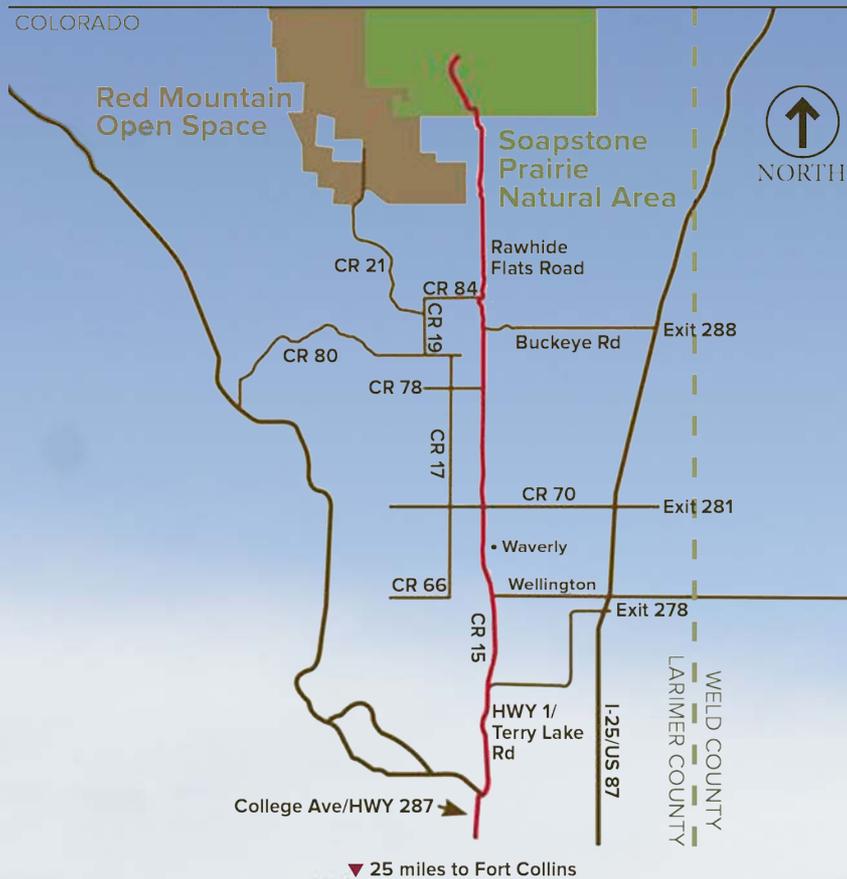


PRESERVING AN ICON

FOR MILLENNIA, AMERICAN BISON HERDS ROAMED THE GREAT PLAINS BY THE MILLIONS – UNTIL OVERHUNTING DROVE THEM NEARLY TO EXTINCTION. A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP IS RETURNING THIS NATIVE ICON TO THE SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE OF NORTHERN COLORADO.



WYOMING
COLORADO



THE LARAMIE FOOTHILLS BISON CONSERVATION HERD

ABOUT 10 PUREBRED AMERICAN BISON will be reintroduced to northern Colorado on Nov. 1, 2015. That's National Bison Day – a symbolic date for bison restoration on a portion of the creature's historic range.

The herd will live and grow about 25 miles north of Fort Collins, at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, owned by the City of Fort Collins, and adjacent Red Mountain Open Space, owned by Larimer County.

These bison, representing the largest land animal in North America, will graze on about 1,000 acres of fenced public property. About 700 acres are within Soapstone Prairie Natural Area; about 300 acres are in Red Mountain Open Space.

Visitors may view the bison from roads and designated trails; to ensure safety, visitors may not enter fenced bison pastures.





A BISON HERD WITH VALUABLE GENETICS

THE LARAMIE FOOTHILLS BISON CONSERVATION HERD is one of few genetically pure American bison herds; most include some bison that carry cattle genes as a result of historical interbreeding.

Pure bison are valued as part of our Western heritage, for the species diversity and vigor they add to natural prairie ecosystems, and for the distinctive genetics they may supply to other conservation herds.

But there's a significant problem: Purebred American bison exist only in pockets of North America, primarily in Yellowstone National Park. Yet many animals in the Greater Yellowstone Area carry a devastating disease called brucellosis that can harm bison, elk, cattle, and people.

The central question for northern Colorado conservationists: How can bison with original Yellowstone genetics be restored to another part of their native range without bringing in disease?



Dr. Jennifer Barfield, CSU reproductive scientist, works with bison and bison embryos.



PARTNERSHIP SOLVES PROBLEM: CONSERVATION WITHOUT DISEASE

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES were the innovative solution needed to establish the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd – a herd with the valuable genetic lineage of Yellowstone bison that also is free from disease.

The techniques used include:

- a laboratory procedure to cleanse semen collected from bison bulls, ensuring disease-free offspring;
- artificial insemination of bison cows with clean semen;
- in vitro fertilization to produce disease-free, bison embryos; and
- embryo transfer of disease-free, embryos to healthy surrogate bison mothers.

The core partners in this project are:

- City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department
- Larimer County Natural Resources Department
- Wildlife/Livestock Disease Investigations Team, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Laboratory, Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

The Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd began with a shared vision for species restoration on city and county lands. Veterinarians with USDA-APHIS, who are based in Fort Collins and have studied brucellosis in wild and domestic animals, have contributed their knowledge and several Yellowstone bison quarantined for more than a decade. CSU scientists have provided reproductive technologies, which were first developed for horses and cattle; these techniques are essential to propagating the herd while also halting disease.

Other contributing partners are: CSU Warner College of Natural Resources, Denver Zoo, and the Folsom Grazing Association.





Named for a mountain ridgeline that spans northern Colorado and southern Wyoming, the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd takes its place on the prairie Nov. 1, 2015.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT:**
www.fcgov.com/naturalareas
www.larimer.org/naturalresources

**THE BISON NEED
YOUR HELP!**

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION.
Your contribution will help pay for fencing, animal-handling facilities, veterinary and laboratory staff, and supplies needed to care for the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd.

TO DONATE, VISIT
advancing.colostate.edu/BISON
or call (970) 491-2969.

