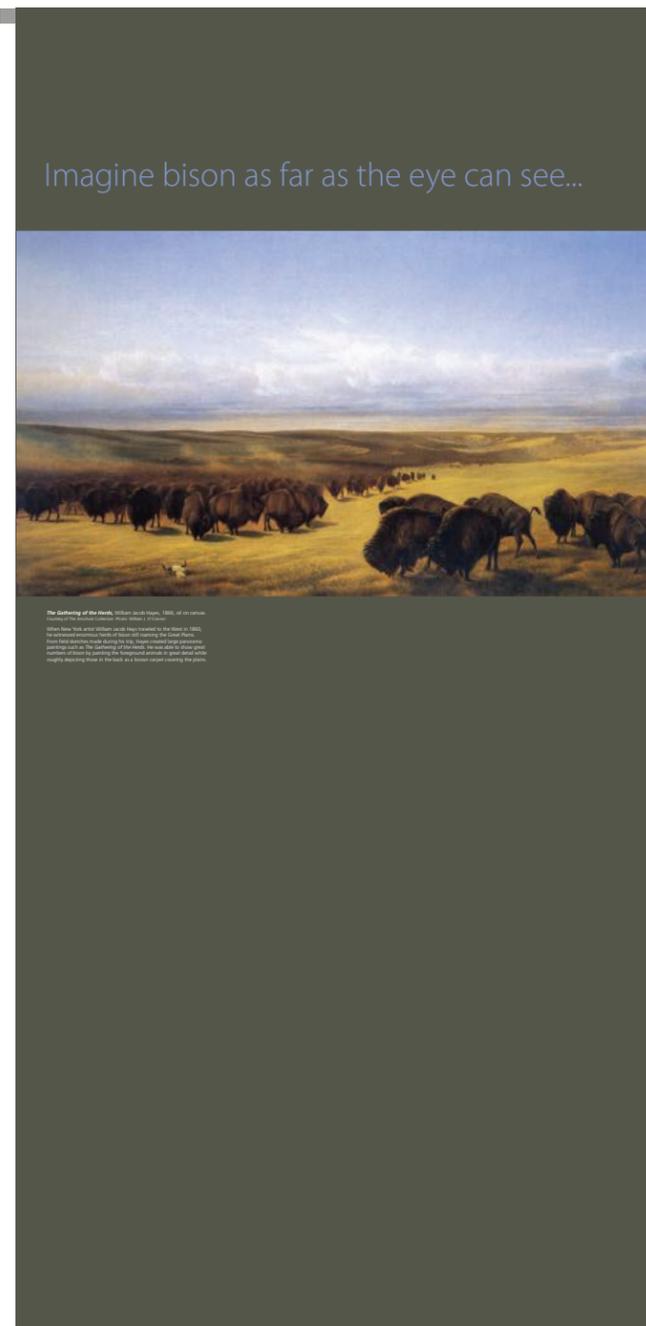
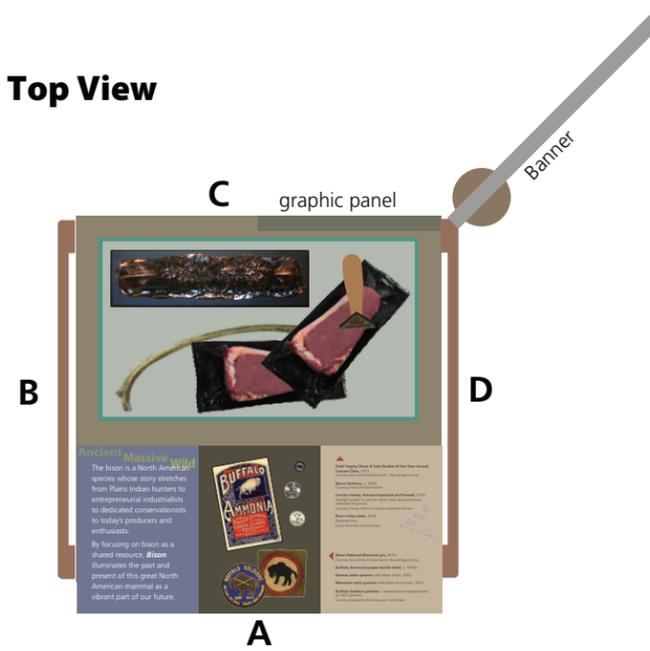


Top View



NEH On Road

This exhibit was originally developed in 2009 as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) program called NEH On the Road. It was based on the C. M. Russell Museum permanent installation, The Bison American Story. NEH On the Road, led by the National Buffalo Foundation, is a traveling exhibit that explores the history and significance of the bison in North America. The exhibit is a collaboration between the National Buffalo Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit is a collaboration between the National Buffalo Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit is a collaboration between the National Buffalo Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

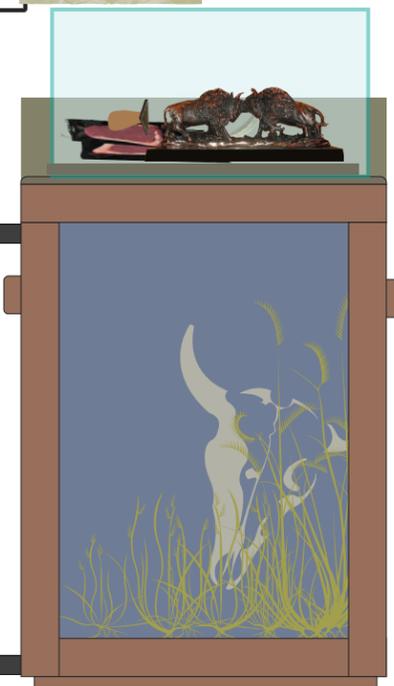
A New Tool For New Audiences

As the exhibit evolved its original tour it was supported by National Buffalo Foundation to be used to further its mission. The expanded and updated exhibit is resulting in collaboration with the National Buffalo Foundation.

Thank you to the following for their support of the project:

- National Buffalo Foundation
- The C. M. Russell Museum
- Kaufman Museum
- National Buffalo Museum
- Lacie Probyak

The tour of this exhibit made possible by the generous support of the National Buffalo Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the generous support of its members.



C



B



A

For thousands of years **tens of millions** of bison roamed the plains of North America. In 1890 there were **fewer than 300**.

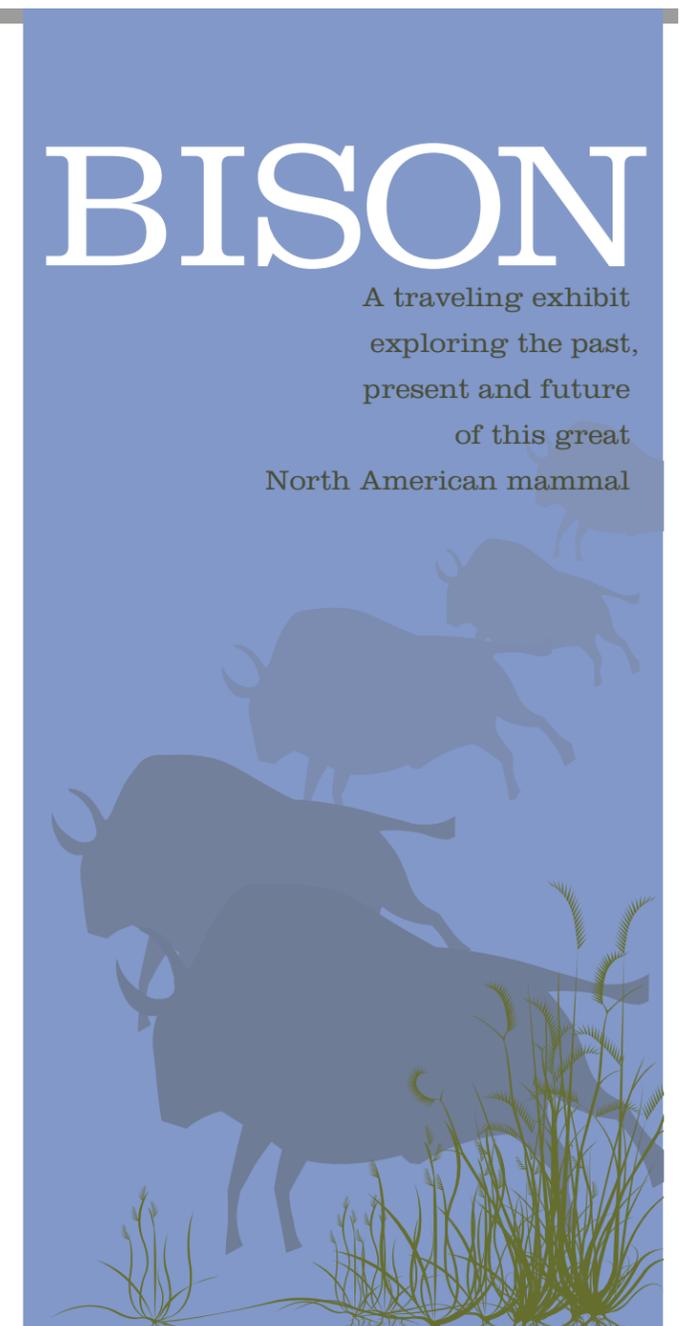
What happened?

For centuries, the bison was the source of food, shelter, clothing, and tools for Native American peoples. But in the 1800s, Euroamericans and Europeans saw the bison as an unlimited natural resource and harvested them for commercial use. Although hard to imagine, by the late 1800s bison numbers had dropped from tens of millions to a few hundred.

How did this happen?
How and why did people decide to "kill the bison?"

Today, the bison has returned. An entire movement is devoted to restoring this majestic creature to its place as both an icon and a healthy food source.

Where is the story of the bison headed in the future?





Special Thanks



The National Buffalo Foundation would like to thank the sponsors listed below whose donations supported upgrading and expanding the *Bison* exhibit for continuing its tour in the United States and Canada.

- **Turner Enterprises, Inc.**
Atlanta, Georgia
- **Durham Ranch**
Gilette, Wyoming
- **Mosquito Park Enterprises**
Vivian, South Dakota
- **Slim Buttes Ranch**
Buffalo, South Dakota
- **Buffalo Gold Premium Fibers**
Goodnight, Texas
- **The Buffalo Wool Company**
Kempicki, Texas
- **Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC**
Heldstrom, Colorado
- **Brush Meat Processors**
Brush, Colorado
- **Black Kettle Buffalo**
Moundridge, Kansas
- **Kansas Buffalo Association**
Longton, Kansas

To contribute to this exhibit or the National Buffalo Foundation, or to schedule *Bison* at a museum near you, visit bisonexhibit.org



BISON

The High Plains Museum welcomes the *Bison* exhibit.

This exhibit is brought to you by the **National Buffalo Foundation**, the **Kauffman Museum** and your local bison producers.

- **The Buffalo Guys**
Ken Klenny, Goodland, Kansas
- **Buffalo Gold Premium Fibers**
Cecil Miskin, Goodnight, Texas



BI

For thousands of years, **tens of millions** of bison roamed the plains of North America. In 1890 there were **fewer than 300**.

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For centuries, the bison was the source of food, shelter, clothing, and tools for Native American people. But in the 1800s, Settlers and Fur Trappers saw the bison as an untapped natural resource and harvested them for commercial use. Although hard to imagine, by the late 1800s bison numbers had dropped from tens of millions to a few hundred.

