Madison Buffalo Jump State Park

MONTANA STATE PARKS

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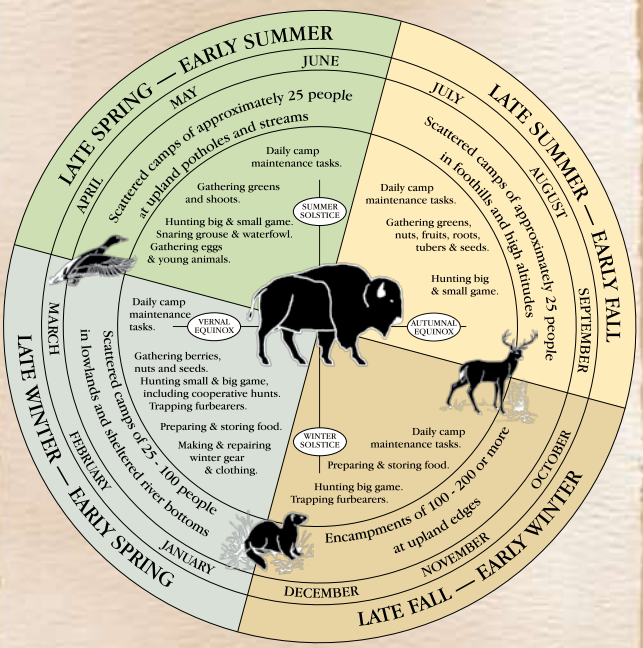
When buffalo roamed the plains, native people followed seasonal patterns influenced by the lifecycles of plants, spawning of fish, and migrations of game. The Madison River Valley provided all of these resources, but the Madison Buffalo Jump specifically drew people for buffalo hunts.



The spectacular cliff was an important hunting tool to native people. With the surrounding landscape, the site had all the necessary elements for a successful buffalo jump. Working cooperatively, people used their remarkable skill and knowledge of the ways of the buffalo to drive the animals off the cliff. Large quantities of food and essentials were gathered. The buffalo jump was often the key to existence for native peoples.

Madison Buffalo Jump State Park is located seven miles south of the Logan I-90 interchange. It is open year round, and is in close proximity to Missouri Headwaters State Park and Yellowstone National Park.

Fees:

Daily Entrance Fee…..$5 per out-of-state vehicle
*Free with Montana State Parks Passport

No Overnight Camping

Montana State Parks Passport…..$25 for first vehicle
$20 for second vehicle

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Contact Information
http://fwp.mt.gov
406-994-6934 or 406-285-3610
TTY: 406-444-12000

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Madison Buffalo Jump State Park
Map Key
Interpretive Pavillion
Parking Area
Restrooms
Hiking Trail
FWP Land Ownership
Other Land Ownership
Trail Distance 1 Mile
Trail Distance 1/4 Mile
Logan, MT and I-90
Madison Buffalo Jump Rd.
N
1/2 Mile

Sosoni' speaking people (Shoshone) probably used the Madison Buffalo Jump most frequently, but many nations have called this area home. Ancestral bands of Séliš (Salish), Qalispé (Pend d'Oreille), Bannock, Apsáalooke (Crow) and most recently Nitsitapii (Blackfeet) were drawn to this area's abundant resources.

Using both oral histories from tribal members and archaeological evidence to write the story, interpretive displays at the pavilion enlighten visitors to the drama of the Madison Buffalo Jump for nearly 2000 years. The also park offers a picnic area and hiking trails. A hike to the top of the jump provides an impressive view of the Madison Valley.