

2013 Beatti Gulch Concerns

In spring of 2013 some incidents occurred with the taking of the bison in Beatti Gulch. Below are my concerns.

- Beatti Gulch “hunt” was unethical and unsafe. Some kills were occurring at night, residents and guests were experiencing bullets flying around, killing near residential area.
- Over 8000 lbs of gut piles were left in a small area, inviting predators in a residential area; grizzlies were waking up and would be drawn to residential area, as well as health issues.
- Over 100 bison were killed in less than a ¼ mile area.
- Pregnant cows were killed with well developed calves suffocating in placentas.
- Bison shot just as they were leaving the Yellowstone National Park boundaries; one when it was halfway through, which fell backwards and could not be harvested, wasted.
- Private property being trespassed on to herd bison off for killing, as well as being hunted on.

Below is a Cadastral map of the area being discussed. Private properties are marked. The bottom of the map shows the Yellowstone National Park border, which has a fence to the left and right of the Old Yellowstone Trail South entering the Park. Red bison represent kill areas, not one bison, except in the case of the one (northernmost red bison on the map) that was shot on Old Yellowstone Trail D, directly across from the private driveway. There were over 100 bison killed in this small area. As you can see, private property was not only trespassed to get to public sections, but bison were killed on private property. Photos were taken after the first couple days of the hunt. The numerous gut piles and unborn calves began accumulating on the landscape as the hunt continued. Due to the grizzlies waking from hibernation, potentially threatening the residential area, FWP had to come in and dispose of the gut piles, over 8000 lbs of which were hauled off.

I feel in every challenge there is an opportunity. The opportunity is here and now for us to work together to expand the landscape for bison in Montana, while honoring Native American Tribal rights, respecting the bison, and an ethical and safe hunting environment.

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