

Why Bison?

By Morning: Sprit: Wolf, D.R.M.

You may have heard it called buffalo, but it's the great American Bison that have reclaimed the plains. The name of water buffalo, the sacred animal from India, got transposed to the American continent just like the term "Indian" did for native Red Man. The return of the bison as a sacred animal for the Red Man signifies the return of abundance, harmony, and peace to the earth.

Not more than a few years ago bison were on the endangered species list with only tens of bison remaining of the millions that once roamed the plains. Indiscriminately slaughtered, mostly by white men, until but few remained the bison have recently made a miraculous and unexplainable come-back. With 10 months of gestation and predominantly single births it is unaccountable that after a 150 year absence their number has exceeded more than 800,000 in less than 12 years. Having gone from over 300 million bison that provided an ecosystem for millions of prairies and plains to less than 5% to make room for the preferred English cattle, it is understandable that those very plains have suffered in galactic proportions.

While cattle spread out to graze slowly, eating only their favorites until they have completely devoured the field, bison graze in tight herds, moving quickly and eat a little of everything as they go; like a lawnmower trimming the grass. And like your lawn the prairie responds by replenishing thick and full, as bison hooves knock the seeds off of grass shoots, spreading new seed, then moving on, giving time for seeds to germinate in the protected tall grass that remains for that purpose.

Unlike cattle, bison don't need trees for shade, or bush for wind breaks that would stroke-out or freeze bovine; bison are perfectly outfitted to withstand both heat and extreme cold. Bison steer clear of lands where cattle have tromped the grounds so hard that nothing will grow, allowing the prairie to regenerate and flourish. Bison bring back the native birds and wildlife that won't go near cattle, and they don't pollute the ground water with their ruminated waste.

Today the Plains and prairies are making a come-back due to the returning bison, and soon the healing will spread out to encompass the planet. Old native tall grasses, flowers, and trees destroyed by cattle are being seen once again. Every dwindling species is motivated to thrive by the indomitable spirit of the bison. When the eternal dance of life is restored, the balance of nature is re-established and health returns to every living thing.