



Bison Range

Visitor Information and General Regulations

Welcome

The Séliš, Qlispé, and Ksanka people warmly welcome you to the Bison Range, and we hope you enjoy your visit! In 2020, Congress, via Public Law 116-260, restored the Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

This was a monumental decision, which allows us to maintain our ancient relationship of respect and reverence for bison and to share with you our language and cultural traditions around this magnificent animal. The Bison Range herd descends from a free-ranging Reservation herd started by tribal members in the 1800s, when plains bison were near extinction.

Visitor Information

- The Bison Range is a pay-to-enter, fee-use area only. Visitors are to report to Visitors' Center to pay for access. The CSKT Conservation Permit does not allow access to the Bison Range.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms, fireworks, or explosives is prohibited.
- The use or possession of cross bows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons is prohibited.
- Disturbing, injuring, hunting, spearing, poisoning, destroying, collecting or attempting to disturb, destroy or collect any plant, animal, or animal parts is prohibited.
- Do not disturb rocks or build structures on the trails
- The Bison Range is open during daylight hours only, weather and road conditions permitting. Closing times vary seasonally and are posted online and at the Visitor Center.
- It is unlawful to enter areas that are posted closed or gated closed unless authorized.
- The use of motorized vehicles off designated open roads is prohibited.
- Walking away from vehicles is allowable only along designated trails, picnic areas, sanitation stations, and fishing areas. Please remain at your vehicle for your safety. If you need to leave your vehicle, you must be touching your car at all times.
- Vehicles over 30 feet long and those towing trailers, along with motorcycles, ATVs, and bicycles are not allowed on Red Sleep or Prairie Drive.
- All passengers must be seated inside enclosed passenger vehicles while the vehicle is

in motion. Passengers riding in the bed of a pickup vehicle is prohibited.

- Stopping to view animals is allowed on the auto tour drives, as long as traffic is not impeded.
- It is prohibited to approach animals at all times. Persons must remain at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears, wolves, and mountain lions, and at least 25 yards (23 meters) away from all other animals including bison, deer and elk.
- All pets must be on a leash and under control at all times within the Bison Range.
- The use of drones is prohibited unless authorized by Tribal Council special permitting.
- The use of tripods are only allowed in designated parking and walking areas.

Red Sleep Mountain Drive Self-Guided Tour

The following information corresponds with numbered map marker signs located along the drive.

1. These grasslands are made up of a combination of native bunchgrasses and broad-leaved plants called forbs. The plants are dry-land adapted and can survive the Bison Range's average precipitation of only 13 inches per year. Some bird species nest only in these bunchgrasses.
2. Pauline Creek is an intermittent stream with several small basins that supply water for wildlife. The streamside thickets are supported by water seeping out from the creek. Watch for song birds that use this area. In summer, bears frequently search here for berries.
3. Elk Lane joins most of the eight grazing units of the Bison Range and leads to the gathering corral. Bison are held in this lane during roundup every other fall.
4. Forest communities thrive at the higher elevations, on the cooler north sides of the hill, and in moist draws and depressions. Douglas firs grow on the north sides where their seedlings can get a foothold. Ponderosa pines are found on the dryer, warmer south sides of the hills.
5. Bitterroot trail is named for the beautiful bitterroots that grow in the spring. Bitterroot is a very culturally significant plant for the Séliš, Qlispé, and Ksanka people. The trail also has a scenic view of the valley that is sure to take your breath away.

