



SR-22-02

# **Results of the 2021 Yukon Bison Hunter Effort Survey**

December 2021



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# Results of the 2021 Yukon Bison Hunter Effort Survey

Government of Yukon  
Fish and Wildlife Branch  
SR-22-02

## Authors

Thomas S. Jung, Catherine Pinard and Rachel E. Westfall

## Acknowledgements

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## Copies available from:

Government of Yukon  
Fish and Wildlife Branch, V-5  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6  
Phone 867-667-5721  
Email: [environmentyukon@yukon.ca](mailto:environmentyukon@yukon.ca)  
Online: [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) and [open.yukon.ca](http://open.yukon.ca)

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## Summary

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- Bison hunting is an increasingly popular activity in the Yukon. Over 2,100 hunters bought a bison hunting seal for the 2020-2021 season, and the number of bison harvested in 2020-2021 by licensed resident hunters was second only to moose.
- The purpose of this survey was to gain current information on the beliefs and behaviour of Yukon bison hunters. This is the second bison hunter effort survey in the Yukon, the first occurred during the 2014-2015 bison hunting season.
- The survey provided bison hunters with an opportunity to share their effort, satisfaction, motivations and ethics, regarding bison hunting in the Yukon. Additionally, we proposed a small suite of hypothetical changes to the bison-hunting regime, to gauge hunter reactions.
- We also asked if COVID-19 affected interest and opportunity to hunt bison in winter 2020–2021.
- The intent of this report is to provide a timely summary of “what we heard” for survey respondents and other interested Yukoners.
- Our survey was delivered to 1,822 hunters that purchased a bison seal for the 2020–2021 season and supplied a valid email address. We received 792 responses (44 per cent response rate), including from 184 of the 274 hunters (67 per cent) that harvested a bison in 2020-2021.
- Here, we provide basic results of respondents’ answers to our survey questions. No detailed statistical analysis or interpretation of the data was undertaken.
- Additionally, the survey itself and abridged final comments by respondents are available as appendices.
- Information obtained from this survey is timely and of value to the Aishihik Bison Technical Team, as it can be used to inform both the development of a new bison management plan and as a source of public perspectives to consider for the bison hunting management regime. The team uses the best available Indigenous, local and scientific information to make recommendations to adaptively manage the bison hunt.

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## Introduction

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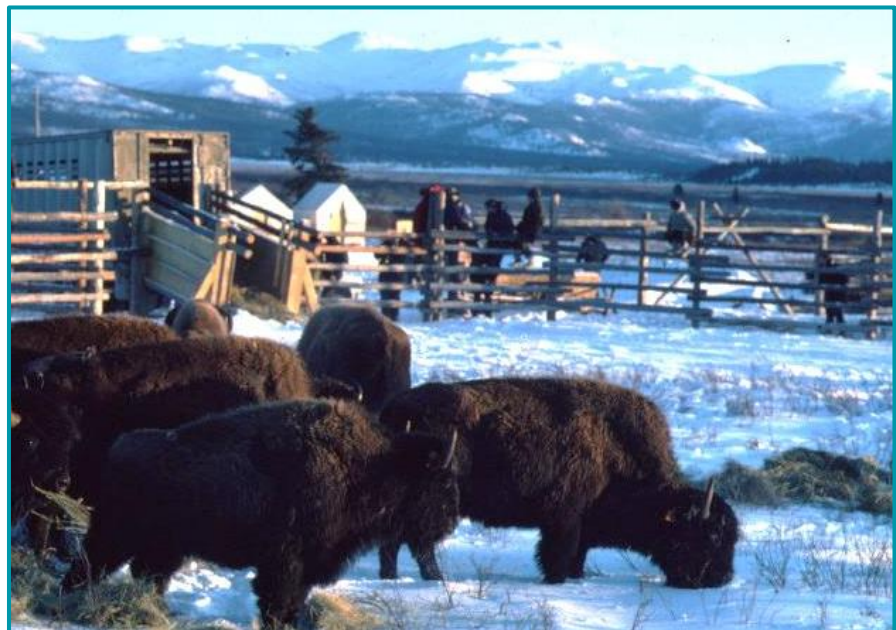
### Aishihik Bison

Bison (*Bison bison*) were once a dominant ecological and cultural force shaping much of the North American landscape. In the Yukon, they grazed alongside mammoths (*Mammuthus primigenius*), caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), sheep (*Ovis dalli*), horses (*Equus lambei*), ground squirrels (*Urocyon parryi*), and other past and present mammals. Importantly, bison fed, clothed and sheltered people since time immemorial. In more modern times, bison were brought to the brink of extinction 100–140 years ago (COSEWIC 2013, Environment and Climate Change Canada 2018). Overhunting, landscape change, and possibly disease contributed to their demise.

Dedicated efforts by many individuals, organizations and communities have ensured that wild bison persist in a few small pockets of their former range. The Aishihik population is one of 14 isolated populations of free-ranging wood bison left on Earth. These bison were reintroduced to southwestern Yukon in 1988–1993 as part of a national effort to restore them to their native range (Government of Yukon 2012, Jung et al. 2015a, Boonstra et al. 2018). From the 170 bison initially released from an enclosure near the Nisling River, the Aishihik population has grown to approximately 1,500 animals (Jung 2020, 2021) and is one of the largest populations of bison in the world. As such, the Yukon is a global steward for bison.

#### Photo caption.

Bison being released into a temporary enclosure near the Nisling River prior to being released into the wild, circa mid-1980s. Photo courtesy of PJ Merchant.



## Bison Hunting in the Yukon

Given their status as a Threatened species on Canada's Species at Risk Act, limited hunting is allowed for only a handful of populations of wild bison in Canada. Since 1998, Yukoners have been increasingly hunting the Aishihik population, with the increase in harvest being concomitant with the growth of the bison population. Four of the last five years have sequentially been a record year in terms of the number of bison seals sold for the Aishihik population and the number of animals harvested (Figure 1). Indeed, bison hunting has become popular, and bison are pursued by many Yukon hunters. For instance, in 2020–2021, the number of bison harvested by licensed resident hunters was second only to moose (*Alces americanus*) and similar to caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*; Government of Yukon 2021). Thus, managing this popular hunt for a species of conservation concern requires an adaptive approach (Box 1) that uses up-to-date information.

### Box 1: Adaptive management

Adaptive management is a framework used to adjust management direction or approaches when a sudden response is needed or when management outcomes are not being met. In 2008, bison were the first species in the Yukon to which an adaptive management framework was explicitly applied. Specifically, the Minister can make changes to bison hunting as warranted — including in-season changes.

An adaptive approach entails closely monitoring the impact of management actions and modifying the management approach based on whether those actions are having the desired outcome. In essence, it is 'learning by doing' (Fontaine 2011). Using new information as it becomes available is key to an adaptive approach.

Bison hunting in the Yukon occurs largely during winter, and is managed similarly to other big game species in the territory. The primary tools that wildlife managers have to regulate the harvest include: (a) setting when bison hunting is permitted in specific game management subzones, (b) establishing bag and possession limits, and (c) determining an annual allowable harvest (AAH). All bison hunters require a seal, which stipulates conditions that must be met by seal holders to harvest a bison. To inform harvest management, the population is regularly monitored. Monitoring relies largely on information from periodic aerial surveys (e.g., Jung et al. 2020), a sample of radio-collared animals (Jung et al. 2018), mandatory hunter submissions (e.g., incisor bars for aging harvested bison, Jung 2021), hunter effort surveys (such as this

one), and local information from First Nation land/game guardians, conservation officers, and local residents, trappers and hunters. The Aishihik Bison Technical Team (Box 2) comes together annually to share information about bison monitoring and management, and each April recommends an AAH and potential changes to the harvest regime or permit conditions. Regulations for bison hunting in the coming season, as well as harvest statistics from the previous season, are provided annually in the Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary (e.g., Government of Yukon 2021).

#### **Box 2: The Aishihik Bison Technical Team**

The Aishihik Bison Technical Team was established in 1999 and strives to cooperatively manage the Aishihik bison population, in conjunction with the Bison Management Committee. The team makes annual recommendations regarding hunting of the Aishihik population, and develops draft management plans. By necessity, they use an adaptive management approach toward implementing approved management plans. Local and Indigenous knowledge and western science are equally used to inform the team's discussions and deliberations.

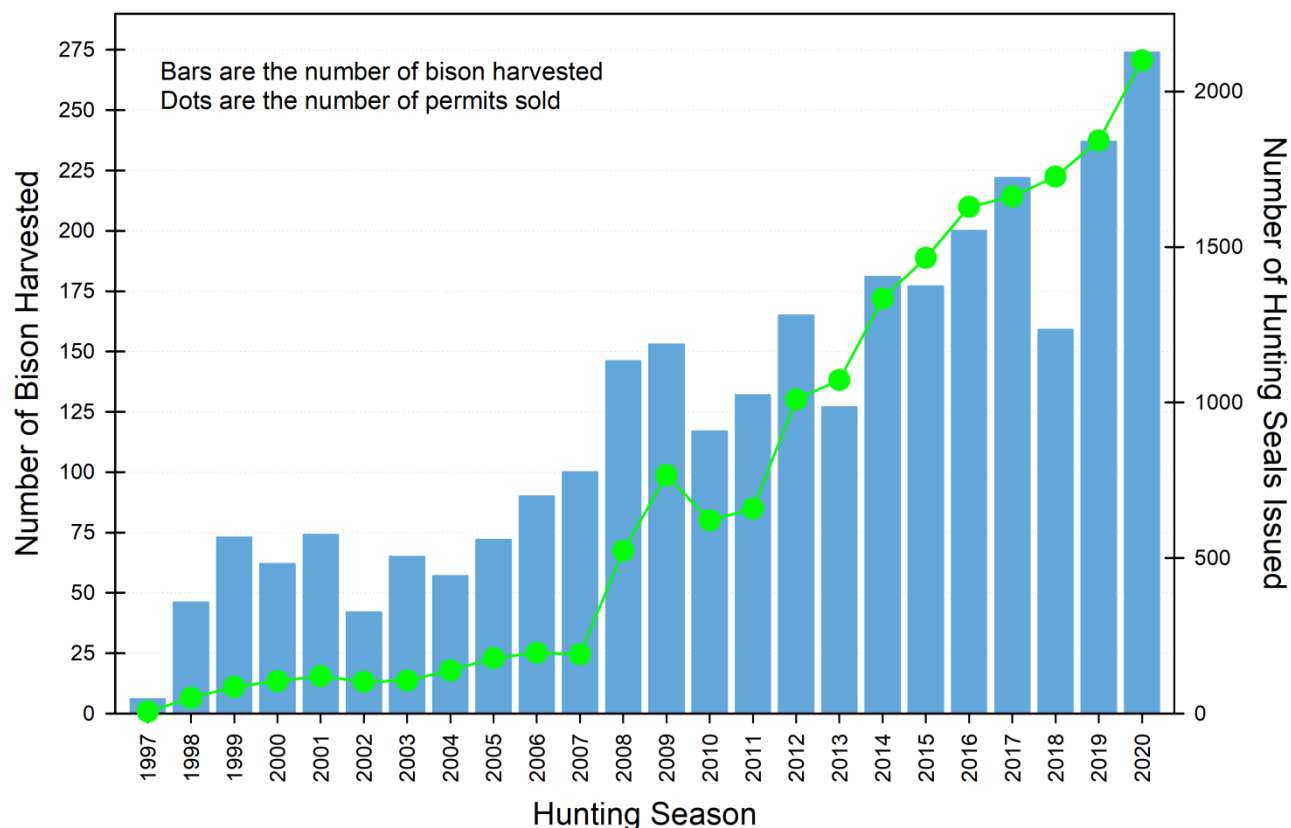
Composition of the technical team is based on organizations with a responsibility for bison management, including the federal and territorial governments, affected First Nations (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Kluane First Nation, and White River First Nation), Renewable Resources Councils (Alsek, Carmacks, Dan Keyi, and Laberge), and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Parks Canada, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, and the local outfitter are observers on the team.

#### **Photo caption.**

Bison Hunt Camp,  
Aishihik Lake,  
February 2002. Photo  
courtesy of TS Jung.







**Figure 1.** The number of bison hunting seals sold and the number of bison harvested from the Aishihik population for each hunting season between 1997–1998 and 2020–2021. Bars are the number of bison harvested and dots are the number of seals sold.

## Hunter Effort Surveys

Understanding the beliefs and behaviour of hunters can help inform harvest management (Radder and Bech-Larsen 2008, Kaltenborn et al. 2012, Brinkman et al. 2018, Aastrup et al. 2020). During the last 40 years, the Department of Environment has periodically conducted surveys of hunters. These surveys are used to gather data on hunting patterns and hunters' perceptions pertaining to harvest management. They help wildlife managers (including First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board) 'take the pulse' of the Yukon's hunting community. Ultimately, the survey information factors into decisions regarding hunting regulations and various wildlife management programs, such as the hunter education and ethics development (HEED) program. As our information needs become increasingly sophisticated, and the science of survey methodologies improves, our

surveys have correspondingly become increasingly complex and nuanced, and in some cases longer.

This is the fourth survey of Yukon bison hunters. The first was conducted by the Yukon Fish and Game Association in 2009 and was focused solely on the contribution of bison hunting to the territorial economy. In 2015, a second survey focused on hunter effort was developed by Environment Yukon (Kanary and Sawatzky 2015). In 2020, a third survey was delivered by a consultant working with the Aishihik Bison Technical Team. This survey provided information to inform the review of a new management plan for the Aishihik population (Bath and Engel 2020). While the 2020 survey asked key questions pertaining to hunting the Aishihik population, targeting hunters and providing data to inform management of the hunt was not its principle focus. Rather, it was designed to gather information and opinions from all Yukoners.

The purpose of the present survey was to gain current information on the beliefs and behaviour of bison hunters in the Yukon. We aimed to provide an opportunity for Yukon's bison hunters to share their thoughts on bison hunting, with a specific focus on their motivations, effort, satisfaction, and interests pertaining to the management of the hunt. Surveys such as ours can provide information to the Aishihik Bison Technical Team to help them develop management approaches for bison hunting in the Yukon that reflect the wishes of communities and hunters, while taking into account the needs of bison. Specifically, results from this survey can help to inform the implementation of adaptive management of bison hunting, as prescribed in management plans for the Aishihik population (Government of Yukon 2012).

This report provides a summary of 'what we heard' to survey respondents and other interested persons. We outline our survey design and delivery, and summarize the responses received for questions posed in the survey. Responses are provided in aggregate, with respondent confidentiality maintained throughout. Similar to other Yukon hunter surveys or those related to wildlife management planning initiatives (e.g., Jung et al. 2018, 2021), we do not provide a detailed interpretation of these data at this time. However, where possible and relevant, we compare the data from the 2020–2021 season with those collected for 2014–2015 season by Kanary and Sawatzky (2015).

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## Methods

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### Survey Design

Given that this survey was focussed on the motivations, effort and satisfaction of bison hunters, we limited our survey to Yukon hunters that held a seal for bison during the 2020–2021 season, which ended on March 31, 2021. We did not ask non-hunters their opinions regarding bison hunting.

We designed a survey that could be delivered online and take approximately 20 minutes for participants to complete. The survey had 58 questions that were organized into several thematic sections (Appendix 1). Section 1 pertained to hunter effort, and included questions on when and how respondents hunted bison, their big game hunting experience, as well as the influence of COVID-19 on their interest and opportunity to hunt bison. We also asked whether respondents had encountered aggressive bison. These questions were multiple choice or “fill-in-the-blank” in design. We also used “skip logic” to increase efficiency and save respondents’ time. For example, if a respondent did not hunt bison in 2020–2021, then they were instructed to “skip” those questions that pertained to their hunting effort in 2020–2021.

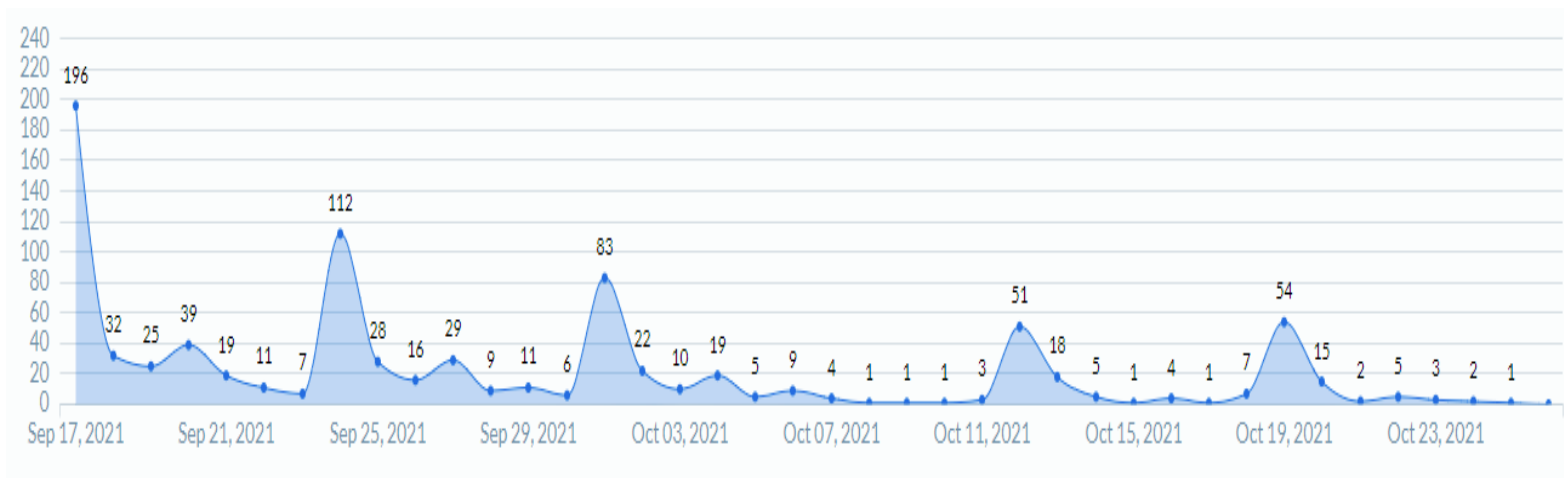
In subsequent sections we used Likert-scale style questions (e.g., Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree), utilizing a 5-point scale with a neutral option. Questions in Section 2 addressed hunter satisfaction, while Section 3 focussed on motivations. Moose is commonly considered the most favoured hunt in the Yukon, so in Section 4 we asked questions relative to moose hunting experiences to determine how respondents truly valued bison and bison hunting. In Section 5 we probed respondents willingness to accept hypothetical changes in the current bison hunting regime. Finally, we provided an opportunity for respondents to offer comments or suggestions regarding bison hunting in the Yukon (Appendix 2). Age, gender and town of residence was included after the survey based on the Department of Environment’s hunting licence database.

Before being implemented, drafts of our survey were reviewed by Department of Environment staff (see Acknowledgements), as well as the Aishihik Bison Technical Team, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and the Yukon Fish and Game Association.

## Survey Delivery

The survey was delivered by staff from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. All 1822 hunters that bought a bison hunting seal for the 2020–2021 hunting season and supplied a valid email address were invited to participate in the survey. Each invitee was provided a key code to unlock and participate in the online survey. Respondents were able to use either a computer or other device (e.g., phone, tablet, etc.), and were able to take the survey in English or French. No phone interviews were conducted. As such, our survey was biased to hunters that supplied an email address and were able to complete the survey online. There were 2,068 licensed bison hunters in 2020–2021.

Our online survey was open for 45 days, beginning on September 17, 2021 and closing on October 25, 2021. Reminders were emailed to invited participants on four occasions (September 24, and October 1, 12 and 19), with all reminders resulting in spikes in survey participation (Figure 2). Completed surveys were managed and compiled by staff at the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.



**Figure 2.** Daily distribution of submission of completed online surveys. Note the spikes in the number of responses that correspond to reminders being emailed to invited participants.

## Data Analyses

Here, we provide basic analyses of survey results. We present the number of respondents answering each question (i.e., sample size) and the percentage for each response option. In keeping with the intent to report the results as “what we heard”, detailed statistical analyses or interpretation of the results were not undertaken. More complex analyses of survey data are planned. Finally, we supply abridged comments submitted by respondents in Appendix 2.