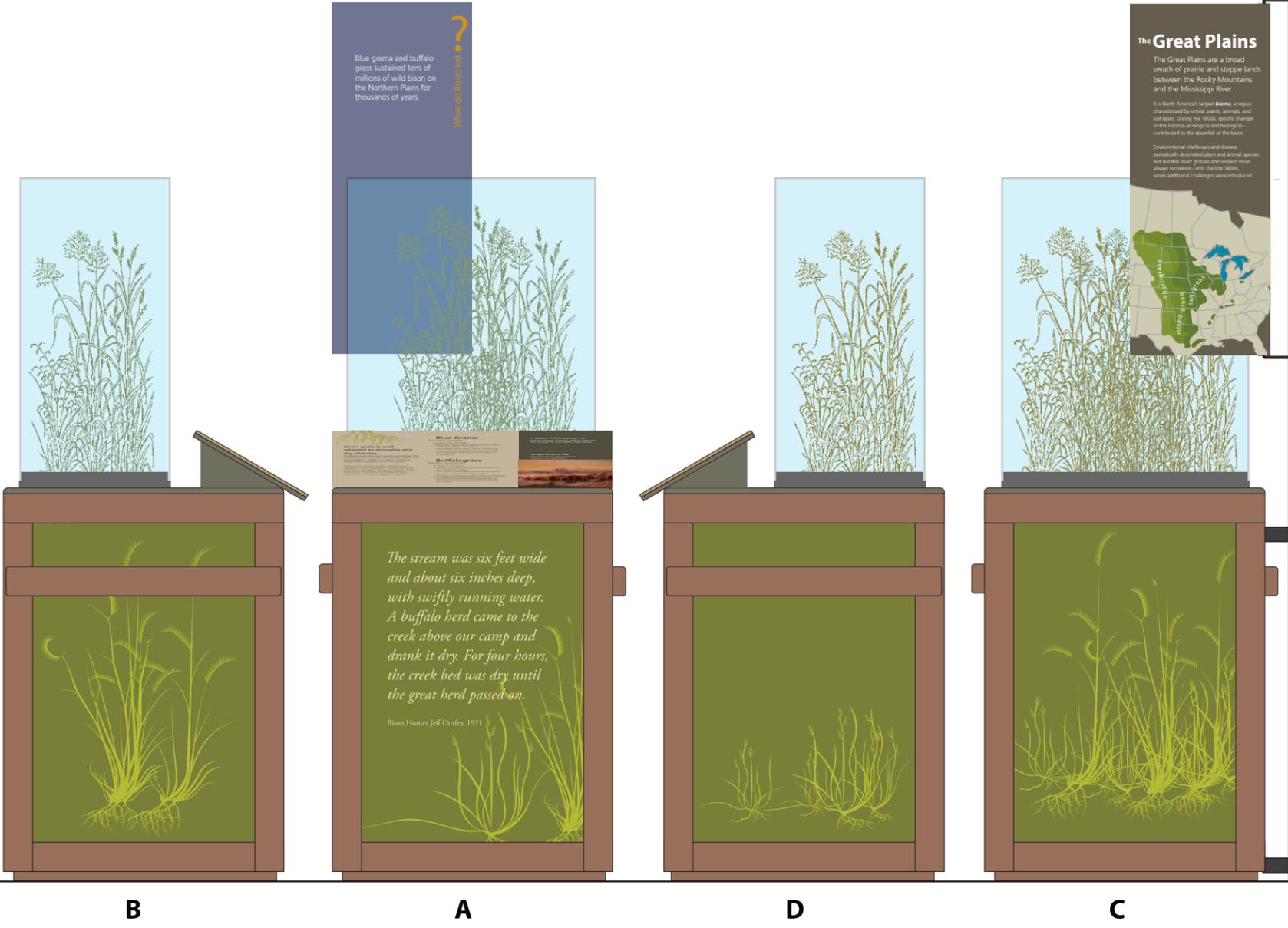
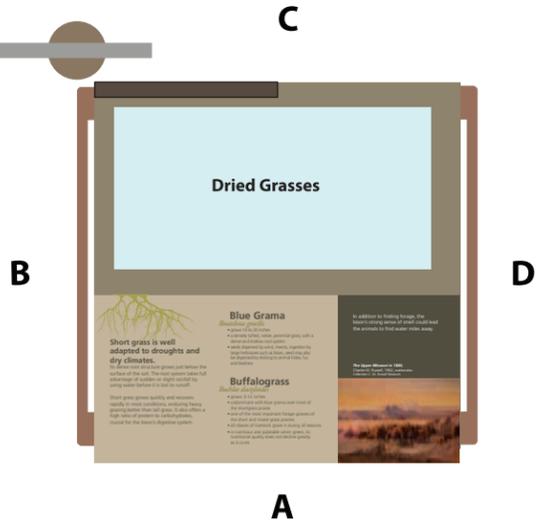
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Where is the story of the bison headed in the future?

Buffalo Guys book

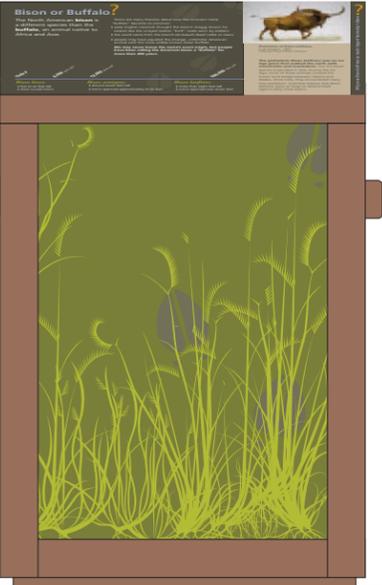
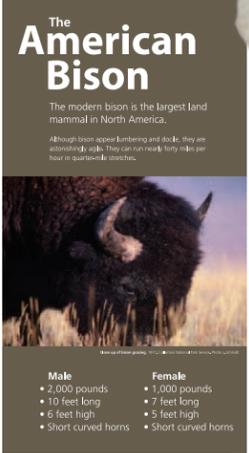
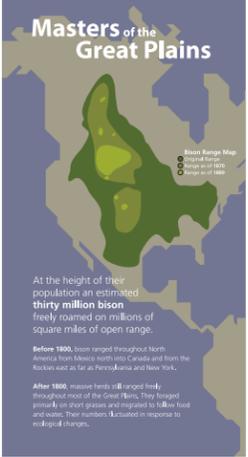
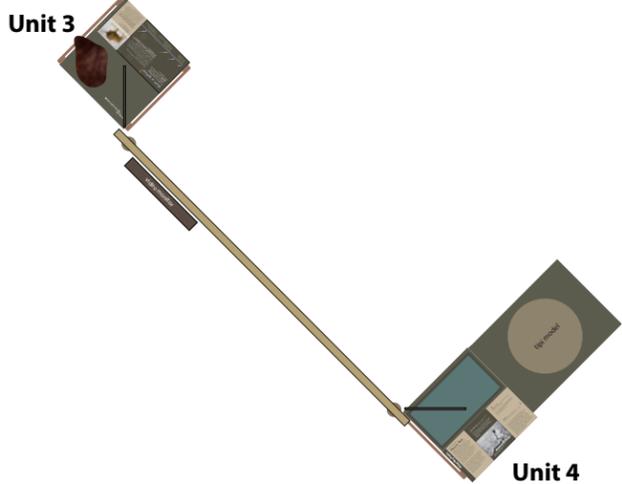
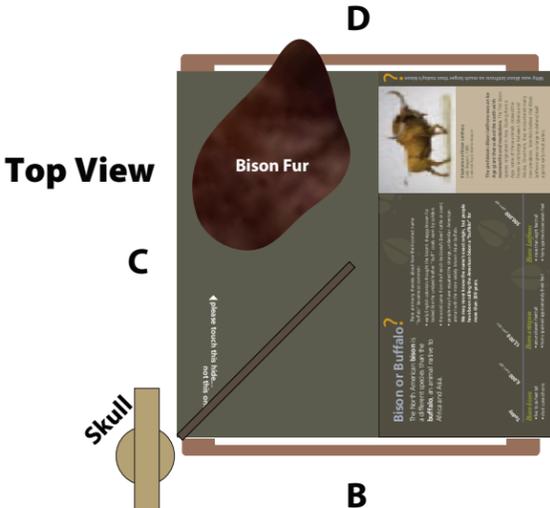
Bison exhibit case containing a bison silhouette and grass.



Bison Exhibit: **Unit 3 - Bison, not Buffalo**

cr 2/23/2017

Scale :1" = 1'

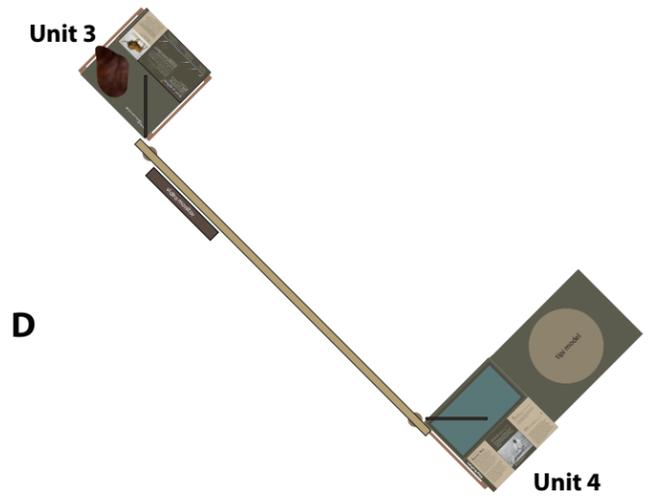
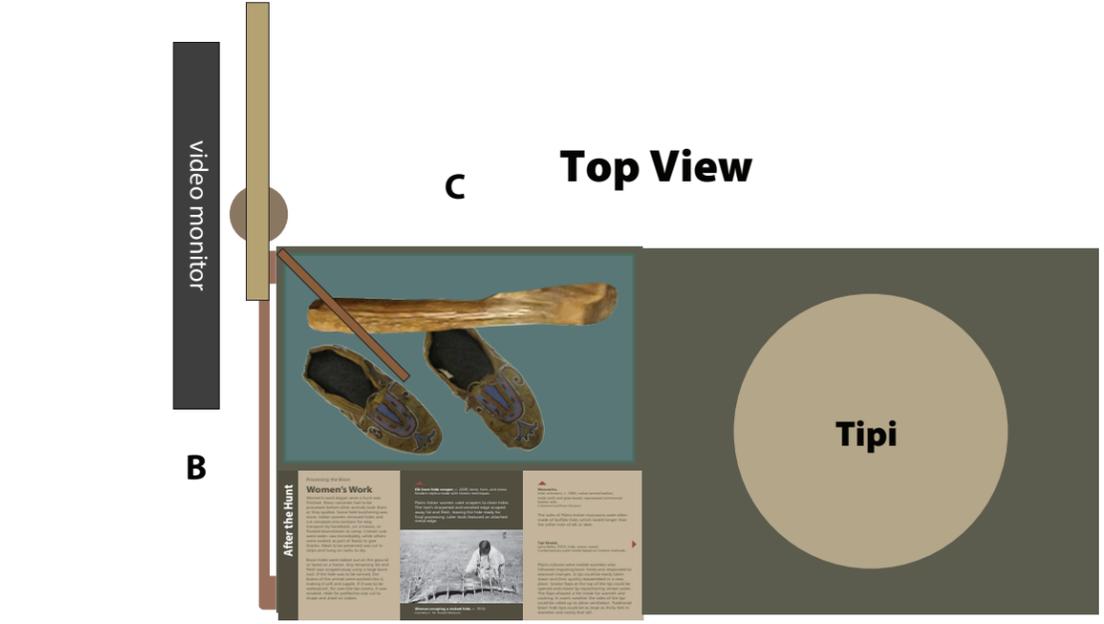


B

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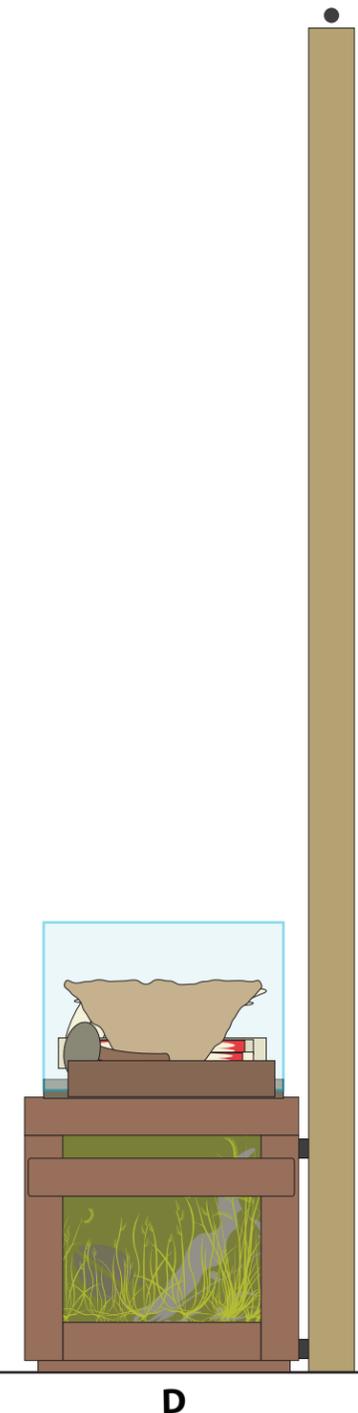
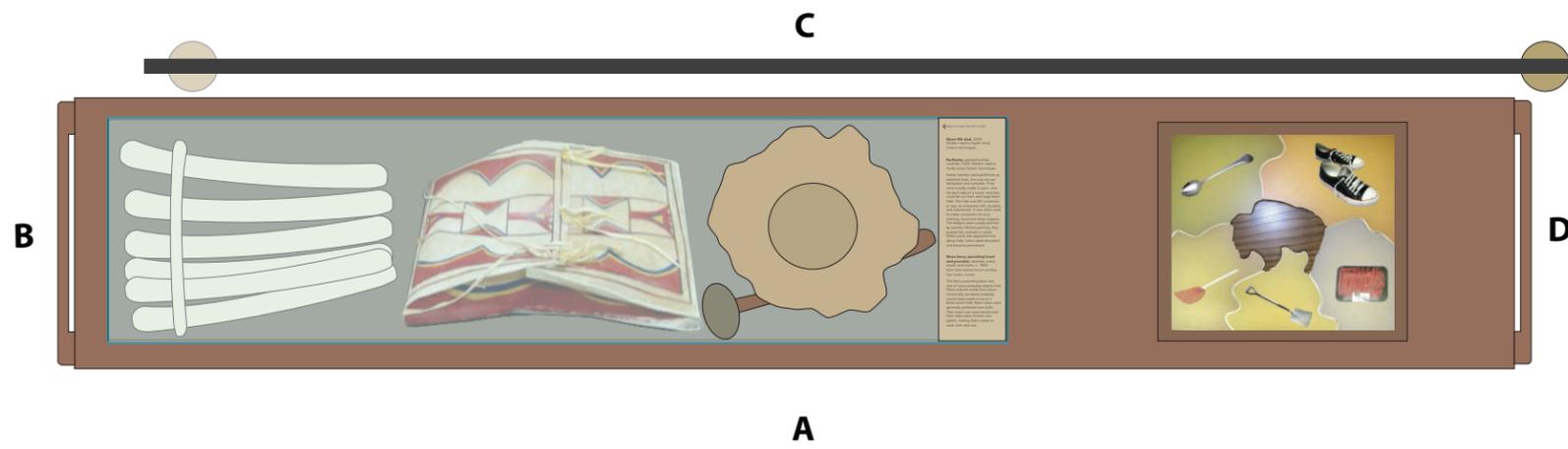


