The Bison Range

The idea for a Bison Range refuge originated in 1908 by the American Bison Society. In 1909 under the Dixon Act, Congress allotted 18,540 acres of reservation land to the Bison Society. This land was to be fenced off and used as a refuge for buffalo.

Later funds were given in the sum of $40,000 and the land was officially purchased from the Tribes. Thirty-four buffalo were purchased from the Conrad estate at $275 per head to stock the newly acquired Bison Range.
In 1933 a very rare male Albino Buffalo was born. It was the result of a breeding experiment conducted at the park. Another male was born in 1937, the off-spring of the first albino. It soon died.

The adult male survived. He lived and became the famous “Big Medicine” up to his death in 1959.

The opening of the Bison Range as a National Park kept the buffalo alive. This park gives evidence to the traditional way of life of the Flatheads and the buffalo from long before the whiteman was here.
Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the Teacher’s Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. **Warm Springs Animal Stories**  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2. **Snail Women at Sq’aq’le**  
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation

3. **Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman**  
Muckleshoot Tribe

4. **Assiniboine Woman Making Grease**  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

5. **Coyote**  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

6. **How the Summer Season Came**  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation

7. **Little Weasel’s Dream**  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

8. **Fort Hall Stories**  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

9. **The Bear Tepee**  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

10. **Sioux Stories and Legends**  
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

11. **Kootenai Stories**  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

12. **Chief Mountain’s Medicine**  
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap Reservation

13. **Coyote the Trickster**  
Burns Paiute Reservation

14. **Running Free**  
Shoalwater Bay

15. **Salish Coyote Stories**  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

16. **Coyote and the Cowboys**  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

17. **Napi’s Journey**  
Blackfeet Tribe

18. **Warm Springs Stories**  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19. **Tepee Making**  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

20. **Baskets and Canoes**  
Skokomish Tribe

21. **Warrior People**  
Blackfeet Tribe