



**Tootinaowaziibeeng
Treaty Reserve**

Dear TTR Members:

As part of an action plan to bring the bison back to the prairies; TTR continues with the capacity-building efforts, and as a result of funding available through the *SARA Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources*, TTR successfully completed two information sections at the Community Hall on October 28th, 2022; and on February 3rd, 2023.

During these meetings, we had the opportunity to share information with community members and youth about the bison's history, its traditional uses, and the current state of bison in Canada.

Based on the feedback received and the results of the surveys, we believe this initiative was a complete success because besides learning more about the history of Bison, the efforts made to recover it, and the SARA process, we have confirmed the desire of bringing the bison back to the prairies. The information sections were instrumental to build awareness and confirm this decision.

Please stay connected for more news and activities regarding this initiative.

Miigwech!
Don Clarke



BISON HISTORY

Steppe Bison:

Not all of the iconic ice age animals went extinct at the end of the last glacial period. One example is the steppe bison. Steppe bison survived until quite recently and gave rise to two types of living bison we see today, the plains bison and wood bison. Although they had similar body size compared to their present-day cousins, the ice age steppe bison had much larger horns. The ancestors of steppe bison, called *Bison bonasus*, evolved in the grasslands of Europe and Asia during the early part of the Ice Age, over one million years ago.



Before the guns and horses arrived in North America First Nations people hunted the bison on foot. They used spears and later bows and arrows for the hunt. They had several ways to capture the bison. Bison, was a significant resource for Indigenous Peoples for food and raw materials. people hunted the bison on foot. They used spears and later bows and arrows for the hunt. They had several ways to capture the bison. Bison, was a significant resource for Indigenous Peoples for food and raw materials.

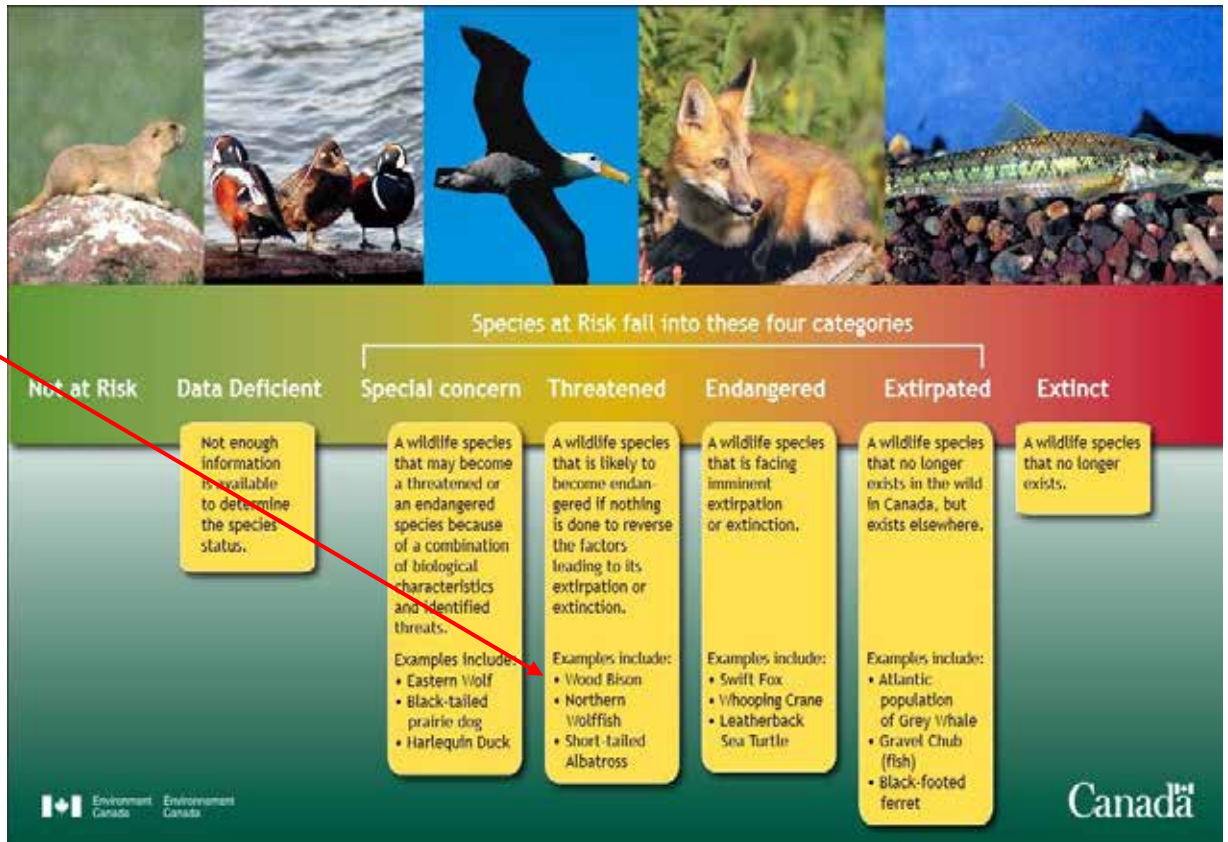
In the summer several bands would get together to hunt the bison. More bison were taken this way. The meat was divided according to the needs of each family.

BISON TODAY

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) lists these wild populations as:

Plains bison as threatened (wild populations are likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction);

Wood bison as special concern (wild populations may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats).



What do you think we can we do to ensure the conservation and restoration of Bison?

By establishing The Niibin Mashkode-biz initiative, TTR is helping to return bison to the prairies, restore important cultural values and traditions, and improve employment and financial resources for their people.

Would you like to be part of this?

Please send us an email to: contact@ttr292.ca



CONTEST

Tell us how do you feel about the bison and WIN!

Would you like to enter a contest to win one kilo of bison dry meat?

Complete the bison survey located in our website and send it by email to dclarke@kokopelli.ca – You can also get a copy of the Survey at the Band Office.

Please include your phone number in the email so we can contact you!