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## Results

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### Respondents

Overall, we received 792 responses to the survey, representing 44% of all licenced bison hunters in 2020–2021. All respondents were Yukon residents. Most respondents were from Whitehorse (82%), followed by communities in the Kluane (7%), Southern Lakes (6%), Liard (2%), central Yukon (2%), and northern Yukon (1%), regions (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Respondents by location.

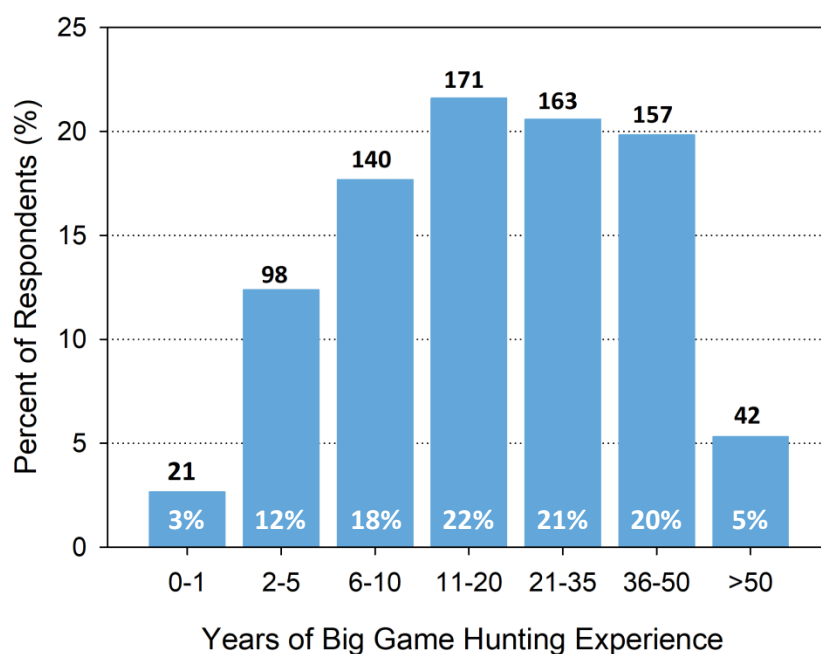
Region	Communities	Number	Per cent
Whitehorse	Whitehorse	660	82%
Southern Lakes	Carcross, Tagish, Teslin, Marsh Lake	44	6%
Liard	Watson Lake, Faro, Ross River	12	2%
North Yukon	Dawson City, Old Crow	7	1%
Kluane	Beaver Creek, Champagne, Destruction Bay, Burwash Landing, Haines Junction	53	7%
Central Yukon	Carmacks, Elsa, Mayo, Pelly Crossing	16	2%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>792</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2.** Respondents by gender and age.

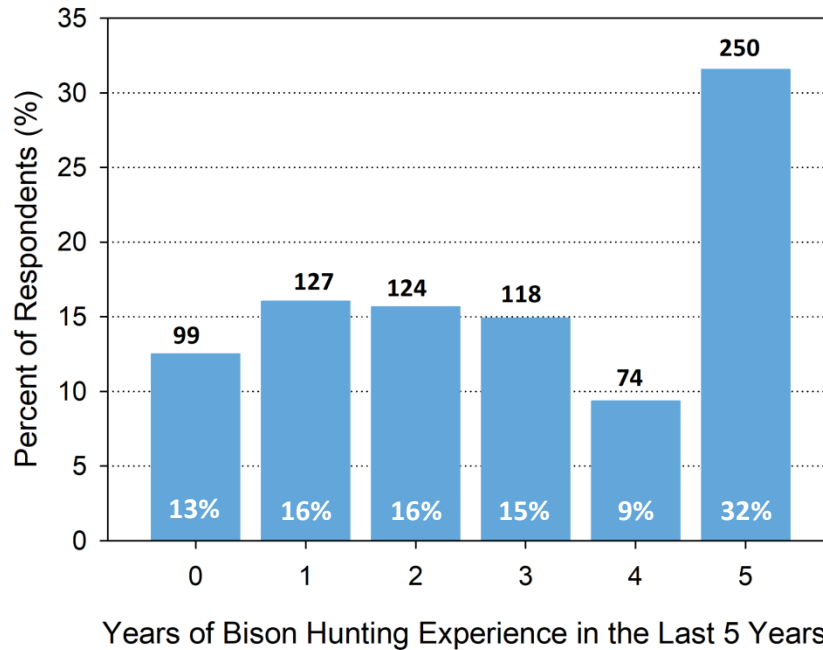
Age Group	Female			Male	
	Number	Per cent		Number	Per cent
< 25 years old	6	7.2%		12	1.7%
25-34 years old	17	20.5%		126	17.9%
35-44 years old	30	36.1%		183	25.9%
45-54 years old	14	16.9%		141	20.1%
55-64 years old	13	15.7%		124	17.6%
≥65 years old	3	3.6%		118	16.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>704</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average age of respondents was 47.5 years old, and ranged from 14 to 84. The majority of respondents self-identified as male ( $n = 704$ , 89%; Table 2), while 83 (11%) self-identified as female, and gender was unknown for the remaining 5 (0.6%). Female respondents tended to be slightly younger than males.

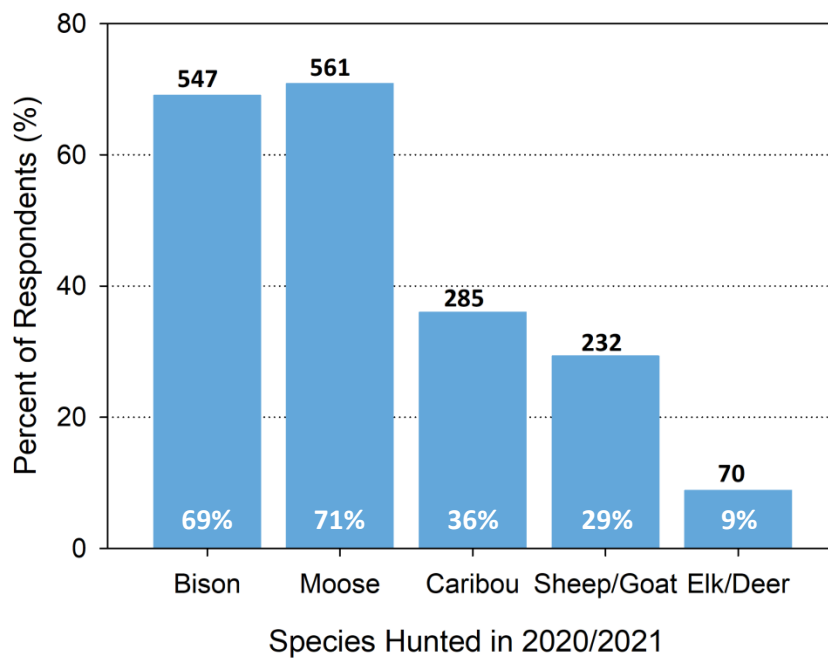
Respondents varied widely in their reported years of experience for hunting big game (Q1; Figure 3), varying from 0 to 80 years. When we asked how many times hunters had sought bison in the last five years, 99 respondents (13%) had not gone bison hunting, while close to a third of respondents had hunted bison each of the last five years (Q2;  $n = 250$ , 32%, Figure 4). The per cent of respondents that had hunted bison in each of the last five years was substantially higher in 2020–2021 when compared to the 2014–2015 survey (32% vs 19%).



**Figure 3.** Results from Question 1. — **How many years of overall big-game hunting experience do you have, including bison or other species?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents ( $n = 792$ ) for each category.



**Figure 4.** Results from Question 2. — **In the last 5 years, how many years did you go bison hunting?**  
Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 792) for each category.



**Figure 5.** Results from Question 8. — **Which big game species did you hunt in Yukon in 2020/2021?**  
**(Check all that apply)** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 792) for each category.

In 2020, 561 (71%) survey respondents reported hunting moose and 547 (69%) hunted bison (Q8, Figure 5). Fewer survey respondents hunted caribou (36%), sheep or goats (29%), or elk or deer (8.8%) in the same year. Just over half (52%,  $n = 411$ ) of survey respondents reported hunting both bison and moose in the same year. About a quarter of respondents hunted two species in the same year. For example, both bison and caribou (28%,  $n = 223$ ) or sheep or goats (24%,  $n = 192$ ) in the same year. A smaller number of respondents hunted both bison and elk or deer in the same year (7%,  $n = 53$ ).

Most respondents ( $n = 596$ , 75.3%) said they planned on hunting bison next season, while 155 (19.6%) were not sure (Q3, Appendix 1). The remaining 41 respondents (5.2%) did not plan to hunt bison the next season.

The majority of respondents ( $n = 509$ , 64.3%) had no preference whether they harvested a male or female bison (Q7, Appendix 1). The rest were closely split on harvesting a male ( $n = 150$ , 18.9%) or female ( $n = 133$ , 16.8%).

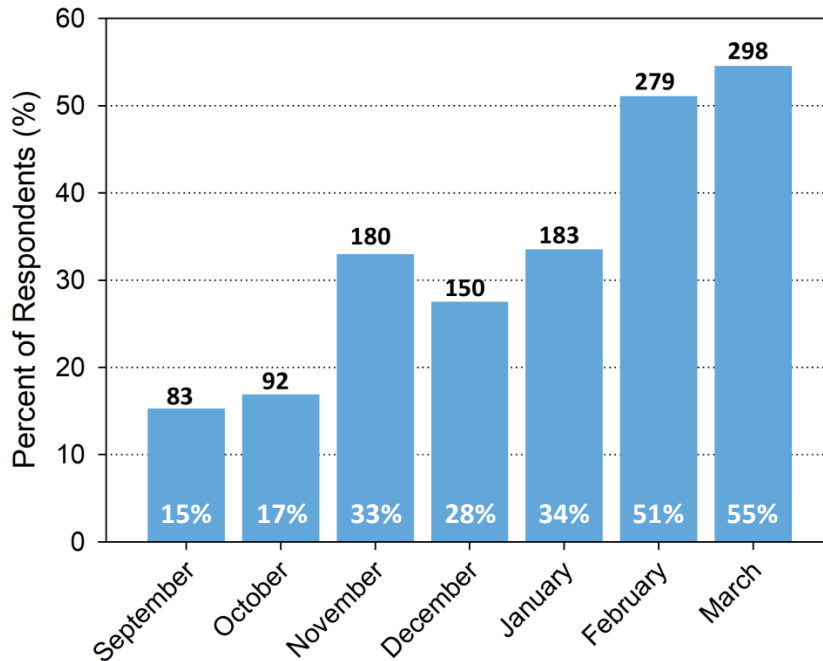
Over two-thirds of respondents hunted bison in 2020–2021 (68%,  $n = 542$ ). Of those respondents, 184 (34%) reported harvesting a bison, while 358 (66%) did not (Q18). For context, a total of 274 bison were harvested in 2020–2021, so our survey captured 67% of those that harvested a bison in the season.

## Hunter Effort

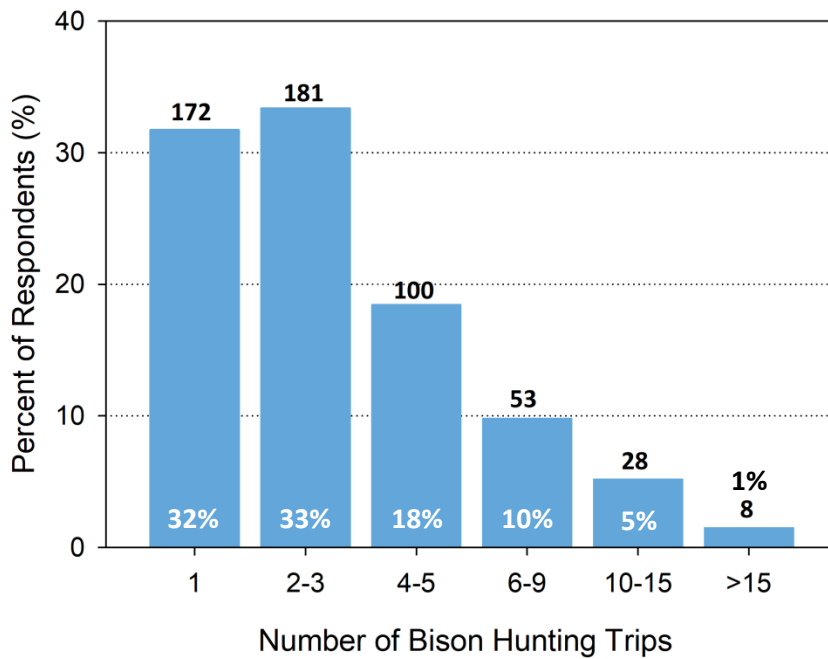
Respondents did not distribute their bison hunting effort equally between months (Q9, Figure 6). Similar to the 2014–2015 hunting season (Kanary and Sawatzky 2015), hunting effort in 2020–2021 was greatest in March and February, and least in the September and October, when hunting was permitted only within highway corridors. Most respondents ( $n = 444$ , 81%) hunted bison during one to three months of the seven months when hunting was open. Less than 5% of respondents hunted bison during six or seven months of the season.

Almost two-thirds (65.1%,  $n = 542$ ) of respondents reported the number of bison hunting trips they had taken in 2020–2021. Of those, 353 reported taking one to three trips in the season, while a third reported having taken only one (31.7%,  $n = 172$ ; Figure 7). Six respondents reported taking 20–30 bison hunting trips in 2020–2021.

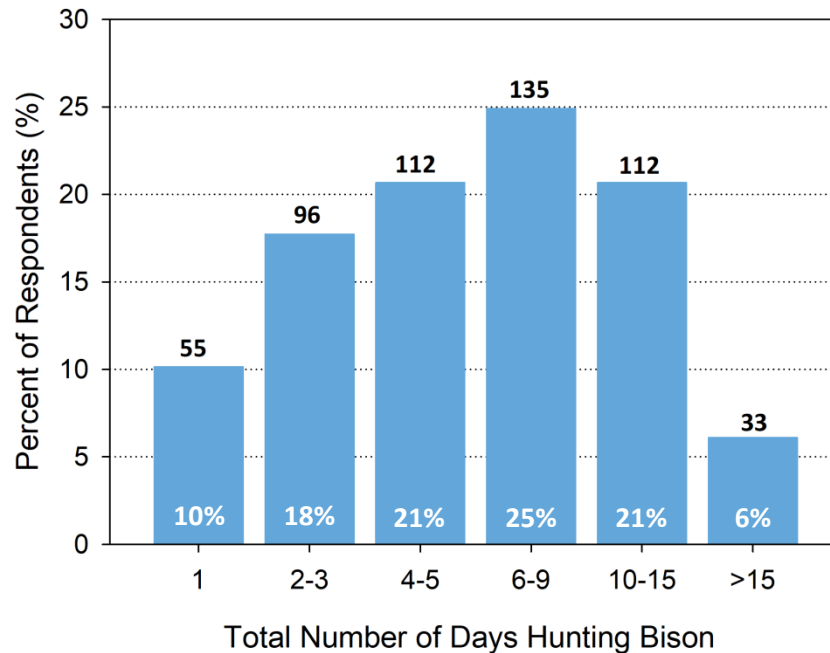




**Figure 6.** Results from Question 9. — **In what months did you go bison hunting in 2020/2021?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 542) for each category.



**Figure 7.** Results from Question 10. — **How many trips did you take to go bison hunting in 2020/2021?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 542) for each category.

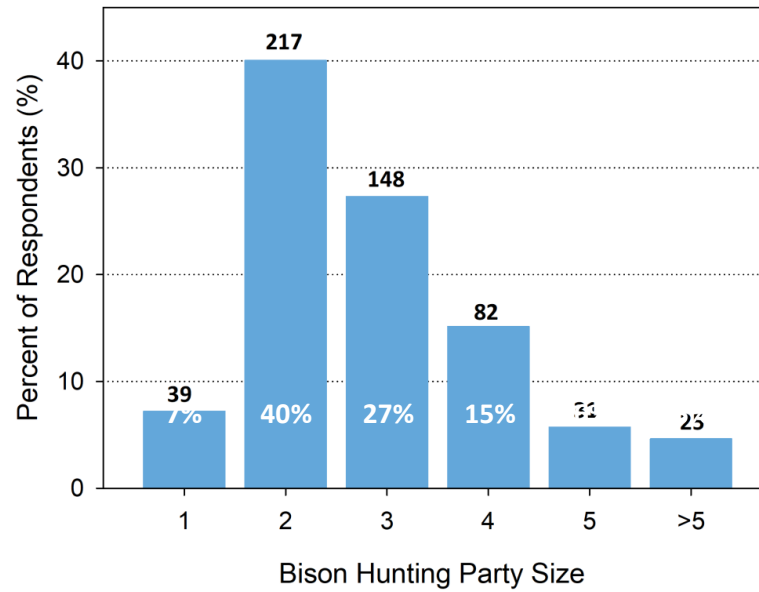


**Figure 8.** Results from Question 11. — **In total, how many days did you hunt bison in 2020/2021?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents ( $n = 542$ ) for each category.

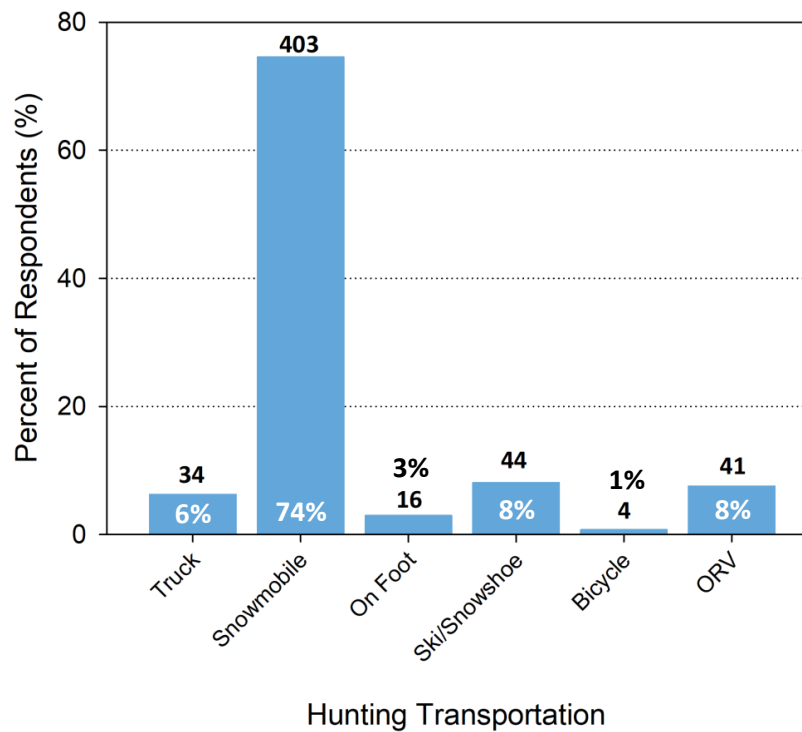
The total number of days respondents hunted bison in 2020–2021 varied widely (Q11,  $n = 542$ , Figure 8), ranging from 1 to 30 days. However, two outliers reported having hunted 40 and 90 days of the season. Not including these two outliers, the average number of days spent bison hunting by respondents in 2020–2021 was 6.9 days. The length of respondents last bison hunting trip (Q12) ranged from 1 to 24 days, with an average of 2.8 days.

Considering only their last bison hunting trip in 2020–2021 (Q13, Appendix 1), respondents reported hunting-party sizes that ranged from 1 to 20 people, with an average of 3.0 people per party. However, over two-thirds of respondents (67.3%,  $n = 365$ ) reported party sizes of 2 to 3 people (Figure 9). Least common were party sizes of only one and parties that had five or more. These results were similar to the 2015 bison hunter effort survey (Kanary and Sawatzky 2015).