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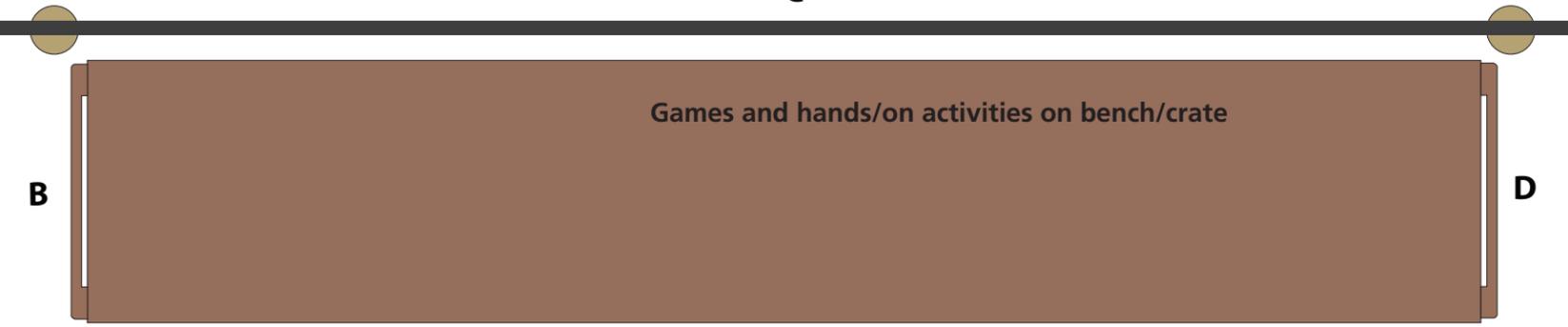
A

D

C



C



Games and hands/on activities on bench/crate

B

D

A

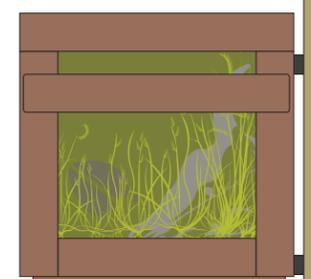


Interior, Crow Tipi, Richard Throssel, 1905, reprint from glass plate negative. Collection Richard Throssel Papers, University of Wyoming American Heritage Center



A

Games and hands/on activities on bench/crate



D

No.

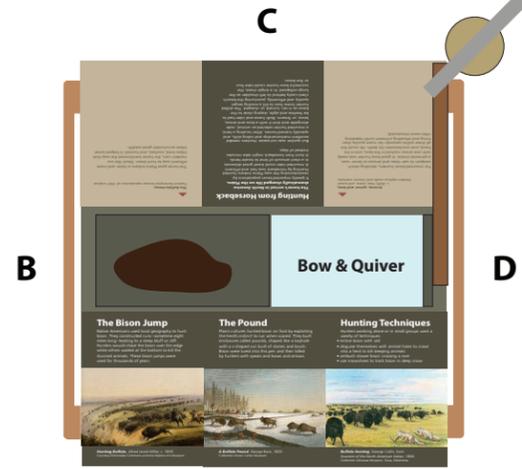
Plant foods and other animal meat and fat were added for variety and to supplement the diet. Plains peoples also traded meat and hides for corn from native agriculturists.

Did Plains peoples eat only bison?

Plains cultures ate almost every part of the bison:

- **meat** from all parts of the carcass was eaten raw, boiled, roasted, or dried
- **heart, liver, and kidneys** provided vitamins and minerals
- **fats and bone marrow** were eaten fresh or saved and used to flavor other dishes
- **intestines, hooves, nose gristle, eyeballs, testicles, milk, and fetus** were also eaten
- **tongue and hump** were special delicacies

Top View



Hunting from Horseback
 The bison hunt on the Plains was a seasonal activity. It was a communal effort, and the success of the hunt depended on the cooperation of the hunters. The hunt was a time of great excitement and anticipation. The hunters would gather in the morning and set out on their horses. They would follow the bison herd for days, and then they would surround them. The hunters would then shoot the bison with their bows and arrows. The bison would then be killed and the meat would be prepared for the tribe.

B

Panel B features a bronze sculpture of a bison on a pedestal. Above the sculpture is a mounted bow and quiver. The panel is set against a light blue background. Below the panel is a base with a green background and a white silhouette of a bison and a bow.

A

Panel A features a bronze sculpture of a bison on a pedestal. Above the sculpture is a mounted bow and quiver. The panel is set against a light blue background. Below the panel is a base with a green background and a white silhouette of a bison and a bow.

D

Panel D features a bronze sculpture of a bison on a pedestal. Above the sculpture is a mounted bow and quiver. The panel is set against a light blue background. Below the panel is a base with a green background and a white silhouette of a bison and a bow.

The Hunt

A large exhibit panel titled "The Hunt" featuring a painting of a bison and a hunter on horseback. The painting is signed "Chas. M. Russell Montananian".

C

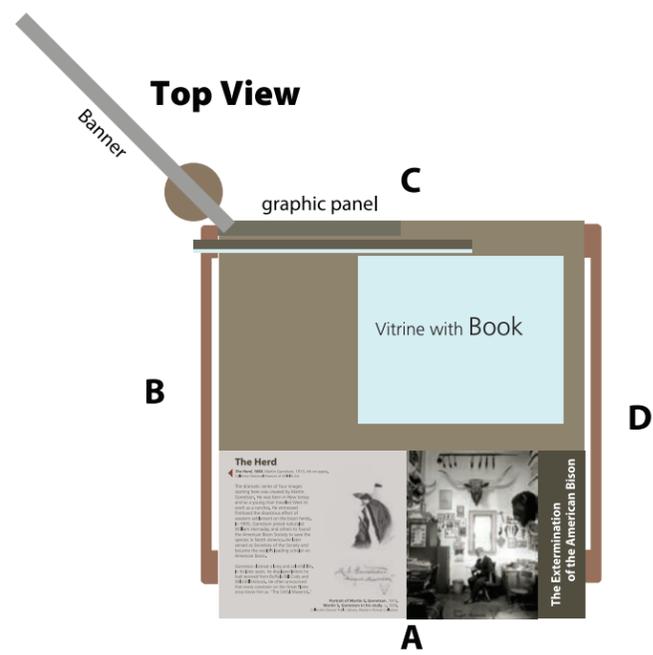
Panel C features a bronze sculpture of a bison on a pedestal. Above the sculpture is a mounted bow and quiver. The panel is set against a light blue background. Below the panel is a base with a green background and a white silhouette of a bison and a bow.

B

A

D

C



The Decline

Why did the bison almost disappear?

The Decline
 Various factors contributed to the bison's decline between 1800 and 1890.

Over-hunting was a chief cause. Many American businesses based on subsistence gave way to Euroamerican and European market economies based on profit. Bison became a commodity to be harvested, their numbers plummeted.

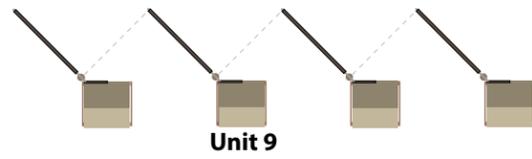
The Herd

The Extermination of the American Bison

Vitrine with Book

A

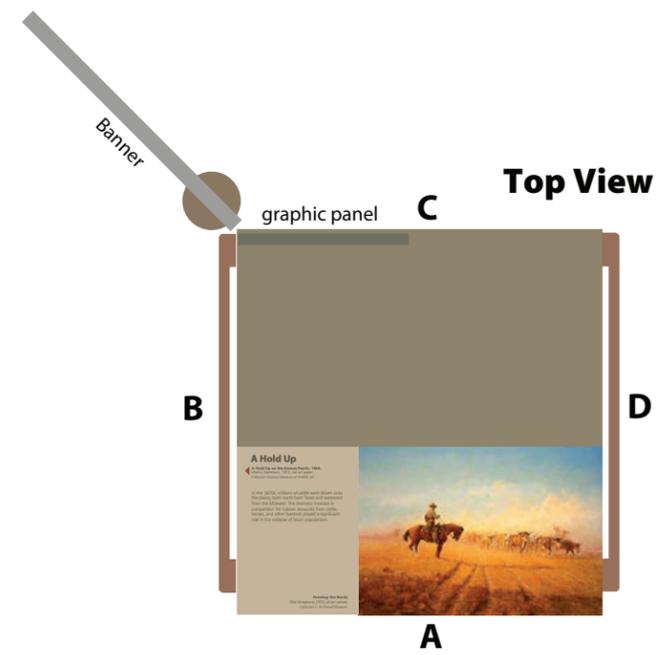
B



Bison Exhibit: Unit 9 - Competition and Climate Change

cr 2/23/2017

Scale : 1" = 1'



Competition Climate Change

Over-hunting was not the only culprit in the bison's decline . . .

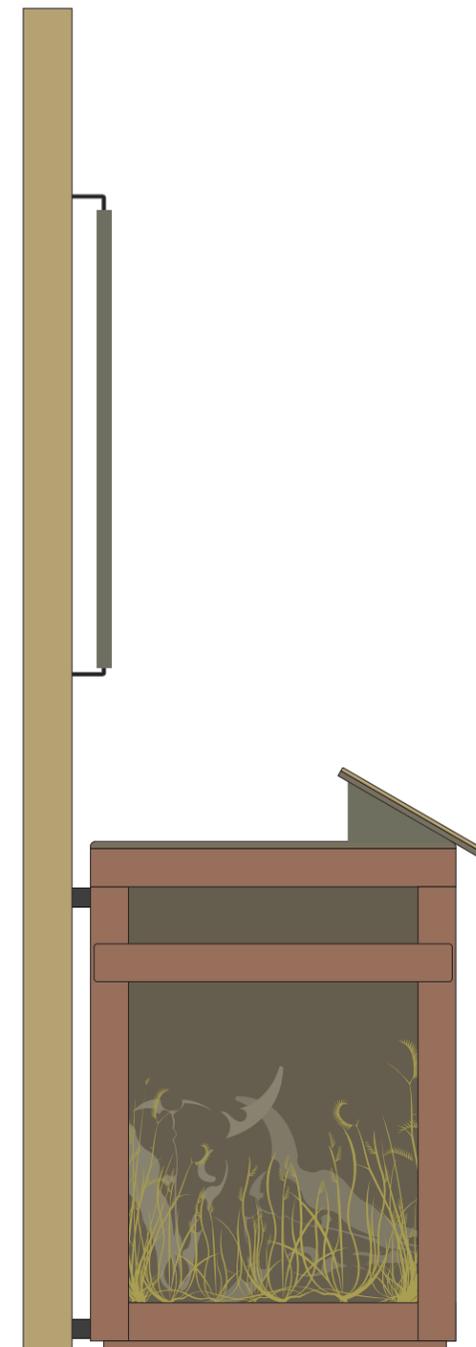
Competition and Climate Change

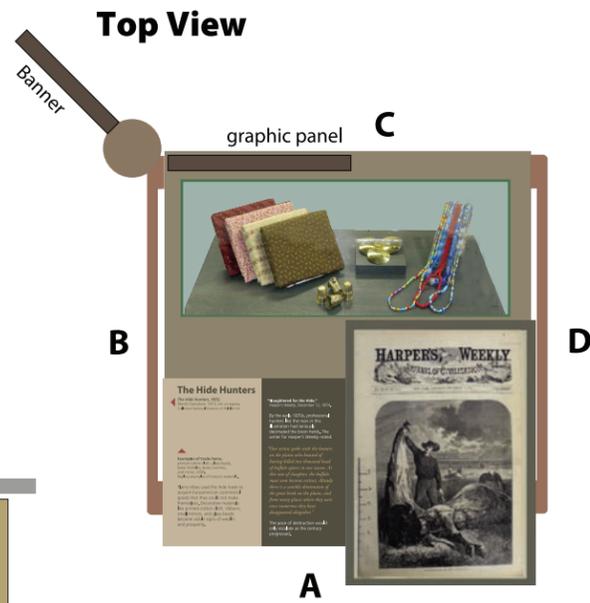
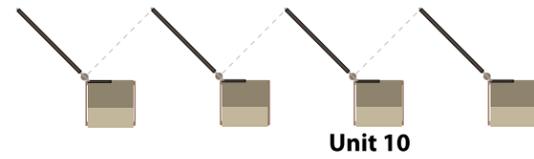
Competition for grass and water intensified when new livestock arrived in the 1800s. Bison were displaced by large numbers of horses led by Indians, sheep, cattle, and horses arriving with immigrant wagon trains. The grasslands that bison once roamed disappeared. Bison were also severely challenged by the introduction of ranch cattle to their range.

