## **Ecological Impacts**

## How Will Bison Wallows Impact the Landscape?

Private bison producers report that although there are some concentrated wallows, there are not a large number of wallows across the landscape and significant negative impacts from wallowing have not been observed.

Soil depressions visible on the landscape have often been attributed to relic bison wallows, however examination has shown that many are small patches of landscape and soil heterogeneity resulting from variation in underlying geological materials.

The lifespan of bison wallows has not yet been established, nor has the role that different soil types play in the persistence of wallows.



## What is the Potential for Overgrazing from Large Congregations of Bison?

Though bison will congregate into larger aggregates during the summer months, throughout the remainder of the year cows, calves, and immature males tend to form smaller "cow" groups with an average of 10 to 20 bison.

Bison density averages from one to four per square mile depending on the range conditions.

## What Impact Could Bison Have on Riparian Areas?

Whereas cattle often behave as central place grazers, with foraging centered on water sources, studies have observed that bison do not center foraging activities around permanent water sources.





