

The Buffalo Way:
Rewilding the Ecology & Culture of Bison





PHOTO: THE HERD, MARTIN GARRETSON/DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bison, also known as buffalo, form the heart of WCS's origin story. At one time, 30 million buffalo thundered across North America, making an indelible mark on the heart and soul of American culture.

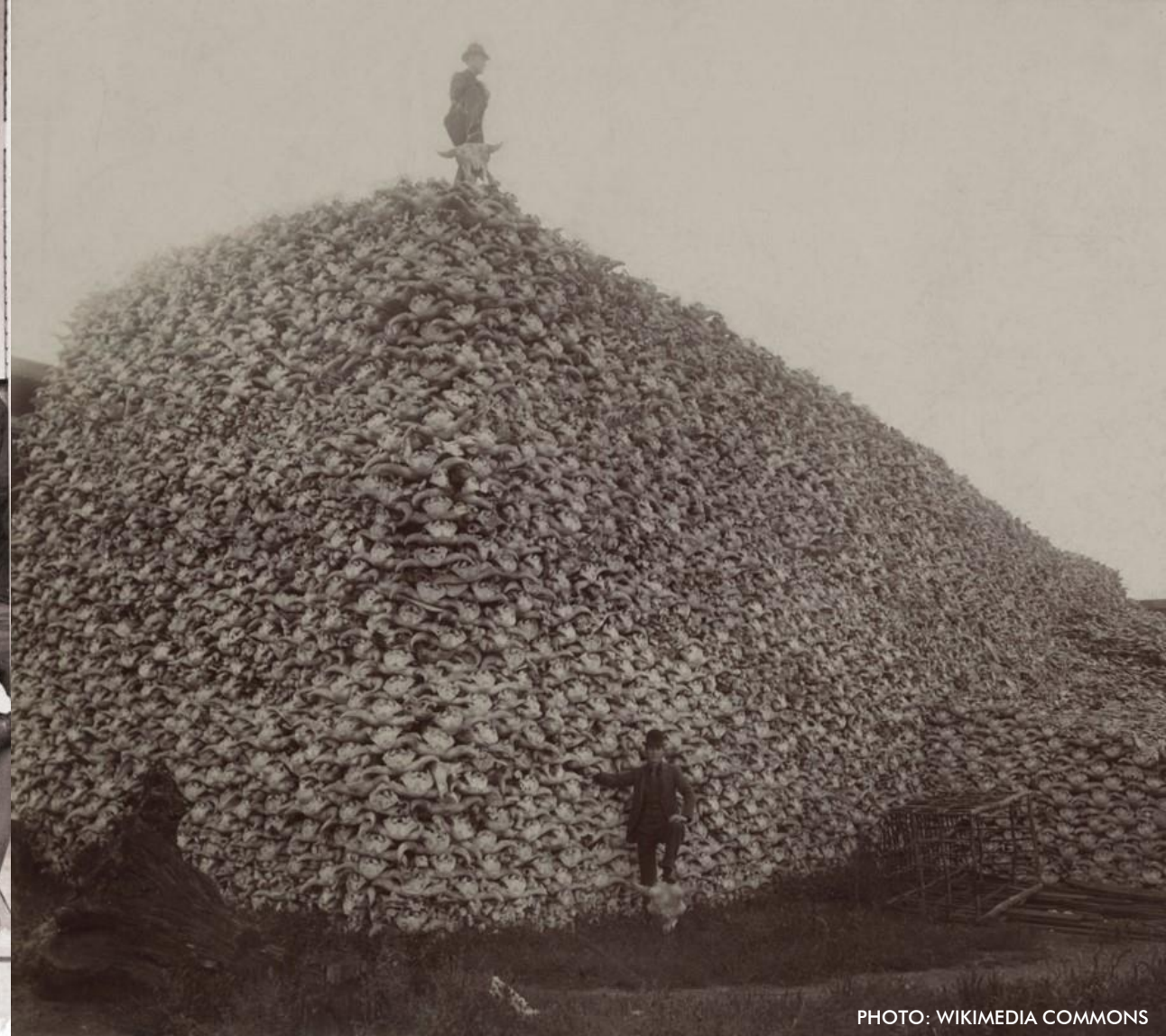




PHOTO: KELLY STONER/WCS

By grazing, tramping, and wallowing, bison engineer their habitats, shift fire patterns, and create micro-ecosystems that support diverse species of grasses, mammals, birds, and insects.





During the 1860s and 1870s, the buffalo slaughter was well under way. It is estimated that upwards of 4,000 animals were killed every day. By the end of the 19th century, there were fewer than 500 bison left. Extinction of an American icon was imminent.





THE EXTERMINATION
OF
THE AMERICAN BISON,
WITH
A SKETCH OF ITS DISCOVERY AND LIFE HISTORY.
BY
WILLIAM T. HORNADAY.



