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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Clint Sampson, Wildlife Biologist

DATE: October 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Review and Updates for Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan.

The previous bison management plan was approved in 2007. There are new challenges to address, requiring us to update the plan. A Book Cliffs Bison Committee was formed to help resolve these issues.

Recommendations for updates are as follows:

Proposed Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan Updates:

- Expanding the bison population objective and splitting it between the subunits.
 - 250 wintering adult bison on the Bitter Creek subunit.
 - 400 wintering adult bison on the Little Creek and South subunits.
 - Previously the bison population objective was 450 wintering adults.
- Justification:
 - The distribution of the bison herd on the Bitter Creek subunit has greatly increased. This has allowed less overall impacts from the bison.
 - There have been several feral horse gathers to increase the amount of forage on the landscape.
 - Through the WRI process, several thousands of acres of habitat have been treated to increase forage. The DWR has invested resources in repairing ponds, building and maintaining guzzlers, and spring developments. This has helped the distribution of bison spread out across the entire Book Cliffs.
 - Current land purchases and changes in grazing practices have created an opportunity for an increase in bison numbers.

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