the backstraps (outer portion of the spine); the tenderloins (underneath the spine); meat from the neck (hump meat); meat from the ribs with flank; and the head, hide, and ribs, which must be cut off.)

B. Elk

The only remaining parts of a downed elk that a Permit holder may leave in the field are the spine, pelvic bone, entrails (gut pile), the rear legs from the hock down, the front legs from the knee down, the head, and the hide. This means that all other meat and animal parts must be removed from the field. It is the Permit holder’s responsibility to ensure that she or he has adequate tools, such as knives, saws, etc., to remove all required meat and animal parts from the field.

(In order to help Permit holders comply with the above regulation, the following is a non-exhaustive list of the type of meat and animal parts that hunters must remove from the field: meat from the hind quarters down to the hock; meat from the front quarters down to the knee; the backstraps (outer portion of the spine); the tenderloins (underneath the spine); meat from the ribs with flank; and ribs, which must be cut off.)

C. Animals Sent to Processing Facilities

The meat from animals sent to processing facilities must be picked up in accordance with the processing facility’s meat abandonment policy. Waste, as defined in Nez Perce Tribal Code, §3-1-1(ii), occurs if a processing facility determines that meat has been “abandoned” or if the processing facility otherwise assumes ownership of the meat.

SECTION 12: SAFETY

A. Beattie Gulch

Nez Perce Tribal members hunting in Beattie Gulch must follow the “Common Hunt Protocols” and “Common Safety Provisions and Regulations” found in the inter-tribal MOA.

B. Beattie Gulch and All Other Areas of North Yellowstone and West Yellowstone

Nez Perce Tribal members must refrain from the discharge of all firearms and hunting bows within a 150-yard radius of a downed animal. The discharge of all firearms and hunting bows may not resume within a 150-yard radius of a downed animal until all killed animals are retrieved and transported to the nearest open road.

No Nez Perce Tribal member may discharge a firearm, a hunting bow, or any other dangerous weapon (as defined in Nez Perce Tribal Code §4-1-1(j)) upon or across an open road.
Nez Perce Tribal members must comply if and when a Conservation Enforcement officer orders a cease fire. A Conservation Enforcement officer may immediately revoke, in the field, the Permit of any Nez Perce Tribal member who fails to stop firing after receiving a cease-fire order from a Conservation Enforcement officer.

Nez Perce Tribal members may not possess or consume alcoholic or other intoxicating beverages or intoxicating substances while hunting anywhere on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

SECTION 13: VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

The Nez Perce Tribal Court is authorized to adjudicate all alleged violations by Nez Perce Tribal members of the Nez Perce Constitution, Bylaws, Code, and Regulations. Nez Perce Tribal Code, §1-1-9 to §1-1-12. Violations of Title 3 (Natural Resources and the Environment) of the Nez Perce Tribal Code or any regulation or policy adopted pursuant to Title 3 of the Code—including the Treaty Buffalo Hunt Regulations—is a civil infraction, punishable by fine. Nez Perce Tribal Code, §3-1-14. The Nez Perce Tribal Court is also authorized to enforce the criminal offenses set forth in Chapter 4 of the Nez Perce Tribal Code, including §4-1-151 to §4-1-158 (Fish and Wildlife Offenses), and §4-1-126 (Weapons Offense) and §4-1-127 (Committing an Offense While Armed).

A Conservation Enforcement officer may immediately revoke, in the field, the Permit of any Nez Perce Tribal member if the Conservation Enforcement officer believes a Permit holder, assistant, designated hunter, or designated shooter has failed to follow an order from a Conservation Enforcement officer or violated the Nez Perce Tribal Code, the Treaty Buffalo Hunt Regulations, or any other regulation or policy adopted pursuant to Title 3 or Title 4 of the Nez Perce Tribal Code.

(Concurrent Jurisdiction: Nez Perce Tribal members should be aware that the U.S. Forest Service and the state of Montana possess concurrent jurisdiction in North Yellowstone and West Yellowstone. Consequently, Nez Perce Tribal members exercising their treaty-reserved hunting rights can be cited by federal and state law enforcement officers for violating some federal and state laws and regulations. Some such laws include:

Gut Piles: The U.S. Forest Service prohibits gut piles on, or approximate to, open roads. The U.S. Forest Service also prohibits gut piles within 200 yards of any U.S. Forest Service road or trail. A U.S. Forest Service road or trail is any road or trail wholly or partially within, or adjacent to and serving the U.S. Forest Service lands or property that the U.S. Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and use of U.S. Forest Service lands or property. This includes the county road facing Beattie Gulch. § 36 CFR 261.50, Occupancy and Use Order #01-14-11-00-02.
Roads:

**Federal:** The U.S. Forest Service prohibits "discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows:

1. In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or

2. Across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge.

3. Into or within any cave." §36 CFR 261.10 (d)

**State:** The state of Montana prohibits "shoot[ing] a firearm from or across the right-of-way of a highway. MCA § 61-8-369. Certain exceptions apply to people "certified as disabled." MCA § 87-2-803. The state of Montana also prohibits bison hunting "within 100 yards of major highways" in its bison hunting regulations.

