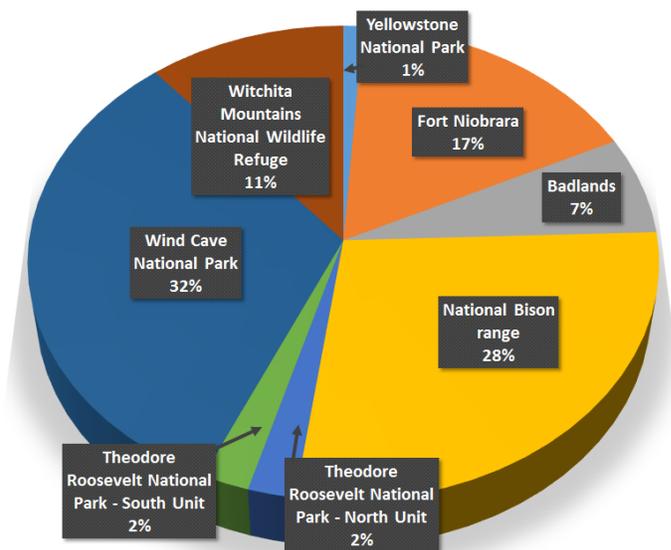


## Blue Mounds State Park and the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Welcome New Herd Bull

Blue Mounds State Park (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) and the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd will soon have Yellowstone genetics thanks to a newly introduced 2-year old bull. Due to the presence of brucellosis in Yellowstone mammals, bison from Yellowstone are not permitted to travel to other states. Brucellosis is a contagious disease that causes bison, cattle, sheep, deer, moose and other mammals to spontaneously abort their pregnancies. Researchers at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, successfully artificially inseminated his mother with sperm from a Yellowstone Bison, resulting in his birth. The bull will be allowed to breed with the females at Blue Mounds increasing the herd’s diversity of genetic ancestry.

### Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Zoological Garden manage for the public benefit a herd of bison with high quality genetics. The herd numbers approximately 130 animals and is spread between the Minnesota Zoo, Minneopa State Park, and Blue Mounds State Park. The new bull brings the Blue Mounds State Park herd up to 78 animals.



*Diversity of Blue Mounds State Park genetic ancestry (2014).*

### Yellowstone Genetics Increase Diverse Genetic Ancestry

The new bull will contribute to a more diverse genetic ancestry in the bison of Blue Mounds State Park where Yellowstone genetic ancestry is underrepresented. Yellowstone comprises approximately 1% of species ancestral diversity. Diverse genetics in wildlife allow for healthier populations. The new bull will eventually replace the existing herd bull who arrived in 2012 from Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge as the breeding male.