Changes in the Plains climate created hardships for bison.

In search of water to keep thirty million bison hydrated, severe drought beginning in the 1840s dried up grasslands for grass. As water dwindled and competition increased, bison herds turned up to dry, hardened rivers to reach flowing rivers. Animals that were not healthy or able to reach water perished.

Winter could also be a threat. In spite of their heavy coats, bison could not endure winter temperatures consistently below zero. Many died to starve in dry blizzards, deep snow drifts, and fast river crossings. Thousands died of starvation when they could not break through heavy coats of ice to get to the grass they needed.





The Hide Trade

People killed millions of bison in less than thirty years. Did they understand what they were doing?

The Hide Trade

For a relatively brief period in the early 1800s, bison played an important role in American and European economies.

From the 1820s to the 1860s, American and British companies established trading posts throughout the West. The trade was mutually beneficial. Like the beaver trade before it, the bison trade brought Indian hunters into a global marketplace.

Trade put severe stress on bison populations. As the market for bison robes and hides grew, increasing numbers were hunted to meet the demands of commercial consumption.

At first, the herds replenished themselves. There were so many that people could not imagine the bison would ever die out. Eventually, the hide trade came to a crashing halt.

“Where the Indian killed one buffalo, the hide and tongue hunters killed fifty.”

Sioux Chief Red Cloud

Unit 10 Side D

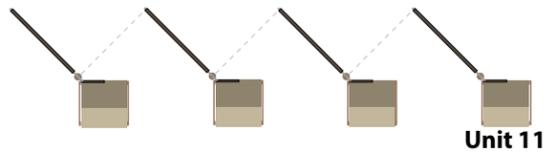
“I was born in the buffalo trade, I expected to die in it. The buffalo are gone. I do not know what to do.”

Hide trader James Kipp

A

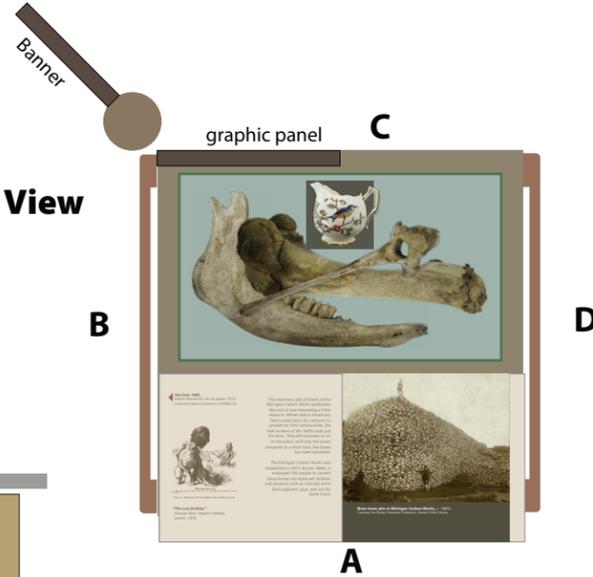
B

D



Unit 11

Top View



From Resource to Commodity

What changed after the 1860s ?

From Resource to Commodity

Around 1870 European manufacturers discovered a new chemical tanning process. Transformed bison hide into heavy, industrial strength leather that was perfect for machinery building.

Almost overnight the robe trade gave way to a commercial hide market. Growing interests of American industrial East and Europe clamored for bison hide tanning. The creature that was central to Plains Indian culture for generations now played a role in the Industrial Revolution of North America and Europe.

Bison grew increasingly popular. American and European companies used almost every part of the animal - hides, hooves, hair, horns, even the tongue - to make a wide variety of consumer goods. Essentially, bison could not reproduce fast enough to satisfy these demands, and the remaining herds were annihilated.



“When I went into business [as a bison hunter], I sat down and figured that I was indeed one of fortune’s children... Just think! There were 20 million bison... I could kill 100 a day... that would be \$6000 a month – or three times what was paid to the President of the United States...”

Bison hunter, Frank Mayer, 1958

“Notice to Farmers: I will pay cash for buffalo bones. Bring them in by the ton or hundred. I will give fifty pounds of the best twine for one ton of bones, for this month only, or a \$40 sewing machine for forty tons. I want 5000 tons this month.”

Graphic News and Times, 23 July 1885

Banner to be used in proximity to Unit 11, on wall or hung from ceiling

Bison as commodity

America’s industries found uses for many parts of the bison.

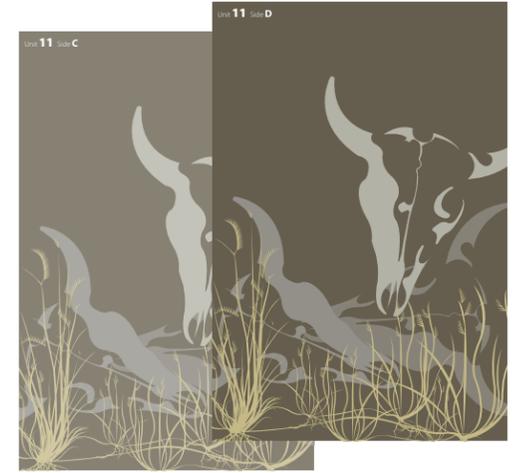
commodity (noun)

- a good or service (or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, made and ready for sale)
- a product or resource that is sold or traded on a market

resource (noun)

- a supply of something (especially land) that can be used in a particular way (especially to produce electricity)
- (especially in ecology) a substance, material or component that is used in the production of materials, goods, and other services

- **Hides**
shoes, boots, overboots, carthorn, furniture, and wall coverings
- **Bison tongues**
silicosis
- **Coarse bison hair and beards**
woolens and felts
- **Bones, hooves, and horns**
ground and used as carbon for setting paper, for fertilizer, and in China pottery
- **Bison horns**
bill hooks, combs, pins, needles, and buttons



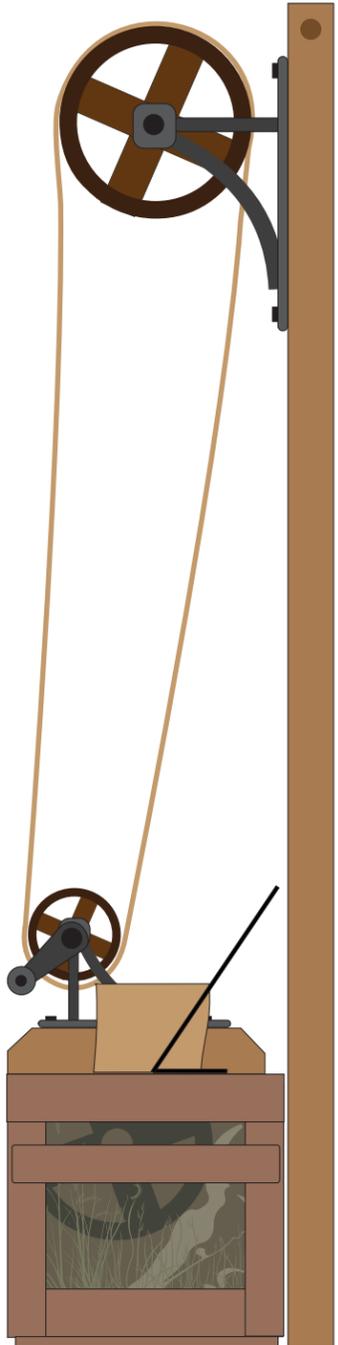
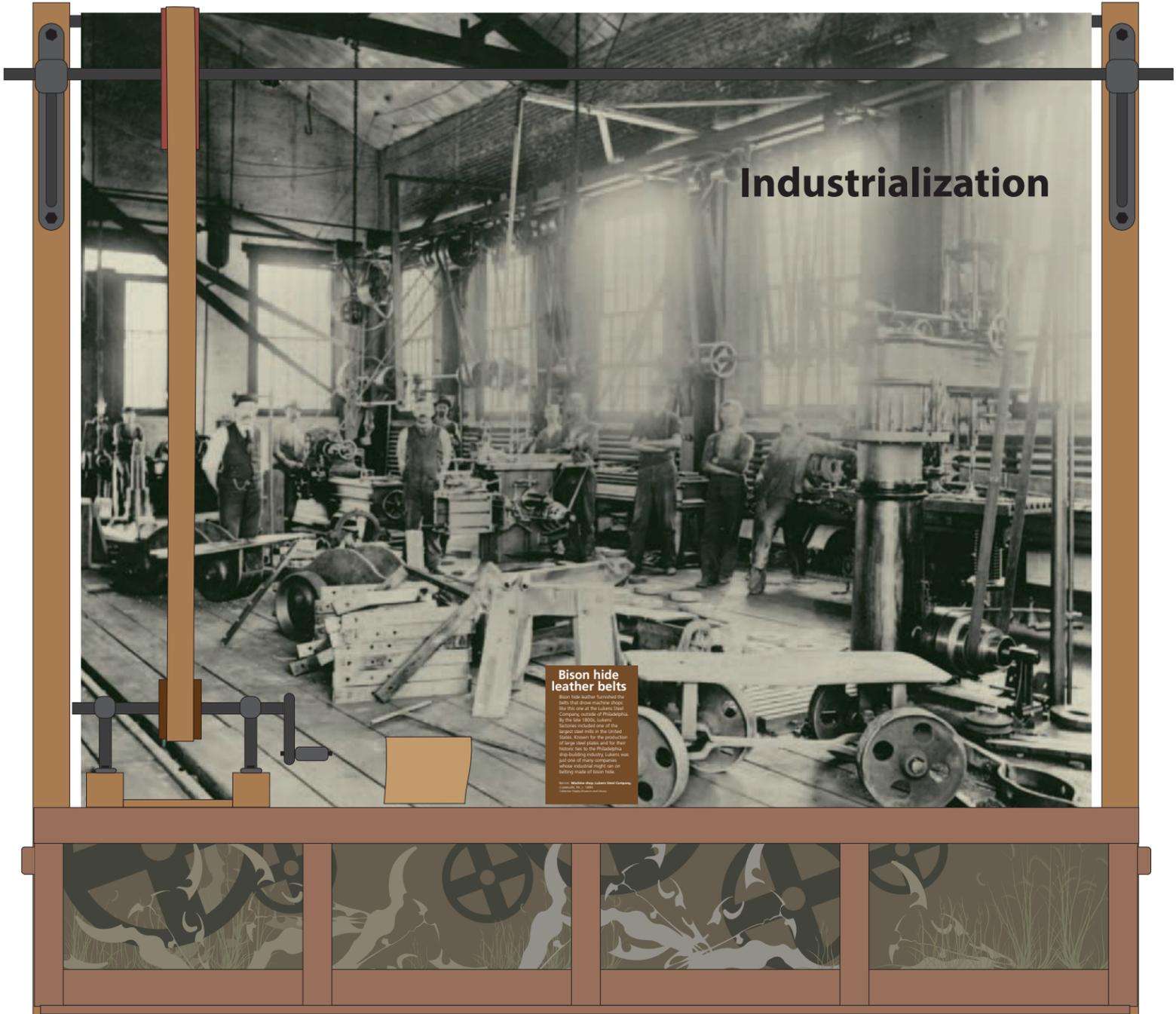
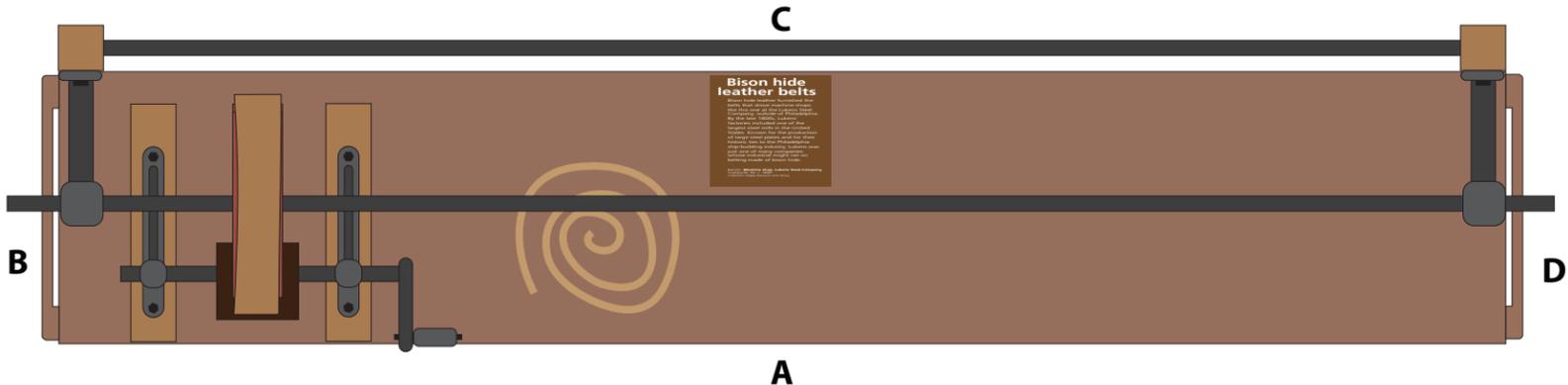
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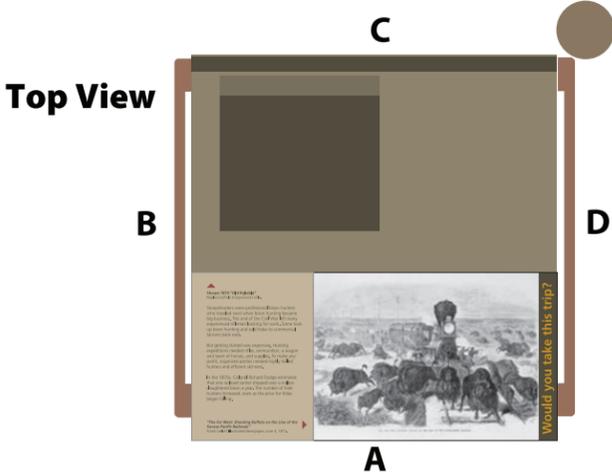
D