Respondents reported using snowmobiles (75%,  $n = 403$ ) as the most common means to hunt bison (Q14). Less common forms of transportation included: snowshoe (8%), off-road recreational vehicle (ORV, e.g. ATV, Argo, motorcycle, 8%), truck (6%), on foot (3%), and by bicycle (1%; Figure 10). Compared to 2015 (Kanary and Sawatzky 2015), a similar per cent of hunters in 2020–2021 hunted by snowmobile or truck, but more hunted on foot or by ski/snowshoe, and less by ORV.



**Figure 9.** Results from Question 13. — **Including yourself, what was the number of people in your last hunting party in 2020/2021?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 542) for each



category.

**Figure 10.** Results from Question 14. — **When you hunted for bison in 2020/2021, what type of hunting transportation did you primarily use (excluding getting to your hunting area)?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 542) for each category.

## Effect of COVID-19

Given the extraordinary circumstances created by the global pandemic during the winter of 2020–2021, we asked survey respondents how COVID-19 had affected their interest and opportunity to hunt bison (Q4 and Q5, Appendix 1). All 792 survey respondents answered these two questions. Most respondents ( $n = 698$ , 88.1%) reported that COVID-19 did not result in them having a greater interest in hunting bison than previous years. Of the remainder, 57 respondents (7.2%) indicated that COVID-19 resulted in them having a greater interest in bison hunting, and 27 (4.7%) were not sure.

With respect to how COVID-19 may have affected respondents opportunity to spend time hunting bison compared to previous years; 690 (87.1%) indicated that it did not provide them with greater opportunity. However, for 76 respondents (9.6%), COVID-19 provided them with greater opportunity to hunt bison, and the remaining 26 respondents (3.3%) were not sure if it did.

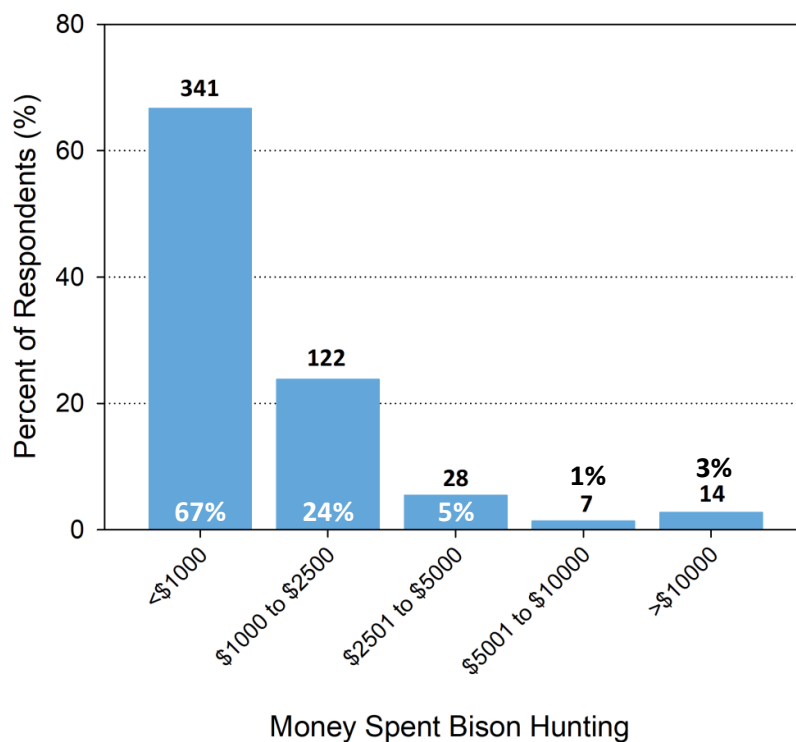
## Encounters with Aggressive Bison

Question 16 asked whether respondents that hunted bison had witnessed aggressive behaviour by bison during their hunt in 2020–2021 (Appendix 1). Of the 547 individuals who responded to this question, 11 (2%) indicated that they had observed aggressive bison. Aggressive encounters reported included seven instances of bison interfering with people who were approaching or butchering a shot bison, six instances of bison charging people or equipment, and two instances of bison blocking access to a trail.

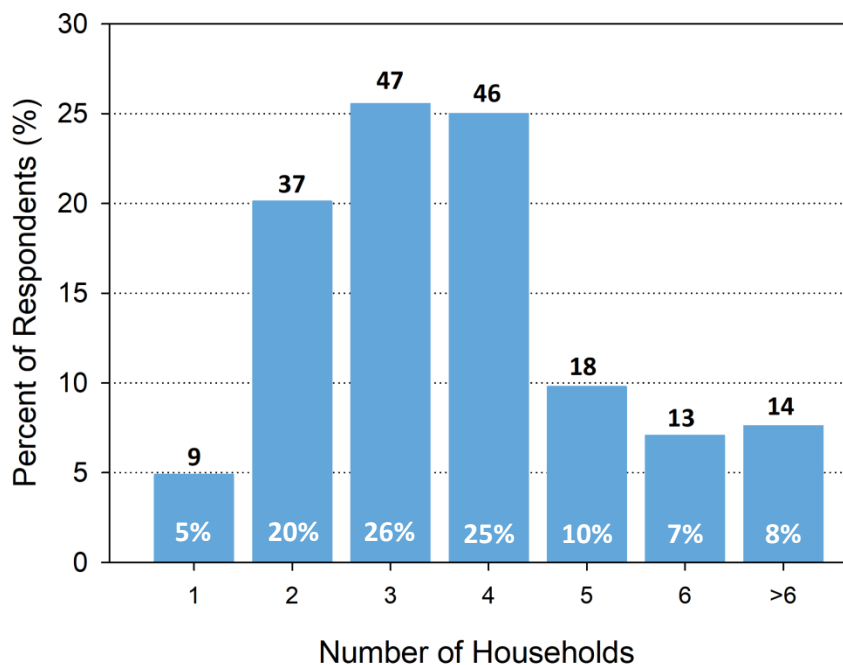
## Bison Hunting Economics

Of the 542 respondents that reported going on a bison hunt in 2020–2021, 513 reported the approximate amount of money they spent on the activity (Q15). Two-thirds of these reported spending less than \$1,000 (Figure 11). Only a small number of respondents ( $n = 49$ , 10%) reported spending more than \$2,500 in 2020–2021 (Q15, Figure 11).

Respondents reported that the 184 bison they collectively harvested were distributed among 704 households (Q19). Most respondents shared the bison they harvested with between two to four households (Figure 12).



**Figure 11.** Results from Question 15. – **About how much money did you spend hunting bison in 2020/2021?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 512) for each category.



**Figure 12.** Results from Question 19. – **Including your own household, how many households received bison meat from your hunt?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents (n = 184) for each category.

## Hunter Knowledge

We asked if respondents had ever taken a bison hunting workshop, and most had not (Q5;  $n = 457$ , 57.7%). Of the remaining respondents, 325 (41.0%) had taken a workshop and 10 (1.3%) were not sure. Most respondents (69%) indicated that they were confident in sexing a bison during their hunt (Q49, Table 3). Almost all respondents felt confident in their knowledge about effective shot placement for bison (Q50, Table 3).

**Table 3.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters with respect to their satisfaction with bison hunting opportunities and information on bison hunting. Included are the sample size ( $n$ ), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

Question	$n$	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Q49.</b> I am confident that I could tell a cow from a bull bison during a hunt.	774	Agree	143 (18%)	397 (51%)	142 (18%)	72 (9%)	20 (3%)
<b>Q50.</b> I am confident that I am knowledgeable about effective shot placement for bison.	786	Agree	361 (46%)	394 (50%)	28 (4%)	2 (0%)	1 (0%)

## Hunter Satisfaction

We asked respondents four questions related to their satisfaction with overall bison hunting opportunities and the availability of information from the Department of Environment (Table 4). Most respondents (69 to 84%) were satisfied or very satisfied with bison hunting opportunities and information from the department (Table 4). The greatest satisfaction (84%,  $n = 591$  respondents) was with Department of Environment staff providing information (Q24). Responses to these questions were similar to those in 2015 (Kanary and Sawatzky 2015), except there was a 5% and 22% increase in satisfaction pertaining to Q24 and Q23, respectively, in 2021. The high level of satisfaction in dealing with Department of Environment staff, particularly the front desk staff, is well reflected in many of the positive comments in Appendix 2.

**Table 4.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters with respect to their satisfaction with bison hunting opportunities and information on bison hunting. Included are the sample size (n), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

Question	n	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither	Dis-satisfied	Very Dis-satisfied
<b>Q21.</b> Overall, how satisfied are you with the opportunity to hunt bison in 2020–2021?	742	Satisfied	275 (37%)	297 (40%)	111 (15%)	31 (4%)	28 (4%)
<b>Q22.</b> How satisfied are you with how clearly the bison hunting rules are explained in the annual hunting regulations summary in 2020–2021?	759	Satisfied	200 (26%)	391 (52%)	110 (14%)	35 (5%)	23 (3%)
<b>Q23.</b> How satisfied are you with how clearly the bison hunting rules and information materials were presented on the Environment Yukon website in 2020–2021?	642	Satisfied	130 (20%)	312 (49%)	142 (22%)	39 (6%)	19 (3%)
<b>Q24.</b> How satisfied overall are you with your experiences dealing with Environment Yukon staff in providing information related to bison hunting in 2020–2021?	710	Satisfied	302 (43%)	289 (41%)	80 (11%)	20 (3%)	19 (3%)



**Photo Caption.** Hidden Valley Elementary School students on a successful school bison hunt near Braeburn, March 2019. Photos courtesy of J Welsh.

We were also interested in understanding how hunter expectations influenced their level of satisfaction with bison hunting. Respondents tended to agree that they could still be satisfied with a bison-hunting trip whether they harvested a bison or not, regardless of trip length (Q25-Q26; Table 5). Most respondents ( $n = 500$ , 67%, Q29) indicated that they agreed that just seeing a wild bison contributed to their satisfaction. Moreover, most respondents disagreed with the statement that they were not satisfied unless they harvested a bison (Q28; Table 5). Most respondents expressed neutral attitudes as to whether seeing other hunters, while they hunted, decreased their satisfaction with the bison hunt.

**Table 5.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters regarding their level of satisfaction with the bison hunting experience. Included are the sample size ( $n$ ), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

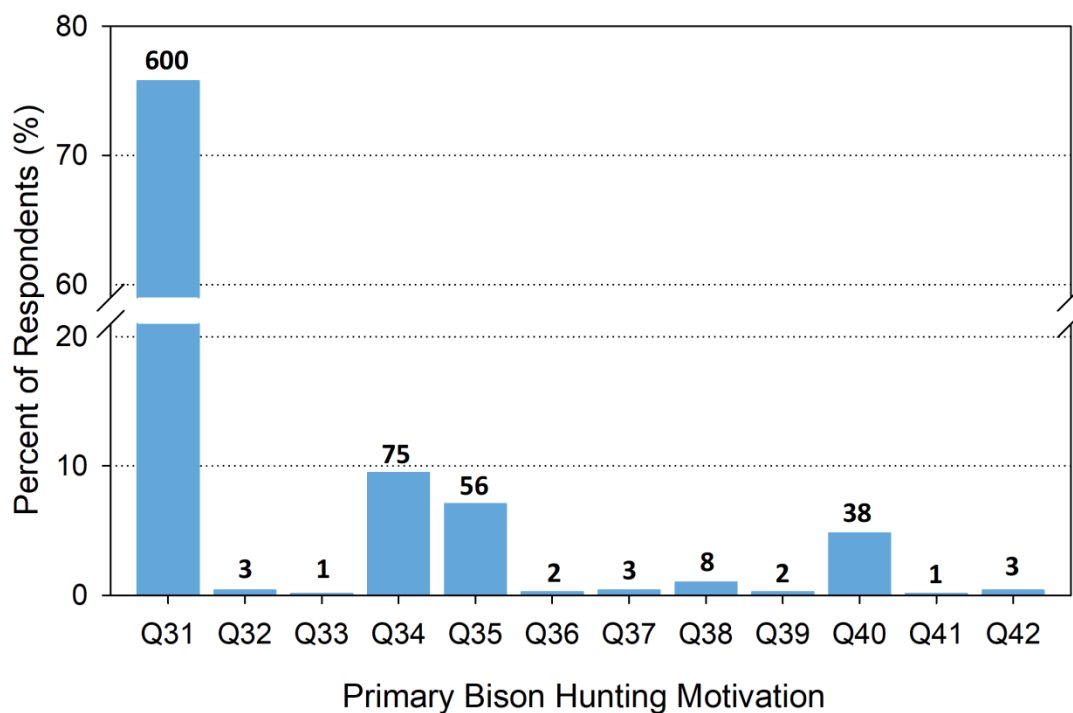
Question	$n$	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Q25.</b> I could be satisfied with a <u>1-day</u> bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.	764	Agree	153 (20%)	345 (45%)	99 (13%)	88 (12%)	79 (10%)
<b>Q26.</b> I could be satisfied with a <u>weekend</u> bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.	770	Agree	162 (21%)	387 (50%)	97 (13%)	63 (8%)	61 (8%)
<b>Q27.</b> I could be satisfied with a <u>1-week</u> bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.	767	Agree	150 (20%)	337 (44%)	124 (16%)	96 (13%)	60 (8%)
<b>Q28.</b> I am not satisfied unless I harvest a bison during the season.	767	Disagree	14 (2%)	59 (8%)	148 (19%)	338 (44%)	208 (27%)
<b>Q29.</b> I could be satisfied with a hunting trip that resulted in just seeing bison in the wild even if I am unable to harvest one.	764	Agree	144 (19%)	366 (48%)	154 (20%)	69 (9%)	31 (4%)
<b>Q24.</b> Encountering other hunting parties while on the land decreases my satisfaction of a bison hunt.	767	Neutral	68 (9%)	249 (32%)	253 (33%)	166 (22%)	31 (4%)



## Hunter Motivation

Respondents were presented with 12 motivations (Table 6) for why they hunt Aishihik bison and asked which was most important. Respondents overwhelmingly picked obtaining healthy food as their primary motivation ( $n = 600$ , 76%; Figure 13). This is not surprising, and similar to that for the 2020 small game survey (Jung et al. 2021). However, responses indicated that just over a quarter ( $n = 192$ , 26%) of respondents ranked motivations other than food as a primary motivation for bison hunting. The main alternative reasons being that hunting was an enjoyable outdoor activity (Q34), spending time on the land (Q35), and as a social activity with family or friends (Q40).

When asked whether they agreed with each of these 12 potential motivations being a reason for hunting bison, the median response was “Agree” for the majority (Table 6). The exceptions being to obtain healthy food (Q31, ‘Strongly Agree’), teach others how to hunt (Q37, “Neutral”), for the hide or skull (Q41, “Disagree”), and to help control bison population growth (Q42, “Neutral”, Table 6).



**Figure 13.** Results from Question 43. – **Which of the following is the main reason why you hunt bison?** Values above the bars are the number of respondents ( $n = 792$ ) for each category. Questions can be found in Table 6 below.

**Table 6.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters with respect to their bison hunting motivation. Included are the sample size (n), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

Question “I hunt bison...”	n	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Q31.</b> ...to obtain healthy food.	792	Strongly Agree	415 (52%)	337 (43%)	29 (4%)	2 (0%)	9 (1%)
<b>Q32.</b> ...to see bison in the wild.	792	Agree	123 (16%)	376 (47%)	175 (22%)	89 (11%)	29 (4%)
<b>Q33.</b> ...to learn more about bison.	792	Agree	101 (13%)	336 (42%)	223 (28%)	107 (14%)	25 (3%)
<b>Q34.</b> ... because hunting is an enjoyable outdoor activity.	792	Agree	347 (44%)	388 (49%)	40 (5%)	10 (1%)	7 (1%)
<b>Q35.</b> ...to spend time on the land.	792	Agree	369 (47%)	370 (47%)	36 (5%)	12 (2%)	5 (1%)
<b>Q36.</b> ...to improve my hunting skills.	792	Agree	171 (22%)	351 (44%)	196 (25%)	58 (7%)	16 (2%)
<b>Q37.</b> ...to teach others how to hunt.	792	Neutral	81 (10%)	270 (34%)	287 (36%)	131 (17%)	23 (3%)
<b>Q38.</b> ...for the sport/challenge of it.	792	Agree	102 (13%)	304 (38%)	190 (24%)	141 (18%)	55 (7%)
<b>Q39.</b> ...to learn more about the environment.	792	Agree	108 (14%)	340 (43%)	234 (30%)	95 (12%)	15 (2%)
<b>Q40.</b> ...as a social activity with friends or family.	792	Agree	178 (22%)	405 (51%)	135 (17%)	51 (6%)	23 (3%)
<b>Q41.</b> ...for the hide or skull.	792	Disagree	26 (3%)	99 (13%)	195 (25%)	314 (40%)	158 (20%)
<b>Q42.</b> ...to help control bison population growth.	792	Neutral	37 (5%)	192 (24%)	299 (38%)	183 (23%)	81 (10%)

## Value of Bison Hunting

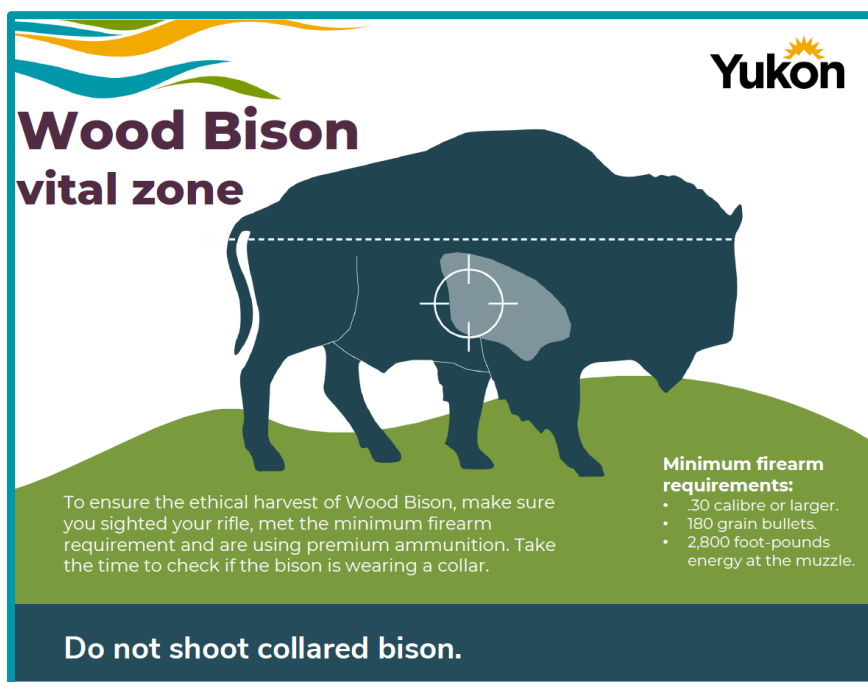
To gauge how bison hunters value bison and bison hunting, we asked respondents to compare their beliefs as they relate to moose, a species highly-valued by many Yukon hunters. In terms of ethical questions, when respondents were asked if bison have the same intrinsic value as moose (Q44, Table 7), the median response was “Agree”. When asked if bison hunting should follow the same ethical principles as for moose (Q45), the median response was also “Agree”. Respondents were ‘Neutral’ (split) on whether they enjoyed bison hunting as much or more than moose hunting (Q46). A large majority of respondents (n = 616, 79%) either “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that even seasoned moose hunters needed new information to safely and effectively hunt bison, (Q48). Finally, respondents were “Neutral” on whether hunters should hunt both a bison and moose in the same season (Q47).

