

The wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) is the largest land mammal in Canada.¹ The wood bison are very big and brawny with big heads and shoulders. Males can weigh up to 2,200 pounds. These bison are bigger than the well known plains bison, though they are slower and less agile. The wood bison is considered threatened because of over hunting, loss of environment, and other factors caused an extremely low number of bison in the early 1900's.

Since the species was threatened the ESA (Endangered Species Act) has made a special project of breeding the bison. After 7 years, the bison were finally released back into the wild in Shageluk Innoko's Valley, where they had been missing for over a hundred years.² At the height of their endangerment of the bison, there were 300 or less wood bison left. Now there are around 7,000 in the wild, and though they used to be endangered now they are threatened. Though the species still isn't what it used to be there is less of a risk of the wood bison going extinct in the near future.

Even though the herds numbers are increasing, the bison should still be protected and helped along in the restoration of their species to its former glory. Without the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) and the Alaskans themselves, the herd would have died out and an important part of Alaskan wildlife and culture would have died with them.

It's important to protect our environment and wildlife, this was done in Alaska when the wood bison herd was saved from extinction. The herd is now in the thousands and steadily increasing because of the help from everyone involved in the wood bison's restoration.

¹ <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8362>

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<https://alaskawildlife.org/about/wood-bison-restoration/#:~:text=into%20AWCC%20care.-,A%20special%20regulation%20was%20adopted%20by%20the%20U.S.%20Fish%20and,of%20the%20Endangered%20Species%20Act.>