Top View



A

D

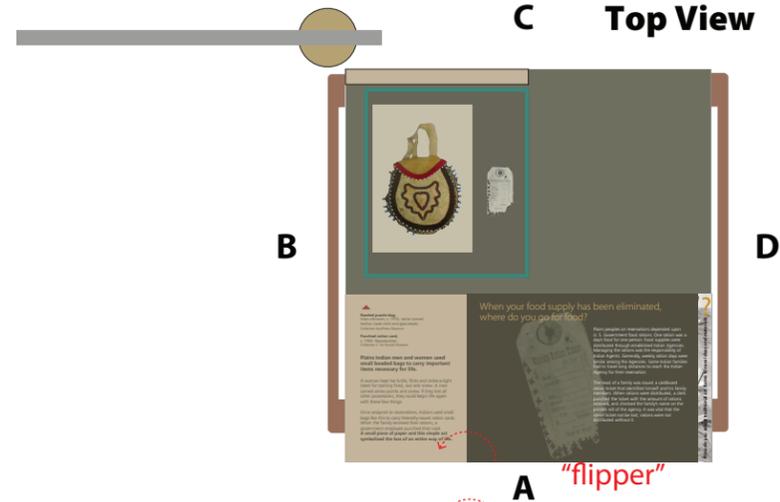


B

A

D

C



Replacing bison

The U.S. government supplied rations to Plains Indians living on reservations.

ration *ˈreɪʃən*

noun

- food allowance for one day
- a share of a resource distributed to people that depends on their needs

verb

- to supply, appoint, or distribute as rations
- to restrict the consumption of a resource with rations

Plains people once supplied most of their daily needs from the bison, how they had to eat food supplied by the U.S. government, rations were distributed based on the number of family members. A family that included a father, mother, and two or three children received twenty-eight rations per week.

Rations usually included...

- **Beef**
1 - 1.5 pounds per person per day
- **Flour**
3 pounds per person per day

Families received other items in smaller amounts...

- **Bacon**
for every 100 rations, they might receive one pound
- **Coffee**
for every twenty-five rations, they might receive one pound
- **Sugar, Soda, Salt, Beans**
with one hundred rations, a family might receive eight pounds of sugar, one pound of salt, one pound of salt, and three pounds of beans
- **Tobacco**
some rations were included tobacco and cowhide
- **Cowhide**
Plains Indians could receive one pound of a cowhide each week

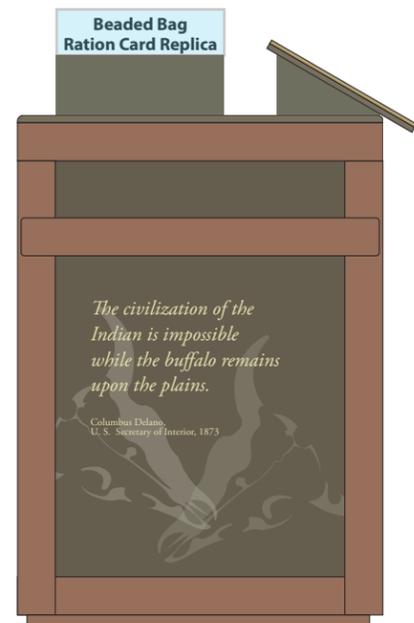
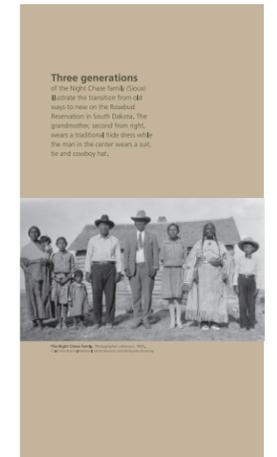
The Reservation

In the 1850s the United States government brought the reservation system to the West.

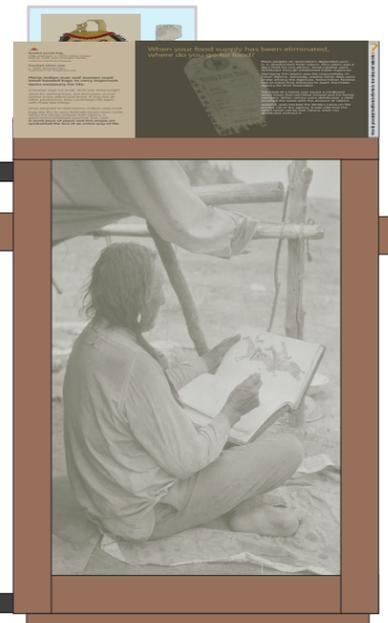
Initiated through various treaties, this policy aimed at protecting overland river and railroad routes by confining Indians to specific areas, separating them from white settlers and from bison. Nomadic hunting cultures were forced into a sedentary life, farming and ranching on agencies or reservations.

After the Civil War, the U. S. Army forcibly carried this suppression even further. Indians already living on reservations were recruited on hunting expeditions by army officials. Some troops in prime bison-hunting grounds killed bison to the bone, pushing Indian bands toward starvation or surrender. Many officials believed that the only way to control Indians was to destroy their economic and spiritual base-bison. By the close of the 1800s, only a few bison also survived this episode of destruction.

Why did government policy encourage the bison's destruction?



B



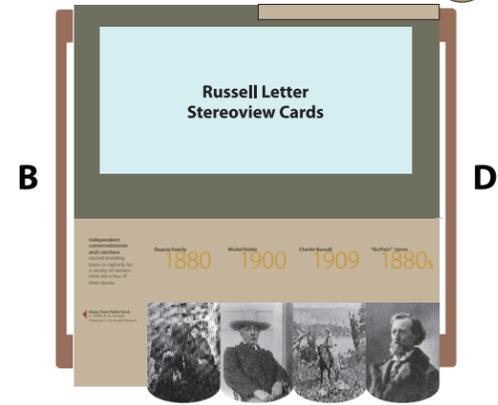
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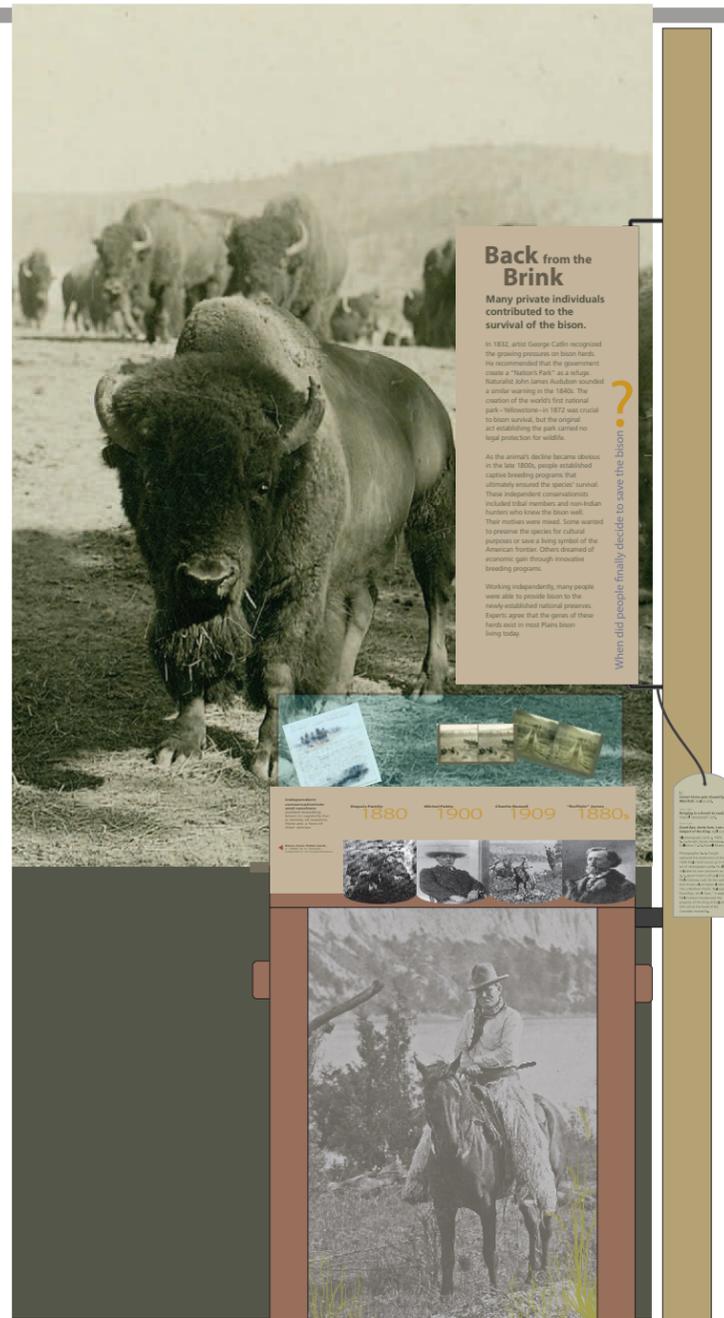
Unit 17