**Table 7.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters with respect to how they value bison compared to moose (a highly valued species among many Yukon hunters). Included are the sample size (n), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

Question “I hunt bison...”	n	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Q44.</b> Bison have the same intrinsic value as moose.	754	Agree	115 (15%)	298 (40%)	185 (25%)	134 (18%)	22 (3%)
<b>Q45.</b> Bison hunting should follow the same ethical principles as for moose hunting.	757	Agree	234 (31%)	354 (47%)	112 (15%)	42 (6%)	15 (2%)
<b>Q46.</b> I value bison hunting as much or more than moose hunting.	778	Neutral	140 (18%)	246 (32%)	227 (29%)	137 (18%)	28 (4%)
<b>Q47.</b> Hunters should harvest either a bison or moose in the same year, but not both.	770	Neutral	106 (14%)	158 (21%)	151 (20%)	211 (27%)	144 (19%)
<b>Q48.</b> Even seasoned moose hunters need to learn or review new information to effectively and safely hunt bison.	775	Agree	202 (26%)	414 (53%)	104 (13%)	36 (5%)	18 (2%)

## Hunting Practices

The final set of survey questions dealt with how comfortable respondents were with the current bison hunting regime, but also presented respondents with several hypothetical alternatives to the regime (Table 8). The median response was “Agree” when asked if respondents were comfortable with reviewing available information prior to bison hunting to ensure their hunt was safe and effective (Q51, Table 8). They also agreed with the hypothetical prohibition of harvesting female bison at the end of March to protect animals in late pregnancy (Q53). The median response was ‘Neutral’ when respondents were asked if they would be comfortable with sex-specific seals (Q52). They also gave a ‘Neutral’ response when presented with a hypothetical regime that included a shorter season to give local residents, trappers, bison, and other wildlife a break from hunters on the land (Q54 and Q55). Respondents provided a median value of ‘Disagree’ to limiting bison opportunities in order to lessen their impact (Q56) or encounters with other bison hunting parties (Q57). Overall, respondents provided a median response of ‘Agree’ regarding keeping the opportunity to hunt bison the same as in 2020–2021 (Q58, Table 8).



**Table 8.** Summary of results from questions posed to bison hunters with respect to their comfort level with hypothetical changes to the bison hunting regime. Included are the sample size (n), median response, and frequency distribution of responses.

Question “I would be comfortable with...”	n	Median	Frequency Distribution				
			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Q51.</b> ...reviewing available educational information prior to hunting bison to ensure my hunt is effective and safe.	780	Agree	140 (18%)	453 (58%)	127 (16%)	45 (6%)	15 (2%)
<b>Q52.</b> ...having permits/seals sold specifically for only one sex of bison if there is a management need to do so.	779	Neutral	73 (9%)	307 (39%)	137 (18%)	158 (20%)	104 (13%)
<b>Q53.</b> ...restricting harvest of adult cows at the end of March to protect females that are close to giving birth.	781	Agree	212 (27%)	332 (43%)	121 (15%)	74 (9%)	42 (5%)
<b>Q54.</b> ...having a shorter bison-hunting season to give local trappers and residents, bison, and other wildlife a break from hunting activity.	766	Neutral	51 (7%)	163 (21%)	190 (25%)	228 (30%)	134 (17%)
<b>Q55.</b> ...having a bison-hunting season closure during mid-winter (January to mid-February) to give local trappers and residents, bison, and other wildlife a break from hunting activity.	778	Neutral	51 (7%)	235 (30%)	161 (21%)	201 (26%)	130 (17%)
<b>Q56.</b> ...having more limited bison-hunting opportunities to ensure less impacts to the land and other wildlife.	772	Disagree	36 (5%)	153 (20%)	193 (25%)	248 (32%)	142 (18%)
<b>Q57.</b> ...having more limited bison-hunting opportunities to ensure I encounter fewer other hunting parties.	769	Disagree	36 (5%)	151 (20%)	187 (24%)	251 (33%)	144 (19%)
<b>Q58.</b> I would like the opportunity to hunt bison to stay the same as it was during the 2020/2021 bison hunting season.	764	Agree	22 (29%)	314 (41%)	176 (23%)	34 (4%)	16 (2%)

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## Appendices

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### Appendix 1. Bison Hunter Effort Survey

We are conducting a Bison Hunter Effort Survey on behalf of Yukon Government (YG). You are receiving an invitation to participate in this survey because you purchased a bison hunting permit/seal for the 2020/2021 season, **which ended on 31 March 2021.**

The purpose of the survey is to get a better understanding of bison hunter effort, satisfaction, and motivations, as well as your thoughts on bison hunting practices. Your responses will help to shape the harvest of bison in the future.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses are confidential. Information collected through this survey is protected in accordance with Yukon's Statistics Act. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics is hosting this survey on behalf of the Department of Environment. Your responses will be shared with the Department of Environment. Your individual responses will be and combined with others for reporting purposes.

The survey should take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

#### Section 1. Hunting Effort

1. How many years of overall big-game hunting experience do you have, including bison or other species?  
Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. **In the last 5 years**, how many years did you go bison hunting?
  - 1 year
  - 2 years
  - 3 years
  - 4 years
  - 5 years
  - I did not hunt bison
  
3. Do you plan to go bison hunting **next season** (2021/2022)?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_



- Yes
  - No
  - I'm not sure
4. Did you have a greater interest in hunting bison in 2020/2021 as a result of COVID-19 restrictions on travel outside of Yukon?
- Yes
  - No
  - I'm not sure
5. Did COVID-19 provide you with a greater opportunity to spend time hunting bison in 2020/2021 than in other years?
- Yes
  - No
  - I'm not sure
6. Have you ever taken a Bison Hunting Workshop?
- No
  - Yes
  - I'm not sure
7. Did you prefer to harvest a cow or bull bison in 2020/2021?
- Cow (female)
  - Bull (male)
  - No preference
8. Which big game species did you hunt in Yukon in 2020/2021? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Bison → **If not selected then go to Q21**
  - ☐ Moose
  - ☐ Caribou
  - ☐ Sheep and/or Goat
  - ☐ Elk and/or Deer
  - ☐ None of the above
9. In what months did you go bison hunting in 2020/2021? (Check all that apply.)
- ☐ September
  - ☐ October

- ☐ November
- ☐ December
- ☐ January
- ☐ February
- ☐ March

10. How many trips did you take to go bison hunting in 2020/2021?

Number of trips: \_\_\_\_\_

11. In total, how many days did you hunt bison in 2020/2021?

Number of days: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How many days was your last bison hunting trip in 2020/2021? (If you only hunted bison once then it is the same as above.)

Number of days: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Including yourself, what was the number of people in your last hunting party in 2020/2021?

Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_

14. When you hunted for bison in 2020/2021, what type of hunting transportation did you primarily use (excluding getting to your hunting area)? (Check one only.)

- ☐ Vehicle (Truck/Car)
- ☐ Snowmobile
- ☐ ATV/Argo/Motorbike
- ☐ Horseback
- ☐ On Foot
- ☐ Skis/Snowshoes
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. About how much money did you spend hunting bison in 2020/2021?

- ☐ Less than \$1,000
- ☐ \$1,000 to \$2,500
- ☐ \$2,501 to \$5,000
- ☐ \$5,001 to \$10,000
- ☐ More than \$10,000

- I'm not sure / prefer not to say
16. Did you witness aggressive behaviour by bison during your hunt **in 2020/2021?**
- Yes
  - No → **Go to Q18**
17. What aggressive bison behaviour did you witness? (Check all that apply.)
- ☐ Bison charging people or equipment
  - ☐ Bison blocking the trail access
  - ☐ Bison interfering with people who were approaching or butchering a shot bison
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
18. Did you harvest a bison **in 2020/2021?**
- Yes
  - No → **Go to Section 2, Q20**
19. Including your own household, how many households received bison meat from your hunt?
- Number of households: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 2. Hunting Satisfaction

Please indicate your level of satisfaction or agreement with the following statements.

20. Overall, how satisfied were you with your bison hunting experience **in 2020-2021?**
- Very dissatisfied
  - Dissatisfied
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Very Satisfied
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
21. Overall, how satisfied are you with the opportunity to hunt bison **in 2020-2021?**
- Very dissatisfied
  - Dissatisfied

- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Very Satisfied
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
22. How satisfied are you with how clearly the bison hunting rules are explained in the annual hunting regulations summary in 2020-2021?
- Very dissatisfied
  - Dissatisfied
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Very Satisfied
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
23. How satisfied are you with how clearly the bison hunting rules and information materials were presented on the Environment Yukon website in 2020-2021?
- Very dissatisfied
  - Dissatisfied
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Very Satisfied
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
24. How satisfied overall are you with your experiences dealing with Environment Yukon staff in providing information related to bison hunting in 2020-2021?
- Very dissatisfied
  - Dissatisfied
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Very Satisfied
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
  - Not applicable
25. I could be satisfied with a 1-day bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral

- Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
26. I could be satisfied with a **weekend** bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
27. I could be satisfied with a **1-week** bison hunting trip even if I do not harvest a bison.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
28. I am **not** satisfied unless I harvest a bison during the season.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
29. I could be satisfied with a hunting trip that resulted in just seeing bison in the wild even if I am unable to harvest one.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say

30. Encountering other hunting parties while on the land decreases my satisfaction of a bison hunt.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say

### SECTION 3. Hunter Motivation

Here, we are interested in why you hunt bison.

31. I hunt bison to obtain healthy food.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
32. I hunt bison to see bison in the wild.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
33. I hunt bison to learn more about bison.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
34. I hunt bison because hunting is an enjoyable outdoor activity.
- ☐ Strongly disagree

- ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  
  - 35. I hunt bison to spend time on the land.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  
  - 36. I hunt bison to improve my hunting skills.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  
  - 37. I hunt bison to teach others how to hunt.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  
  - 38. I hunt bison for the sport/challenge of it.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  
  - 39. I hunt bison to learn more about the environment.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
-

- ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  - 40. I hunt bison as a social activity with friends or family.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  - 41. I hunt bison for the hide or skull.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  - 42. I hunt bison to help control bison population growth.
    - ☐ Strongly disagree
    - ☐ Disagree
    - ☐ Neutral / Not sure
    - ☐ Agree
    - ☐ Strongly agree
  - 43. Which of the following is **the main reason** why you hunt bison? (Select only one.)
    - ☐ To obtain healthy food.
    - ☐ To see bison in the wild.
    - ☐ To learn more about bison.
    - ☐ As an enjoyable outdoor activity.
    - ☐ To spend time on the land.
    - ☐ For the sport/challenge of it.
    - ☐ To improve my hunting skills.
    - ☐ To teach others how to hunt animals.
    - ☐ It makes me more aware of the environment.
    - ☐ As a social activity with friends or family.
    - ☐ For the hide or skull.
    - ☐ To control bison population growth.
-



## SECTION 4. Values and Knowledge

In this section, we are primarily interested in how you value bison and bison hunting in comparison to moose.

- 44. Bison have the same intrinsic value as moose.
  - ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say
  
- 45. Bison hunting should follow the same ethical principles as for moose hunting.
  - ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say
  
- 46. I value bison hunting as much or more than moose hunting.
  - ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say
  
- 47. Hunters should harvest either a bison or moose in the same year, but not both.
  - ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say

48. Even seasoned moose hunters need to learn or review new information to effectively and safely hunt bison.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say
49. I am confident that I could tell a cow from a bull bison during a hunt.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say
50. I am confident that I am knowledgeable about effective shot placement for bison.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
  - ☐ Don't know / prefer not to say

## SECTION 5. Hunting Practices

**In this section we are primarily interested in your thoughts on bison-hunting ethics and practices.**

51. I would be comfortable with reviewing available educational information prior to hunting bison to ensure my hunt is effective and safe.
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neutral
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree

- Don't know / prefer not to say
52. I would be comfortable with having permits/seals sold specifically for only one sex of bison if there is a management need to do so.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
53. I would be comfortable with restricting harvest of adult cows at the end of March to protect females that are close to giving birth.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
54. I would be comfortable with having a shorter bison-hunting season (currently November to March) to give local trappers and residents, bison, and other wildlife a break from hunting activity.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
55. I would be comfortable with having a bison-hunting season closure during mid-winter (January to mid-February) to give local trappers and residents, bison, and other wildlife a break from hunting activity.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree

- Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
56. I would be comfortable with having more limited bison-hunting opportunities to ensure less impacts to the land and other wildlife.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
57. I would be comfortable with having more limited bison-hunting opportunities to ensure I encounter fewer other hunting parties.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say
58. I would like the opportunity to hunt bison to stay the same as it was during the 2020/2021 bison hunting season.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Don't know / prefer not to say

## SECTION 6. Final Comments

Please feel free to leave comments about your bison hunting effort, motivation, or satisfaction, or your thoughts on bison hunting practices.

**Thank you for sharing your time and thoughts about bison hunting!**

## Appendix 2. Comments by Respondents

Abridged comments submitted by 326 respondents to a survey on bison hunter effort in the Yukon. Only those comments that were specific or applicable to bison are included.

A small number of comments about hunting of other species, unrelated to hunting issues, containing potentially inflammatory statements against groups and individuals, or containing profanity, were either abridged or deleted. Any information that could identify respondents has also been removed. A [...] indicates when text has been removed from a comment.

Comment Number	Comment
1	Stop spending money on bison. We need to know more about our moose populations. 100% hunters should NOT get to harvest a moose and a bison. Its greedy, disrespectful, and excessive. These animals are food. Not sporting toys for us to play with.
2	I disagree with current Yukon Environment practise of steering hunters to particular areas for purpose of bison hunting, believing it to be short sighted. Hunting bison safely, ethically and effectively in areas where animal harvest is desired can be accomplished by maintaining roadways and parking areas for safe winter travel.
3	thanks for the opportunity to provide input into this valuable resource.
4	Limit harvest to 1 per household, maximum. Also for all other species!
5	Our family loves bison hunting and we would like the responsible management of this species to continue so that we can have these hunting opportunities well into the future
6	It would be great to have a PHA for bison, beyond the 3km alaska highway and 1 km Klondike highway corridors, during the pre season hunt. I love hunting bison on foot and have passed up the opportunity to harvest one on a few occasions. I really enjoy spending time with the animals because they are much like ghosts of the forest and can just disappear. I feel Yukon bison should not be exploited by TV hunting shows. I strongly feel Bison should also be introduced further up into the Yukon Interior. More bison the better.
7	I've hunted in Yukon for 28 years. I appreciate the opportunity to hunt bison very much and feel very strong about preserving that opportunity.
8	since fur prices are in the tank for the most part I don't see how this is impacting trappers who's soul income is trapping. I've read a report that the Bison herd is still increasing in size so I see no reason to decrease the duration of the season. How can you see bison as equal /intrinsically valuable as moose when they only range in one area. Bison have/are learning how to deal with hunting pressure, IE: moving wintering ranges, using hill tops as safety zones.

	Bison hunting is a tough sport, it's expensive, cold, and all too often fruitless. It takes time (days to find them) and the climate plays a crucial role in access. I find them harder to hunt than moose, they don't come to a call! there is less light and snow storms/ extreme cold weather cut into what time a person does have during a hunt.
9	<p>Unlimited issuance of bison tags results in too many hunters on the land. The bison range / accessible areas are relatively limited which concentrates hunting pressure / effort. The number of hunters on the land after bison in 2020 was ridiculous.</p> <p>I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ONLY RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HUNT BISON. NO MORE RESIDENT SPECIAL GUIDE PERMITS SHOULD BE ISSUED.</p>
10	We are indeed fortunate to be able to hunt bison in the Yukon, however there are way too many hunters on the land hunting bison during the very long season. The number of bison seals issued should be reduced or restricted to time periods to distribute hunting pressure. There has been negative impact on trappers by bison hunters.
11	I think there could be other solution on how to reduce hunting pressure and use of land than what has been suggested. Such as giving out permits for a hunter/hunting party only every other year or so.
12	I like the idea of giving bison or at least females at break close to calving season
13	Changing the Aishihik hunting from September to November was wrong... The season should start Sept. 1
14	There should be consideration of a fall hunt where we then do not have opportunity to hunt moose in return.
15	Your questions are geared toward a hidden agenda. Be open in your plans.
16	My bison hunting efforts during the 2020/21 season were limited on my end as I was [...] unable to get out as much as anticipated health wise and with all the snow. [...] I feel very fortunate to take my kids out on the land and harvest a bison to feed our family.
17	The question suggests that there is significant impact on the land resulting from hunting activity. Where is the science on such a statement? I see the perception of too much activity, however, I'm concerned that environmental impact is more rhetoric. There is some impact on trappers but a proper assessment of actual impacts prior to significant bison harvest needs to be assembled. Conservation officers have the most objective experience with actual trapping activity, even if partly anecdotal. Further, trails made by trappers could warrant some consideration/limitation if true impacts occur and documented. Education efforts have been limited more recently in this regard. Finally, the "threshold" population in the plan should be revisited as the rationale of competition with other large species has been largely debunked.

	Extreme care should be taken when placing limitations on crown land access to this population when it results from stated social concerns that haven't been well documented other than 'voiced' in meetings. The alternative opportunity for hunting and country food acquisition through the bison has significantly lowered impacts on more vulnerable moose and caribou populations near by.
18	Do not add more restrictions or obstacles. The hunters trail ban is silly miners are all over the place on atv/utv as well as recreational riders. They go right past you and bust you while on a stalk. Also retrieving your Bison in a backpack is very dangerous and numerous trips to the kill site only risks your kill being taken over by a bear. One or two trips in on an atv/utv and your done. Thank You
19	Shortening season will just increase pressure during those specific times bad idea.
20	I would like to see more Special Guiding License draws for non-Yukoners (But Canadian) hunters. Friends and family who live outside of Yukon the opportunity to come to the Yukon to Hunt a Bison
21	I don't like that people use aircraft prior to a hunt to find game and then go on their hunt
22	<p>I enjoy Bison hunting and hunt them respectfully. Due to my line of work I am away for most of the regular hunting season and as such hunting Bison presents one of the only reliable opportunities I have to enjoy hunting in the Yukon. Your questionnaire seems to imply a need to limit the hunting opportunities for Bison, this I do not agree with - unless there is a management need for it to ensure the survival of the species. Social acceptability of trappers etc. should not weigh play a factor.</p> <p>I would agree to if you have harvested a moose you should not harvest a bison and vice versa, as there is no need in life to harvest that much meat in a year, and would like due a service to both species in the Yukon.</p> <p>Personally I hope the bison continue to grow in population and expand their range. A population goal of 1000 seems like a great injustice for a species brought back from the brink of extinction.</p>
23	Increase in population would be nice to see and if population is estimated to be too high to have the full season open earlier
24	I often hunt in a group of 4 and we normally only harvest 1 bull. I would be happy with a bull only tag and possibly group hunt tags.
25	As a very involved person in the Yukon outdoor world I am concerned with the Yukon Governments position on all hunting activity. There is no way to please everyone, YG claims to have 100% survey rates while at the same time showing that in 19/20 surveys were not able to be completed properly because "the bison did not all go to the top of the hills they usually do". I have been an advocate for hunting, fishing and trapping in the Yukon for over a



	decade [...]. I feel it should be mandatory that the bison workshop be taken again. I would also like to see a bison or moose tag, not one of each. As a trapper I understand that trappers in the bison areas are effected by more traffic, they are also rewarded with a very large wolf population, this is the highest value pelt in the Yukon with incentives and sale value. I feel the current bison hunting regulations and practices are well done and should not be adjusted except for moose/bison tag instead of each. I have been hunting bison for over 10 years as well and I could not 100% say if an animal is a male or female as I have see a very large female that was mistaken for a bull until it was on the ground.
26	When The Bison, Was Introduce to The Nansen Country, I helped The Care taker throw the Hay over the fence, It took me a Long time to ask for a Permit and Hunt them. The Population. Growth. Is very Good.. I think. I do see Bison and Elk. More In Spots that I use to see Moose. But the Introduction of Bison and Elk. I hope Eased up on the Moose Hunting Where The Bison Roam. Thanks For all The Work that You all Do.. Keep Hunting..
27	I believe it should stay the same.
28	It used to be bison causing the destructive impacts and now it has become the disrespectful behaviour of the hunters that is so objectionable. Breaking in or vandalizing cabins, destroying traplines, vandalizing graves, harassing wildlife, public safety issues. There needs to be a more efficient way of controlling the bison population that the circus bison hunting has become. I have had experience with bullets flying over camp as the bison artillery starts shooting.
29	It's tough and a lot of work, limiting the hunt will also limit the opportunities to go on a hunt. We have work and daily lives so the more opportunities there are to hunt, the greater the chance to organize a hunt with friends
30	[...]
31	There are ways to allow similar or increased hunting opportunity, but respecting wildlife disturbance (which you didn't ask about!??), environmental issues, impact on trappers, etc... e.g. allow more hunting earlier. we saw accessible bison last week (mid-September) while moose hunting... saw no moose. Could split season/tags to reduce numbers of hunters out in March. Would like to see reduced harvest of cows in late March, but regulating that will result in honest mistakes/ infractions... doesn't seem fair.
32	Bison hunting effort has been high over the past 3 years (going out from Dec to March every few weekends) and have only seen a small herd one time. These are amazing animals to see in the wild and traveling through the wilderness is an adventure that only some of us will ever have the opportunity to do.
33	When I have went out hunting Bison I seen a lot more hunters than Bison. Certain areas are so heavily hunted its very disturbing of the animals that are not being hunted like moose.