SECTION 14: CONTACT INFORMATION

The Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management Conservation Enforcement office can be reached at 208-843-7143 or toll free at 1-877-790-3474.

The Nez Perce Tribe Fish and Wildlife Commission office can be reached at 208-843-9376.
## Nimipuútímt Buffalo Words by Harry Slickpoo Jr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aláwa</th>
<th>Buffalo Yearling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K'usey'ne'iskit</td>
<td>Migrating Trail—Buffalo Hunting Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' nem nukt</td>
<td>Buffalo Meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' neywéek</td>
<td>Buffalo Hunting Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey'n</td>
<td>Buffalo Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey'nem'éenm nukt</td>
<td>Bison Meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qoq'álx</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' nem'é</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' nem'é qoq'álx</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' nem'éepeme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukéy tet</td>
<td>Buffalo Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukeytew'éet</td>
<td>Buffalo Hunter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Nimipuútímt Buffalo Words by Thomas Gregory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K'usey'ne'iskit</th>
<th>A trail that leaves Kamiah and leads to Montana by way of Musselshell; Bison Trail; Lolo Trail.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey' nem'éenm nukt</td>
<td>Bison Meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey' nem'éepeme</td>
<td>Bison &quot;(a being) from k'úusey'n&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' neywéekse</td>
<td>I go/am going to the bison/buffalo country to hunt bison/buffalo. (1st person present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' neywéeksix</td>
<td>We go/are going to the bison/buffalo country to hunt bison/buffalo. (1st plural present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'usey' neywéekt</td>
<td>Buffalo Hunting Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey' neywéeku'</td>
<td>I will go to the bison/buffalo country to hunt bison/buffalo. (1st future)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey'n</td>
<td>Bison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'úusey'nem'é</td>
<td>Bison (1) from Montana, (2) Bison (abbreviated form of k'usey'nem'é qoq'álx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pek'úusey neywéeku'</td>
<td>We will go to the bison/buffalo country to hunt bison/buffalo. (1st plural future)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qoq'álx</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukéy tet</td>
<td>Bison Hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukeytew'éet</td>
<td>Bison Hunter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Characteristics that can Help Identify Male and Female Bison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex Organs</td>
<td>Penis sheath present but may be difficult to see on young bison or in late winter</td>
<td>Penis sheath absent but tufts of belly hair may look similar to a penis sheath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horn Base Size</td>
<td>Generally larger than on cows; ranges from 2 ¾ inches in diameter on small bulls (very similar to large cows) to 3 ½ inches or more on large bulls</td>
<td>Generally smaller than on bulls; ranges from 2 – 2 ½ inches in diameter; horn bases on large cows often similar in size to those on small bulls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Horn Shape</td>
<td>Adult horns point up, or curve inward on older bulls similar to cows; taper quickly from base</td>
<td>Adult horns generally curved, but may point up similar to bulls; taper slowly from base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearling Horn Shape</td>
<td>Point at 45 degree angle from head but longer and larger bases than yearling cows</td>
<td>Point at 45 degree angle from head but shorter and smaller bases than yearling bulls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Shape</td>
<td>Wider blockier forehead than cows; smaller bulls may appear similar to larger cows</td>
<td>Narrower forehead than bulls; large cows may appear similar to small bulls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>Often two-tone; light &amp; woolly on front shoulders, darker on back; may be single color</td>
<td>Often single color coat; can be two-tone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Be sure to look at all features in order to make an accurate identification. The permit packet you receive by mail includes examples of recent bison identification mistakes. We strongly encourage you to study and learn from the mistakes other hunters have made.
Bison Identification

Large male bison

MALE or FEMALE You can harvest either sex (bulls, cows and/or calves) until the cows start carrying around the first of March (could be sooner/later), notice will be given when the season will be restricted to bulls and calves only.

FOOD STORAGE The food storage order by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Region, Gallatin National Forest will be in affect from March 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020.

The physical differences that distinguish male (bull) from female (cow) bison are subtle. In fact, males and females can look very similar, especially when the males are not yet mature. In addition for any particular characteristic, animals of the same sex can display significant variations. This makes the hunter’s job all the more difficult.

Female bison on left, male on right

The table below lists characteristics to help you differentiate between bull and cow bison. The bottom line is: Do not rely on any single physical or behavioral characteristic to accurately identify the sex of a bison. Use multiple characteristics. Most hunters that mistakenly shoot the wrong sex bison concede later that they relied on only one characteristic and did not take the time to make a positive identification. Don’t make the same mistake.

The bottom line is, if there is any chance you could be making an error in selecting an animal, don’t shoot. You have a long period in which to hunt. Take your time and make a correct identification first.

