# [***FIRST TRIBAL BUFFALO CONSERVATION SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN DENVER***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5TMM-TB31-JCBF-S2R2-00000-00&context=1516831)

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The following information was ***released by Defenders of Wildlife***:

The first Tribal Buffalo Conservation Summit will be held Nov. 1-3, bringing together tribal leaders, tribal wildlife and cultural representatives, and conservation experts to share their management strategies and discuss the important ecological, cultural and economic benefits of bison restoration. In the last six years, ***tribes*** have led the way by bringing back hundreds of wild buffalo to western tribal lands in Montana, Wyoming and other states, and celebrated the birth of dozens of calves. A National Bison Day Celebration on Nov.

3, at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, will showcase speeches by tribal leaders and elders about the importance of buffalo to ***tribes***, Native singing and drumming performances, and viewing opportunities of the Refuge's bison herd. Statements: I'm so proud of the role the Fort Peck ***Tribes*** have played in bringing buffalo back, said Robert Magnan, director of the Fort Peck ***Tribes*** Fish and Game Department and buffalo program. Since we welcomed back the first Yellowstone buffalo, we've seen the ecosystem revive. Grassland birds have returned, native grasses are thriving. ***Tribes*** are the true defenders of bison, said Chamois Andersen, senior Rockies and Plains representative for Defenders of Wildlife. We are honored to be a part of this historic meeting. It will take all of us partners in bison conservation to bring our national mammal back and restore its ecological role in historic habitats. ***Tribes*** are increasingly leading the way in bison conservation and a lot has been accomplished in recent years to restore bison to western tribal lands, said Garrit Voggesser, national director of the National Wildlife Federation's Tribal Partnerships Program. Much more can be achieved to conserve wild herds on an ecologically significant scale. The summit will inspire ***tribes*** and create the collaboration for more successes. To reestablish healthy buffalo populations on Tribal lands is to reestablish hope for Indian people. said Ervin Carlson, President of the Intertribal Buffalo Council. By returning the buffalo to Tribal lands, we will help heal the land, the animal, and the spirit of the Indian people. We are a political people, explains Andrew Werk, President of the Fort Belknap Tribal Council. When the Yellowstone buffalo is captured and remains in a closed facility and unable to be used for conservation, it's like us on the reservation. To restore the tribal connections to buffalo is a way to help heal the past and bring hope for the future, said Jason Baldes, Bison Consultant for the Eastern Shoshone ***Tribe***. It helps heal us as native people and connect our youth to their tribal heritage. WWF is proud to support tribal community initiatives that are bringing their relatives, the bison, back in ways that will ensure the conservation of the species and the prosperity of the people for generations to come, said Dennis Jorgensen, Bison Initiative Coordinator for World Wildlife Fund. This summit will bring together numerous ***tribes*** to share their unique experiences, perspectives, and learning and I'm certain that we will all be stronger for it.

Additional Background:A fact sheet on the history of bison conservation with videos can be found here.The brochure for the summit with tribal buffalo conservation success stories can be found here.The media advisory with logistical details on the summit can be found here.

The Intertribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) is a collection of over 63 federally recognized ***Tribes*** from 20 different states whose mission is to restore buffalo to Indian Country in order to preserve our historical, cultural, traditional, and spiritual relationship for future generations. Follow us on Facebook The Fort Belknap Indian Community is home of the Nakoda and A'aninin Nations. The Fort Belknap reservation encompasses 650,000 acres of grasslands and plains in north central Montana. The Fort Peck ***Tribes***, the Assiniboine and the Sioux, live on more than two million acres of grasslands in northeastern Montana. Follow us on Facebook Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With over 1.8 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit newsroom.defenders.org and follow us on Twitter @DefendersNews. The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Visit the National Wildlife Federation Media Center at NWF.org/News. For more information on the NWF's Tribal Bison Conservation Program: [*https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Bison/Tribal-Lands*](https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Bison/Tribal-Lands). Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. World Wildlife Fund is one of the world's leading conservation organizations, working in 100 countries for over half a century. With the support of almost 5 million members worldwide, WWF is dedicated to delivering science-based solutions to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, halt the degradation of the environment and combat climate change. Visit   [*www.worldwildlife.org*](http://www.worldwildlife.org) to learn more and follow our news conversations on Twitter @WWFNews.

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