34	Need to lower the wounding rate on bison by stopping multiple people from shooting at herds of running animals. I'd like to see season open earlier like other animals. Don't think harvest should be limited until herd is at 1000 animals like originally planned instead of moving the goal posts constantly.
35	For our family, Bison hunting has become a valued annual event, and we cherish the opportunity to be on the land, hunting, at a time of year (mid to late winter) that is so enjoyable. Although we look forward to the meat, getting an animal and it's meat is secondary for us.
36	I answer my question with a focus on my personal experience but honestly believe that management is the most important and the health of the bison must also be considered. I believe if restriction are to be put in place. Shortening the season to end earlier is a good start given the amount of pressure in March. More information on population health and management would be great as I feel the "shoot a cow" advice may be outdated and if not confirmation with yearly updates would be appreciated to accurately advise hunters.
37	Bison are being harassed for too many months of the year. The season should be shorter and definitely one who gets a moose should not get a bison and vice versa. Actual this rule must also apply for Sheep, Caribou, Goat and all other species. Killing wildlife must only be for the food and not for sport. There needs to be a limit because we are on our way to going the route of the Pacific Salmon and the Atlantic Cod. We need to be proactive in our conservation harvesting and not reactive. [...] Animals are not only for the purpose of hunters but also have intrinsic values as well as value to those that do not hunt. Non hunters like to see animals in the wild and deserve the right to have that opportunity. To allow any hunter to hunt for the sake of killing is disrespectful to everything..... I mean everything. We have an incredible and unique resource here in the Yukon in the way of wildlife and our regulations allow grossly disrespectful hunting practices and also very poor management tactics in the way of allowing multiple kills in a year. [...] Once the regulations align with respect for the animals, First Nations traditional ways, intrinsic values and non-hunter values, you will have a good basis for further regulations as required. If you don't lead us down that path of respectful hunting and educate us through proper ethical and moral standards, we will go the route of the Pacific Salmon. Ethical and moral hunting regulations will work for everyone except those that don't hunt ethically or morally. Please don't support unethical and unmoral hunting and please change the rules.
38	I strongly support only being allowed to harvest either a bison or a moose per year (even every 2 years - people can also hunt bear, caribou, sheep, grouse, hare, go fishing, etc, to fill their freezers). I also support removing the buffer corridor hunt to allow the bison to expand their range (I understand the concern with diseased Alaska herds), be less concentrated and therefore

	<p>reduce hunting pressure per area and allow better hunting opportunities by encountering less hunters. I highly support shortening the hunting season, and/or taking a break mid-season as suggested. As a parting note, I do not support the harvest of cows or calves. I support a sustainable level of male harvest from a herd. Shooting cow bison is as unethical and unsustainable as certain First Nation individuals shooting cow moose. Thank you for your work and considerations to my comments.</p>
39	<p>Bison hunting is extremely over-managed and biologists should quit experimenting. Open the entire bison areas from October or September 15 to March giving hunters the opportunity to hunt other than in a winter survival situation. If less bison hunting pressure is required, provide enhanced moose hunting opportunity through predator control, that is by reducing the number of wolves preying on adult moose and grizzly bears preying on new born moose calves.</p>
40	<p>I believe the Yukon should allow bowhunting for bison. Every other jurisdiction in North America that has a bison hunting season allows bowhunting for them. There should be a minimum arrow and bow weight used for bison (650 grains and 50 lbs). I do not believe this would lead to greater wounding loss as most hunters would still use a rifle. We allow bowhunting for moose which is a similar sized animal.</p>
41	<p>Bison are an amazing resource to Yukoners. I have enjoyed the meat over the last five years and have specifically targeted young bulls (milder meat/not tough). I'd rather target bulls because I would like to see higher herd numbers in order to support the hunting pressure as bison hunting has become more popular lately.</p> <p>I unfortunately harvested a pregnant cow this year and was quite upset with myself since I took multiple animals out of the population. It goes against everything I've been taught with conservation.</p>
42	<p>If we are concerned about over harvesting bison, first thing that needs to go is the early season hunt from September - November. on average this would eliminate 20-40 harvests.</p> <p>the mid winter closure is a terrible idea, January is generally the coldest month in the Yukon which deters more hunters. There cant be a significant about of bison harvested annually in the month of January. Closing the season March 21, 10 days earlier, would be something worth considering due to the amount of traffic at the end of the season. Generally speaking the end of march is warmer weather and the return of long daylight makes it exceptionally hard on the bison near their calving time. If you have ever hunted bison, you'd realize how quick it can happen, and asking people to shoot only bulls, would in my opinion, result in 10x more hunting violations. I consider myself an experienced hunter that cares deeply for the conservation of our animals in the Yukon. Putting Bison on a permit system, or a Bull only harvest, will result in</p>

	<p>more wildlife act violations. Which in turn, means more meat wasted, more upset residents and hunters, and more bad looks for Environment.</p> <p>The minimum caliber should be increased to a 300 win mag 180 grain bullet ( or something with similar ballistics) in my opinion people are wounding to many animals because they are allowed to shoot their 30-06 which is to small of a round, in my opinion.</p> <p>A rule change that makes sense, would be that if someone wounds a bison and doesn't recover it, they have to forfeit their seal for the year. This would be a good incentive for people to use rifles that have enough power to ensure an ethical shot and knowing the consequences of wounding a bison, people would be less inclined to take the "risky" shots.</p> <p>I truly hope Environment takes these comment sections into consideration. Your managing something that people truly love and have a passion for and with that, comes the responsibility of listening to their input and taking it into consideration because you're talking to people with boots on the ground experience on the topic, with real stories and real experiences. that information is hard earned and should be taken seriously.</p>
43	Keep up the amazing work!
44	I want to suggest that the bison hunting season should be opened earlier in the fall, i.e. October. This would give more opportunity to harvest a bison when you're out there for moose anyway. Then, there could be a break from bison hunting from the beginning of December through January.
45	Bison are an amazing animal and should be hunted, viewed and managed with the respect and prestige we offer to all other large mammals in this Territory. I want my kids to be able to have the opportunities and challenges I have enjoyed for the past years - they deserve it!
46	There are way too many people out on the land hunting, bison hunting should be put back on a draw system. Too many inexperienced hunters wounding bison. Mandatory workshop required before being able to purchase a bison seal.
47	The survey to LONG!!!
48	It is unique opportunity to be able to bison hunt.
49	I would like to see the Hunting season on Bison From December 1 to February28. Do not use a draw system just end season when a predetermined amount of Bison have been taken. Hunters would have to register kill within 24 or 48 hours
50	The system and cooperation with First Nations groups need to be streamlined to assist with gathering permission to hunt during covid times. Prior to covid you could go into a First Nations office and get permission, through email it is difficult to get ahold of anyone.
51	I would support a restriction of bull only harvest and/or a registration hunt to sustain bison populations

	I would also support introducing party hunting. One permit between two to four people to help manage harvest. There should be a restriction for harvesting only one bison or moose any year
52	<p>I hunt for meat to feed my family healthy food that is sustainable. Hunting Bison takes pressure off of moose and other game because that is the food in my freezer and on my table. there is an abundance of Bison in Yukon!</p> <p>i do not often cross paths with other hunting parties and when i do it is a welcome sight as you know that there is someone there to help if you need it.</p> <p>i am very limited in the time opportunities that i have to get out on the land with my family! it is very important that the bison hunting opportunities not be limited any further to give opportunities to busy working families to put healthy food on the table.</p> <p>please ensure that your decisions are based on science and physical evidence, snow mobiles do not damage land and ethical hunting, camping, land use is very important no matter the species, whether i am hunting with my family or out having a fire it should not matter why we are on the land - it should be enjoyed respectfully!</p>
53	I did not hunt bison in the 20/21 season because I harvested a moose and did not need the meat. I prefer bison meat over moose but due to my work and the covid restrictions I wouldn't have had time to bison hunt with the mandatory isolating as I was working outside the Yukon during the season. So I chose to harvest a moose.
54	Category B rules are difficult
55	Only reason for one trip on 2020/21 was due to blown engine on hunting sled.
56	My bison hunt effort was limited to a 3-hour drive on the way out on the first day of hunting season last year.
57	<p>I think big harvest years, such as 20/21 has largely to do with the snow year (obviously there was more interest due to covid circumstances as well). Not every year will you have large snow years that allows people to get into more areas and not every year will it linger well past the dying days of bison season.</p> <p>I don't believe any changes should be made, I think there are more animals out there than the studies predict. A lot of them bison hold up in the trees (they are wood bison after all) and I think it would be very difficult to get accurate numbers doing air surveys.</p> <p>Bison hunting isn't supposed to be easy, and anyone who has hunted them know they are smart and know they can move well despite there size. I genuinely don't believe people not having success has anything to do with numbers but how they are hunting them. Also, if you want to avoid crowds you can go out in January when its dark and cold and you won't run into a soul.</p>
58	As with all species of big game in the Yukon, there are more people out hunting all species. I now expect to see other hunting parties out on the land regardless of species. This is not necessarily a bad thing and most parties are

	<p>respectful. But the Yukon is a large area and I enjoy exploring further afield. Snow machines allow for a quick one day effort or a weekend warrior mentality. Get out there get the animal and return home. I prefer to be out for a week and savouring the land experience. When I can no longer do that I won't be hunting anymore.</p>
59	<p>Over the years I have participated in bison hunts throughout the hunting seasons. All hunts if included a harvested were shared among multiple people within the hunting party. It has always been an enjoyment of getting on the land and having fun with the group/I have shot more bison with a camera than anything. A few things that I have personally observed over the years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hunters in pursuit after herds of bison by snow machine. Chasing herds to the point of exhaustion to be able to shoot. These are the groups of people who also complain their bison is "tough". It's concerning to see and hear these practices in general but specifically more when there could be bison that are pregnant.</li> <li>2. Majority of hunts occurring in March. Long winter blues, sunlight coming back in March, makes it an easy target for a reason to get out.</li> </ol> <p>Last year specifically I saw more people on the land earlier and I think there were a few reasons for that. Snow fall came early, (2020) making access to the corals/bison grounds accessible in November.</p> <p>A lot of people had time off and no where to go due to travel restrictions.</p>
60	<p>I usually hunt bison when I don't get a moose, we don't hunt for the sport but for meat only and we think that a moose for 2 families is enough meat and there is no reasons to keep hunting when you have that amount of meat! People are greedy and want to fill there tags and end up harvesting more than they can use!! That is the reason we are going through a big change up here and lottery/permit zone is not the solution, but a multiple tag per animal like for moose if a great way to ensure not too many animals are taken, like in Quebec where you need two or in some area 3 tags/hunters per moose harvest!!</p>
61	<p>Covid affect my work time so I could not went hunting ...I will not change time when we can harvest Bisons deu to harsh conditions we have lately and accessibility to them it's very difficult....</p>
62	<p>I am in favour of a mid winter break in bison hunting season (jan-feb).</p>
63	<p>One way to limit impact would be to only allow one bison per 2 years. It would cut land use in half.</p>
64	<p>I do not mind encountering a few other parties while hunting, I do like encountering many other parties. I think the survey was t very clear on those differences</p>
65	<p>There are way too many people hunting bison who do not live on the traditional territory of one of the first nations effected by having bison on their land.</p> <p>There should be a local preference for bison hunting given to locals over</p>

	Whitehorse. How about closing the season for a few weeks in February and early March and allowing local residents a chance to hunt near their homes during that time period without a whole crowd of hunters from Whitehorse tearing around the countryside.
66	Shorter season would be good, but I think then the area within August-October needs to expand to all areas and not restrict to 3km for Alaska Highway or 1 km on north Klondike.
67	I enjoy Bison hunting because it gives me something fun to do in the winter
68	Should start a early Bison hunt in August 1st. With corridor restrictions like Sept Oct.
69	[...]
70	Hunting is a privilege and ethical practices are a must. I support limits as long as it applies to everyone.
71	If any changes to the season length are proposed, I would suggest ENDING the hunt in February...most harvest occurs in March, when the cows are more heavily pregnant and the longer and sunnier days encourage folks to go hunting. If the hunting season was November to mid february, fewer individuals would choose to go bison hunting because of the colder weather and shorter day length...this, in turn, would give the land and the bison a bit of a break from the overall hunting pressure...not to mention a complete break in march.
72	Season should open with all other big game season (August) fully.
73	Everything should be open right up, providing the herd is still large, and less impact on the herd,
74	There should be more reintroduction of Bison in different areas of the Yukon. Herd diversity, lest pressure on one herd. Spread the hunters out more
75	Never hunt bison
76	I would like a little less people on the hunting ground at the same time.
77	Look at putting the Bison Hunting season from August to October then February to March
78	I certainly enjoy the opportunity and incentive to spend the time on the land in the winter in a big game pursuit. I certainly don't stress in non harvest but it is nice to have the pursuit and while I have lived all my life with Moose as a staple I must admit I am partial to Bison. I heard that there seemed to be more difficulty finding bison and lower success last year. In my first 6 day venture we found lot of older sign and never saw a bison. on my solo trip a few weeks later I located 50 in various groups and harvested a 3-4 year cow. No calf in uterus. The bison were more thin possibly due to

	deep snow. Perhaps they spent more time in timber where snow was less work? Less visible to hunters but probably not as good feed.?
79	I have been out hunting for a few years now and have not harvested a single animal. There are simply too many hunters out every year. Limit hunters to only hunt different species if they are successful every 2 years like grizzlies. There are people that hunt every year and they try to fill all their seals and I think it is crazy. There need to be limitations on those hunters to give less experienced hunters the opportunity to gain experience and harvest something.
80	When asking questions about the season of hunting, please split these into questions relating to the well being of animals in one and the well-being of trappers in another. There are too many nuances to capture these effectively in one question. Overall, I would like to see more transparency from Environment Yukon on how hunting limits and rules are created and the SCIENCE backing this up. Too many decisions are made in emotion, hearsay and residents complaining rather than relying on fact. EY is losing ground with the public by keeping hunters in the dark on what is happening and why it is happening [...]. Transparency is key to long-term public trust.
81	I would not support protecting one sex as it is very difficult to sex an animal in the brush. I am aware of several animals that I have been shot but could not be located. With the difficulty of trying to sex an animal with a prohibition on cows I believe more animals would be left in the bush once a hunter discovers they have killed a female.
82	For question 47, it would be great to somehow include sharing meat among hunting party members. And I suggest describing or defining "intrinsic value" as some may not know what that is exactly. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.
83	Before any changes are made to bison hunting, we should get through the pandemic to see what a return to normal Yukoners habits does to hunter effort, conflict and other potential environmental impacts. Making lasting decisions based on covid-19 years does not seem like a reasonable approach.
84	Who [...] came up with some of these questions? Did they read them? Next time give a spot to write an answer after each question! Thx
85	I just wish people would fathom that we've become far too many. Increasing human populations always result (and for good reasons) in more limited hunting opportunities of a lesser quality.
86	I bought a bison seal and I didn't even go hunting for one. My donation to department of environment.
87	The bison season is good how it is, as many people are busy working in the fall and can't get out hunting for moose or other big game. Bison hunting is a great way to fill the freezer when there's not a lot going on in the winter months.



88	I have hunted bison for 13 years and last year was the first time I actually got one. I was very glad for the kill and to have meat but still felt a bit bad that she was pregnant even though Yukon Environment encourages killing cows. In all the many times I have been out for bison I have encountered very few other hunters or anyone for that matter. With all the time and money I have spent bison hunting my cost per pound is way over what it would cost me to buy prime meat at the grocery store. I hope we may continue to take bulls cows or calves, a restriction to bull only will make it much harder to harvest an animal and it is already very hard to get one.
89	Concerned about significant levels of wounded/lost bison. Concerned past government portrayal of bison population as a problem needing to be vigorously controlled has allowed a mindset of disrespect to flourish, thus you see some hunters going out on multiple harvest trips or groups taking a bison for every member of a hunting party. Concerned minimum caliber too weak. Very concerned about the chasing of pregnant cows after mid March and think season should be shortened on that end- rumours of aborted calves is ethically indefensible and repugnant. Also concerned about the concentration of hunters in March. Believe bison course should be mandatory for new hunters.
90	I enjoy bison immensely, both to eat, and the hunt, but I live so far away, it is a major undertaking, and there are moose in back yard.
91	Limiting hunting times, in my opinion, can increase pressure during the hunting times. So, I am conflicted on limiting or restricting a couple months in the winter months as closed to hunting. Helping a friend on a trapline, having completed the trapper education course, March is absolutely chaos in the backcountry with hunters looking for bison. Maybe March would be a better time to close bison hunting? Thanks for putting effort forth in big game management.
92	Our small hunting party encountered hunters shooting at fleeing bison: this should be a reportable offense. We ended up helping them to track it for 3 hours before we found it---a non motorized hunting zone would be amazing-- --signage explaining clearly at popular areas to identify non motorized zones-- --greater publicity on violators of wildlife act----please give the bison a midwinter break
93	equal rights, equal access, keep hunting available for all and not just for some.
94	I hunt bison mainly to get out on the land and spend time with friends. While it is not important that I harvest a bison it is fairly important that one of my hunting party harvests a bison. I would like to see the opportunity to harvest remain the same. We limit our harvest to one or two bison if we have the opportunity to harvest more. But due to the circumstances of hunting we would all like to be able/allowed to shoot at a bison during our hunt if we have

	the chance because we don't all necessarily get a chance to shoot at a bison during our hunts.
95	Prefer not to restrict season, though January/mid-February would be not so bad. Weather can be a challenge and need to go when the weather allows.
96	This survey is filled with convoluted questions. My simple responses are as follows: I hunt with my family to provide healthy food for my family. I learn from other respected hunters and I teach by example, taking and using all that I harvest.
97	It is an amazing opportunity we have here to hunt bison. The reintroduction effort has been amazing and managing populations through hunting can serve as a great model for other jurisdictions. I hope decisions are not made to limit bison hunting based on the COVID year if it is an outlier (everyone in the territory seems to have bought a snowmobile this year). Also, everyone has the right to be out on the land and winter opportunities are important in the Yukon for mental health etc. In my opinion snowmobile use will not stop if bison hunting is limited.
98	Why cant we have a fall hunt for bison in concert with other wildlife. It would give the land a rest during the winter. I can't imagine the amount of activity with snowmachines throughout the winter is not harmful by disturbing all wildlife during the winter when they should all be hunkered down and feeding. 20 years ago there were a few of us out, now there are traffic jams in the woods. Now it is a social event in the back country.
99	La possibilité d'appliquer pour tous les seaux de gros gibiers m'est importante. Je peux ainsi choisir la chasse et le temps pour un de ces gros gibiers de mon choix et à ma guise. Je souhaite que ça demeure ainsi.
100	I did have a tag for 2020 / 2021 but I did not go out to try to hunt. Other things came up. I think there are too many Bison on the landscape and the levels should be keep down at a lower density, whilst ensuring we keep bison on the landscape.
101	The season to be opened earlier - September. It has been suggested for years that many meat hunters hunting moose would gladly take a bison if the opportunity presented itself.
102	I trap and have limited chances to hunt bison down south. The season should be opened sooner if plans are to close Jan. and Feb. Limits along the highways should be extended to permit better opportunities to see and harvest bison in the fall.
103	Donnez plus de temps et de territoire pour la chasse au bison.
104	I enjoy bison hunting and I love bison meat. But I do not own and prefer not to use a snow machine so perhaps success is not my main motivator. I think the health of the herd is paramount. I am less worried about bison populations

	than moose because from my understanding bison pop. Is growing maintaining, but people seem more concerned about the moose population.
105	Limiting the use of vehicles to hunt bison and only allowing vehicles to transport out the harvest, similar to moose, would relieve pressure on wildlife if that is a concern.
106	I would like to revive more information on how the bison population effects the population of caribou and moose.
107	30-06 is an inappropriate minimum calibre for bison hunting. At the very least premium bonded or mono ammunition for bison should be mandatory.
108	Had some confusing communication with CAFN relating to hunting bison on their Settlement Lands in fall 2020. I was under the impression the email response I received was indication that they were not providing permission at the time. A friend who received the same email followed up by phone and ended with the impression that the email counted as their permission.
109	I would be comfortable having a shorter season or windows of closures if there was a valid reason to do so i.e. healthy bison population and maintained harvest levels. [...] If populations can support the harvest the Yukon government should not be managing for hunt quality. The majority of complaints from these hunters is purely here say and innuendos where they think there is a hunter congestion problem. If people don't want to see others while hunting they always have the option to go further!!
110	Cut back on cow hunting to ensure long-term bison hunting feasibility
111	You guys need to implement the either or policy not these guys shooting one of everything ; better management of all game ; [...]. Implement more stringent atv rules as well as work in conjunction with bc to slow down or limit the seemingly uncontrolled hunting in the southern yukon / bc border areas.
112	Stop interfering. The more the government gets involved the worse everything gets. How about the CO's and Cops actually enforce the law and regulations we already have. We don't need you the government to get your tyrannical incompetent fingers in it and screw everything up. You can not legislate stupidity. Enforce the laws we already have. [...]
113	[...]
114	I love hunting, the outdoors and having an opportunity to hunt bison in the winter months. My main concern is the effects it is having on the back country and the wildlife that is using it. Hunting and back country pressure has increased dramatically in the winter months but also in the fall. [...] Constant pressure on these animals is not a good thing, as a hunter I would rather see pressure spread out through the territory with less chance of seeing other hunters in such a concentrated area. This goes for all wildlife. Thanks
115	I would like to see Bison hunting permitted in the month of October as well.

