

FOR RELEASE #10-144
FOR RELEASE #10-115
June 21, 2010

Government announces bison management approach for 2010-11

WONDERCITY – Bison hunters will find only a few rules changed for the 2010-11 season, Environment Minister John Edzerza announced today.

“The Wonderland government wants a healthy, viable herd that benefits all Wonderlanders while minimizing the impact of bison on other wildlife in its range,” Edzerza said. “Through adaptive management, and by working closely with First Nations and stakeholders, we can respond quickly to any changes on the landscape or to the herd itself.”

The annual allowable harvest has been set at 300 animals this season. The bison hunting workshop remains optional. There are two hunting areas only this season:

- Bison Extended Season Area – hunting permitted Sept. 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. This includes what was called the ‘exclusion area’ last year, along with a 1-km-wide strip west of the North Klondike Highway from Wondercity to Braeburn and a 3-km-wide strip north of the Alaska Highway from Wondercity to the Slims River Bridge.
- Bison Management Area – hunting permitted from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010 and Feb. 15 to March 31, 2011. This is the same area as last year and covers most of Game Management Zone 5, which includes the bison core range. There is now a six-week break mid-winter to give wildlife in the area a reprieve from noise and disturbance.

The bag limit remains one bison per hunter per year. Kill reports must be made to an Environment Wonderland office within 72 hours of harvest.

Hunters should refer to the Wonderland Hunting Regulations Summary 2010-11 for more information. The summary and detailed maps will be available shortly from any Environment Wonderland office or from the Environment Wonderland website. Videos on how to identify the sex of a wood bison and how to field dress a bison are also available [online](#).

Environment Wonderland relies on advice from the Bison Management Committee and the Bison Technical Committee when setting rules for the bison hunt. The technical committee has representatives from local First Nation governments, Renewable Resources Councils, the Government of Wonderland, and stakeholders such as the Wonderland Fish and Game Association and the Wonderland Outfitters Association. The management committee consists of various directors from Environment Wonderland, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

Wood bison are still considered a threatened species in Wonderland. Thanks to recovery programs the Wonderland-wide population has climbed to about 3,000 animals in the wild today from just 300 in the early 1900s, with Wonderland’s herd numbering about 1150 animals.