A male buffalo, a bull, weighs up to 2,000 pounds, while a female buffalo, or cow, is only half as heavy.

A bull’s head is more triangular than a cow’s, but the horns of a cow are more slender.

The male has distinctive patches of fur. The hair above its eyes and on its forelegs are heavier than a female’s. The hip width of a cow is narrower than its shoulder width, but that relationship is reversed for a bull.
Bison biology

Bison are the largest terrestrial mammal in North America. As a native species, they play a unique role in the health and diversity of the ecosystem.

- Males, or bulls (left), weigh up to 2,000 pounds and measure up to 6 1/2 feet at the shoulder.
- Females, or cows (right), weigh up to 1,200 pounds, and stand as tall as 5 1/2 feet at the shoulder.
- A bison horn can reach 20 inches long. A bull’s horns are larger in diameter than a cow’s.
- A bison has a large, low-hanging head supported by a prominent hump above the shoulder and massive neck muscles used to plow snow away from feeding sites.

Bison social behavior:

Mature bulls three years and older usually stay by themselves or form small groups.

Cows, calves and immature bulls form groups of 20 to 100 during fall through spring and can congregate in even larger groups during the summer breeding season.

Bison tend to be on the move frequently and can travel up to 20 miles in a day, though typically around 2 to 3 miles per day. They will occasionally remain in the same location for a few days, usually during snowstorms and when temperatures are very cold.

While not normally aggressive, bison can become dangerous when they feel threatened especially during the peak of the rut (mating season) or when they sense that a calf may be threatened.

The peak of the rut generally occurs during the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. At this time, bison herds are at their largest, because lone males join back up with the rest of the group.

Other things to remember:

- Bison are especially quick and agile. Closely monitor changing behavior.
- Bison don’t like fast-moving things near them, such as people who are running or bicycling.
- Bison don’t like dogs. Keep dogs on a leash when bison are present and keep your distance.
- Keep your children with you and under control.
- Use a telephoto lens when photographing bison. That way you can maintain a safe distance.
- Throwing objects at bison may provoke an attack.

Signals a bison makes to indicate it may charge:

- Stop what he’s doing and looks at you or turns to face you;
- Swings its head back and forth while staring at you;
- Paws at the ground or hooks the ground with its horns;
- Makes short bluff charges at you or snorts loudly;
- Moves straight towards you.

More information:

If you have questions or concerns about bison, call your local wildlife manager. You can find that phone number by call (406) 444-2335.

- Bison are extremely agile. They can jump up to 6 feet high and reach speeds of 35 mph. They are also very capable of climbing steep hills.
- If you see bison rolling in the dust, this is called wallowing. This activity creates a scent for mating, regulates body temperature, and protects against insects.

Watch the tail for clues of bison behavior:

Position 1: Bison is at rest and not agitated.
Position 2: Bison is interested or curious.
Position 3: Bison is agitated; this tail position is commonly used to warn other bison or people to move away.
Position 4: Bison is signaling that something is about to happen; this tail position might be used by two bison about to fight or a cow defending her calf. If you see this, you are too close.
**Best Management Practices to Minimize the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**

Wildlife professionals recognize the risk of continued disease spread through the movement of infected carcasses. The carcass of a CWD-positive cervids (including: elk, mule & white-tailed deer, moose, and caribou) has prions in various tissues, with a high concentration in the brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, and tonsils. Therefore, moving a CWD-positive carcass to different geographic areas introduces the risk of further CWD transmission. As best practice, harvested cervid carcasses should not be transported across from any state, province, or territory unless all high-risk parts are removed. This still allows for importation of cut/wrapped meat, deboned meat, cleaned skulls or skull cap with no brain material, shed antlers, hides, canine teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts. All removed parts should be properly disposed of to prevent other animals from coming into contact with CWD prions. Following the best practices will reduce the risk of CWD spread:

1. Prohibit the transport of intact cervid carcasses or carcass parts across state boundaries - except boned out meat, clean hide with no head attached, clean skull plate with antlers attached, clean antlers, finished taxidermy specimens, and clean upper canine teeth.

2. Alternatives:
   a) Allow importation of quartered carcasses with no spinal column, head, or central nervous system tissue in addition to the permitted items above.

   b) Prohibit importation, with certain standard exceptions, of intact or whole carcasses from states that have detected CWD in captive and/or free-ranging cervids.

   c) Prohibit importation from specific zones in states where CWD has been detected.

**Carcass disposal recommendations:**

Properly licensed and operated landfills offer one of the most economically feasible options for disposal of carcasses and parts, particularly in high volumes. While disposal via landfill may not eliminate infectious prion, carcass parts disposed of in a landfill would be inaccessible to cervids and may functionally contain the CWD prion. It is important that carcasses are properly covered after disposal in a landfill to prevent scavenging.

**Carcass movement** poses a risk for CWD introduction if unused parts from potentially infected carcasses are imported and disposed of improperly.