116	I feel that the length of the season is too long and is close to being unethical especially where pregnant females are being run late in March
117	Environment staff were exceptional in every encounter, supportive, knowledgeable, mentors. This of course includes the conservation officers that I encountered in the field. The staff at the Env. permit office in Whitehorse do not get enough credit for exceptional customer service....
118	I feel any change in the regulations for hunting Bison should be driven by data that is taken from the field by experienced biologists.
119	as usual ,this survey is skewed to get the answers environment wants to see , rather than an accurate portrayal of hunters wishes. of the 600 kilometers put on each season we rarely see more than 3 parties and that includes C O s. there are very few hunters in november december and half of january due to lack of snow ,short days or too cold.
120	In order to decrease the chances of wounded animals getting away, the definition of "party hunting" should be amended, to reflect its true meaning. If more hunters were allowed to "back up shoot" the same animal there would be fewer losses. Party hunting is when one person hunts for the entire party, (eg shoots multiple animals for others who then put their seals on those animal(s). Back up shooting when 2 persons are hunting together in close proximity (as defined for special guided/guided persons) should be allowed to help ensure a humane kill in the event that something does not go according to plan
121	I think it would be reasonable for a person to only harvest a moose OR a bison but I would not want someone to choose in the summer. Perhaps, if a your harvest a moose in the fall then you also cancel your bison tag, but if you are unsuccessful with your moose then you can still go after a bison. In reality, even if you cancel your moose tag, you can still go out with other friends and family who have a bison tag and you would still get some bison meat. This type of policy would reshape the value placed on the animals and on hunting but it would (I imagine) reduce the pressure placed on both of them.
122	Thank you for the opportunity to par-take in the survey. Question 14 regarding transportation to conduct bison hunting...the answer should not be limited to just one option. I hunt bison using various means of transportation including on foot, by ski, bike, atv and snowmobile. Question 16: Aggressive behaviour...unclear question but I think you mean in regards to bison themselves and in that case, I do not feel unsafe; nor do I feel unsafe with others being on the land ever. Question 22: synopsis information regarding hunting bison is unclear i.e. re use of ATV's and for the early season hunting for the 3 km zone starting on Sept 1st. Question 30: seems to be repetitive of the questions before it Question 38: is unclear. what exactly are you asking?

Question 29: is obscure. What information are you looking for, us to answer?

Question 44: Intrinsic values of moose...this is not relevant to bison, bison management or a bison survey; completely different species and this question should not be asked. Does not provide any relevant information.

Question 54 and 55: mis-leading the way the questions are written; And absolutely, there should not be any restrictions on hunting season for bison...it is too short already. And most of the trap lines in the Yukon are empty, [...]. This question is really about trying to limit the number of people on the land and that is NOT the mandate of the Department of Environment.

Game cameras are not telling the Department of Environment about hunter success or the number of people on the land, as the same person may travel up and down the same trail numerous times on a hunting trip;

In some of the questions, the wording seems to be leading and /or deliberately unclear. I don't see the transparency of the questions in regards to bison management and hunting.

Survey's like this should be conducted in a manner to be considerate of the management of the species for the use of the environment and wildlife by ALL yukoners. The wildlife of the Yukon are for ALL residents. Bison are an introduced species and even though there may be more 'licensed' hunters with the growing population of the Yukon (the government wants more people to move here), hunting success has not grown at the same ratio as the number of licensed hunters has. The last 3 years I have hunted bison, I have not been successful, so don't tell me there is too much harvest of this species nor is there too many people on the land. There is 450 000 kms<sup>2</sup> and 42000 ppl...that is about 10000 sq kms each. The yukon is about the same size of Spain, which has 40 million residents and they still have hunting of wild species.

The department of environment needs to do regular, annual surveys of the populations for quite a few years (5 - 10) in order to gain a better understanding of the populations before making any (restrictive) management policies. In the past three years, I and my hunting partner, have only encountered 1 other party and most years, we never encounter anyone. There are NOT too many people on the land(which is for all yukoners).

Department of Environment does not have the mandate to try to restrict access to the land by licensed hunters; so why are you trying to do it? It is not the mandate of the biologists either, only science is., so stick with the science and not other/political/FN government influences. Thank you.

123	<p>I feel the amount of wounding loss for bison is high. I think there should be a requirement to use larger calibers/more powerful calibers (i.e. minimum of 300 wsm) with premium ammunition. The 30-06 can do the job at limited range but perfect placement is necessary, a more powerful cartridge gives you a "little" bit more grace.</p> <p>I think that bison are generally viewed as invasive which gives some hunters a lease to use more unethical means of hunting them. I believe people are more likely to chase them on snowmachines or punt away at them from long range with small calibers. Its unfortunate and work needs to be done to change this view of the species.</p> <p>Lastly, I like the hunting season length, the idea of a mid-winter break is good but, ENV needs to be clear on what the management objectives are, if it is to limit herd growth why would you all of sudden make the taking of cows illegal? If the objective is promote herd growth then I think that should be clear and upfront. Thanks</p>
124	<p>I completely disagree with any proposals to restrict bison hunting more than the current regulations allow. I support increasing Bison harvesting opportunities by allowing harvest throughout the FULL RANGE (not just early corridor) beginning September 1st (recognizing the rut occurs in August).</p>
125	<p>I find there is some very misleading questions that group topics together and do not provide enough details to answer those.</p> <p>Trappers are not on the land enough to warrant a closure, they also can still trap and share the land with everyone at the same time, they do not own the land only the ability to trap on it. For the record I fully support trapping in the Yukon and believe they should be able to trap.</p> <p>Using a a bull only harvest to restrict harvest is a bad idea... look at goats and bears in the yukon, there is a reason we do not restrict a male harvest on them due to the difficulty of determining sex.</p> <p>If we are looking at restricting harvesting or hunting opportunities the outfitters should be the first to go. Commercial harvest only comes where there is extra harvesting opportunities.</p> <p>I am fully in support of the moose or bison only in the season restrictions, it will change hunters though process before shooting an animal and may even restrict hunter effort. I know lots of hunters who shoot a moose then go hunting for a bison but do not shoot both, they would change their hunting practices to maybe not shoot a moose if they really wanted to go on a bison hunting trip.</p> <p>The week break mid winter will have no effect for anyone or the animals.</p> <p>I do support an early closure if it is causing calf survival problems, its an ethical thing to do if we value bison on the landscape... i sure do.</p>

126	<p>It's a bit of a free for all in the Yukon right now - especially WRT to open hunting seasons. some additional control is going to be necessary in the future. its not like there are going to be less hunters any time soon.</p> <p>Rather than managing Yukon for access to opportunity, I think there is value in considering managing wildlife and hunting for quality of experience instead. [...]</p> <p>Pressure is getting worse, but all parties need to give a little to make any progress.</p>
127	lots of people out due to Covid. Hunting pressure drove Bison into alpine.
128	<p>I believe the entire bison management plan is flawed. Having a target population for bison is ridiculous-there is no such "target" for any other big game species. Bison hunting season should be the same as for other big game species. Allowing hoards of hunters to chase bison around in March just before the animals' calving season is criminal. Having a rifle caliber restriction different for bison than other big game animals should be abolished. Bow hunting for bison should be allowed. There should be rigorous enforcement and strong penalties for chasing bison around on snowmobiles.</p>
129	Just a note on my hunting opportunities. I haven't been able to get out because unforeseen health issues not because I'm a lazy [...]!
130	<p>[...] As a born and raised yukoner I see more and more people out hunting every year, I strongly believe that one should not be able to attain a big game license in only a year. As our population continues to grow I see this as a problem in the coming years, please look at this carefully and consider a longer period of residency to acquire a big game license. Thanks.</p>
131	I believe the Bison hunting season is perfect as it is, no changes needed to it.
132	<p>I hunt bison to enjoy outdoor winter camping with friends, plus I share my meat-no meat gets wasted. I also bring out the hide/skull which I deal with. I had an issue with the hide a few years back, your office should have a list of people whole tan bison hides-I was told if I don't have a home for the hide, throw it in the dump. I ride a 4 stroke wide track, burns less gas, can pull more weight sled ,with very little noise. Plus the trail doesn't get beat up-like a 2 stroke /long track will do. Basically, I hunt, and don't always harvest an animal, but I enjoy the hunt/experience.</p>
133	<p>Don't change and complicate the way bison are currently harvested. As the past few years have proved that more government oversight can be detrimental more so than beneficial. Bison learn quickly as a herd animal and snowmobiles being primarily used to hunt bison do little impact the environment. Leave it as it is and don't let bureaucracy ruin something that doesn't need changing.</p>
134	Questions 10 to 13 Are irrelevant if you didn't "hunt" bison, but only got a tag in case you saw one while hunting other animals.

	Are you kidding? over 50 questions for a survey? Just what are you trying to accomplish?
135	Don't change anything
136	We are so fortunate for the opportunity to be able to provide this wondrous animal for our families.
137	I enjoy bison hunting even if I don't get any bison, been out on the land is good is good for my health. Thanks
138	A bison cow that might be pregnant should not be hunted in January, February or March.
139	I just went out once last year in winter as an intro and it was hard work, with snowmobiles etc. so the fall corridor hunt is awesome, as is the Nov 1 opening, i will focus my efforts here. the regs are misleading because people think you can only hunt them in the corridor highlighted but in reality the stuff south of the AK hiway is open Sept 1. It seems like bison are getting hit pretty hard these days, people know where they are and have lots of success. I also know multiple people who have shot and lost bison, its so so so common and i'm in total shock of how often it happens. a mandatory? workshop would be great. bringing in other speakers rather than just the educational CO would be helpful, such as the backcountry hunters and anglers have done in past.
140	I would like to see bison seals purchased with license like moose and caribou seals. One restriction, one animal per two people. One moose or one caribou or one bison per two people. One per person only barren land caribou. I hate hearing a group of 4 people and shooting 4 moose and 2 caribou just because they can. Thank you
141	For the love of God, please stop telling licensed hunters to target female bison. It is unethical, as they are PREGNANT. First Nations refers to female animals as the "Lifegivers" and give them the respect and importance they deserve. Female bison should be afforded the same protection and consideration as female moose or female caribou. Remove all the signs at the trailheads telling hunters to shoot female bison. Tell hunters to target bulls, teach them how to tell the difference between male and female. Hunters must learn where to properly shoot a bison. Increase the minimum firearm requirements to hunt bison (minimum .300 win mag or equivalent ft/lbs of energy). Keep the minimum 180 grain bullets however mandate that premium bullet types must be used to hunt bison. An increased of number of bison are being wounded or lost every year, why didn't your survey address this fact? This is a waste of a valuable resource and must be mitigated.
142	With the increased population and the lack of respect for all animals I think that only one animal should be harvested per year. Once you shoot one



	species your done for the year. People don't need a moose caribou sheep bison ect.
143	[...]
144	Like the idea of not hunting cows in March to help with population, only if needed. Very happy with the current status quo with bison hunting. Such an amazing winter activity to get out on the land with the potential to fill the freezer.
145	Open bison hunting in the fall to lessen the impact on moose harvests
146	I don't think shortening the season will reduce encounters with other hunters. It may increase those, and the pressure on the animals. However less hunting stress during a calving season seems important for the overall health of the herd and well being of new animals. At the rate of winter attrition in some years the weather may naturally limit access with certain vehicles.
147	there is no problem with the way we hunt now    should be able to harvest during moose hunting season if opportunity happens
148	I have not needed to hunt any other species for 8 years to feed my family due to bison. It is very important to me keep bison numbers sustainable while hopefully not needing a lottery. Bulls only..?
149	It,s all good ,no need to change anything
150	Environment should stop "pushing" cow harvest. Hunters will naturally prefer bull to keep population strong or growing. The season should be extended to include Aug-Oct fully. Many times in the fall I have encounters with bison and would harvest one while I am hunting other wildlife or otherwise out. This would then remove me from winter hunting and even likely replace other animal harvest such as moose. The more opportunity the better, hunters are continually get choked off from opportunity...
151	I would like to see bison hunting open September 1 to March 31 or have a bigger corridor 10 km from Slims river bridge to Whitehorse to Carmacks.
152	I think it would be a great idea to have an bison or moose tag but you can't hold both in a calendar year
153	It's getting more difficult to find bison, they seem to be quicker to run, more aware of hunters presence and more remote.
154	Regulations are sometimes hard to understand for seniors. Keep it simple. Would be nice from renewable office to receive data in how old a animal was you harvest (learning).
155	I think there is less hunting pressure in January/February anyway because of the colder weather/darker days. Maybe, if anything, the season needs to be shortened in March when everybody seems to be out there.
156	Bison season should open at the end of September with no corridor

157	<p>As a reintroduced species, hunters seem unaware of some of the dangers of a bison specific hunt, such as the sheer size of the animal, the speed at which a wounded animal can travel, and the importance of shot placement.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with any further hunting restrictions that don't relate solely to herd sustainability management, but recognize that some hunters could benefit from an anatomy lesson on a bison. 1 well placed ethical shot vs multiple poorly placed, meat damaging shots should always be the goal.</p>
158	<p>Because of covid too many new hunters everyone has all the toys and time off that's why I think there's so many hunters out all at once</p>
159	<p>Hunting pregnant cow bison in late March is unethical, the season should end sooner. Having cow/bull seals would lead to problems as they can be difficult to distinguish even for experienced hunters. The highway corridor season rules should change as I think people are dishonest about actually harvesting them within the highway corridor, as many are harvested. If you harvest a bison within the highway corridor, you should have to report your harvest the next day along with the coordinates of the kill site, as I think people are currently abusing it.</p>
160	<p>More updates on the satellite locations of the herds.</p>
161	<p>My number 1 though: Take the emphasis off harvesting cows. Thanks for the opportunity to do this survey.</p>
162	<p>Since bison provide a hunting opportunity in the Yukon which could take some of the pressure off of the moose population, and since in the rest of North America there very limited habitat for wild bison, Yukon should be managing bison for abundance. This should include allowing bison to expand their range, which would reduce the habitat conflict with moose and sheep. A mid winter season closure would also reduce the stress on bison, moose, and sheep populations caused by the very large numbers of snowmobile equipped hunters in the backcountry.</p> <p>I am in favor of more restrictive regulation to improve bison populations and reduce disturbance in the backcountry.</p>
163	<p>Question 58 and others question only focus on limitations as opposed to increased opportunities. I would like to see the season extended further and have the population grow as it is becoming g more challenging to locate bison and harvest helps reduce hinting pressure on other species.</p>
164	<p>Given that bison are in herds - it would be more difficult and dangerous for the herd if harvesting were to become restricted to only bulls. When I harvested a bison, we choose to take the 'safest' shot, which was the bison a bit farther away from the herd with no other bison around it - which happened to be a cow.</p> <p>I completely understand if the need is there to move towards not harvesting cows - but it is more difficult and dangerous in herd animals.</p>
165	<p>keep good management so as to have bison hunting for years to come</p>

166	Be aware that limiting the length of the season will increase the number of hunters out in a small window of time increasing the impact during that time and also resulting in people running into more hunting parties. In my opinion Yukon environment made a similar mistake with sheep draw zones being consolidated leading to a higher number of individuals in the best areas at any given time.
167	Thank you for this opportunity to have input in your decisions.
168	A main motivator for me hunting bison is to reduce the stress on moose populations and also to control the bison population. Last season was very busy with hunters and I do believe Covid Played a part in this. I hope your survey confirms this.
169	<p>I thoroughly enjoy bison hunting. It gives me a good reason to explore more of the Yukon and helps pass the long cold dark winter months while also supplying me with healthy meat.</p> <p>My hunting party came across a group of three bison this past winter, one of the bison were injured from a gunshot wound by another hunting party in the area. We could not get to this injured bison unfortunately. It made me think of all of the bison that get injured from hunters using the wrong caliber gun, taking an unethical shot, etc. I would be in favor of a mandatory bison hunting course/certification.</p> <p>I fully support adjusting the current Bison plan to ensure Yukon is not over harvesting animals, is encouraging ethical hunting practices and minimizing animal wounding/loss. An increased cost to bison tags, shortening the season, female/male specific tags, etc. all seem like good ideas.</p> <p>I appreciate Environment Yukon taking steps to understand the current state and ways to improve this hunt to allow it to continue for generations.</p>
170	I hunt bison as alternative to moose, especially considering the limited moose permits in the bison range. I don't want to see that opportunity limited, especially in light of the lack of other options. I'd like to see 5,000 or more bison in Yukon. [...] People accessing and using the backcountry is a good thing, hunting is a healthy activity and those skills are important to pass to youth, and having opportunities for families to harvest on the land is more important than trapping or outfitting, and should receive priority, especially as the population of Yukon increases.
171	Early season Bison hunting (November to January) is a more ethical hunting choice in my opinion because cows are further from giving birth and the bison are in better shape including both meat and hide. However, these are hard months to hunt for access, light and temperatures. As long as the bison population is higher than desired, the February-March hunt is needed, as I see it, to ensure adequate harvest numbers.

172	<p>We are very lucky in the Yukon with our many big game hunting opportunities, most deer tags in Canada cost more than all of our tags combined. My thoughts on big game is you don't need to harvest one of each every year because you can. moose or bison, sheep or goat pick one of the two options or possibly permits for bison to reduce traffic in hunting areas. I find that there are serious bison hunters and others who are just out there for the social aspect and pressure the animals unnecessarily. Permits and specific zones and ditch the late season to protect pregnant cows, I target bulls specifically late in the season as I do not want to risk shooting a pregnant cow. I would be in favor of more restrictions in the future. Thank you for this survey!</p>
173	<p>I found YG's communication on bison harvest numbers last winter slightly confusing; I was unsure if I was being dissuaded from harvesting, or just informed that the season might close early if harvest reached a certain level. Better clarity on what YG expected me to do would have been useful.</p> <p>I value non-crowded areas for bison hunting. I achieve this by finding areas where there are few other hunters (further in, less popular). I appreciate the over-the-counter bison tags, and deal with the hunter crowding issue myself, without a need for tag limits.</p>
174	Thank you. And I will be getting another seal next year
175	[...]
176	Reducing season length will intensify pressure.
177	J'aimerais avoir la possibilité de chasser le bison à l'arc. Cela peut permettre de prendre du plaisir à être dans la nature tout en réduisant la pression de prélèvement.
178	I think the long season provides opportunities for everyone to have a chance to go hunting. And it spreads out the hunters.
179	Bison affect the moose and sheep habitats they live in. I would like to see management strategies mitigate the negative effects of bison on other species.
180	I have not hunted bison as much recently. I am older, eating less meat, and winter is a harder season to go out in for multiple days. Glad to participate in a survey.
181	<p>Sounds like your doing this cause of whiners</p> <p>Please Do your best to use science to come to your conclusions not people who don't understand the sport or hunting in the Yukon</p> <p>I really think you have made this sustainable and enjoy the whole process currently</p>
182	I am concerned that too many Bison are shot but not killed.
183	Limit the season dates not where people can go
184	Aren't the bison numbers growing? If so, we should be encouraging hunting, not restricting it.

