

Legal Status

Bison have Multiple Legal Classifications in Montana (Domestic Livestock or Game Animal).

The State of Montana's legal classification of bison changes based on whether they are found on commercial farms, in private conservation herds, or in the wild.

Wild bison classification also depends upon the perceived risk of damage to public or private property, or transfer of disease.

How Would the Varying Legal Status in Surrounding States and Provinces Impact the Ability of Montana to Potentially Restore Bison?

The states and provinces that border Montana have varying legal status for bison. If the decision is made to restore bison, Montana would need to work with surrounding states and providences.



There are Multiple Agencies That Have Authority for Bison Management.

The management authority and legal statutes within Montana continues to be controversial.

Wild bison that are classified as 'species in need of management' due to risk of damage to public or private property are under the authority of FWP.

Wild bison originating from Yellowstone National Park are designated as a species requiring disease control and are under the management of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Montana Department of Livestock.