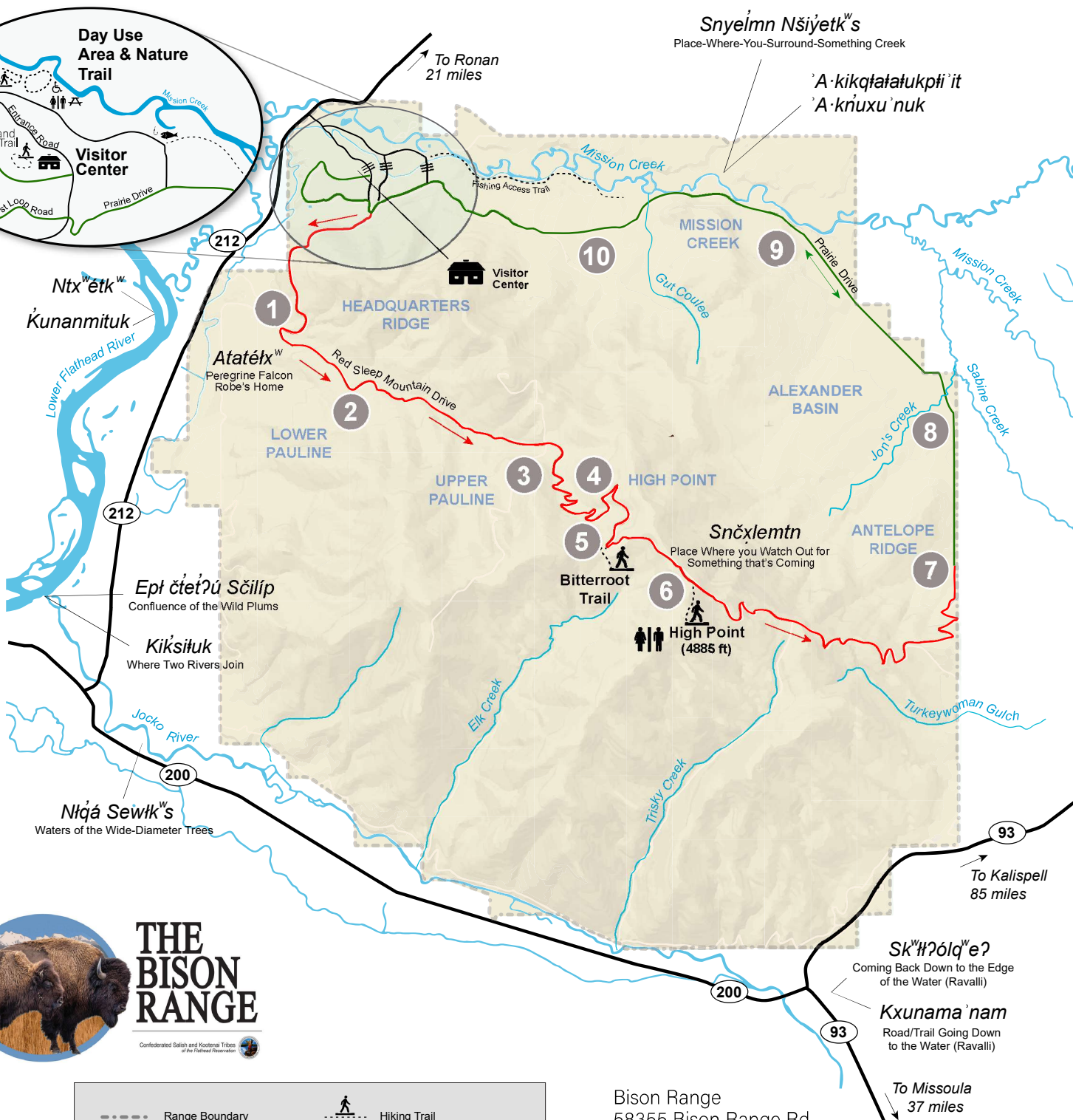
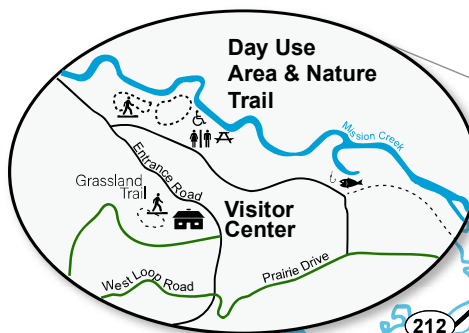
6. The High Point of Red Sleep Mountain Drive is 4,700 feet above sea level. The highest spot on the Range, at 4 885 feet, is to the south. The display describes historic Glacial Lake Missoula.
7. Grasslands have evolved along with the grazers. Bison, elk and pronghorn use this prairie resource. Grasses grow from the base of the stem so they can still continue to grow after being grazed. Different animals eat different kinds or parts of plants at different growth stages and thus minimize competition.
8. Buffalo wallows are dry dust beds, often found in clay banks. Bison roll here to rid themselves of insects. They also display dominance by displacing lower-ranked animals from the wallows.
9. River-bottom woodlands of cottonwood and juniper are sub-irrigated from the stream and provide lush vegetation and cover. Watch for white-tailed deer, elk, and a variety of waterfowl and other birds.
10. Ancient shorelines or strandlines created by Glacial Lake Missoula can be seen on the hillside. The lines reveal the successive levels of this ice-age lake. A "drop stone" from the lake can also be seen from the roadside.

A History of Conservation

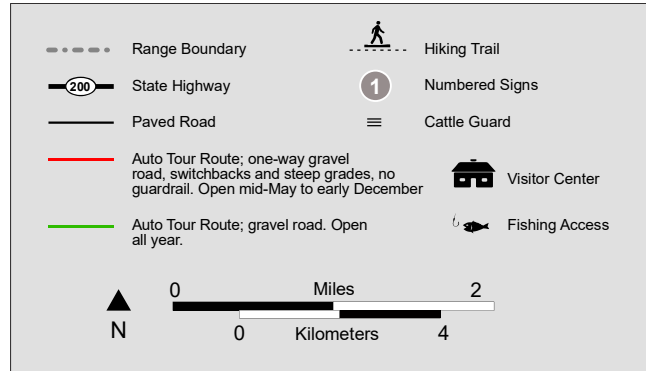
The Tribes have always been good stewards of the land. We maintain the most stringent air quality standard available through the EPA. We established the nation's first Tribal Wilderness. We have set aside tens of thousands of acres as grizzly bear, elk, and bighorn sheep conservation areas. We have re-established populations of trumpeter swans and peregrine falcons.

We are working toward restoring leopard frogs. Our efforts to restore the Jocko River and our acquisition and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat are models cited nationwide. And our focus on conservation is not new. Tribal members were directly involved in saving the bison as a viable wildlife species, and we will carry on for the generations yet to come our ancient relationship of respect and reverence for q'weyq'wáy.

Xest Sxlxalt, Ki'su'k kyukyit! – good day!



THE BISON RANGE
 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
 of the Flathead Reservation



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