185	Although I've only harvested 1 bison, I do enjoy hunting them, Winter is my busy time with work, which doesn't leave me much time to hunt Bison.
186	<p>20/21 bison hunt was cancelled due to Covid for me. [...]</p> <p>I feel that if hunting restrictions continue to grow</p> <p>There will be no person allowed to hunt with a piece of equip [...]</p> <p>I strongly disagree with this. I am getting to end of my getting out to hunt.</p> <p>Those that are young and in shape mostly will not have an issue with this as a lot of them feel that it is only for the fit.</p> <p>Shame on this mindset.</p> <p>As for atv,skidoo,Argo usage.</p> <p>Fine those that are ripping and tearing up the ground. But don't make everyone pay for the thoughtlessness of a small group that are looking for that type of excitement.</p> <p>I have hunted in many different ways</p> <p>Guiding when I was finally old enough using horses.. back packing for sheep,</p> <p>I have used quads, and Argos. And I have been on the rivers with a boat.</p> <p>Responsible hunters are always carrying the load for the free loading trouble makers. [...]</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to rant.</p> <p>Although I wonder how much of this one mans opinion will go anywhere but the trash can.</p>
187	Bison hunting is challenging and rewarding on so many levels. I hope that whatever change is brought to the hunting regulations is made so we can preserve a healthy population and keep bison hunting accessible for many decades to come.
188	<p>Bison Hunting is a great way to obtain high quality meat for our families.</p> <p>Having said that, the amount of pressure they receive during the later months of the open season must be detrimental to their health. I would suggest a limit of bison killed like you have done for the Faro Hunt then shut the season down. Or close the season altogether in march. Those critters get ran around and shot at for the hardest time of our year. The bison we have shot late season have little to no fat on them compared to several shot in November we have harvested that were quite fatty heading into the lean months for their food supplies.</p> <p>Perhaps a draw system within a group would be a good idea as well, for example, me and 3 buddies are guaranteed 2 tags per group or something like that. that could help limit the number harvested.</p>
189	Personal circumstances precluded my hunting bison over the past few years but I am planning and preparing to hunt bison with my son-in-law and grandson this coming season.

190	It would be a real benefit if the Aishihik road was plowed again like it use to be. It's a dangerous trip up and down that road.
191	The present bison population supports continued hunting. I also support emphasizing a bull harvest, however it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between young bulls and cows.
192	There is a notable increase to hunting activities in the last few years (Covid has been a factor). First Nations are not providing permission for Bison hunting or any hunting the way they used to; contrary to the agreement made when Bison were reintroduced. Not opposed to a draw system for everything as long as it's fair. [...] The ability to harvest male or female bison is a good option for hunters to put food on the table and limits mistakes. [...] YTG is slow to make appropriate, meaningful and fair changes; [...].
193	No
194	It's suggested in some of the questions towards the end of the survey that restricting the bison season will help reduce the likelihood of seeing other hunting parties out at the same time. Logically, this does not flow. If you narrow the window for hunting, you will see more parties stacked up in that shorter time frame.
195	I believe the restrictions should stay the same as they are. I think if you start implementing restrictions on sex and areas it will create animosity towards the Government as well as putting people in situations where they might committing criminal offences by possible shooting the wrong sex. It is extremely easy to confuse a bull for a cow especially in the heat of the moment, and I fear that if people shoot the wrong sex instead of coming clean and reporting it, resulting in incriminating themselves they might just leave the animal to go to waste. We have a healthy population of bison here in the Yukon and it will only get bigger every year. Thank you for your time.
196	The bison offer a sustainable opportunity for hunters. The herd keeps growing in population and must be hunted. Allowing hunters to hunt females for now is a good herd management practice. I enjoy hunting bison and do so with limited gas-powered equipment which puts less ecological stress on the area. In the early season, a hunting corridor wider than 3km from highway would help hunters especially like myself that hunt without ATVs and snowmobiles successfully harvest bison
197	Though I certainly support the responsible management of the herd and public safety, I believe the restricted corridor Sept / Oct hunt is quite difficult to adhere to distance restrictions and has become a public safety matter. I would recommend the actual cancellation of this early season or opening an unrestricted season as of Sept . I also strongly support the limited harvest of either one of the big game per season per hunter.
198	As long as the population is healthy and abundant, the long winter hunting season is a bonus. A chance to cleanly harvest fine food, maintain desirable

	population numbers, and spend time outdoors when there are few other activities available make Yukon hunters luckier than those in other parts of the country.
199	The main attribute of bison hunting that I have witnessed is the remote nature and hard conditions to approach bison during the winter months. They tend to be up high or in terrain that is nearly impossible to retrieve your harvest if you do get one. Many trips I have seen bison but did not attempt a stalk due to difficult terrain to retrieve them. Snow conditions have gravely affected my attempts and efforts to pursue bison.
200	Wouldn't mind some kind of spatial permitting system where hunters could apply for certain zones to reduce impacts and spread out hunter pressure on bison and trappers.
201	57 and 56 are not clear "more limited opportunities" means either heavier restrictions on already available opportunities or a numerical increase in overall opportunities but with restrictions
202	Maybe open the season right up for bison starting sept 1 and go right into March with it, would take less stress of the moose and other wild life aswell as give more opportunities to hunt bison
203	Bison season should start in October full on and I believe that harvesting one of either a moose or a bison.
204	remettre au gout du jour ou limiter la chasse du bison ne sera pas une bonne chose. d autre part dans un groupe de chasseurs celui ou celle qui preleve un original peut tout a fait aussi prelever un bison et tout en partageant la viande entre amis et famille. l idee de restreindre cette action de chasse me derange.
205	I hunt bison every year for the last 12 years I have only ever shoot 1 female i usually go out the first week i only went out in march last year because a friend needed someone to go with I did get one in September [...] i would like the bison hunting to stay the same but don't care about jan to feb
206	There needs to be serious consideration given to the current practice of requesting permission to hunt from LSCFN and CAFN. As neither FN are currently giving any permission this drastically limits access to prime Bison hunting areas. We are all respectful of the land but no reason or discussion is being had on why this is happening. this is a non-native species that is not easy to hunt and requires all of us working together to manage the herd/s. Please do more to ensure cooperation on this front and do not place management rules upon the hunt unless you have real, valid data to do so. I feel recent communication about Bison hunting has been wildly inconsistent with previous messaging about the desire to manage the herd.

207	<p>Reducing hunting opportunities is unlikely to reduce the overall pressures and nuisance of hunters on locals and trappers, as it will just concentrate hunters even more into a specific period of time.</p> <p>I would also worry that a reduction in bison hunting time would have a negative impact on the Porcupine caribou herd, as many hunters may decide to pursue other winter hunting opportunities.</p> <p>If YG thinks banning cow hunting once the gestation period has begun in late winter to protect the population is a good idea, then I strongly support that as the first change to support the sustainability of our incredible bison herd.</p>
208	At times way too many machines out there, clearly affecting wintering behaviours of bison, likely affecting moose and other wildlife as well.
209	No need to have an early Bison hunt such as corridor or in November
210	The COVID restrictions changed hunting effort; from week long trips to day trips only with those outside my bubble. Less effective and more expensive and limited to closer starting points
211	Not sure where you are going with this survey as I thought you were interested in controlling the herd size. But a lot of your questions point to reducing hunting of bison. If you feel the herd is threatened I have no problem with restricting numbers. But it should be based on managing numbers [...].
212	I think the workshop should be mandatory to get a Bison hunting tag
213	Don't fix what ain't broke
214	<p>this survey done not talk about limiting hunters to with sleds and ATV to trails. I find that if bison hunters are limited to use sleds and ATV on specific trails and are required to walk once off the trail the impacts to trappers and the land and the bison would be manageable. this issue right now is that people feel they can go anywhere and to a degree run the bison down with there sleds. limiting peoples to say for example the Dawson trail on sleds and ATV would allow trappers to have there lines and not have 100 sleds run down them every day and would allow the bison to out run a person on foot once they have crossed the trail. if you limit access via Sleds and ATV you can limit the problems that happened in 2020/2021 season. [...]</p>
215	This was a MOST UNUSEFUL survey-----I said I did not hunt bison
216	bison hunting is a team effort but care must be taken when going in large groups. Bison should not be part of non-resident hunting
217	I have not been hunting for bison in 20/21
218	Go back to draw hunts to limit the amount of people in the woods at the same time!!!!
219	I feel there should be a restriction put in to stop hunters in March. This is the most critical time for cows prior to them calving where they need to increase their food intake after a hard winter to ensure they have a healthy calf. Not to be chased around by hundreds of hunters riding snowmobiles. I think the



	season should be closed mid February on to ensure they are able to have healthy calves instead of when its most convenient for hunters.
220	The season for hunting bison to my way of thinking is about right, if you want to control the #?
221	Hate this survey...forced to answer one question with a 1 and not zero. Survey is messed up, please do not send again...absolutely hate it. Also the don't know/added the "prefer not to answer". Seriously, "don't know" should stand by itself, and offer a no comment on each.
222	Season should be longer. Lots of Bison that are overtaking areas. Open to hunters only being able to tag a bison or moose. Just one of the other. Zero need for that much meat
223	If the season were shortened in March to protect pregnant cows, I'd be in favor of opening it earlier in October. This would also have a benefit to moose as it would reduce hunting pressure on that species as they wind down from the initial rut and prepare for winter conditions. Given "overharvest" of bison is not a concern, the overall length of season should not be shortened.
224	I have typically only hunted bison if unsuccessful in a moose hunt.
225	I think there could be an early draw if u get a tag you can only hunt in that season . Spread out hunters get rid of the corridor rule
226	I think you need a campaign on shot DISTANCE. Shot placement is very important, but people will still take shots, aimed at the vitals, from hundreds of yards away. Ballistics and kinetic energy on such a large animal like bison are often not talked about. You should encourage hunters to shoot at bison from no farther than 200 yards unless they have sufficient kinetic energy at greater ranges. Shot placement isn't enough, you need to get hunters closer.
227	Bison hunting distributes wildlife harvest pressure. As in all activities, certain areas see greater activity. Quantifying the effects of that activity on other wildlife is difficult. Anecdotal evidence should be treated very cautiously with a closer look at population effects rather than on presence/absence testimonials. Making management decisions based on 'impressions' creates concern when population level responses to 'pressure' are unmeasurable. Remaining clear on bison population objectives and making adjustments accordingly removes value based influence.
228	[...]
229	Bison hunting popularity has increased but numbers appears to stay fairly consistent considering? Harvesting Cows and calf's should not be recommended anymore if bison harvest is a concern. However, it should still be legal until harvest management states otherwise . The minimum gun for bison should be larger than 30-06 and in a perfect world you would pick your tag up at the gun range after you prove you can hit a 200yard target.

230	<p>The bison hunting opportunity we have is amazing. Please don't change it. Knowing you have all winter to get one is so great.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with the successful moose hunt = canceled bison seal. Some years you maybe get both but then there's lots of years where you get neither.</p> <p>I got a moose and a bison last year and I've gone thru most of it. I eat a lot of meat. I like freedom. Even if I'm not going to shoot a bison I want to be able to participate in a hunt and be legal to back up another shooter or otherwise be a functional part of the hunt.</p> <p>Right now we are living in a dream reality as far as hunting opportunities. Let's not throw that away.</p> <p>Thank you very much for the sending the survey and for reading these comments.</p>
231	<p>Hunting for big game should be for food only. No animal should be hunted when in rut. Senior citizens should be give more support information by invironment when hunting.</p>
232	<p>I would ok with the season starting in October with a December January closure, and a bull - only restriction. I see no reason in culling the herd....let them grow and expand.</p>
233	<p>If the point of hunting is to be environmentally responsible and eat good meat locally, instead of paying high carbon foot print of raising beef and transporting it from down south why don't we change our hunting ethics to reflect this? I want meat to feed my family. I can't afford to pay more in fuel driving snowmobiles hundreds of km/day weeks at a time trying to find one bison which may end up costing more than the manicured meat at the store. I am frustrated at the limited number of places I can hunt in general. I live in a community but can't hunt anywhere near where I live. Some of the closer areas I could hunt are still 100's of km away and then when I arrive they are crowded [...]. Open more land up for hunting, spread out the impact. Forcing all hunting to occur in such limited areas (unless you can afford float plane access to the back country) is causing problems and frustration.</p>
234	<p>Strong disagree with putting any more limitations on bison hunting opportunities, with the exception of protecting pregnant cows from all harvesting.</p>
235	<p>I support a healthy population and agree with whatever measures science dictates to ensure this.</p>

236	I feel Elk bison and moose need a break. They been chased since Aug. January is a hard time for animals with just the elements of the land. And on top have hunters chasing them non stop. Bison and Elk need a break once January comes I believe. [...]
237	I think whatever regulations necessary to ensure a healthy herd should be in place and enforced. I'm interested in hunter education courses and training that allow inexperienced hunters to hunt in a safe, responsible manner.
238	The regulations around hunting bison on settlement land are not super clear, and conversations with other hunters suggest to me that many hunters are not aware of the rules around hunting on settlement land. More accurate communication regarding this topic, and clear communication tools (eg: where undeveloped/developed settlement lands are located) would be beneficial and fair.
239	The administration of hunting regulations in Ontario has totally destroyed the experience in Ontario. I see those same practices slowly being developed in the Yukon. If you continue to adopt Ontario practices here you will eventually ruin the hunting seasons here. Your key program development personnel, are they from Ontario by chance?
240	I think hunters should be able to harvest either a moose or a bison, not both. But, bison season should also open at least a month earlier (October) if not at the same time as moose.
241	Bison hunting is an extremely satisfying experience. I've taken my children out on Bison hunting excursions many times. My son when he was just 8 years old back in 2006. He now has harvested two Bison as a young adult. Our most recent hunting experience involved our daughter as well. Getting out on the land ...snow, in winter is truly exhilarating. Last season saw us in minus 35 C. As experienced young educated hunters my children and other new up and coming hunters should not see this experience disappear like Yukon salmon fishing. But rather proceed with caution and conservation in mind.
242	Our hunting on foot limits our opportunities to find bison so we appreciate the long season and the possibilities it gives us. Such a wonderful way to really understand the land around us!
243	They are a lot of work to hunt, Bison are a very lean meat so hunters need to be prepared for that, they are nothing like a Moose or Elk.
244	Bison hunting is mor accessible to the wealthy, with the equipment, money, and time available for this sport.
245	Sometimes difficult to answer questions with very limited objective knowledge - what are bison numbers, are they high/low/good? Is bison population

	healthy or not? What are goals for bison population? What kind of impacts/issues if any are being had/discussed. Thanks.
246	When answering the questions about how "satisfied" I would be if I did not harvest a bison on a hunt, or if I were happy to just see one on a hunt, it all depends on how badly I need the meat. I'm ok with coming home empty-handed if I wasn't desperate for meat. But if I really need meat for my family and I can't get one, then I'd be disappointed to not harvest one.
247	I think the current bison rules are good. I think it's crazy to change the rules after the crazy year we went through with covid. So many people only hunted because of self isolation requirements. I expect this year or next will go back to normalization of hunting effort. Moose hunters having option to hunt moose or bison in sept would be great. But only 1 per year. That would spread out the hunting effort and reduce they hype to chase bison all winter. Fall bison taste way better than winter bison and it would take lots of pressure off the moose hunting
248	[...]
249	I do find that there are several harvester going on Bison hunts that do not have practical experience on handling the animals they harvest it is more like a warrior hunt to many.Last several years notice and wittiness several animals with gunshot wounds. Should restrict the hunts in March to reduce the number of parties on the land.
250	it would be prudent to allow the herd expand its range by eliminating the exclusion area open season. the core area is over hunted and this is eliminating access to habitats critical for bison survival. this is evident especially in March as the herds are becoming more isolated in marginal habitats such as big timber as a tactic to hide from hunters. the cows need new areas that are safe a on high quality sedge forage.
251	Hunting is a privilege,bison hunting is a huge privilege. Shot placement and proper rifle practice should be part of the pre hunting season...there is nothing like reloading a perfect set of 100 rods to use half in practice ,pre season and use 1 or Two rds during the hunt. My first bison harvested had 4 bullets from previous years of a 4 yrs old bull.I reported this to CO office and the information has been passed on to many hunters in your hunting workshops,,,,Keep up the good work. Jim Welsh has a good handle on education as the HEED officer... One thing you SHOULD add in workshops is a sliding Ballistics table showing MAX shot length ,,,,, You say you need 2800 ft lbs energy I agree if the Bison is in 150 yds,,Each individual hunter has his or her maximum shot placement ,,,,,placement and distance is everything. Let's work together to reduce wounded Bison and Moose
252	Really value bison

