



The National Park Service (NPS) has announced another environmental assessment of the buffalo herd that has taken up residence within the confines of the Grand Canyon National Park on the North Rim. Many of you will remember this herd as the "House Rock" herd. They've found the groceries are better on the Park, and no one shoots them there!

What used to be 100 to 200 animals is now estimated to be triple that size and projected to grow considerably more if something isn't done. "We", including sportsmen and women, AZ Game & Fish Commission and Department, Senators McCain and Flake and Congressman Gosar for the last couple years have tried to instill some common sense into the NPS to address this "problem". We have suggested the NPS allow hunters (skilled volunteers that pass the buffalo class), pay Game & Fish for a tag that is selected in the draw, for the privilege of hunting these sought after game animals, which in turn would perpetuate this prized hunt and continue to fulfill lifelong dreams of hunting an Arizona buffalo. The only cost to the NPS would be supervising the operation and setting out some parameters in concert with the Game & Fish Department.

The first round of bison EA discussion in 2014 got the ball rolling. Here we are three years later with some small "concessions", but we aren't yet where we need to be. Notably, it appears the skilled volunteers being proposed aren't under the control of the AZ Game & Fish Department, and if one of those skilled volunteers happens to harvest a buffalo, they cannot have the hide and horns. They may get some meat, but may have to share it with the group of people they might be selected to "hunt" with.

You can find information on the EA and the process here:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca_bison AND
[https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?
parkID=65&projectID=49574&documentID=79883](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=65&projectID=49574&documentID=79883)

You can also learn more about what is going on by attending one or more of the following meetings:

- Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Double Tree by Hilton, 1175 West Route 66, Flagstaff, AZ 86001...6 pm to 8 pm
- Thursday, May 18, 2017, Ben Avery Facility-Activities Center, 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85086...5 pm to 7 pm
- Tuesday, May 23, 2017, Holiday Inn Express and Hotel, 217 South 100 East, Kanab, UT 84747...6 pm to 8 pm (UT time) (5 pm to 7 pm AZ time)
- Tuesday, May 30, 2017, NPS web based informational meeting 5 pm to 6 pm AZ time, to register for the webinar go to <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/6455039635006866177>

What do we want?

1. We want the NPS to work in concert with the AZ Game & Fish Department to manage and control these "hunts".
2. We want the "skilled volunteers" to be selected by AZ Game & Fish through the draw process as they have in the past, to hunt this "sub-unit" of 12A.
3. We want these "skilled volunteers" to be able to retain the entire carcass of any animal they successfully harvest.

The comment deadline is June 7, 2017, and you can submit your comments in one of three ways:

1. at one of the meetings listed above
2. electronically here:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=79883>
3. or via US Mail to this address: Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Attn: Bison Management Plan EA, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

***Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht
Executive Director***