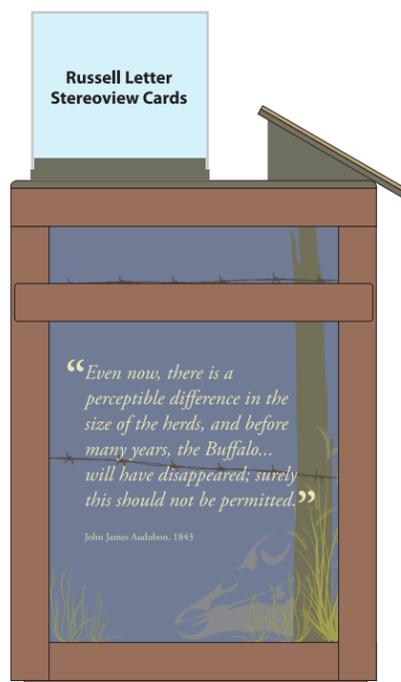
Unit 16



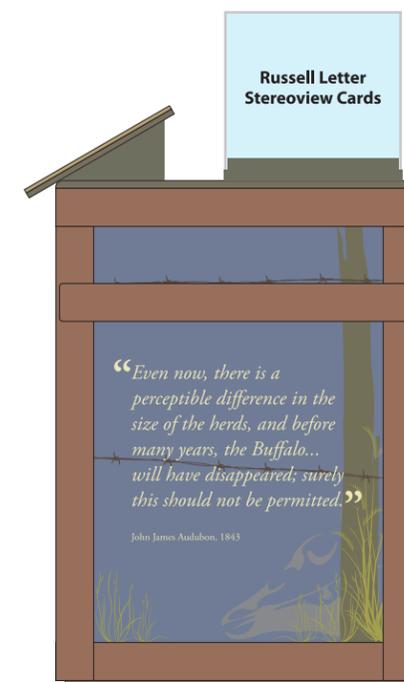
Unit 15



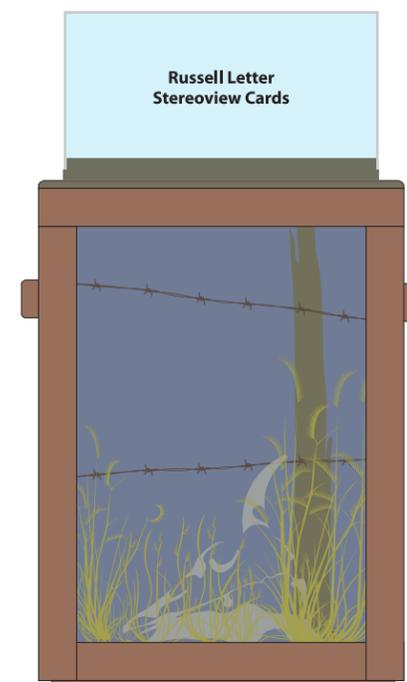
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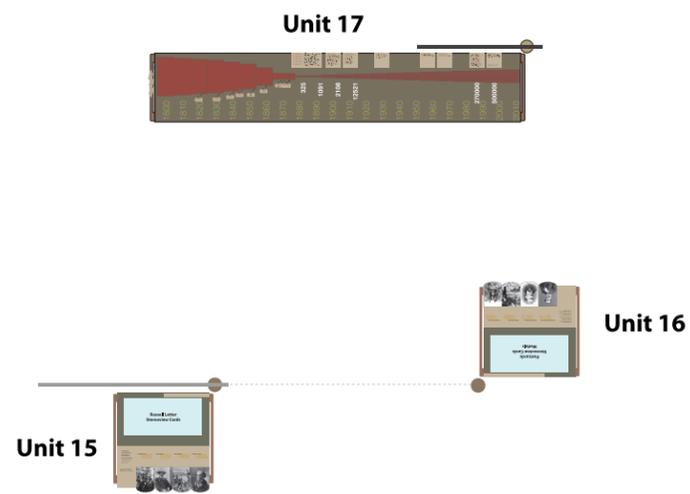
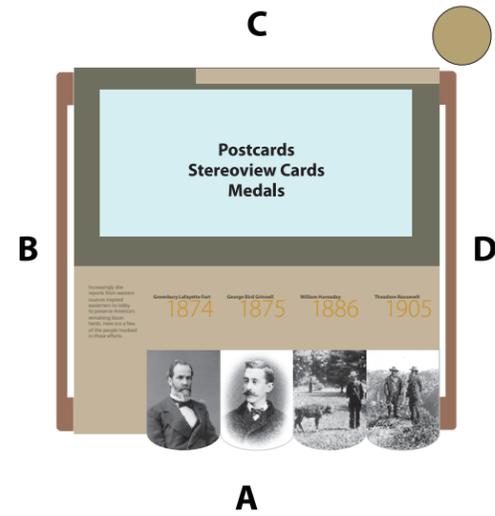
B



D



C



"The total number of buffaloes killed on the Expedition... was 23... We killed every nearly all we saw and I am confident there are not thirty-head remaining in Montana, all told. By this time next year the country will have destroyed about all this remnant."

William Hornaday to General S. D. Cook, Source: The Smithsonian, 1886

Why would William Hornaday go to Montana to shoot bison when he knew there were very few left? As the bison population in Montana declined, Hornaday believed that creating "living displays" and adding to museum collections would help people understand their world better. They felt it was a scientific necessity to preserve a small part of each species and prevent species like the bison in danger of extinction.

How did shooting bison help preserve them?

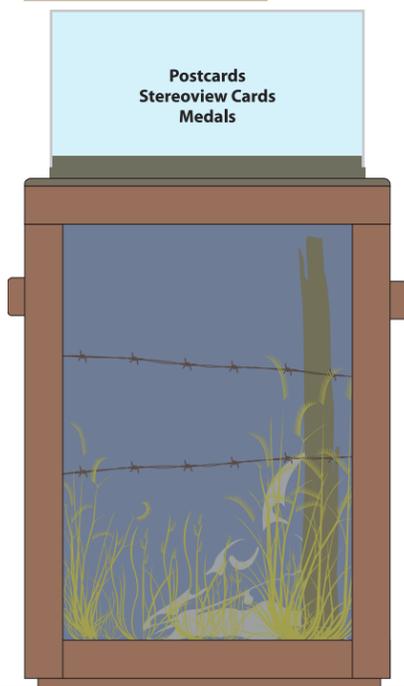
The Preservation Movement

Bison preservation gained national momentum after American naturalists returned from the West armed with new ammunition to use on the species' behalf.

In March 1884 conservationists Emerson Hough and George Bird Grinnell discovered a poacher skinning the bison skull in Yellowstone. Less than two weeks later, Congress passed the Lacey Act, ensuring legal protection for all bison's animal and parts. The park became one of the earliest public bison refuges in the United States.

In the 1920s William T. Hornaday raised awareness of the bison's plight, and in 1905 worked with Theodore Roosevelt to establish The American Bison Society. This national organization promoted saving the species as a patriotic act and encouraged government action to preserve bison and other wildlife.

Between 1905 and 1913, the United States established four national bison refuges. To fill each park habitat, government officials turned to the independent ranchers and 200 to locate bison. By the 1920s, the species' survival was no longer in doubt.

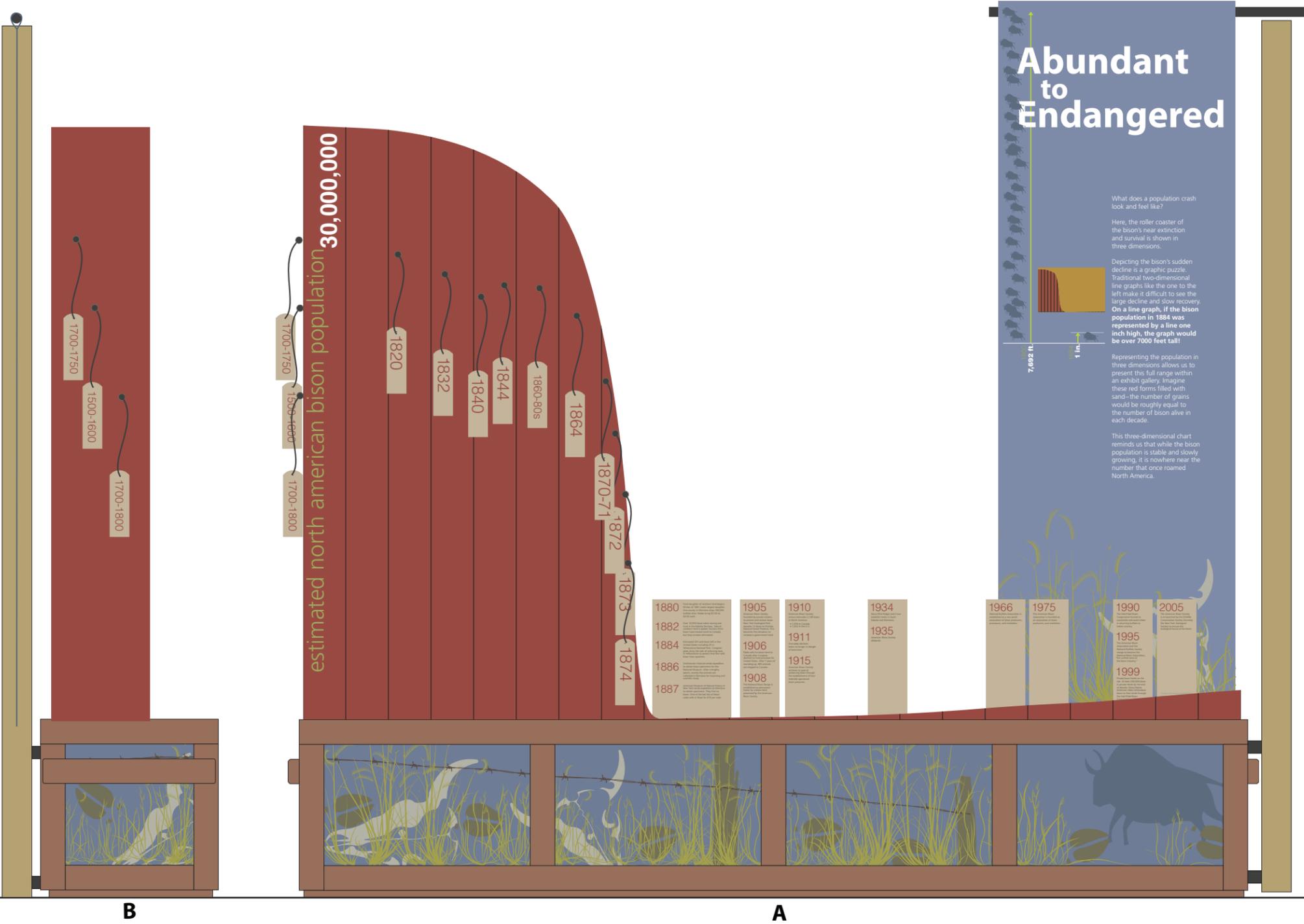
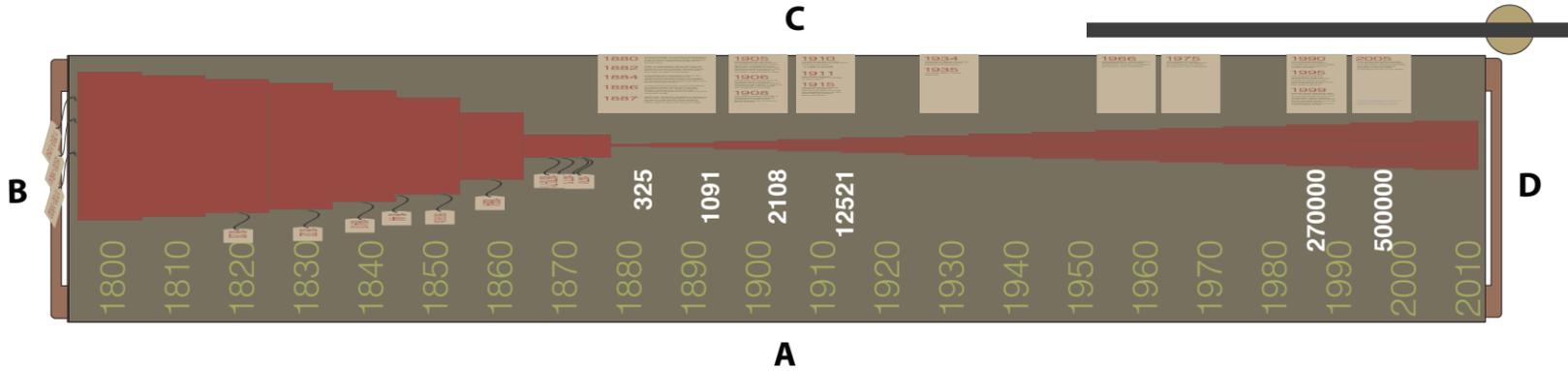


D

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B

A



Abundant to Endangered

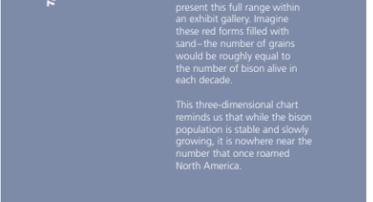
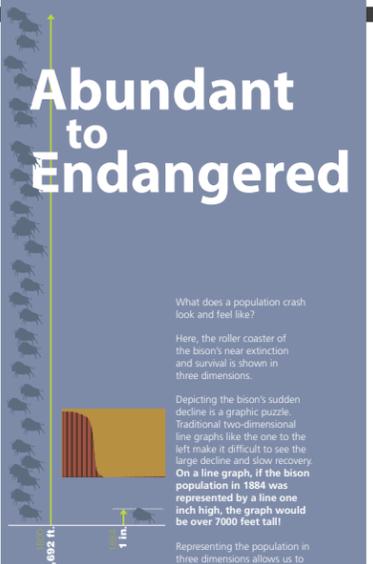
What does a population crash look and feel like?

Here, the roller coaster of the bison's near extinction and survival is shown in three dimensions.

Depicting the bison's sudden decline is a graphic puzzle. Traditional two-dimensional line graphs like the one to the left make it difficult to see the large decline and slow recovery. On a line graph, if the bison population in 1884 was represented by a line one inch high, the graph would be over 7000 feet tall!

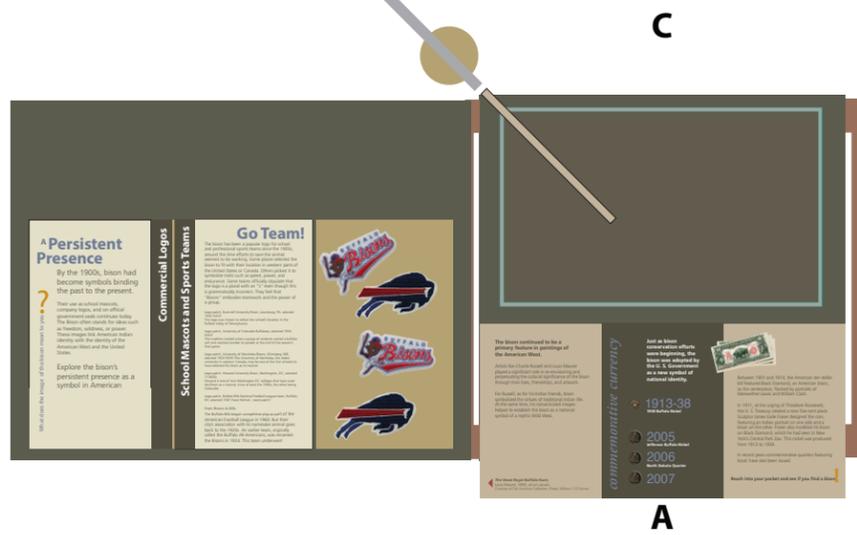
Representing the population in three dimensions allows us to present the full range within an exhibit gallery. Imagine these red forms filled with sand—the number of grains would be roughly equal to the number of bison alive in each decade.