WCS founder William Hornaday, along with Theodore Roosevelt and others, rose to the challenge. They shipped 15 animals from WCS's Bronx Zoo to the Wichita Mountains, and in a few short years began the process of rewilding bison in North America.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Today, WCS continues to work towards the ecological and cultural restoration of bison across the North American continent through science, policy, strategic partnerships and citizen engagement: *The Buffalo Way.*





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Join in our efforts to Rewild Bison across North America. Here are some of the Indigenous leaders, ranchers, scientists, artists, and advocates who have already joined this effort. Enjoy this small glimpse into *the Faces & Voices of the Buffalo Way*.



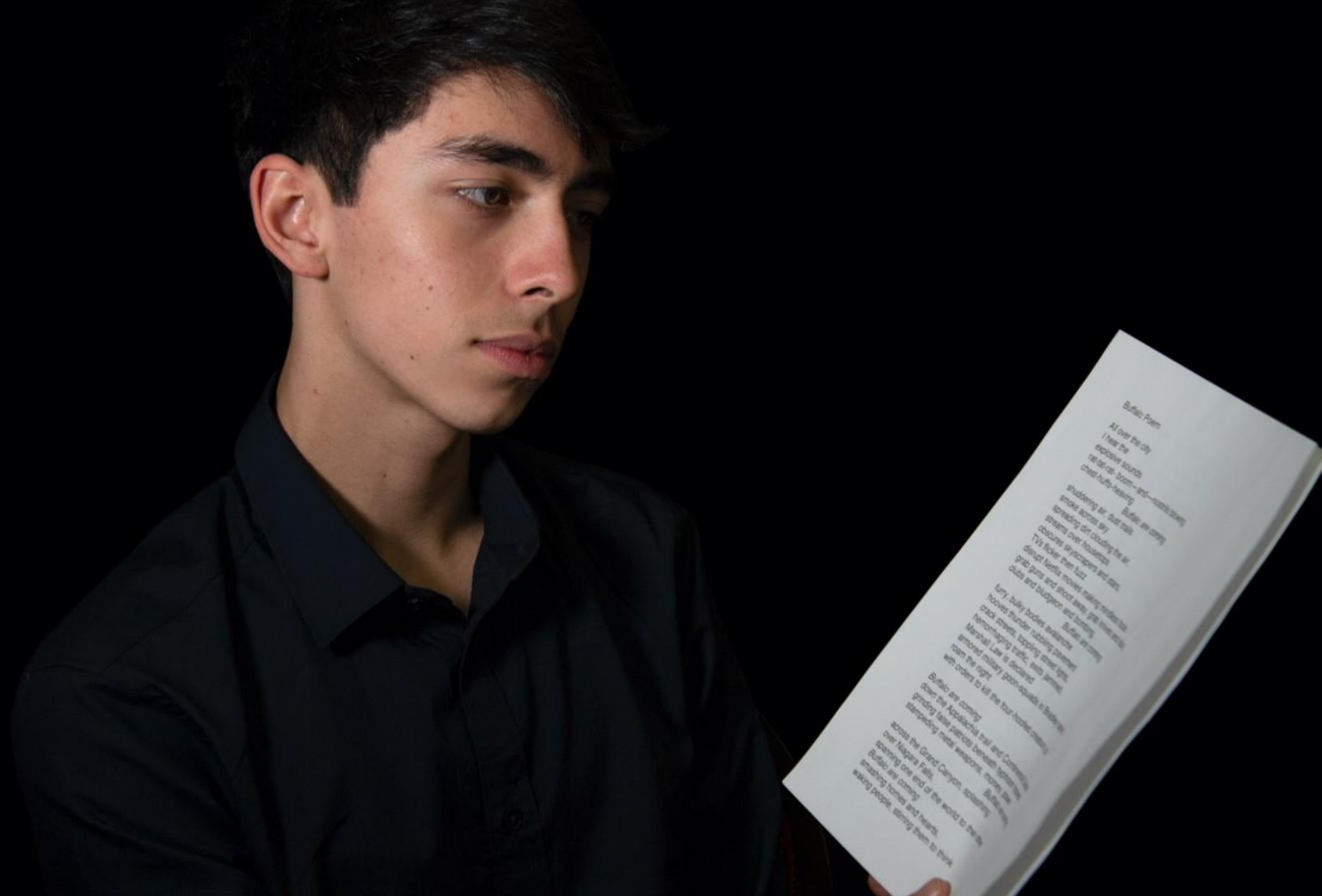


PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Buffalo Way: RELATIONSHIP

Esai Baca, student/poet: "Buffalo are more than animals; they are a mindset. There are symbolic meanings behind the buffalo. People have a responsibility to understand things other than themselves."





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Buffalo Way: RESPECT

David Sloan, artist: “My grandmother told me, ‘Bison are your grandfather...you should respect them.’”





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Buffalo Way: RECIPROCITY

Bobby Cotnoir, artist/advocate: “Buffalo are the soul of our nation. If we lose the buffalo, we lose our souls.”





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Buffalo Way: REWILD

Glinis Buffalo, planner: “We must honor the buffalo by ensuring they have a place to live without barriers. We must ensure they are here for our future generations.”





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Buffalo Way: REMATRIATION

DJ Bruised Head, climate science & resilience expert: “I hope for wildly, freely, liberated bison. Bison are a matriarchal society; it is a time to lift women up... allow them to lead us.”



