



Bison

Bison *(Bison bison)*

Instant ID

- A large brown, cow-like animal which stands up to 6 feet at the shoulder and can weigh over 2,000 pounds
- A high shoulder hump and sloping back with shaggy fur
- Head is large with horns that curve up, darker fur, a beard and a broad nose
- Tail has a tuft
- Males are larger than females

Native Niches

- Native to Florida, however they were extirpated (locally extinct)
- Reintroduced to Paynes Prairie in 1975
- Historically found throughout the continental United States and into Canada and Mexico



Bison

Bison (*Bison bison*)

Favorite Foods

- A grazer, bison eat mainly grasses and sedges

Critter Characteristics

- Largest land mammal in North America
- Bison at Paynes Prairie are plains bison from Oklahoma
- Wallows (rolls on ground, making a depression) to limit insect bites, cool off and mark territory
- Incorrectly referred to as a “buffalo”

Population Protection

- The herd at Paynes Prairie was recently rounded-up and tested. Males were sent to other preserves to limit inbreeding
- Give bison plenty of space. They will charge when threatened