

FOR RELEASE December 18, 2014

## Government approves new bison hunting opportunities

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is allowing bison hunting to resume from January 1 to February 14 in part of the Aishihik wood bison herd's core range. This change was made in response to concerns about the herd's movement and population growth as well as requests for better access from local hunters.

"The Government of Yukon is increasing the opportunity for Yukoners to harvest bison this winter by lifting the mid-winter closure for nine game management subzones that border the Alaska and North Klondike highways in the bison core range," Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said.

The six-week-long approval for hunting will continue in about two-thirds of the core range to provide respite to local area residents, trappers and wildlife in the area that need to conserve energy during the cold winter months.

The changes are consistent with the bison management plan, as they will help reduce the herd's size, control its range and keep bison off the highways. This new hunting opportunity will also provide increased opportunity to hunt during a quieter time of the year.

A special effort will be made this season to help reduce disturbance of traps by bison hunters and others, including a public awareness campaign involving signs at trailheads. Government staff will monitor snowmobile traffic at key trailheads from January through to late March. Data will be used in future to inform wildlife management decisions.

Maps showing the new boundary of the closed area are available on the Environment Yukon website and at all department offices.

Learn more: Bison Hunt

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News Release #14-295