

# Bison



## Bison in Yellowstone National Park

Bison are usually dark brown with thick, darker “beards” that go just past their front shoulders. Both males and females have white horns that curve upwards. The females’ horns are more slender and curved. Males (bulls) can be up to 2,000 pounds. Females (sows) can be up to 1,000 pounds. They live 12 to 15 years, eating water plants and grasses. They are the largest land mammal in North America and can run up to 30 miles per hour.

In Yellowstone, bison can be seen year-round in Hayden and Lamar Valleys. In 1902, there were less than two dozen in the park due to poaching. The U.S. Army brought 21 bison from ranches outside the park to bring the population back.

### What did you learn about the bison of Yellowstone?

1. Do only male bison have horns?

No. Female bison have more slender and curved horns.

2. Being the largest land mammal in North America, how much do bison weigh?

Male bison weigh up to 2,000 pounds, females weigh up to 1,000 pounds.

3. Who brought 21 bison back into the park in the early 1900s?

The U.S. Army brought 21 bison from ranches outside the park to repopulate them.

