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**Review of *Buffalo* by John Foster, Dick Harrison, and I. S.  
MacLaren, Edmonton, Alberta, 1992, University of Alberta Press**

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**Buffalo.** John Foster, Dick Harrison, and I. S. MacLaren, eds. Edmonton: The University of Alberta Press, 1992. xii+244 pp. Maps, photos, and references. \$C16.95 cloth, (ISBN 0-8886-4237-7).

This volume contains 12 contributions that deal with North American bison in relation to paleontology, archaeology and cultural resource management, the fur trade, portrayal in art and literature, disease and population ecology, and Native American land tenure.

There are two general themes that dominate this book. First, two articles by Jack Brink and Ed Sponholz discuss the role of Native Americans in the interpretation and preservation of cultural resources. Both authors focus on the spectacular prehistoric Head-Smashed-In bison jump in southwestern Alberta. Head-Smashed-In is a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage site that has been developed in cooperation with the Peigan tribe of the Blackfoot Nation. Sponholz devotes much of his article to a description of the \$10 million Interpretive Centre and the broad range of multicultural events and educational activities that take place at this very innovative multiple use facility.

Brink focuses on the efforts to establish a cooperative relationship between the elders of the Blackfoot Nation, government officials, and archaeologists and cultural anthropologists affiliated with the Head-Smashed-In Project. Brink provides valuable insights into the complexities involved in incorporating Blackfoot oral traditions (*Napi* stories) and replicas of ceremonial items into the Centre's educational and interpretive program. Native Americans are actively involved in all activities at the Head-Smashed-In Interpretive Centre including archaeology, guided tour, and management.

Second, five articles examine a number of wildlife management problems associated with establishing viable herds of wood bison throughout their native range in western Canada. C. Gates, T. Chowns, and H. Reynolds present a detailed historical account of efforts to reestablish wood bison throughout portions of Alberta, the Northwest Territory, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. L. N. Carbyn, a research scientist for the Canadian Wildlife Service, examines the dynamic predator/prey relationship

between wolves and bison in Wood Buffalo National Park and the crucial role that wolves play in this ecological community.

Restocking efforts in Canada included importation of hundreds of plains bison from Montana. These animals were apparently the source of two very significant bovine diseases—brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) and tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*). The dramatic impact of these diseases on Canadian bison herds is detailed by veterinary pathologist Gary Wobeser. He examines all of the possible approaches to eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis from the Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) herd and concludes that all Park bison must be exterminated. This was also the conclusion of the Northern Diseased Bison Environmental Assessment Panel. The panel ruled out other possible approaches to the disease problem including selective removal, vaccination, and fencing or buffer zones.

In a related article, Stacy Tessaro outlines the adverse effects of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in bison, cattle, and humans. On the other hand, Theresa Ferguson and Clayton Burke challenge the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office (FEARO) Panel's characterizations of the WBNP herds as disease-ridden and genetically-impure. They point out that the national cattle herd is not disease-free as claimed and that there are no "known genetic markers for wood bison population[s]." Ferguson and Burke argue that the major concern of the FEARO Panel, Agriculture Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Wood Bison Recovery Team, the Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife Committee (RENEW) and others is protection of the nation's domestic livestock industry. These authors emphasize the economic, ecosystemic, and spiritual importance of the bison for Native Americans throughout western Canada. Native Americans have pointed out that their treaties, land use rights, economic situation, spiritual needs, and traditional knowledge of bison have been ignored by the Canadian government and its affiliated agencies. They believe that Wood Buffalo National Park, the northern bison herds, and their own existence is threatened by the plans to slaughter all free-ranging bison in the Park.

Additional contributions include Michael Wilson's paleontological and evolutionary overview of New World bison, a richly-illustrated account of bison in art and literature by I. S. MacLaren, wildlife artist Clarence Tellenius's daring efforts to get to know his subjects, J. E. Foster's argument that the Métis were responsible for the extinction of the bison in western Canada, and Wright's experimental archaeology study that deals with bison dung as an aboriginal fuel source.

*Buffalo* explores a diverse array of topics concerning the North American bison. More importantly, these topics converge on several contemporary and very significant issues including biodiversity, wildlife management, the interpretation and preservation of cultural resources, and the rights of indigenous peoples. This book will be of interest to a broad range of readers and it is very well suited for college courses in anthropology, history, Great Plains studies, and environmental science. **Alan Osborne**, *Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*.