This three-dimensional chart reminds us that while the bison population is stable and slowly growing, it is nowhere near the number that once roamed North America.



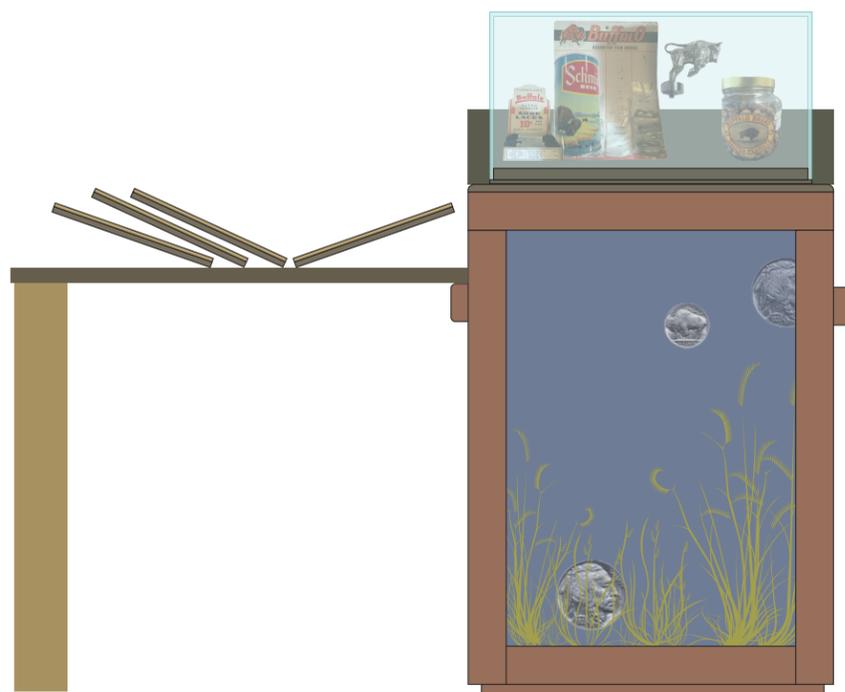
B

A



Flipbooks with bison images-

1. Sports Teams and School Mascots
2. Commercial logos, Advertising and ephemera
3. Military and Governmental (incl. Law Enforcement)
4. Commerce (eg stamps, coins, etc.)-
5. Alcohol



B



A



D



C

Other content to be added on bench later:

An Industry Emerges

The 1970s and 1980s saw the emergence of commercial herds as a result of the challenge of expanding bison herds.

The growth of the bison industry was driven by several factors:

- The need for a sustainable source of bison for commercial markets.
- The desire to increase the number of bison in the United States.
- The availability of land and resources for commercial herds.

The Downturn

In 2000, the bison market was in a downturn, with prices for bison carcasses falling significantly.

This was due to several factors:

- A decline in demand for bison products.
- A decrease in the number of commercial herds.
- A shift in government policy regarding bison management.

Sustainability Strategies

The market faced several sustainability challenges, including:

- Limited genetic diversity.
- Overgrazing of land.
- Disease management.

Producers are working to address these challenges through various strategies:

- Genetic improvement programs.
- Sustainable land management practices.
- Disease prevention and control measures.

Bison in Balance

In the mid 2000s, bison industry and government agencies began to work together to address the challenges of the bison industry.

Key initiatives include:

- The creation of the National Bison Range.
- The establishment of the National Bison System.
- The implementation of the National Bison Management Plan.

USDA Wholesale Carcass Price

Weight Comparison

1,000 lbs. vs 400 lbs.

Panel 1- Side a and b



Herds Today

An estimated 400,000 bison now live in North America, with herds in all fifty of the United States, all of the Canadian provinces and Mexico.

Plains bison are no longer on the endangered species list, but they still face many threats including disease, overgrazing, habitat, and market volatility.

The rescue of this species from extinction is a remarkable success story that is still being written. The bison's unique and sometimes contradictory meanings are apparent today as various efforts to restore and maintain populations in commercial, public, and tribal herds.

Commercial Herds

Most herds today employ practices ranging from holistic conservation to more mainstream livestock production. While methods differ, all share a passion for the bison.

Public Herds

For over a hundred years, public herds have been associated with preserving the species and are often referred to as "conservation" herds. Public herds graze on government-owned land such as national parks.

Tribal Herds

Tribal herds today maintain both conservation and commercial herds that reintroduce the bison as a sustaining part of their cultural beliefs and way of life.

Panel 2- Side a and b

How many bison are there today?

How do we know?

Although the North American bison population is often quoted as 500,000, figuring an accurate number is a complex undertaking.

Commercial, public and tribal herds are documented in different ways and the data sometimes overlap. The Population graph is based on information from the following sources:

- American Bison Society Census
- Canadian Bison Association and its provincial organizations
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Great Plains Bison Cooperative
- National Bison System
- National Bison Inventory
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

* Exact numbers of herds not compiled by the above organizations.

These calculations show the current North American bison population to be close to 400,000 in 2016.

What's a bison worth?

Live bison auctions across the U.S. and Canada give a good indication of market value.

The Market Value graph is based on three of the largest U.S. auctions: Custer State Park in South Dakota, Kansas Buffalo Association, and North Dakota Buffalo Association.

"There are different ways to value a bison. Money is only one of them. Knowing you're getting a healthy product that was raised sustainably and responsibly is the real payoff."

Bill Winters
North Dakota Buffalo Association, Bismarck



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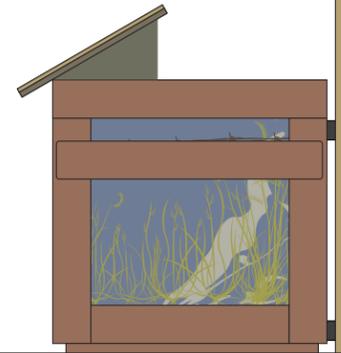
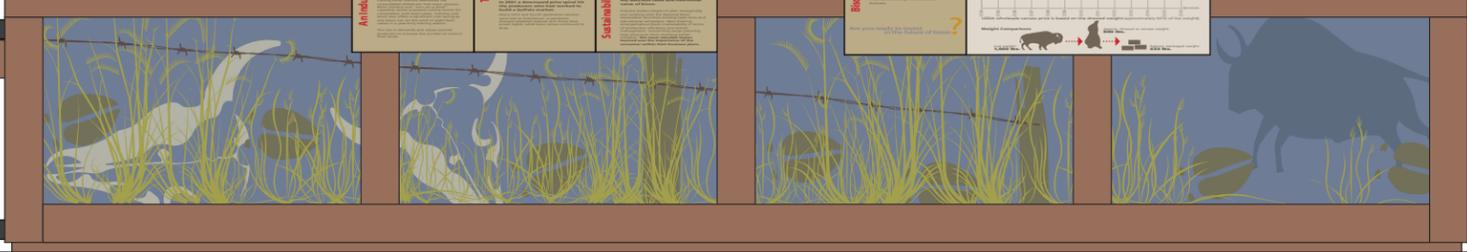
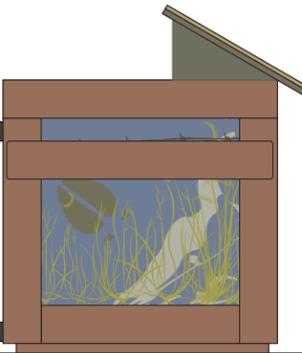
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Tribal Herds: Still Sacred

For First Nations and Native American people, especially those who live across the central grasslands and northern plains, the return of the bison represents more than the survival of a species. Bison remain at the core of their spiritual beliefs and identity.

The rescue of the species from extinction is a remarkable success story that impacted diverse peoples and places. But the story is not over for native peoples; the resurgence of the bison on tribal lands presents opportunities to connect old meanings and traditions that were nearly lost with new ways of bringing modern generations closer to the animals that played an integral role in their culture. Many tribal members view bison as relatives with sacred and reciprocal relationships to humans. They honor their herds with prayer and ceremony.

For these groups, the bison's survival preserves a sacred connection between humans and the environment. Tribal herds offer a chance at spiritual and cultural healing. In both Canada and the United States, native people continue seeking ways to strengthen that connection in the modern world.

Back side of panel

The Bison in Contemporary Indian Art

From the warren period onward, Plains Indians managed their lives without access to bison while preserving their cultures and cultural artifacts. Northern Plains women responded by decorating formal clothing and accessories with increasingly elaborate beadwork in distinctive styles and designs. Other artists began exploring new aesthetic expressions made out of traditional materials.

Today, the bison continues to capture the imaginations of Indian and Euroamerican artists alike.

Contemporary works show that a powerful relationship between this animal and humans still exists. For Native American artists like DeWayne Wilson, the bison provides new ways to reinterpret traditional art forms and explore the animal's ongoing symbolism.



The Buffalo Herd

“Native people and the buffalo have a shared history. First, flourishing in great numbers, then, declining to near extinction, and eventually being regarded as novelties. Now, we are both growing in numbers and we share a role as America’s spiritual touchstones.”

James Parker Shield, Little Shell Chippewa

The Buffalo Treaty

1868

The Buffalo Treaty was signed between the United States and the Northern Plains tribes in 1868. It guaranteed the tribes the right to hunt, kill, and use the bison for food, clothing, and shelter. The treaty also recognized the bison as a sacred animal and a source of spiritual strength for the tribes. The treaty was a landmark agreement that helped to preserve the bison and the culture of the Northern Plains tribes.

Copy of Buffalo Treaty

InterTribal Buffalo Council

The mission of the ITBC is to restore the bison to the Northern Plains and to preserve the historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual significance of the animal.

The bison is a keystone species that has shaped the lives of the people of the Northern Plains for centuries. It is a source of food, clothing, and shelter, and it is also a symbol of strength and resilience. The ITBC works to protect the bison and to promote its sustainable use.

The ITBC is a coalition of tribes and organizations that are dedicated to the restoration of the bison. It has been successful in securing federal funding for bison restoration and in protecting bison habitat.

The ITBC is currently working to restore the bison to the Northern Plains and to preserve the historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual significance of the animal.

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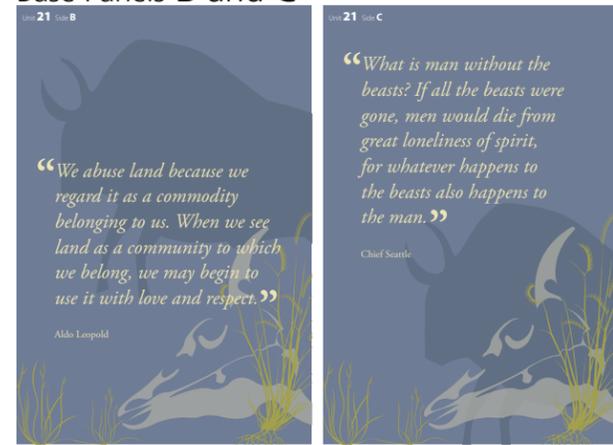
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A D B C

Base Panels **B** and **C**

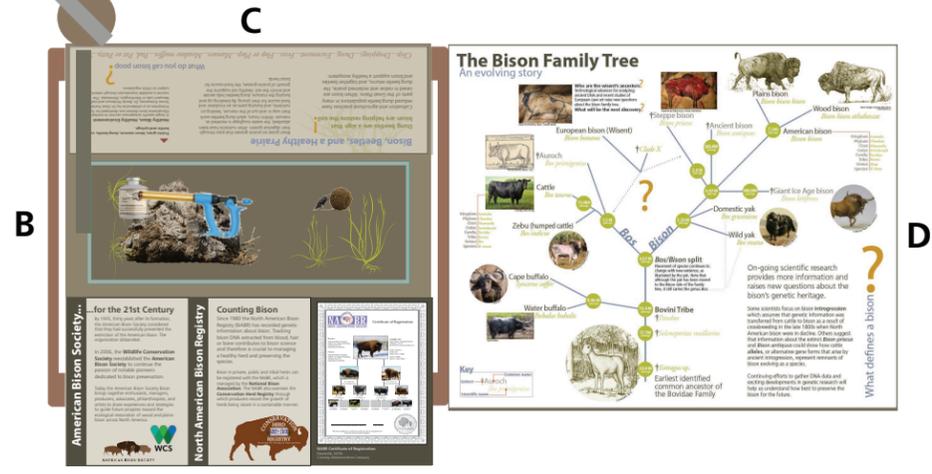


Bison Exhibit: **Unit 21 - Conservation/Public Herds**

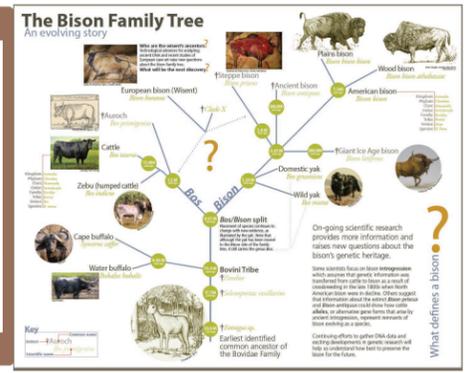
cr 2/24/2017

Scale :1" = 1'

Top View



Bison, Beets, and a Healthy Prairie
 Healthy bison and a deep blue sky over a prairie landscape. The bison are grazing on green grass. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.



