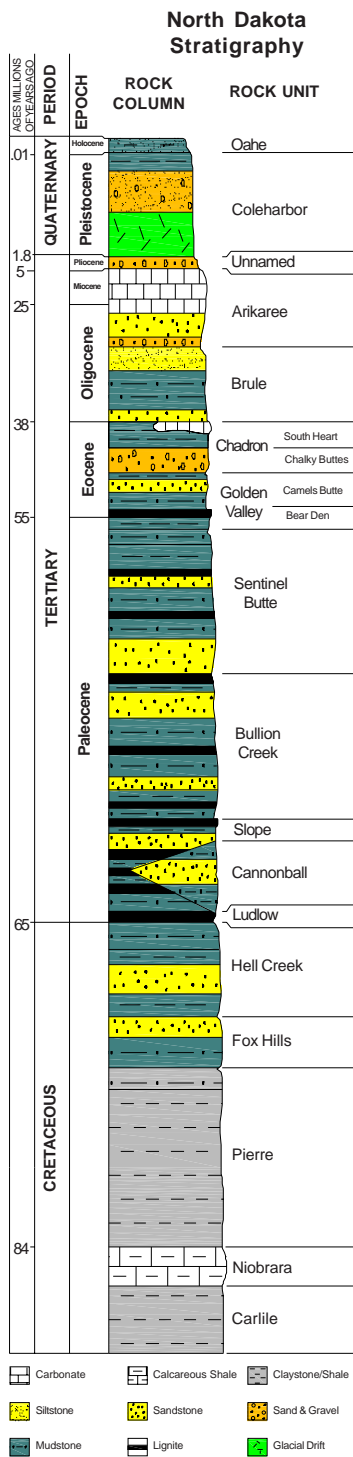


Bison bison



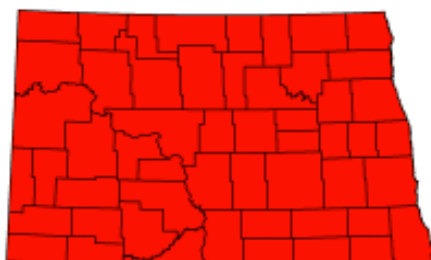
Common Name:
American bison

Classification:
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Family: Bovidae

Description:
Bison bison, the American bison, lives in North Dakota today but was much more abundant in the past. Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark recorded huge herds of bison in North Dakota. Bison are large animals, the males are up to about 10 feet long and weight as much as 1800 pounds. Bison live in herds and mostly eat grass. They have a keen sense of smell and have excellent eyesight. *Bison bison* date back to about 5,000 years ago. The species has likely lived in North Dakota that long. Bison fossils, skulls and skeletal bones, are abundant in North Dakota and have been found throughout the state.



Bison herd along the Missouri River north of Bismarck with the Lewis and Clark expedition in boats on the river in 1804. Painting by, and courtesy of, Vern Erickson.



Locations where fossils have been found