BISON ON THE EDGE

This year’s theme, Bison on the Edge, will explore the ways in which bison exist on the periphery of wildlife conservation. The conference will dig into the growing and evolving role of First Nations and Tribes in bison restoration and management, the challenge of conserving a wide-ranging species at the edge of their historic range, and the cutting-edge genetic analyses that the government is using to manage federal herds. The Conference will also serve as a platform for honoring the Buffalo Treaty and National Bison Day with field visits, art and storytelling, and cultural celebrations. ABS is a weeklong event that includes two days of topical sessions presented by experts in bison ecology, restoration, and production, a meeting of the IUCN Bison Specialist Group, and field trips. The week will conclude with National Bison Day celebration.

We are delighted to host this year’s ABS at the beautiful Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder, a tribal-owned property in the American Southwest. There are deep ties between Indigenous peoples of the Southwest and bison, but this arid region is often overlooked in conservation and restoration conversations. By hosting the 2019 ABS conference & workshop in New Mexico, we aim to draw attention to bison restoration opportunities in the Southwest, lay the foundation for new vital partnerships, and inspire people from diverse cultures in the West to recognize the bison as an enduring symbol of the American landscape.
MONDAY  
October 28th

3:00 PM  Registration Opens
6:00 PM  Hors D'oeuvres & Meet-and-Greet
6:30 PM  Welcome
7:00 PM  Cultural Event

TUESDAY  
October 29th

7:00 AM  Registration Opens
  Breakfast served
8:00 AM  Welcome & Opening Prayer
8:30 AM  Plenary Presentation
9:15 AM  Continental Perspectives on Bison Recovery
10:15 AM Break
10:45 AM Innovations for Global Bison Conservation and Status Assessment: The IUCN Specialist Group
  Lunch served
1:30 PM  Status and Future Direction of Plains Bison Recovery & Conservation in Mexico
2:45 PM  Bringing Bison Back to Banff National Park
4:00 PM Break
4:15 PM  National Bison Recovery Efforts
5:45 PM  Poster Session & Cocktail Hour
  Silent Auction Begins
7:00 PM Keynote
  Wes Olson - The Ecological Buffalo
  Dinner served
WEDNESDAY

October 30th

7:00 AM  Registration Opens
          Breakfast served

8:00 AM  Welcome & Opening Prayer
8:30 AM  Plenary Presentation
9:15 AM  Building Youth STEM Capacity
10:15 AM Break
10:45 AM Concurrent Working Sessions (Select One)
       Bison Metapopulation & Viability
       Economic Value of Bison & Rural Livelihoods
12:15 PM The Role of Art in Social Change & Cultural Revitalization
          Lunch served
1:30 PM  Concurrent Working Sessions (Select One)
       Social & Cultural Value of Bison
       Sustainable Grazing by Bison in Yellowstone Park
3:00 PM  Break
3:30 PM  Concurrent Working Sessions (Select One)
       Ecological Restoration of Bison
       Cooperative Conservation
5:00 PM  Break
By invitation: Buffalo Treaty & IBTC Reception
6:00 PM  Dinner served
7:00 PM  A Celebration of the Buffalo Treaty
THURSDAY  
October 31st  

7:00 AM  Registration Opens  
  Breakfast served  
8:00 AM  Welcome & Opening Prayer  
8:15 AM  Art, Spirituality, & Cultural Revitalization  
9:30 AM  Break  
10:00 AM  Wednesday Working Sessions Report Out  
12:00 PM  Lunch served  
1:00 PM  Tour of the Poeh Museum  
  By invitation: Closed Session for Continental Strategy Design Team  
6:00 PM  Storytelling Through Film  
  Dinner served  

FRIDAY  
November 1st  

ALL DAY  (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)  Field Trip  

OR  
ALL DAY  (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)  By invitation: IUCN Bison Specialist Group Meeting  

OR  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  By invitation: Continental Strategy Design Team Session  
  (Dinner on your own)  

SATURDAY  
November 2nd  

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  National Bison Day Celebration