A Shared Resource



What can we learn from the bison's near extinction?

A Shared Resource
 This is a story about the interactions of human beings with natural resources, about an ancient awareness of the need for sustainability now taking hold at the global level.
 Bison were a shared resource. For a long time, governments in Canada and the United States allowed everyone to actively harvest that bison resource until it was almost gone. The bison's tragic demise and near extinction brought a sobering realization that Nature has its limits.



Bovine Family Tree graphic on table with toy animals



Conservation, Collaboration, & Controversy
 For over a hundred years, people passionate about the bison have been working to preserve and nurture this majestic animal.
 Commercial producers, public agencies, tribal communities, conservationists, scientists and even the public, all play a part in maintaining bison as a species critical to our North American grassland ecosystem and to the cultures of the region's original peoples.
 From this commitment to bison preservation come different approaches to restoration and difficult questions:
 • Are more bison better?
 • Why are some bison called "wild" when all bison have human-made limits to their range?
 • What role does the genetic diversity of a herd play in preserving the species?
 • What is the acceptable role of technology in preserving the species?
 • Should land resources be allocated to bison growth and how should herds be managed?
 Despite a significant range of responses, all share a deep commitment to preserving the bison. Progress in our lifetimes will require:
 • Broad public awareness of the value of the bison.
 • Significant investment by both public and private sectors.
 • Creative, flexible approaches that generate enduring partnerships.

A Shared Future



How can we carry the lessons of the bison's story into our lives?

"Only when the last tree has withered, the last fish has been caught, and the last river has been poisoned, will you realize you cannot eat money."
 Cree Proverb

Existing banner

The Bison Family Tree

An evolving story



Cave of Altamira, Spain, Claude Valette

Who are the wisent's ancestors?

Technological advances for analyzing ancient DNA and recent studies of European cave art raise new questions about the bison family tree.

What will be the next discovery?

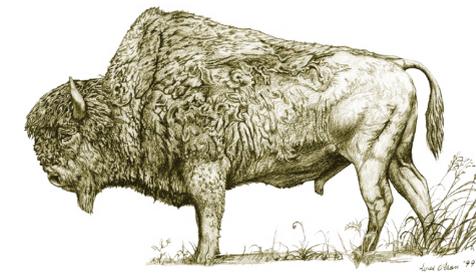


Caverne du Pont d'Arc, France, Rameessos



Plains bison

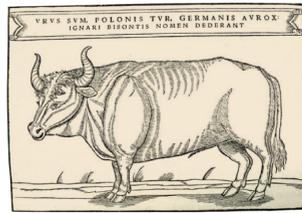
Bison bison bison



Wood bison

Bison bison athabascae

Bison Images courtesy Wes Olson
www.wesolson.ca



The last Auroch died in 1627

†Auroch

Bos primigenius



Courtesy Hans Droog

Cattle

Bos taurus

11,000 years ago

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Family: Bovidae
Tribe: Bovini
Genus: *Bos*
Species: *B. taurus*

Zebu (humped cattle)

Bos indicus



Agricultural Research Service

1.5 M years ago

Bos

Bison

4.57 M years ago

Bos/Bison split

Placement of species continues to change with new evidence, as illustrated by the yak. Note that although the yak has been moved to the *Bison* side of the family tree, it still carries the genus *Bos*.

15.4 M years ago

Bovini Tribe

†*Parabos*

17.7 M years ago

†*Selenoportax vexillarius*

22.0 M years ago

†*Eotragus* sp.

Earliest identified common ancestor of the Bovidae Family

†Ancient bison

Bison antiquus

260,000 years ago

2.0 M years ago

3.07 M years ago

Domestic yak

Bos grunniens



Rowland Ward Ltd.

Wild yak

Bos mutus



Collection Royal Alberta Museum

200,000 years ago

†Giant Ice Age bison

Bison latifrons

7,500 years ago

American bison

Bison bison

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Family: Bovidae
Tribe: Bovini
Genus: *Bison*
Species: *B. bison*

On-going scientific research provides more information and raises new questions about the bison's genetic heritage.

Some scientists focus on bison **introgression** which assumes that genetic information was transferred from cattle to bison as a result of crossbreeding in the late 1800s when North American bison were in decline. Others suggest that information about the extinct *Bison priscus* and *Bison antiquus* could show how cattle **alleles**, or alternative gene forms that arise by ancient introgression, represent remnants of bison evolving as a species.

Continuing efforts to gather DNA data and exciting developments in genetic research will help us understand how best to preserve the bison for the future.

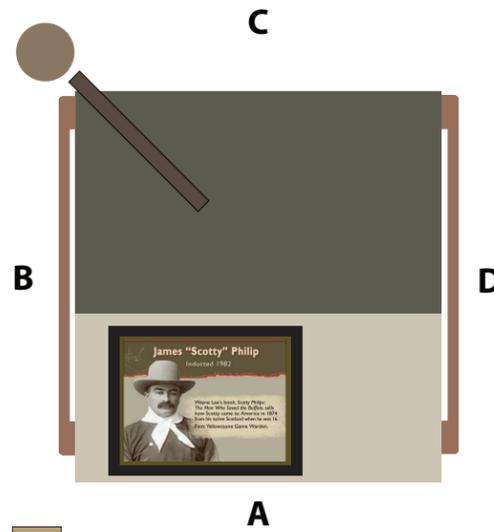
Key

Extinct —† Auroch
Common name — Bos primigenius
Scientific name —

What defines a bison?



T. Krutchen, 2015



iPad with powerpoint of National Buffalo Foundation Hall of Fame. Other promotional material related to NBF on crate top or table

Taking Care of the Herd

The National Buffalo Foundation was established in 1995 by people passionate about preserving the heritage and fostering the future of the American bison.

This non-profit organization is dedicated to providing funds for:

Education

- 2013 National Symposium on the Bison, Saskatchewan, Canada
- NBF "Soundbite" Documentary
- International Bison Conference (every two years)

Research

- University of Utah (Bison and Deer)
- Bison Genome Sequencing Project
- University of Saskatchewan (Bison and Deer Research)
- North Dakota State University (Bison and Deer)
- Animal Health
- Bison and Deer Conservation Skills
- One Day Through to Spring Research

Outreach (in support of the research)

- South Dakota (and other) Bison Rangeland, National Bison Association
- Grand Staircase, Cedar Lake Park, South Dakota

Turning the Vision Into Conviction...

Your gift to the National Buffalo Foundation makes opportunities for preserving the legacy of the American bison.

nationalbuffalofoundation.org

The **NBF**
National Buffalo Foundation

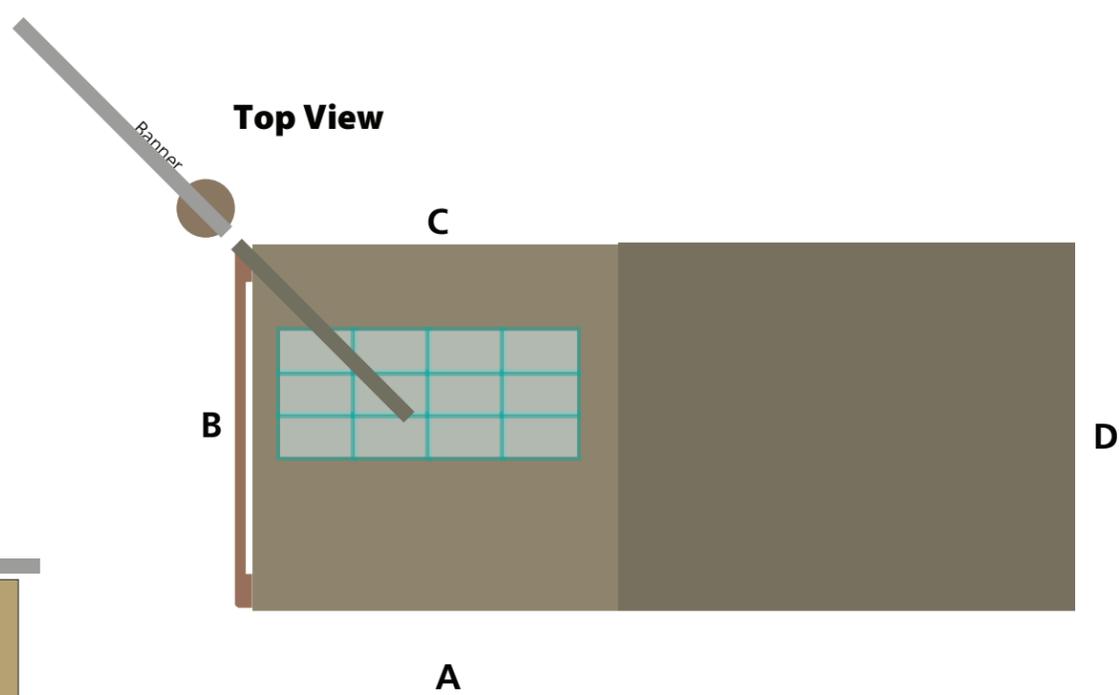


Mission:
To be the trusted source for bison research and education funding, providing leadership and strengthening partnerships to proactively enhance and sustain the bison industry.

Preserve their history. Foster their future.



This unit could be displayed in museum store or in exhibit
- number of for-sale items reduced when placed in exhibit



Objects of everyday life today!

Like Plains Indian cultures before, people find a use for almost every part of the bison. . .

Native American peoples for traditional cultural practices . . . craftsmen and hobbyists to create authentic reproductions of historic tools, businesses to manufacture unique, contemporary objects for sale

- Tanned hides with hair**
Blankets, robes, vests, moccasins, sleeping bags, garters, gloves.
- Tanned hides without hair**
Purses and bags, belts and dog leashes, gloves and mittens, bowwear, tobacco pouches, chuckchuck, doormats, wallets, purses and travel bags, leather furniture.
- Untanned dried hides**
Moccasins, coverings for packs.
- Hair**
Rugs, hats, scarves, socks, knitting and weaving yarn, rug, saddle blankets, felted crafts.
- Sinew or tendon**
Ruffs, bowstrings.
- Bones**
Beads, jewelry, carved crafts.
- Skull**
Beads, jewelry, office decor.
- Horns**
Beads and felted crafts such as jewelry, knife handles, discs, pen barrels and flutes.
- Brains**
Medicinal herb tanning.
- Gall bladder and gallstones**
Beads, jewelry, carvings.
- Teeth**
Plectrums.
- Hooves**
Used to make a strong glue, or dried and string together as rattles.
- Dung**
Used to make glue to paper pulp for papercrafts, chip for throwing competitions.

Bison Means Business

The growth of commercial hides has made a significant impact on the restoration of the bison species, with the ever-growing meat market as the driving force.

Entrepreneurs have utilized the useful and diverse properties of bison to develop products for hard and soft goods markets.

Meet a Sample of Bison-Centered Businesses:

- Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC**
Hudsonville, Colorado. Began in 1988 as a small meat processing company. Today, Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC is a leading provider of high-quality bison meat.
- Sierra Meat and Seafood**
Boulder, Colorado. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner on the Rocky Mountain West.
- Western Buffalo Company**
Napa, CA. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Buffalo Gold Premium Fibers**
Napa, CA. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Trials**
Boulder, Colorado. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Gisela Bodrke**
Boulder, Colorado. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries**
Napa, CA. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Chimney Hill Ranch**
Napa, CA. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.
- Ted's Montana Grill**
Napa, CA. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats LLC's first business partner in the West.

Find Your Home on the Range

The Bison Buyer's Guide is your one stop shop for locating all things bison.

This on-line database of National Bison Association members lists high-quality bison products that range from bison meat, to buffalo toys and home, to buffalo artisan goods.

www.bisoncentral.com/bison-buyers-guide

Check out these state and regional organizations for bison businesses close to you:

- Arizona Bison Association
- California Bison Association
- Colorado Bison Association
- Idaho Bison Association
- Illinois Bison Association
- Indiana Bison Association
- Iowa Bison Association
- Kansas Bison Association
- Minnesota Bison Association
- Montana Bison Association
- Nebraska Bison Association
- North Dakota Bison Association
- Ohio Bison Association
- Oklahoma Bison Association
- Oregon Bison Association
- South Dakota Bison Association
- Texas Bison Association
- Utah Bison Association
- Washington Bison Association
- Wisconsin Bison Association
- Wyoming Bison Association

Table:

- used for merchandise
- if not in store, or not enough to sell use for other promo/educational materials
- put away if not enough space
- possibility of adding a second table to display more

Second table optional

