

## BISON IN THE INNOKO

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I'm really concerned about the Department of Fish and Game trying to introduce wood bison in the mouth of the Innoko, near Shageluk, Holy Cross, Anvik and Grayling. Wood bison are an endangered species. The ADF&G says they can get a 10J exemption for the Endangered Species Act and the Federal Government has never repealed a 10J exemption yet.

Right! And when did the Feds pass up a chance to lock up Alaska. I trust the governor, and trust the commissioner, but have absolutely NO trust for the Federal Government. They could introduce the bison, and two weeks later lift the 10J exemption and lock up the whole middle Yukon.

Look at what the Feds did with the polar bears. There are more polar bears than ever, and the Feds used their issues to lock up Northwestern Alaska.

ADF&G claims that the wood bison were in that area 500 years ago, but cultural historians have no record that I've been able to find.

Don't kid yourself. The Feds violated the Statehood act and locked up land with ANILCA. President Obama is trying to violate ANILCA to lock up more of Alaska – hundreds of thousands of acres.

I don't know what their plan is, but it doesn't include your best interest or mine.

At the same time, ADF&G has allowed the conflict to continue in Delta where the bison, introduced 80 years ago, are doing crop damage to farmers' crops. The community is divided, working groups have met again and again, but there is still NO solution to the bison problem in Delta Junction.

I'm working on a bill that will forbid ADF&G from introducing the bison without Legislative approval. The intent is that the bison could be introduced, but not without meaningful input from locals and those who represent them.

I have freely roamed Western Alaska, and would love to see the bison roam free too, but as things are their freedom may end up with our bondage. We cannot give the Feds yet another chance to lock up more of our land.