

Early Warning Note

Date: **March 7, 2023**

CLIFF: 273830

Email to: Paul Corns, **Communications Director, GCPE**
Email to: **Mike Hykaway, ADM North Area**
CC to: Rick Manwaring, **Deputy Minister**
Eamon O'Donoghue, **Associate Deputy Minister**
Andrea Wood, **Director, Executive Operations, DMO**
Melanie Iwanow, **Manager, DMO**
FLNR Deputy Minister Inbox (FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca)

From: Peace District, Northeast Region
Contact: Michel Lavallee

Ph: 778-576-1139

Issue: Pink Mountain Plains Bison Health

Briefing Note to follow: No

Background:

The Pink Mountain Plains bison herd originated from a private herd and are not a native species to the Northeast Region. This herd provides the only wild bison hunt in the Province and is popular with resident and non-resident hunters. The herd is important from a federal perspective as a possible source herd to support bison reintroductions in Canada.

The last plains bison population inventory occurred in 2014 and that estimate has been used to inform wildlife management decisions during the last 9 years. Some Treaty 8 First Nations are harvesting plains bison to support their communities' sustenance needs. Hunters have indicated success rates are declining and wildlife biologists conducting moose inventories in the area are observing less bison than in previous years.

Bison have been observed as bison with poor body condition by local Guide Outfitters indicating the herd has health struggles. The health concerns may include inadequate nutrition, disease, or an unknown health factor. Supplemental feeding is not recommended since it is unlikely to support the population and congregating animals could accelerate disease transmission.

Suggested Response: