



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN PRAIRIE RESERVE OFFERS BISON HARVEST DRAWING & AUCTION

Montana residents living near the Reserve get first opportunity for harvest permits

BOZEMAN, MT – American Prairie Reserve is pleased to offer the second annual public bison harvest on its deeded property, in addition to the hunting opportunities for a variety of wildlife species already available on designated Reserve parcels. The conservation organization emphasizes public access as a cornerstone of the project, and has always included hunting and bison harvest in its long-term plans.

This year the nonprofit is offering a total of 10 opportunities, with the majority being awarded in such a way that gives preference to the communities surrounding the Reserve.

American Prairie Reserve has donated four bison harvest opportunities to nonprofit groups in communities surrounding the project area to be used as fundraising tools.

Four additional harvest opportunities will be awarded through a free drawing that is available to eligible Montana residents of a seven-county region—including Blaine, Chouteau, Fergus, Garfield, Petroleum, Phillips, and Valley. Four names will be pulled from the entries and offered to purchase a tag that grants the opportunity to harvest a bison from American Prairie Reserve's deeded land within a designated 7-day window. The \$650 tag fee covers the fair market value of the animal, but recipients who are also members of American Prairie Reserve at the time of the drawing will be offered a reduced tag fee of \$500.

Entries will be accepted through midnight, September 11, 2018, and four recipients will be randomly drawn on September 12, 2018. Those wishing to enter the free drawing must be 18 years of age or older and only one registration is allowed per person. Complete details, rules and the entry form are available on American Prairie Reserve's website:

<https://www.americanprairie.org/bison-harvest>

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“We think it’s important that the harvest program gives preference to this seven-county region,” said Damien Austin, Reserve Manager. “We strive to continuously increase our investment in the community and consider opportunities like the bison harvest a way for American Prairie Reserve to provide an additional benefit to our neighbors.”

The general public is invited to bid on the final two opportunities through an online auction. Bids will be accepted from eligible individuals age 18 and over from September 12 through September 20, 2018. Two separate bison harvest opportunities will be auctioned, each starting at the estimated fair market value of \$650. Each opportunity allows for the harvest to take place within a designated 7-day window between January 31 – February 6, 2019 and February 7 – 13, 2019. Complete details, terms, rules and a link to the auction site is available online at americanprairie.org/bison-harvest.

“Our herd currently numbers around 800 animals,” said Austin. “Harvesting is a part of our Bison Management Plan and allows us to control population growth and mimic predation that would naturally occur, while also supporting hunting in Montana.”

In addition to the bison harvest, American Prairie Reserve is proud to open its deeded land to hunting, including upland bird and migratory bird hunting, and bow hunting for mule deer and whitetail deer. Rifle hunting of deer, elk and antelope is permitted on the Burnt Lodge, Timber Creek and Two Crow properties. The nonprofit also offers access points to public lands through all of its deeded lands.

The Reserve reported 4,418 hunter days across its holdings in 2017. Visit americanprairie.org/hunting for the most up-to-date hunting information and to make reservations, which are required to hunt on most of the Reserve’s deeded land. Visit americanprairie.org/bison-harvest to enter the drawing or to bid in the public auction.

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About American Prairie Reserve

American Prairie Reserve’s mission is to create the largest nature reserve in the continental United States, a spectacular refuge for people and wildlife preserved forever as part of America’s heritage. When complete, the Reserve will be larger than Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks combined and will support all the animals that historically called the Great Plains home, including buffalo, wolves, bears, elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, swift fox, upland birds including the greater sage grouse, birds of prey, and all manner of snakes, amphibians, and insects. Already open to the public for recreation including camping, hunting, fishing, and

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birding, the Reserve offers visitors a once-in-a-lifetime, horizon-expanding opportunity to reconnect with nature on a truly grand scale. Learn more at americanprairie.org