



ABOUT PUBLIC LANDS

Bison Grazing on Public Land

Introduction

Legislative amendments took place to provide bison producers with an opportunity to raise bison on some public lands. Making certain public lands available for bison grazing provides bison producers with an option the cattle industry already enjoys. Providing this opportunity to the bison industry is consistent with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's (ARSD) commitment to provide access to long-term, secure grazing for agricultural users.

Bison grazing on public land will take place on fenced agricultural lands already identified and allocated for long-term grazing use.

Bison operators who wish to have their animals graze on their public land agricultural disposition will be required to submit an application that includes information about planned fencing and management.

ARSD will review applications based on the government's multiple use approach to public land management. The authorization will include specific conditions related to management of bison that are identified during the review.

Where does it apply?

The program applies across the province with the exception of the area north of township 95, west of the Peace River and north of township 88, east of the Peace River. A map defining this area is attached.

Letter of Authority

The Letter of Authority (LOA) is a legislative requirement and is the mechanism for authorizing bison grazing on public land. The LOA sets out enforceable conditions upon which bison may be grazed on a disposition. These include fencing requirements, season of use and any other condition identified in the bison grazing approval process.

Bison operators will be required to have wildlife friendly fencing which complies with the [Fencing Guidelines for Bison on Alberta Public Lands](#).

For bison grazing, as with other livestock, continuous (year-round) grazing will not be permitted on public land due to adverse impacts on the range resource.

Current disposition holders interested in applying for bison grazing on agricultural public land need to contact their local agrologist at one of the offices listed in the website link below:

<http://srd.alberta.ca/lands/contactinformation.aspx>

OR contact:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Lands Division
Rangeland Management Branch
4th Floor, 9920 – 108 Street
Great West Life Building,
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4
Telephone: (780) 427-3595