253	I think asking folks to select a specific sex would increase chances of error and would like to "illegal" harvest of many animals. Also, by telling which sex to harvest you can no longer select the animal on the outside of the herd which is likely the best animal to shoot and reduces risk of them mixing into the herd and not knowing who has been shot. I still feel that the minimum caliber of rifle is too low and that many animals are being wounded but not harvested. They are tough critters and can cover a lot of ground. Their thick hides prevent much of a blood trail. I have heard many stories about this and I find it very disturbing. My family has successfully harvested many bison over the years, we value the meat and recognize that it's hard work. My family always hunts together (My father, brother-in-law and myself) and we always carry a tag each (so whoever has the best shot can take it), but we only ever harvest one animal and share it (whether it's moose or bison or caribou).
254	Bison hunting to me is my most important source of wild game. I hunt all other large species, but if I get one bison I am much more inclined to not hunt other animals that year. I'd still like the opportunity to harvest them of course, as the meat serves usually 4 - 8 families. But from an ethical perspective, I'm more inclined to take one bison than a moose and a caribou.
255	I feel that the current bison management plan to limit number is short sighted. I would like to see more bison in the territory which would reduce pressure on the moose hunting.
256	<p>It works fine don't change it. There were many more people out this last year due to Covid, of course that is going to affect trappers. Sometimes I go out and see no one and I have been doing this almost ten years.</p> <p>Telling a bull from a cow is not hard when they are really close and it's a big bull otherwise it's not always easy. Making us check before shooting will put that "I will get into trouble if I shoot the wrong sex" mark on what is a fantastic hunt.</p> <p>If you want to limit anything limit the size of hunting parties and older two stroke snow mobiles which are noisy and super dirty</p>
257	I enjoy bison hunting as a way to get outside during the long winter. More opportunity to get outside helps keep me happy and shank fever to a minimum.
258	I find the complicated rules at the beginning of the season difficult to deal with..... too many rules.... Make it functional simple...
259	Please leave the regulations as is. Do not limit to sex of Bison as it is difficult to identify in the field as they run more so that they are hunted.
260	<p>There are lots of bison on the land. I had no problem harvesting an animal. I am very satisfied at how the hunting harvest and rules are at this time. Don't change a thing the herd is healthy, there are few active trappers on the land. I did not see very many hunters where I was hunting.</p> <p>The current harvest level is sustainable and last year I was able to harvest a</p>

	bison in a couple of hours, it was great! I was on another trip special guiding my nephew and we were successful in 1 day to find him an animal to harvest. This year I saw the most number of bison that I have ever seen, the population is very healthy and I support on-going special guide opportunities for my family to come and share the bison hunting experience with me.
261	Je chasse majoritairement le bison pour être en plein air et sa viande saine. Je crois que tous les chasseurs devraient, qui ont intérêt à chasser le bison, suivre un cours. J'ai apprécié remplir ce sondage.
262	Bison hunting is an amazing opportunity. It gets me out on the land in the winter and enables myself and others to experience hunting an amazing and elusive animal. There is a very convenient myth being perpetrated that there are "too many people on the land". Even a veteran CO from one of the communities has spoken out about his long patrols and seeing only one or two hunting parties. We need better information and data to support any consideration of adjusting hunting season to reduce the number of people out on the land. Relax and manage bison and other game animals and leave the issue of the number of hunters and gatherers out enjoying themselves alone. Leave the season dates "as-is". Why change the dates to accommodate 6-7 trapline holders? I value bison. I value my time out on the land. I respect the land, the people and the animals all the time and every time I am out.
263	Mid season closures might be appropriate in heavily hunted areas.
264	Some questions difficult to answer accurately due to recollection of activities 10 months ago. Some question hard to answer without clear understanding of what the potential options to changes to hunting opportunities may be. Satisfaction questions?? Awkward, Often dependant on many factors.
265	We go every year with 3 generations that is part of the reason we live in the Yukon
266	I don't hunt bison
267	I had started to think that I should prioritize hunting bison to shift my small hunting pressure away from moose, but it sounds like the Bison population is not as strong/out of control as I thought it was. I do not own a snowmobile so have only put in minimal hunting effort in the fall buffer zone hunt along the Alaska Highway.
268	It's a very big space out there. Yukoners are spoiled if they think seeing a couple hunting parties spread out over hundred and hundreds of square kms means that their experiences are damaged. Likewise.....you guys released these bison and without hunting they are going to just keep expanding. If anything you should be radio collaring a lot more animals and providing up to date information on herd locations in order to increase hunter effectiveness. I do a lot more impact on the environment when I hunt for 15 days in order to harvest an animal than I would in only 5 days if I had better intel on where I had better chances of being successful. Bison meat is great.....but people are

	burning a lot of fossil fuels to drive around scratching their head. Hire a Cessna to fly around every 4 or 5 days and spot herds so that people can get a sense of what access point might be the better bet for their hunting days. That plane will burn a heck of a lot less fuel than the 100 snowmobiles that are out their hunting in the wrong spots.
269	I would like to see the bison population managed at a similar size to what it currently is to provide ample opportunity to harvest. I am open to certain restrictions to provide this opportunity.
270	I would like to see more Conservation Officers Present during Bison Season
271	If more females need to be removed from the herd perhaps a second permit for those harvesting a cow could be given after the cow is reported. Would encourage cow selection.
272	Same season but limit the number of tags sold or have limited number of spring tags
273	I would be comfortable with changes in season length if the changes were justified; however, I currently do not see the need. I think changing to a bull only hunt would solve much of the management problems.
274	Bison are getting smarter and harder to hunt, maybe due to generational learning in the herds or due to pressure from hunters, quads, sleds etc. They are also getting (or seem to be) more aggressive. I have witnessed aggressive behavior in other seasons. I would like to see the bison workshop/course brought back and permits or tags dependent on having that course.
275	the 3km rule should be removed for safety of hunters and bison. over crowding with in the 3km has people shooting towards each other within the boundaries and bison are being boxed in between hunters. resulting in more agitation in bison movements resulting in death for both species
276	All parties hunting wildlife should follow the same rules to ensure proper wildlife management is considered to keep the wildlife resources in good standing numbers for future generations.
277	Please keep it the same as it was, hopefully when covid is more relaxed in the world, there won't be as many harvests of bison as the 2020/2021 season! They are a beautiful animal and great to eat too
278	Decisions need to be made on facts with the goal of ensuring opportunities will be present for future generations! The Government needs to start making sound decisions in a timely matter. The overall hunting opportunities in the Yukon require more management due to the level of increased pressure, motorized vehicles [...]. Before any restrictions are considered for resident hunters, non resident hunters including the special guiding permits need to be addressed. [...]
279	All my bison hunting involves winter camping in an arctic oven tent for 5-7 nights. I try to be as low impact as i can. I go mid week and in colder weather to avoid heavy hunting pressure. I enjoy snowshoeing, and spot and stalk

	hunting, and am dismayed at the mindless trail riding that is so popular or common. March hunting should be curtailed. I strongly support the school hunts. It is a pity that LSC closed their lands. I am very concerned about high wounding rates.
280	From my experience hunting Bison I feel that the population is growing rapidly and the current harvest level is not enough to limit the population growth. There needs to be no change to the current season and more harvest through the rest of the year. As a member of Kluane First Nation it is very frustrating to see herds of Bison destroying our settlement lands every fall and not be able to harvest them on our settlement lands. There should be early season permits provided to First Nations and Resident hunters also. I fear that the Bison herd needs to be reduced dramatically to protect the land and Native animal populations.
281	[...] People had additional time to hunt because of Covid and this may be a reason for increased hunting traffic in many hunting locations. [...]
282	Unfortunately I was not able to get out to hunt this season for medical reasons. I hope to try again this year.
283	[...]
284	Hunters should be banned from using 30-06 to Hunt bison. Way too many hunters on the land in March , the season should earlier.
285	I think a heavier CO presence is required - I hunt bison a lot, and in 10+ years' have only ever been checked once. I think it would be worthwhile to have more presence in the field, especially in the 'remote' areas. It's a cute idea to have a CO out there checking hunting parties and kill sites for a morning or doing a half day zip into Tay Lake and turning, but it is hardly an effort. More and more new hunters are going bison hunting, and I think having more of a presence out there would be a great start to building a stronger relationship between enforcement/ethics and hunters. Not saying that a pile of bad practices are occurring out there, but I feel like with a) more people hunting, b) increased new hunters and, c) the added challenged to winter hunting of big game animals requires people to be held more responsible for meat care and butchering.



286	<p>Hunting Bison in the Yukon is not a right but a privilege. I don't subscribe to the sentiment that a successful bison hunt means someone is a skilled hunter or a tough person. All trips on the land to hunt bison should be done respectfully while enjoying the scenery. There is a growing culture of machismo attitudes amongst entitled hunters who don't respect hunting areas, resident cabins, and who repeatedly consume alcohol while pursuing bison. This is a health and safety concern that I, nor my family, want to see anymore while out on the land. We are often forced to relocate our camp/hunting efforts to other areas when we encounter these individuals. This should be better regulated by CO's. One recommendation to avoid this would be implement a more user friendly reporting system that hunters can use in real-time. Consider the idea of an inreach/spot tip line? This new system should be open to reporting all wildlife act violations including low flying aircraft that I've observed in areas containing bison. I've seen whole groups pushed away from me by planes. [...] I've heard of more resident hunters who rely on aircraft to spot groups but who's to say they are not communicating information via radio to fellow hunters below?</p> <p>Lastly, I appreciate your question on whether successful moose hunters should be allowed to take a bison. I am in full support of limiting how many tags hunters can cancel each season and would be very supportive of bag limitations (I.e. you harvest a moose then no bison hunt for that season...you harvest a caribou then no sheep for that season...and vice versa). No hunting lobbyist groups are pushing this idea and the reality is with increased hunters moving to the yukon, higher resulting harvests, this culture of entitlement for licensed harvesters to be able to cancel all tags each year, and the growing divide between subsistence harvesters and licensed harvesters will only result in one thing...a race to the bottom which will affect all hunting abilities territory wide (e.g Tragedy of the Commons). I implore YG to support the formation of a lobbyist group to bring these issues to the forefront and I'm about ready to start this myself.</p> <p>Thanks for hearing me out.</p>
287	<p>Limiting season and closures will only put more pressure and stress on animals while it's open. More people, more chasing etc. Spread out gives them time to recover.</p> <p>Should have a bow season for bison and moose, like every other jurisdiction in canada</p>
288	<p>It is nice to hunt bison in March when the sun starts to come back and the weather is not as cold but there is still lots of snow. I think March should remain open to bison hunting as long as there is no need for a conservation effort to be enforced. Also bison have large impacts on the land and wildlife and are expanding their territory, so encouraging hunting efforts to new territory zones would be a good idea.</p>

289	<p>Overall, I enjoy getting out and hunting bison at many times throughout the year. What I've noticed over the last couple years however, is an increased number of hunters on the land. I'm sure this can be attributed to increasing population in the city. I worry about the bison sustainability, so I would like to see continued efforts to monitor herd population, and health, etc.</p> <p>I sometimes question these surveys put out by the environment branch. Some of the questions are very vague and difficult to answer with only a drop down multiple choice selection. What is the agenda with this survey I wonder? The sheep survey that was put out prior to the changes to the southern lake permits (which isn't very popular for most sheep hunters you talk to) was similar to this and we're seeing increased pressure in the areas that never used to see the same pressure. When I draw a permit like 7-30 for example, the hope is that there's an opportunity to find some old, mature rams. I don't know if that will be the case in the next few years due to the increased traffic.</p> <p>I would just like to see more discussion and input from hunters before we see large changes in the way regulation and permitting changes in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
290	<p>I do not put as much effort into bison hunting if we have harvested a moose in the same year, but because we usually hunt with one or two other families and share the meat we still try to harvest a bison to also share with our hunting partners. This is why we do not want to see restrictions on harvesting both a moose and bison in the same season.</p>
291	<p>The Yukon has done a good job keeping the bison off the highways and encreasing the numbers. I live in Watson lake and am familiar with BC bison south of us and the problems along the high ways</p>
292	<p>J'adores la chasse au bison que je pratique depuis près de 20 ans. Je comprends très bien les enjeux actuels concernant la pression sur l'environnement et les lignes de trappe dû au nombre grandissant de chasseur au cours des dernières années. Je chasse principalement dans la grande région d'Aishiiik et rencontre très rarement des trappeurs. Est-ce dû à ce mode de vie en déclin ou au bas prix des fourrures mais pour moi la nourriture du bison passe en premier. Ma femme et moi chassons ensemble et sommes souvent surprit de voir des larges groupes de chasse. Un groupe de deux à trois chasseurs, max 4, semble amplement suffisant. J'aime bien l'idée de limiter la chasse à une tête par année par personne que ce soit un bison, orignal...ou deux caribous. J'entant régulièrement parler de chasseurs qui prend plusieurs animaux par année et ça m'inquiète beaucoup. J'aime bien avoir la chance de pouvoir acheter tous les tags de différent espèces au cas où je me trouve dans une situation préférable. Merci de prendre le temps de lire et de prendre soin de notre précieuse chasse aux gros gibiers.</p>
293	<p>I would like you to consider flagging the KM mark even if it is just an indicator on the main trails in. If you do not have GPS or service it is difficult when you</p>

	are walking because of the twists and turns of the roads and trails. If we could count on some type of marker or flag every 5 kms defining that it would be very helpful. Even the conservation office is very unclear on where it is on the maps, even the one I purchased.
294	Bison are changing the landscape in a crazy way, big huge ruts [...] all over the place around the hills at Aishihik Lake, it's horrible what's happening to that once pristine environment, now scarred from these beasts
295	<p>I think to many bison get wounded by poor shot placement or undersized rifles, I believe 30-06 and 300 win is to light. 338 win mag should be the minimum. I use a 338 ultra mag with 250 gr nosler accubond and quite often still need to shoot 2-3 times, luckily haven't had one get away on us before.</p> <p>The larger diameter/heavier bullet is an insurance incase the first bullet hits in the shoulder instead of the lungs.</p> <p>If this were Africa hunting Cape buffalo the minimum caliber would be .375</p>
296	<p>The use of Intrinsic value comparison for Moose to Bison. Strong word, the wood bison has a value but it's not apples to oranges.</p> <p>As moose habitat disappears, and those beaver ponds that are now grass meadows, the lore grassland we have the greater the environment is prime habitat for bison.</p>
297	<p>Some of the questions are hard to answer as I don't know what the implications of questions may be.</p> <p>I'm interested in ensuring that the bison population remains healthy, and that there is a reduction in the amount of damage to the land caused by machines other than snowmobiles.</p> <p>I love bison hunting, and want it to be a sustainable means of gathering food for my family.</p>
298	Given weather, short winter day length, variable ice and snow conditions, its hard to shorten the season and still spread out hunting effort and hunters unless tags become limited.
299	Having bison as a second source for meat helps moose populations.
300	I enjoy getting out. A successful hunt, if it happens, is just a bonus.
301	The questions about which sex to harvest need more information to be fairly answered. What would the objective be of the sex specific tag? Is the government policy still trying to keep numbers down? Are bison culled by government? More information needs to be provided and the only reason I would support sex specific tags is if the government policy was to continue to grow the herd and create more opportunity for Yukon resident hunters. The last thing we need is more limitations on what is a valuable resource unless scientifically backed data to prove it must be changed to prevent over harvest.
302	I liked the question about Moose or Bison to occupy one's freezer. It is not necessary, in my opinion, to harvest two big game animals in the same year, (between moose and bison that is). I think this is a wise consideration for

	Yukon conservation, if aiming to lessen the amount of pressure bison are facing is the goal.
303	I think that leaving the same rules for this season is very important. I don't think bison hunting should be limited. I don't think the season should be shortened either. I think it is fine how it is and we need to continue giving an opportunity to hunters.
304	<p>I would agree with restrictions on numbers of hunters etc as long as it was fair and equitable. say a draw system etc.</p> <p>It is difficult to distinguish cows and bulls especially in deep snow so mistakes happen and then you are punished, seems a bit scary.</p> <p>Having a split season and having to only hunt in one or the other my take some of the pressure off.</p>
305	<p>Strongly feel that people are harvesting multiple big game animals every year and not consuming a majority of this meet.</p> <p>The privilege to hunt has become entitlement to too many. [...]</p> <p>My favorite times to hunt bison are January and February because 90% of Bison hunters won't go out when it's cold. These times are my best Yukon experiences on the land, I see very few hunting parties and the most animals. I also work in the private sector and am typically too busy with work for most of the fall hunts. I also worked endlessly through Covid so my trips Bison hunting were planned far in advance and were my vacations and highlights of my year.</p> <p>Hopefully next year those avoiding work are required to show more commitment to their duties and there won't be so many people getting paid to hang out on the land by the rest of us hard working tax payers.</p> <p>In the case of bison I actually feel that reducing number of hunters will possibly have minimal affect on harvest numbers unless the number of permits is drastically cut. It will result in less people out having better luck/opportunities.</p> <p>I am confident that I can identify an older cow from an older bull but feel like bison up to 5 years old would be very hard to differentiate. Especially with their heard behaviors. If rehabilitation of the heard is required limiting the hunt would be much better for experience and growth than having a tonne of people chasing the heards around trying to find the limited number of small heard mature bulls.</p> <p>I am not apposed to an early March closure. Long days with prime weather make it highly appealing to fair weather hunters.</p>
306	<p>What is the main reason for this survey?</p> <p>Lots of questions about shortening the season. Do that and all the people who are frustrated with seeing so many other hunters will do so even more with everybody cramming their days off work into a shorter calendar season.</p>

	<p>Just curious for planning reasons if we are going to see changes this season.</p> <p>Good questions overall</p>
307	<p>If I get a Bison that is wonderful. I enjoy getting out with friends and sharing the experience in a wall tent for a few days. Hunting bison on a snowmobile allows me to see many beautiful areas of the Yukon I would normally never see. We are blessed to have so much wilderness to explore and appreciate.</p>
308	<p>Regarding question 54 and those similar about shortening the season. I don't think shortening the season would be the right approach. The same amount of hunter effort throughout the season is likely to occur but in a much shorter timeframe, and therefore result in a much higher hunter density. Having a longer season enables hunters to spread their efforts out throughout the season. Many of the hunters I've spoken with are a one-and-done weekend type hunter where they only go out for one weekend and are done for the season. If the season is shortened these one-and-done hunts are still going to occur but would occur in a much shorter timeframe. Also, the likelihood of more human on human conflicts are likely to occur with a higher hunter density.</p> <p>If a higher density(shorter season) of hunters on the land is easier for the Bison to recover from, then shortening it makes sense, however, the hunters I spoke with said that as the season progresses the Bison where more difficult to find, not because of the increased harvest numbers but because the bison adapted to the pressure and found places that the average person wouldn't go.</p> <p>Unfortunately I haven't been able to attend one of the bison hunting workshops but am planning on going to the next one. I think these are a great idea and would really like to see these offered for all species</p>
309	<p>My understanding is that the bison population is too large and bison numbers need to be reduced. If so, the hunting opportunities should be increased.</p>
310	<p>I believe that the hunting season makes sense. My experience indicated that the bison population is thriving. I have been on two hunts and observed large numbers of bison, including healthy numbers of bulls,cows and calf's. A shorter season will cause hunters to cross paths causing conflict. The hunt is spread out over several months, giving hunters an opportunity to pick a time that works for them. Compressing the season will serve no purpose.</p>
311	<p>For all intents and purposes, the bison population in the Yukon continues to do very well even with the hunting pressure it gets. There is no reason to limit Bison hunting in any way, unless it was to protect the pregnant cows in the spring.</p> <p>Your wording in question 54 makes me wonder about the intent of this survey. Trappers and (other residents) have no more entitlement to the land than the hunters. This is a shared public resource on public land.</p>

	Stick to managing the bison, if the herd is healthy, continue providing opportunity for yukon residents to harvest healthy food from it.
312	Love winter camping with family - bison hunting is one component of our fun adventure.
313	I feel the bison hunt should stay as it is. I have never ran into another hunting party when I have been out hunting for bison. I don't feel that this is or has ever been a problem. Hunters that don't know what they are doing or where to shoot an animal shouldn't be out hunting bison in the first place. They can be a very dangerous animal. I am a very experienced hunter and know what I am doing.
314	No comment
315	I prefer moose hunting over bison hunting, however I enjoy the opportunity to hunt both species....if I'm successful when moose hunting....I don't bother to hunt bison, however I enjoy seeing the bison in the wild whether I'm hunting or not. I would like to see the season end sooner(end of February) in order that pregnant cows are not taken which in effect kills two animals.
316	You should get rid of the 2 km off of the highway rule and allow hunters to go farther back for the fall hunt before it is too cold to go hunting. That would reduce the crowds and stress during the prime hunting time. The bison have learned to stay off of the highway. Now it's time to teach the elk to stay off of the highway by letting us hunt them in their core areas.
317	Bison hunting is perfect the way it is and should not be changed.
318	Yukon saw a higher number of hunters during hunting season, moose and or bison, due to Covid and I believe as things return to what we know as our normal the pressure in the bush will reduce. One suggestion I have is restrict the caliber to .300 win mag, 180gr and higher as I've seen and heard of animals being lost due to smaller calibers. [...]
319	I strongly agree to a person only being able to hunt either a moose or a bison per year, not both.
320	Need to open all areas to hunting bison September 1st as opposed to the corridors only north of Alaska Hwy and west of north Klondike especially if considering shorter seasons. If harvest numbers are down should also provide post as to where bison are so hunters know what areas to target as opposed to having to search them out. Allow the use of ATV's for retrieval of Bison in areas with designated trails as opposed to just snowmobiles, especially when there is a lack of snow and ground is froze. Strongly disagree with Env. past practice of slaughtering bison from helicopter in the name of "science" to control the population due to low harvest numbers as was done approx. 3 years ago. Should have just let

	hunters know where they were and low harvest numbers would have been taken care of.
321	If the idea is still to take hunting pressure off of other species by focusing on bison, and if the herd numbers are still high as they seem to be, then leave it alone. I am all for education, especially for new hunters, but limiting the hunt, and over-regulating it will lead to people giving up on bison and going back to moose.
322	I would like to see the 1 kilometer from hyw corridor be extended past Breaburn to past Twin Lakes as they are frequently see in the ditches in that area.
323	I saw over 20 bison on my first day and harvest a calf there was not much meat for me to share with others. My first mature bison supported 2 family's of 4 with clean healthy food on a year that we did not harvest moose.
324	If we wanted to shorten up the season, take away the early bison hunting season.
325	Even though I did not harvest a bison last year, we enjoy going out as a family and being outdoors.
326	I feel it is most important for all hunters to hunt responsibly, ethically and with an effective calibre of rifle. I do not believe the 30-06 is sufficient for this animal.